

Time

to put pen to paper...

Suzie Simmons,
Public Relations Officer,
Law Society Northern Territory

One of the major findings of the 2008 *Balance* readership survey was multiple cries for more local content, recognising the multi-faceted uniqueness of practice in the Northern Territory. "Hurrah" you may all cry, and "not before time ..." but please do remember that the articles in *Balance* do not write themselves and so Territory practitioners do need to put pen to paper.

There have been a number of requests for articles on family law, personal injury law and more commercial/corporate articles. A greater content and discussion of recent cases and topical areas of legislation were also requested, along with local Supreme Court notes similar to the Family Court, High Court and Federal Court notes already supplied.

The Society would love to supply articles of this nature to the membership but there is a dearth of volunteer writers in the Territory. The wish list is not exclusive; you may have an interest in one of these areas but there are many other areas, particularly with that unique Territory flavour that would be of interest to not only fellow Territory practitioners, but also the many interstate and overseas readers of *Balance*.

We're not asking for War and Peace, so if you can find time to write a page or two on a burning issue or get a hot discussion going then your contribution will be most welcome. Just think of those potential CPD points!

There's no denying that *Balance* needed major revamp to bring it up

to date. Format and presentation have been greatly improved so that it is easier on the eye and more enjoyable to read, particularly with the latest improvement of transition to full colour

There were a number of comments regarding using thinner quality paper. This has been investigated with the printers who confirmed that we are using the most popular paper which is therefore the most economical.

Balance is now available online via the Members section of the Law Society's website, with copies from 2008 onwards available for you to download. Ideally it would be fantastic if we could move across to primarily electronic distribution but this is not an option at present due to the file sizes involved. }

Earn CPD Points as a *Balance* Author

Become a *Balance* author and earn your CPD points

Practitioners can earn up to six CPD points per CPD year simply by writing a legal article and having it published in *Balance*.

Below are key criteria for earning CPD points as a *Balance* author.

- For each 1000 words of a published legal article or work in a recognised legal publication or other quality non-legal publication, structural editing of legal material and the refereeing of a legal article - **1 CPD point**.
- CPD points may not be claimed in respect of a publication that deals with substantially the same content as a presentation for which CPD points have been claimed.
- A maximum of six CPD points may be claimed under this category.

For further information on what constitutes a valid CPD-approved legal **email Suzie Simmons, Editor of *Balance* at publicrelations@lawsocnt.asn.au**