

# A Council update

**My column this month will outline some of the matters that Law Society Council, the Committees and Secretariat are working on at the moment.**

As stated in my previous *Balance* article, the National Model Legal Practice Bill and related issues are continuing to occupy a lot of time. It is likely a new version of the Model Bill will be released shortly and the National Practice Working Group is currently working on draft Regulations. I have started working on an analysis to identify what areas will require major change of operation for both the Law Society and the legal profession as a whole.

The CPD Committee will be putting together an extensive education campaign following the release of the next version of the model Bill and a firmer indication of the timetable for introduction and passage of the NT legislation.

Current projects being undertaken by some of the Committees are set out below.

The CPD Committee is now finalising the proposal for mandatory Continuing Professional Development - a final version will be released shortly. We have been looking at

what is happening elsewhere but are keen to ensure a programme that meets the needs of NT practitioners.

The Professional Standards Committee has reviewed complaints procedures and is developing an improved process.

The Legal Aid and Pro Bono Committee is working with the NTLAC and other legal aid agencies to finalise arrangements for the Legal Aid and Pro Bono Conference being held in Darwin on 5 and 6 May 2005. For further details contact myself or Zoe Malone at the Secretariat.

The Family Law Committee recently finalized a detailed submission on the Care and Protection of Children and Young People Bill, which, as I write, is scheduled to be introduced at the May 2005 Legislative Assembly Sittings. The issue of Civil Unions (same-sex marriages) was also discussed at the recent Law Council Meeting and we will be considering the issue from a NT perspective.

The Criminal Law Committee is considering a number of issues

## Welcome to Christine

Christine Hetherington-Tait has commenced work at the Law Society as the Personal Assistant to CEO Barbara Bradshaw. She is also assisting in the complaints area, is organising the Law Society's Continuing Professional Development seminars and is the minute-secretary of most Law Society NT sub-committees.

Originally hailing from Brisbane, Christine has travelled around Australia living in Rockhampton, Darwin, Nhulunbuy, Melbourne, Coffs Harbour and now back to Darwin - where she and her family like to call home. Christine's two youngest children were born in the Territory, one in Darwin and one in Nhulunbuy.

Christine has spent the last eight years interchanging between being an adult education teacher in

business at various TAFEs and Universities and being a PA/EA in various public and private organisations.

Christine's previous time in Darwin, which was ten years ago, saw her working for the Lord Mayor of Darwin, in the Executive at Health and Community Services, PAWA and DARTI before moving to Nhulunbuy where, after taking maternity leave, she worked for NTU firstly in administration then as a teacher. Christine loved teaching as it gave her a chance to visit the various communities in East Arnhem Land.

Outside of work Christine enjoys cooking, entertaining and eating out with friends. She used to do a lot of camping in a previous life and even did a stint in the Army Reserve.①



*Barbara Bradshaw, Chief Executive Officer*

including Indigenous justice issues, the Youth Justice Bill and the ALRC review on the Evidence Act. Members of the ALRC recently travelled to Darwin and met with a number of practitioners. An article on the ALRC's review of the Evidence Act in on page of this edition of *Balance*.

The Commercial Law Committee, in association with Guy Riley from the Department of Justice, has been updating the Law Society contract of sale document.

Finally the Professional Indemnity Insurance Committee is awaiting a report from Marsh Pty Ltd outlining proposals for provision of Professional Indemnity Insurance for the private legal profession for 2005-2006. Cheryl Richardson will be presenting a report to the next meeting of the Law Society Council, scheduled for 28 April 2005.①

## Balance contributions

The Law Society NT encourages members and readers to contribute to *Balance*.

Submissions can be sent to the Editor via email at [publicrelations@lawsocnt.asn.au](mailto:publicrelations@lawsocnt.asn.au) or fax to (08) 8941 1623.