

# Committee work underway

The Law Society Secretariat has been very busy since the Annual General Meeting and Strategic Planning Meetings particularly with the introduction of the Legal Profession Bill.

Another cause of our activity has been working with a number of Law Society Committees. At the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting of 21 October 2006 it was agreed that Committees met and set their objectives within one month of the meeting. It was noted that some Committees would be continuing on with their existing work, albeit in some cases with new membership, and others would set new objectives and work on new initiatives.

The Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) Committee recently met with Cheryl Richardson of Marsh Pty Ltd to set in place a renewal strategy for 2006-2007. We are also reviewing the PII Master Policy.

The Legal Professional Bill Committee is considering a number of issues relating to the commencement of the Legal Profession Bill which was passed by the NT Parliament on 28 November 2006 and which will commence in April 2007. It has a major and varied job with a major priority the development of a practitioner education program.

The Family Law Committee is considering a number of issues, amongst them issues relating to the professional conduct issues relating to family law practitioners, the new Family Law Amendment (Shared Parental Responsibility) Bill, issues relating to the Family Matters Court and Family Relationship Centres.

The Commercial Law Committee will be reviewing the Law Society Contract of Sale in February 2007 and in the meantime is considering issues such as E-conveyancing, Personal Property Securities, Anti Money Laundering, and possible Vendor Disclosure legislation.

The CPD/CDU Committee is taking the steps necessary to set up the new Mandatory CPD Scheme from 1 April 2007 and is also reviewing developments relating to the CDU School of Law and Business.

The recent successful Pro Bono and Legal Services Conference of 18 and 19 November 2006 was organized by the Legal Aid and Pro Bono Committee which is now undertaking follow-up action.

The Costs Committee is starting a work on a much needed review of the Supreme Court Scale and is



*Barbara Bradshaw, Chief Executive Officer*

considering costs issues under the Legal Profession Bill.

The Professional Standards Committee is continuing its role in consideration of complaints and professional standards matters, including issues arising from the Legal Profession Bill.

At the time of writing the Indigenous Issues, Criminal Law and Tort Law Committees are developing their objectives and assessing major issues in their areas.

It is clear the new Council, which the Committees report to and, which makes the ultimate decision on matters requiring decisions, will have a busy year.

Please contact me if you have any queries about Committee issues.



## Volunteer Lawyers

Volunteer lawyers are needed for the 2006 free Legal Advice Sessions run by Darwin Community Legal Service:

- \* Monday in Palmerston 6.30-7.30pm
- \* Thursday in Darwin 5.30-7pm
- \* Saturday at Casuarina library 10-11.45am

Lawyers usually commit to monthly or bi-monthly sessions

Support the community that supports you.  
Please contact DCLS on 8982-1111.