

# Media and the law - a conference for all

The legal profession and the media will be the focus of a two day conference in Alice Springs during Law Week.

LAWASIA and the Law Society (NT) will be hosting the *Media and the Law* conference in Alice Springs, 13-15 May.

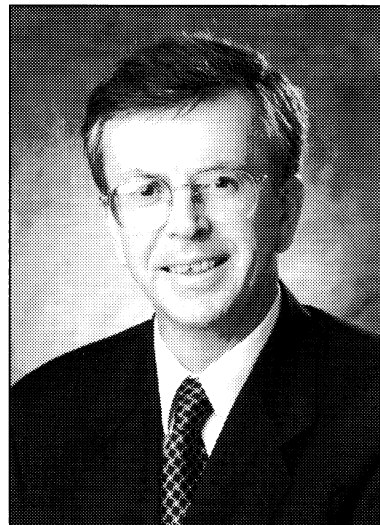
Speakers at the conference will include Michael Lavarch (Secretary General of the Law Council of Australia), Wendy Bacon (Associate Professor Australian Centre for Independent Journalism), Peter Bartlett (Fairfax), Shaila Koshy (Senior Journalist based in Malaysia) and Richard Ackland (media commentator and editor of *Justinian*).

The official opening will be hosted by Doctor Gordon Hughes, LAWASIA president and co-chair of the organisation's standing committee on IT, communication and media

And with the two professions unavoidably linked, the topics to be covered during the conference should provide some thought provoking moments.

Among the topics: International Reporting & Nation States, Defamation Jurisdictions (the Internet), Cross Media Ownership, Ethics of the Press and Freedom of Information and Privacy Issues.

Another highlight will be the lunch with acclaimed cartoonist from *The Australian*, Peter Nicholson, as the guest speaker.



*Peter Bartlett - to speak on Defamation Jurisdiction, the Internet*

Organisers say the informative two day conference should be of interest to legal practitioners, legal firms, editors and journalists, corporations, government bodies and media representatives.

It will take place at the Alice Springs Convention Centre.

For more information, contact the LAWASIA Secretariate on (08) 8946 9500, email: lawasia@lawasia.asn.au, GPO Box 3275, Darwin NT 0801.①

---

## East Timor Coordination Symposium strikes interest from local legal eagles

Coordinating the effort of various legal bodies and firms aiming to help the development of an East Timorese justice system was the focus recently of a two day symposium in Darwin.

The need for a coordination symposium grew from the Darwin Community Legal Service's experiences while organising a project to support the development of small community based legal and advocacy organisations in East Timor.

The aim of the symposium (held in early March), was to secure firm commitments

from Australian bodies for ongoing pro bono assistance to East Timor NGOs and to develop a process by which the response of the Australian legal community can be better coordinated.

The attendance to the symposium was solid with attendees including the ALAF, HREOC and AIJA as well as

representatives from the East Timorese judiciary.

A range of legal aid and advocacy organisations also travelled to Darwin to attend.

A full report on what transpired at the meeting will be featured in next month's *Balance*.①