

# **Katherine Women's Information and Legal Service**

The Katherine Women's Information and Legal Service (KWILS) was launched on Friday 24 October at its premises in Katherine.

SM Alasdair McGregor officiated at the launch and the Mayor of Katherine, Mr Jim Forscutt, indicated his support of the initiative by his attendance at the function.

The Commonwealth Attorney-General, Daryl Williams QC, whilst regretting his inability to attend, sent a letter of support to the service indicating relief that it had finally been possible to open a centre of this type in the region.

"Today's launch is an important step in the establishment of the national network of women's legal services. The Katherine Women's Information and Legal service, which is an initiative of the Wurli Wurlinjang Aboriginal Corporation and the Katherine Regional

Aboriginal Legal Aid Service is a key element in the Commonwealth government's coordinated strategy to provide legal assistance to those most in need."

"All those involved in the service are to be commended for their dedication and hard work which is crucial to the success of the service," said Mr Williams.

The service was established by the Commonwealth government in response to the growing awareness of the incidence of family breakdown and violence in the Katherine region and of the difficulty for many women and their children in accessing appropriate legal services.

KWILS is staffed by one full-time practitioner – Susan Gilmour and a full-time female Community Liaison Officer – Joan Pracey.

As a Community Legal Service KWILS can provide confidential advice

and assistance over a variety of legal issues including domestic violence, family and de facto law, court support, discrimination, credit and debt and many others,

The centre will provide an invaluable first point of contact for any women requiring advice and information regarding a legal problem. It aims to provide information to the general public about the legal system and issues of law reform. It will assist community organisations, especially women's group with interpretation of legislation and legal rights. Aboriginal women in remote locations are identified as a priority group for the work of the service.

KWILS is located at Shop 1/6 Kintore St, Katherine and can be reached by telephone on 8972 1712, fax on 8972 1572 and its postal address is PO Box 1194, KATHERINE NT 0851.

## **Executive Director Appointed – NSW Bar Association**

The President of the NSW Bar Association, Mr David Bennett QC, today announced the appointment of Philip Selth as Executive Director, effective 10 November.

Prior to joining the Bar Association, Mr Selth was Pro Vice-Chancellor (Planning and Administration) at the Australian National University, where his responsibilities included student administration and welfare, support to University Council and academic boards, community and media affairs and legal matters among others.

Mr Selth has a bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) from the ANU with majors in politics and history. He is admitted as a barrister in NSW, barrister and solicitor in the ACT and barrister of the High Court.



*Mr Philip Selth*

"I am very pleased to announce Mr Selth's appointment. He brings to the Association a long history of achievements, extensive experience and dealings with state and federal ministers and government departments as well as significant administrative expertise," said Mr Bennett in announcing the appointment. Mr Selth is a member of the Australian Foundation for Law Reform, the Association for Tertiary Education Management, the Australian Institute of Administrative Law, the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration and the Institute of Public Administration, Australia.

In addition he is a member of the advisory board of the Centre for Australian Public Sector Management at Griffith University and a Visiting Fellow in the Public Policy Program at the ANU.