

1932 issues still unresolved in 1999!

Interpreter Services in Aboriginal Languages

"...there is no more pressing justice and equity issue facing the Northern Territory community today than the simple fact that the nearly 30,000 Aboriginal Territorians who speak an indigenous language in their home do not have access to an interpreter service..." - NAALAS

On 30 July 1999 the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner released the findings of the Inquiry into the Provision of an Interpreter Service in Aboriginal Languages by the Northern Territory Government. The findings revealed a very real need for Interpreter Services in Aboriginal languages in the Northern Territory and it was recommended that the establishment of such a service be accorded the highest priority. As NAALAS succinctly stated to

the Inquiry this is a justice and equity issue. And the lack of a service impacts adversely on large numbers of people in the Territory.

While acknowledging the very great disadvantage Aboriginal people suffer without interpreting services, the NTWLA submission to the Inquiry stressed the invidious position of lawyers who are representing Aboriginal people are in when acting for people without interpreters. The dramatisation of Tuckiar's case at the CLANT Bali conference starkly showed the disadvantage to both practitioner and client. That was 1932. It is now 1999. There is an urgent and pressing need for the situation to be remedied by the provision of an interpreter service with accredited interpreters and a centralised booking system. This is an issue of great importance to all lawyers.



Melanie Little, President

Image of Lawyers

Thanks to Executive Officer of the Law Society, Maria Ceresa, the guest speaker at a NTWLA function on 6 August 1999. 32 practitioners attended and Maria spoke on the image of lawyers.

Our AGM will be on 30 September 1999.

Melanie Little
President NTWLA August 1999

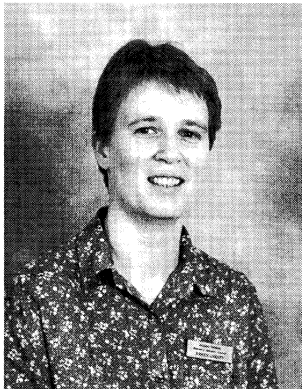
Women at Law: Samantha Miles, Merran Short and Rachel Neil led the Admission Ceremony of Nickolai Cristup and Karen Bowley on August 3, 1999



Congratulations Jodeen Carney

Alice Springs lawyer Jodeen Carney has been appointed the new convener of the NT Women's Advisory Council, reflecting her commitment to women's issues in the Northern Territory.

Ms Carney has been actively involved in a number of community initiatives, with an emphasis on women and children in the legal process.



Ms Carney co-founded the Central Australian Women's Legal Service

which advises women in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and other remote areas.

After moving to Alice Springs in 1989, she worked for private firms before establishing her own practice in Alice Springs, Carney's Barristers and Solicitors. Fields of practice include civil litigation and general advocacy.

The Law Society congratulates Ms Carney on her appointment.

Farewell Adrienne McGuire

Adrienne McGuire, formerly of Ward Keller in Darwin, passed away peacefully in her sleep on August 5, 1999.

Adrienne McGuire LLB was first admitted to practice in Sydney in 1983. She worked as a sole practitioner for eight years with an emphasis on commercial law.

Adrienne travelled extensively throughout NSW working as a locum solicitor. She spent two years working in Broken Hill with a thriving legal practice. During this time Adrienne undertook general commercial work advising clients ranging from farmers and family businesses to banks and mining companies.

She was admitted to practice in the Northern Territory shortly after her arrival in Darwin to join Ward Keller. She was also admitted to practice law in the Supreme Court of New South Wales and The High Court of Australia.

Adrienne leaves behind two children, Elizabeth and Stephanie, and her husband Pablo Russo. The Law Society extends deepest condolences to Adrienne's family.