

# Law Society update

## CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

The Law Society's mandatory CPD will be implemented in October 2006, when the new Legal Practitioners Act is expected to come into effect. The draft LP Bill is still undergoing development by the working party.

The CPD program is available from the Law Society website at [www.lawsocnt.asn.au](http://www.lawsocnt.asn.au). Upcoming seminar topics for May and June are listed in the 'Dates for your Diary' on page 3.

## PII

The Law Society's insurance brokers Marsh Pty Ltd have gone to market for the 06/07 practising year and will report the results to the LSNT Council in April. At this stage there has been some interest expressed by the insurance sector. This indicates that some competition has been generated and the Society can be confident of obtaining a reduced premium. It is likely that the undertaking of Quality Practice Reviews will attract a premium reduction for 2006/07.

## LEGISLATION

It is anticipated that a further Criminal Code Amendment Bill will be introduced in the May sittings.

The Alcohol Court Act and Anti Social Behavior (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act were assented to on 8 March 2006 and are due to commence in June/July following gazettal. A CPD will be held on the changes on 14 June 2006.

The Defamation Act was introduced on 22 February and passed on 29 March 2006.

The Society is currently looking at the proposed Terrorism (Emergency Powers) Amendment Bill and will provide comments in due course. The Law Council of Australia has spoken out strongly against the Federal Government's Telecommunications (Interception) Amendment Bill 2006, which has been passed.

The President of the Law Society, Ms Allison Robertson issued a media release and fact sheet concerning the draft Crimes Victims Assistance Bill on Sunday 9 April 2006. A Committee formed to review the Bill worked quickly to prepare the fact sheets to raise concerns about the reduction in the range and level of compensation that will be available to victims of crime under the new scheme. Copies



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of the fact sheets are available from the Law Society website at [www.lawsocnt.asn.au](http://www.lawsocnt.asn.au). The Society will provide a detailed submission to Government on this issue.

The new WorkChoice legislation came into effect on Monday 27 March 2006. The Work Choices website is <https://www.workchoices.gov.au/> and links to the regulations and other relevant legislation are available at <https://www.workchoices.gov.au/ourplan/legislation/>. (A brief article about the changes is on page 43 of this edition of *Balance*.)

## PRO BONO SURVEY

Responses to the Pro Bono Survey are still coming in and if your firm has not submitted a response it is not too late. Please contact the Law Society if you need a copy of the survey. Results will be published anonymously in the next edition of *Balance*.

## LAW WEEK

Arrangements for Law Week are well underway and Zoe Malone will be keeping members informed of the activities via *The Practitioner*. The extensive program is all but settled. Practitioners and organizations are urged to participate in events that aim to raise the level of public awareness and understanding of legal issues, processes and services. This year's activities will be wide ranging in terms of the issues addressed and the locations visited, including Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs, Palmerston and Nguiu. The full program is available from the Law Society website at [www.lawsocnt.asn.au](http://www.lawsocnt.asn.au).