

A first for Australia... the Pro Bono Manual cont...

legislation. According to a speech given by Attorney-General Phillip Ruddock, the report was "enthusiastically received by government agencies"¹.

The Centre has also been working with the Australian Corporate Lawyers Association to define suitable projects and models to better involve in-house corporate and government counsel, and to tackle issues such as adequate professional indemnity insurance. More generally, the NPBRC has established a pro bono network to facilitate communication and planning between lawyers with an interest in pro bono (the network can be accessed at www.probono.net.au/pbc).

Initiatives such as these both contribute and respond to the growth of organised pro bono in Australia.

Many larger firms have significantly increased their commitment to pro bono and have expanded their pro bono programs. Some firms have active in-house pro bono practices and work closely with CLCs and other community organisations in accepting referrals and targeting particular areas of need. Nationally, there are sixteen firms with pro bono coordinators, and eight of these are full-time positions. These structures, networks and partnerships are helping to foster an understanding of pro bono as a natural, expected element of a legal practitioner's working life.

Despite the growing recognition of the importance of pro bono, and the many achievements of the NPBRC during its three short years of existence, the Centre currently faces an uncertain future. At the time of

writing, the NPBRC is awaiting confirmation that its funding will continue after July this year. With pro bono becoming such a key feature of the legal landscape, it is to be hoped that the NPBRC will live on and continue to improve our understanding of this significant aspect of contemporary legal practice.

The Australian Pro Bono Manual is available to order from your local bookshop, or from Australian Book Group: ph (03) 5625 4290, fax (03) 56253756, or via the web: www.australianbookgroup.com.au ①

Endnotes

- ¹ Speech by the Hon Philip Ruddock, Attorney-General of Australia, 11 February 2005. Full speech at <http://www.nationalprobono.org.au/AGspeechRTF.rtf>

Legal resources in the NT

This new section in *Balance* will include information about legal resources (websites, books, brochures, videos, etc) that may be helpful for solicitors or clients.

At what age can I?

This booklet produced by the Legal Aid Commission and provides a basic guide to laws affecting young people in the Northern Territory.

Cop This!

Produced by the NT Legal Aid Commission, Cop This! provides a guide to a person's rights when dealing with the police. This title is now available as a booklet, video and DVD. Copies are available from the Commission.

Going to Court

This booklet provides a guide to criminal matters in the Magistrates Court in the NT. Free copies are available from the NT Legal Aid Commission.

Indigenous Protocols for Lawyers in the Northern Territory

Developed by Kristina Karlson, these protocols provide guidelines for lawyers when dealing with Indigenous clients. A copy of the

protocols is available from the Law Society's website.

The Inmates Law Book

Covering a wide range of issues important to prisoners, this book was produced by the NT Legal Aid Commission in September 2003. Free copies are available from the NT Legal Aid Commission.

The Law Handbook

This book provides a practical guide to legal issues that impact on the community - from rights and discrimination to buying and selling a house.

This book was produced by Darwin Community Legal Service and the NT Legal Aid Commission in 2002. Copies are available for \$60 from Darwin Community Legal Service.

The Little Red Book of Advocacy

A book of *Balance* articles written by Justice Trevor Riley. The articles provide practical tips on important advocacy issues. Copies of the book are available from the Law Society Northern Territory for \$22 (including GST).

Staying Strong: a court story

Available from the Witness Assistance Service, this DVD explores the court process as faced by victims of violent crime.

Untying the knots

This booklet provides a guide to family law in the Northern Territory. Copies are available from the NT Legal Aid Commission.

Where to complain

Produced by the Legal Aid Commission and the NT Ombudsman, this book provides a guide to the organisations that deal with various complaints in the NT.

Who can help you? Assistance for Separating Families

This comprehensive directory lists all the services available for separating families throughout the Territory. This handy guide to family law services was produced by the NT Legal Aid Commission. Free copies are available from the Commission.

The Family Court also has a wide range of publications available on every aspect of family law. For more information visit their website at www.familycourt.gov.au ①