



ALA National Conference '13

This year's ALA National Conference took place in Canberra, from 24-26th October. The event attracted over 150 people from around the country to the nation's capital, which has been celebrating its 100th birthday this year.

Canberra proved to be a wonderful location and particularly apt given the extensive lobbying work that the ALA has undertaken over recent years on federal

issues such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the National Injury Insurance Scheme, asylum-seekers and human rights.

The conference provided many opportunities to learn about landmark reforms and offered a timely reminder about the importance of promoting justice and the rights of the individual.



This year's Civil Justice Award went to Mr Ferdinando Tanoni, Director of the West Timor Care Foundation, who flew in from Kupang, in West Timor, to receive his award. Mr Tanoni was recognised for his outstanding advocacy for Indonesian communities that have suffered significant social impacts following the Montara oil spill, which occurred in Australian waters in 2009. Mr Tanoni has repeatedly called for an independent investigation to assess impacts in the area and, in August 2013, he hosted an ALA delegation to West Timor to visit affected communities.

ALA National President, Geraldine Collins, with Civil Justice Award winner, Ferdinando Tanoni, Director of the West Timor Care Foundation.

The conference also saw the inaugural presentation of the Emerging Lawyer of the Year Award, which recognises the outstanding work of a future leader in the profession, including their commitment to social justice, advocacy and human rights. This year's recipient, Joshua Dale, is an Associate at Stacks/Goudkamp, and chair of the ALA NSW Human Rights Subcommittee. He has appeared in the media and at public hearings on behalf of the ALA.

Other conference highlights included the welcome cocktail function at New Parliament House, sponsored by Amnesty International (where Joshua Dale received his award), and the annual dinner held at Canberra's newest venue, the Village Centre, at the National Arboretum. ■

Emerging Lawyer of the Year 2013, Joshua Dale (centre), pictured with Amnesty representatives, Josh O'Rourke and Louise Allan.

