

# BALANCE

LAW SOCIETY NORTHERN TERRITORY

**Edition 6/2005  
November & December**



**\* ATSILS tenders  
announced**



**\* New LSNT Council  
elected at the AGM**

# Anti-Terrorism Bills and other light reading

I was certainly under no illusions that the President's role was going to be an easy one to fulfil, but I probably wasn't prepared for the barrage of material that has come the way of the Society in recent weeks, particularly in the guise of the Anti-Terrorism Bills (1 and 2).

In addition to the 137 pages of the second version of the bill there was an equally lengthy explanatory memorandum to plough through, along with the numerous analyses, commentaries and submission papers ... and I haven't even started on Work Choices yet!

On a serious level though, the manner in which these incredibly important and complex pieces of legislation have been developed and attempted to be rushed through the Federal Parliament has highlighted for me the important role of our profession in providing a voice for the interests and concerns of the Australian people.

Discussing the Anti-Terrorism issue with my colleagues recently, one made this comment - "My God, that is so depressing. It makes me wonder what I am doing here." My response? Fighting the good fight - if we don't, no-one will.

If the recent debate about the new anti-terrorism legislation has shown anything, for me it is that a disparate and often divided profession can be an incredibly powerful force when we pull together on an issue that does unite us. Another feature of the last few weeks is just the way in which the legal profession, through various organizations and forums, has pulled together, downed tools on other work, and produced some wonderfully insightful and incisive analysis of the proposals in record short time.

As a member of the legal profession, even if you have no individual involvement in the specific work that goes on in a situation like this one, your very existence and participation in this profession is important. Without you, there would be no Law Society, no Law Council of Australia, none of those other bodies which work and speak on behalf of the profession, and on behalf of the public when it needs a voice.

On other matters, I would like to extend my welcome to the new Council and committee members, particularly those who have joined for the first time. Barbara



Allison Robertson, President

has outlined in her report some of the legislative program and other issues the Council and committees will be working on in the current year, and it will certainly be a busy one.

I also extend my thanks and best wishes to retiring councillors, and particularly to Merran Short, who, while retired from the Presidency, will continue to provide valuable support as the NT Director for the Law Council of Australia.

As I am writing this, Barbara is on some enforced leave at the behest of the medical profession. Our thoughts and best wishes are with her for a speedy and full recovery. The hardest thing will be keeping her from working from her hospital bed.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you at our Christmas drinks, and wish you all the best for the coming festive holiday season, where you can put your feet up and enjoy some lighter reading!

## Are you interested in CPD?

**Want to stay up-to-date on changing legislation? Interested in new areas of law? Want to keep expanding your legal knowledge?**

**Then get involved in the Law Society's Continuing Professional Development program.**

**The Law Society notifies members about upcoming workshops, seminars and Continuing Professional Development opportunities via fax and email.**

If you would like to be added to either of these lists, please contact Christine at the Secretariat on (08) 8981 5104 or via email at [ceopersonalassist@lawsocnt.asn.au](mailto:ceopersonalassist@lawsocnt.asn.au).