



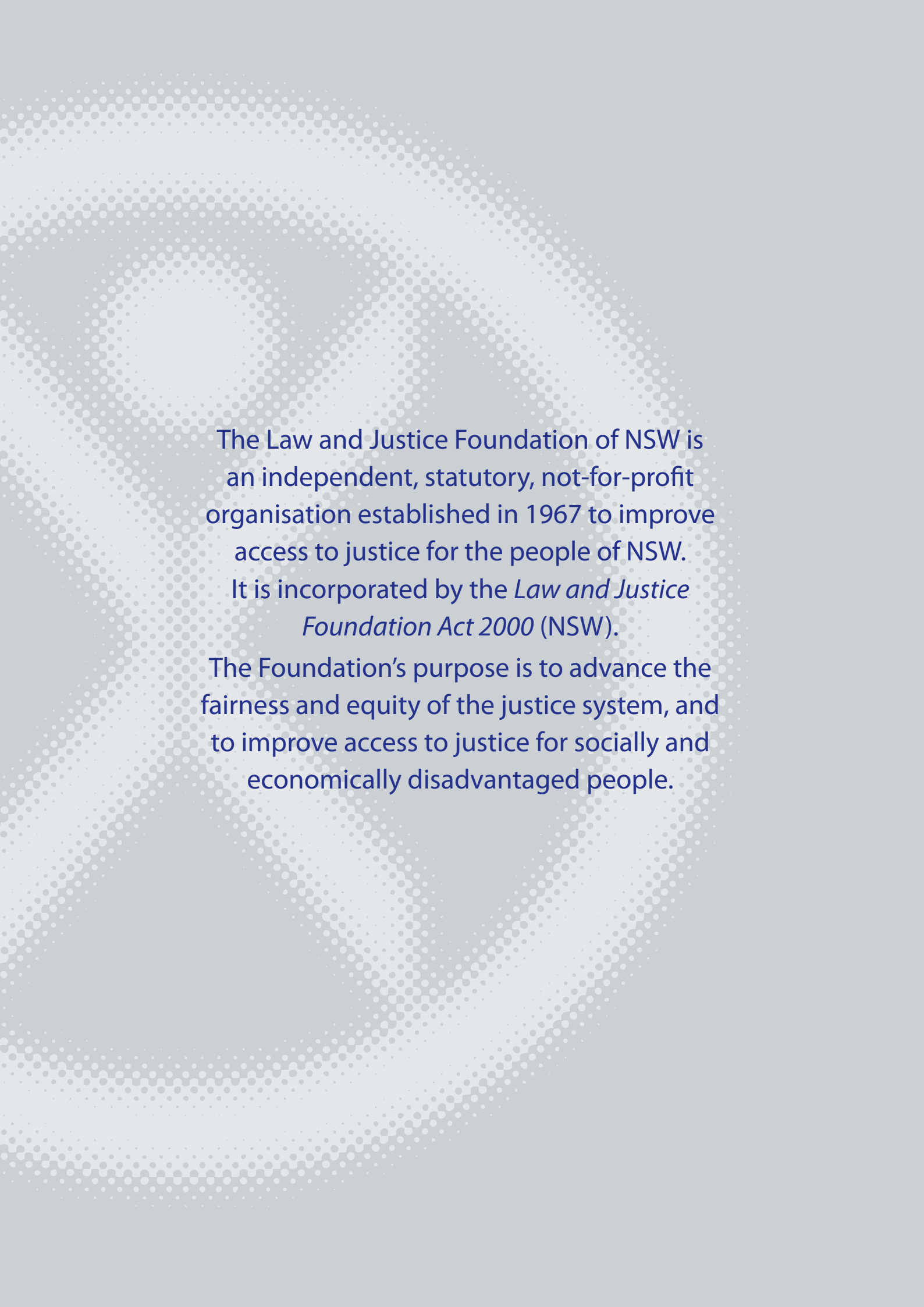
2014 Justice AWARDS

Wednesday 29 October 2014
Strangers' Dining Room
Parliament House
Macquarie Street, Sydney



LAW AND JUSTICE
FOUNDATION

OF NEW
SOUTH WALES



The Law and Justice Foundation of NSW is an independent, statutory, not-for-profit organisation established in 1967 to improve access to justice for the people of NSW.

It is incorporated by the *Law and Justice Foundation Act 2000* (NSW).

The Foundation's purpose is to advance the fairness and equity of the justice system, and to improve access to justice for socially and economically disadvantaged people.

Welcome to the 2014 Justice Awards

The Law and Justice Foundation's annual Justice Awards recognise the contributions of individuals and organisations to improving access to justice in NSW, particularly for socially and economically disadvantaged people.

The Awards presentation is a unique opportunity for the Foundation to highlight the achievements of so many, and for our guests to celebrate and congratulate them.

Program for the evening

- 6.30pm Welcome
Welcome to Country by Aunty Norma Ingram
Presentation of the LIAC Centre of Excellence Award
Presentation of the Community Legal Centres NSW Award
Presentation of the Law Society President's Award
Presentation of the Law and Justice Volunteer Award
- 8.00pm Dinner
- 8.30pm The 2014 Law and Justice Address by Dr Rhonda Galbally AO
- 9.00pm Presentation of the Pro Bono Partnership Award
Presentation of the Aboriginal Justice Award
Presentation of the Justice Medal
- 10.20pm Close

Your host this evening

The Hon. Paul Stein QC AM

Chair, Board of Governors, Law and Justice Foundation of NSW



The Hon. Paul Stein was appointed as chair of the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales in 2005. He became a judge in 1983 and was appointed to the Land and Environment Court in 1985. In 1997, he was appointed to the Court of Appeal where he remained until his retirement in 2004.

Paul has undertaken a number of reports and reviews for the government and is the former chair of the board of the Environmental Protection Authority. He has chaired committees and associations, in particular the Council of the Community Justice Centres and the National Consumer Affairs Advisory Council. He has written numerous articles and papers on environmental, administrative and consumer law as well as on human rights and discrimination.

The 2014 Law and Justice Address

Dr Rhonda Galbally AO

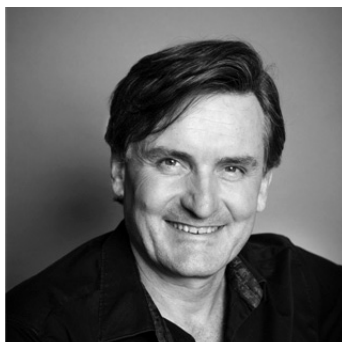


Dr Rhonda Galbally is currently a member of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) board and chair of the NDIS Independent Advisory Council. Rhonda co-founded Our Community and was the founding managing director of the Australian International Health Institute (now the Nossal Institute). Rhonda was founding CEO of the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) and the Australian Commission for the Future. She was also chair of Philanthropy Australia and the Royal Women's Hospital (Melbourne).

Rhonda has made a significant contribution to Australian and international health promotion, most recently as chair of the ThaiHealth Promotion Foundation Evaluation Board, building on advisory roles with the World Health Organization and the World Bank. Rhonda was awarded an Order of Australia in 1990 and the Centenary Medal in 2001, in recognition of her service to the community. In 2012, Rhonda received the Prime Minister's Outstanding Achievement Award in the National Disability Awards.

Your MC this evening

Richard Glover



Richard presents the top rating Drive show on ABC 702 Radio in Sydney and he has published a weekly column in the *Sydney Morning Herald* for more than 20 years.

Richard is the author of 12 books, including *George Clooney's Haircut and Other Cries for Help*, published by HarperCollins last year. His other books include *The Mud House*, a memoir about building a house in the Australian bush, the best-seller *Desperate Husbands* (also published in translation in Italy and Poland), *The Dag's Dictionary*, *In Bed with Jocasta* and *The P-Plate Parent* (co-written with Angela Webber).



STATE LIBRARY™
NEW SOUTH WALES

Presented by:

Mr Richard Fisher AM

Chair of the Board
Legal Information Access
Centre (LIAC)
State Library of NSW

Sponsored by:

Legal Information Access
Centre (LIAC)

The Centre of Excellence Award recognises innovative and creative projects that increase community awareness of and access to LIAC.

LIAC is a statewide service providing free community access to legal information. LIAC is an initiative of the State Library of NSW and the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW. LIAC services are provided through the Centre in the State Library, through the public library network across NSW and via the Find Legal Answers website.

legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au

The winner is:

Albury LibraryMuseum

The Crime Scene at the LibraryMuseum program was a fun, family Law Week activity that had its serious side as well. Albury LibraryMuseum team members worked with a local actor and secondary school forensic science students to develop a Crime Scene at the LibraryMuseum scenario. A Murder in the Museum was staged, with the students and actor all playing various characters – including dead bodies, museum workers, visitors to the museum and detectives. Clues were laid out throughout the LibraryMuseum (among them some red herrings) with a visit to the Find Legal Answers collection an essential step in “solving” the murder.

This event was part of a larger program of Law Week events held in conjunction with the local Law Society and legal centre. Other events included free legal health checks at the Albury LibraryMuseum provided by local solicitors, free legal clinics at the Hume Riverina Community Legal Service, and education and advice sessions provided by the Disability Discrimination Legal Service (Victoria).

These events increased community awareness and use of the Find Legal Answers service, promoted legal information to a new audience, and built partnerships between the library and local legal service providers.

Community Legal Centres NSW Award

Community
Legal Centres
NSW

Presented by:

Mr Nassim Arrage
Chair
Community Legal
Centres NSW

Sponsored by:

Community Legal
Centres NSW

The Community Legal Centres NSW Award is presented for a project in a community legal centre that demonstrates outstanding commitment to improving access to justice in NSW, particularly for socially and economically disadvantaged people.

Community Legal Centres NSW provides secretariat support to NSW community legal centres working for the public interest, particularly for disadvantaged and marginalised people and communities.

www.clcnsw.org.au

The nominees are:

Central Coast Community Legal Centre

Information and advice clinic for unrepresented litigants in Apprehended Violence Order (AVO) matters at Wyong Local Court

The Central Coast Community Legal Centre conducts a weekly information session and duty legal advice clinic for unrepresented litigants in Apprehended Violence Orders (AVO) matters at Wyong Local Court. The session commences with a student presenting a community education session about AVOs and is followed by a solicitor providing one-on-one advice to litigants. The service has resulted in a smoother running court list, with defendants attending court better informed about their options, thus reducing the number of unnecessary, contested AVO hearings. The service also prevents defendants consenting to AVOs without understanding the consequences which is important where applications for AVOs are weak.

HIV/AIDS Legal Centre

Dignity in Death – strategic litigation to change government policy

The HIV/AIDS Legal Centre, in partnership with pro bono counsel Dr Christopher Ward and with support from Positive Life NSW, undertook strategic litigation in relation to the Department of Forensic Medicine, NSW policy of refusing to reconstruct the bodies of people infected with HIV and/or Hepatitis C after an autopsy.

Hume Riverina Community Legal Service

Subsidised wills, powers of attorney and enduring guardianship scheme

Hume Riverina Community Legal Service coordinated this scheme with the cooperation of private law firms so that people with limited financial means can get eligible legal documents such as wills, powers of attorney and enduring guardianships drafted at a subsidised rate. The scheme is open to those in the Southern Riverina of NSW (and North East of Victoria) who receive a Centrelink pension or benefit, have assets under \$5,000 in value (not including the family home) and have some additional vulnerability, such as frailty, illness, language, isolation or disability.

Hunter Community Legal Centre

Apprehended Violence Order (AVO) duty service at Newcastle Local Court

A solicitor from Hunter Community Legal Centre, along with a number of practical legal training students, attends AVO list days at Newcastle Local Court to assist unrepresented applicants or defendants in AVO applications. Since the project began in April 2012, Hunter Community Legal Centre has provided information, advice and representation to 381 clients. The service also provides a substantial benefit to the Hunter Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service which refers women who are unable to receive assistance from the rostered Domestic Violence Solicitor due to a conflict.

Inner City Legal Centre

Safe Relationships Project

The Safe Relationships Project is a court support and legal advice service for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) people experiencing domestic violence in NSW. It also provides community legal education and training to individuals and organisations. The project has seen the establishment of the first LGBTIQ Safe Room in NSW (and Australia) for victims of domestic violence. The project has empowered LGBTIQ clients to become more involved in the court processes impacting on their lives, resulting in safer outcomes in court proceedings, including assisting in their recovery from trauma and re-entering LGBTIQ communities.

Macquarie Legal Centre

Volunteer solicitor roster

On Thursday nights, nine volunteer solicitors are rostered on at Macquarie Legal Centre to give face-to-face advice clients of the centre. The project has allowed Macquarie Legal Centre to provide additional services to socially and economically disadvantaged people, particularly those who are unable to attend during working hours or who need advice in areas of law not generally covered by the centre's practice.

Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre

Aboriginal Family Law Project

A project developed to promote among Aboriginal communities the importance of being proactive in using family law to make arrangements for children post-separation. With the participation of other legal assistance providers, the project produced a DVD called 'Looking after family'. The project has benefitted the Aboriginal community in the Northern Rivers region by providing a resource that arms them with knowledge and contacts to help them commence family law proceedings before child protection intervention.

Refugee Advice and Casework Service

Legal Help for Refugees Law Clinic

This initiative aims to provide free immigration legal assistance and advice to asylum seekers who arrived by boat after 13 August 2012. Federal government policy means that these people are currently barred from applying for a protection visa and are not eligible for an Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme funded migration agent. The clinic provides clients with the opportunity to receive expert assistance in documenting their claims which would not otherwise be available to them.

Women's Legal Services NSW

Speak Up

Speak Up is an easily navigated national online directory of domestic violence and sexual assault services to help women escaping violence. The website also asks people to finish the sentence 'we could reduce violence against women by...'. Responses are published and used to make recommendations to the government on how to end violence against women. This project provides vulnerable people with online information on where to find help and promotes ways to reduce domestic violence and homelessness in the community.

Women's Legal Services NSW and North and North West Community Legal Service

Ask LOIS: Armidale Project

In July 2013, Women's Legal Services partnered with North and North West Community Legal Service and other Armidale organisations to evolve free legal online information service Ask LOIS into a more responsive website, tailored to regional and rural workers. Ask LOIS provides fortnightly webinars, a comprehensive resource library, case studies and videoconference legal advice. Ask LOIS now assists more community workers who in turn assist more women who are geographically isolated. Direct videoconference legal advice means disadvantaged women receive more efficient and effective resolution of their legal issues.

Law Society President's Award

The nominees are:

Ms Maggie Elamrousy **Elamrousy Solicitors**

Maggie is the founder and Principal of Elamrousy Solicitors. She has expertise in a wide range of practice areas, although her focus is predominantly on family law and criminal law. Since registering with the Pro Bono Scheme in 2013, Maggie has taken on many matters, demonstrating great patience and understanding with applicants. Maggie has assisted with numerous AVO matters where applicants have suffered from substance abuse issues and mental health problems, consistently demonstrating professionalism and compassion.

Mr Harry Freedman **Freedman and Gopalan Solicitors**

Harry is a partner at Freedman and Gopalan Solicitors, having previously worked at Milne Berry Berger Freedman for more than 25 years. Harry specialises in litigation and dispute resolution and he is a strong supporter of the Pro Bono Scheme, having registered in 1994. During Harry's 20-year association with the scheme he has assisted with numerous family law matters involving complex issues such as family violence, child abuse, and child custody and parenting arrangements.

Mr Andrew Lee **Andrew Lee Lawyers**

Andrew graduated from the University of Technology, Sydney with a Bachelor of Laws in 1998 and specialises in immigration law, criminal law and business law. A strong supporter of the Pro Bono Scheme, Andrew has taken on various criminal law matters since registering in 2007. In particular, he has assisted applicants with mental health issues.

Mr Denis Mockler **Stewart Cuddy & Mockler**

Denis is a Principal at Stewart Cuddy & Mockler and specialises in family and criminal law. Denis has assisted with various criminal law matters for the Pro Bono Scheme since registering in 2008, often accepting challenging cases at short notice. He has also taken on complex family law matters, involving the custody of children and improving the visitation rights of a parent.

Mr Kevin Rodgers **Brock Partners**

Kevin was admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of NSW in 1970. Kevin is a great asset to the Pro Bono Scheme, taking on numerous matters since 2004 involving criminal law, immigration law, family law, and child care and protection. In child protection matters, Kevin has successfully argued that applicants whose circumstances have improved should be granted more time with their children.



Presented by:

Ms Ros Everett
President
The Law Society of
New South Wales

Sponsored by:

The Law Society of
New South Wales

The Law Society President's Award is presented to an individual solicitor for pro bono work through the Law Society Pro Bono Scheme. The Scheme aims to increase access to justice by accepting applications from disadvantaged people and referring them to solicitors prepared to act on a pro bono basis.

The Law Society of NSW is the professional association for the solicitors' branch of the legal profession, representing more than 23,000 lawyers in New South Wales. The Law Society encourages its members to undertake pro bono legal assignments as part of their wider community responsibility as legal practitioners and as confirmation that the conduct of pro bono work has been, and continues to be, part of legal practice.

www.lawsociety.com.au

Law and Justice Volunteer Award



The New South Wales Bar Association

Presented by:

Ms Anne Healey
Member
The New South Wales
Bar Association

Sponsored by:

The New South Wales
Bar Association

The Law and Justice Volunteer Award is presented to an individual or group who, in a voluntary capacity, has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to improving access to justice, particularly for socially and economically disadvantaged people. This may have occurred in a range of activities over an extended period, or in a single significant activity. Nominees must not be current legal practitioners.

The New South Wales Bar Association is a voluntary association of practicing barristers. Its aims include promoting the administration of justice, and making recommendations with respect to legislation, law reform, rules of court, and court business and procedure. It has a strong commitment to pro bono, both through its Legal Assistance Referral Scheme, and the pro bono work carried out informally by members of the Bar.

www.nswbar.asn.au

The nominees are:

Ms Betty Calvert

Nominated by Mr Bruce Notley-Smith MP, Member for Coogee

Betty is 84 years old and is a Justice of the Peace (JP) and President of the Eastern Suburbs Justice of the Peace Association. Betty has been one of the association's most dedicated and outstanding volunteers. Betty coordinates the JP service desk at Randwick Library and works between 12 and 16 hours a week at the JP desk at Waverley Council Chambers. During a four-hour shift, Betty has been known to sight and witness up to 200 documents.

In addition to this work, Betty promotes the work of JPs as President of the association. Betty's generosity and commitment to ensuring people can access the service of a JP extends to opening her home to people who require the services of a JP, and travelling to local courts and support services to publicise the service offered by the association.

Associate Professor Carmelle Peisah

Nominated by Ms Julie Strukovski, Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Service, Northern Sydney Local Health District

Carmelle works as an old age psychiatrist and saw a growing need to advance the rights of people with cognitive disabilities. In 2011, Carmelle established the not-for-profit charity Capacity Australia with a mission to increase awareness and understanding of the rights of people with disabilities to be involved in decisions about their wellbeing while providing safeguards against exploitation.

At Capacity Australia, Carmelle holds the voluntary positions of President and chief educator. She has delivered over 1,000 training sessions to lawyers, doctors, nurses, psychologists and other health care professionals on key human rights issues such as informed consent, supported decision making and the

detection of undue influence upon people with disabilities.

Carmelle was responsible for the development of a comprehensive education course for frontline banking staff to detect the potential financial abuse of people with cognitive disabilities. She has also collaborated with Alzheimer's Australia on a discussion paper on the use of psychotropic medications as restraints for people with dementia, and cowritten a free e-book, *Capacity and the Law* with Nick O'Neill (former President of the Guardianship Tribunal).

Ms Betty Ross

Nominated by Ms Julie Grey, NSW Police Force – Dubbo

Betty founded the International Carers Autism Network (ICAN) to address the shortage of support services for carers of people with autism in rural and remote regions of NSW. She makes herself available at all times of the day and night to take calls from carers and advise them on matters ranging from family law issues to the over-representation of people with autism in the criminal justice system.

In October 2013, Betty developed and ran an education program for first-responders to raise awareness of the high rates of people with autism spectrum disorder in the criminal justice system. Course participants included representatives from NSW Police, Community Services, Correction Services, Juvenile Justice, NSW Health and various domestic violence services.

Betty's work with ICAN is entirely voluntary, and over and above her paid employment as a registered nurse and full-time carer.

Law and Justice Volunteer Award nominees *(continued)*

Ms Coral Slattery

**Nominated by Mr Lee Evans, MP,
Member for Heathcote**

Coral has dedicated nearly 25 years to ensuring non-custodial parents and grandparents continue to have access to their children and grandchildren after a marriage breakdown. Coral began her work advocating for the rights of parents and grandparents after her grandson was taken overseas without her son's consent. Finding there was little in the way of support services for non-custodial fathers, Coral founded the Family Law Reform Association NSW (FLRA) in 1990. FLRA is non-profit, non-political, non-denominational, self-help organisation run entirely by volunteers and funded exclusively by membership fees and small donations.

Coral played a key role in advocating and changing the policies of independent, Catholic and state schools to respect both parents' responsibilities towards their children, regardless of the family's living arrangements. Coral has worked with various media outlets to raise awareness of issues around child support, international child abduction, child alienation, allegations of child abuse and the vital role grandparents play in the lives of children after marriage breakdowns.

Mr James (Jim) Treadwell

**Nominated by Mrs Julie Vitnell,
Hunter Community Legal Centre**

Jim has been advocating for the rights of serving and ex-defence force personnel, and their families, in securing their just entitlements from the Department of Veterans' Affairs for 25 years. Jim joined Legacy in 1991 as a volunteer pension officer and advocate seeking justice for those who could not speak up for themselves.

Jim is a widely-respected advocate for widows and is renowned for his tenacity and commitment in fighting to secure entitlements for disadvantaged ex-service personnel and their families. Over many hundreds of cases, Jim has demonstrated great perseverance, exhausting every avenue until he is satisfied that justice has been done. Meticulously researching each veteran's service and medical history, he has greatly assisted in securing entitlements through appeals to the Veterans' Review Board and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Now well into his eighties, Jim continues his work advocating for veterans and their families to receive their full entitlements under the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Scheme.

Victims and Witnesses of Crime Court Support Volunteers

**Nominated by Ms Leanne Hillman,
Victims and Witnesses of Crime Court
Support**

The Victims and Witnesses of Crime Court Support (VWCCS) was founded in 2007 to help victims and witnesses navigate the criminal justice system. VWCCS supports individuals at court, without duplicating existing services or acting as a lobby group.

VWCCS began with six volunteers with a shared vision of helping victims of crime and has since grown to a team of more than 100 people, providing services in the Parramatta Justice Centre, the Downing Centre and Supreme Court, and Orange Local Court. Court support volunteers attend court with clients, explaining court terminology and procedures in plain English, and their entitlements under the Charter of Victims' Rights. Reception and information volunteers provide general information to members of the public, and a referral service for victims and witnesses.

In 2013 alone, court support volunteers provided 4,815 hours of support to 2,517 victims and witnesses at Downing Centre, Parramatta and Orange courts. Reception and information volunteers at Parramatta and Downing Centre worked 3,338 hours and assisted 19,160 people.

Pro Bono Partnership Award



Presented by:

Mr John Corker
Director
National Pro Bono
Resource Centre

Sponsored by:

The National Pro Bono
Resource Centre

This Award is presented to private law firms, community organisations and/or community legal centres in NSW that have developed an outstanding pro bono legal assistance relationship resulting in improved access to justice for disadvantaged people in the community.

The National Pro Bono Resource Centre is an independent, non-profit organisation committed to supporting and promoting pro bono legal services in Australia. As advocate, broker, coordinator, researcher and resource provider, the Centre plays a unique leadership and coordination role.

www.nationalprobono.org.au

The nominees are:

Casula High School and Canterbury Boys High School with King & Wood Mallesons and in-house legal teams of GE Sydney, NAB and MLC

The partnership between King & Wood Mallesons (KWM), in-house lawyers from GE Sydney and NAB and MLC, and Casula High School and Canterbury Boys High School, was established in 2010 to deliver the Lawyers in Schools program. The program aims to increase young people's understanding of the law and their rights and responsibilities as citizens. Over the past five years, 300 students have participated in the program, with 45 lawyers from KWM, GE Sydney, NAB and MLC volunteering their time.

A survey conducted in 2013 showed that after completing the program, students' confidence in knowing how to deal with a legal problem rose from 4% to 90%, and students' understanding of when to seek legal help rose from 58% to 93%.

The structure of the program encourages a high level of interaction, with one lawyer being allocated to a group of no more than five or six students. The program commences in term 2, with two sessions per term for the remainder of the year. The final session is conducted at the offices of KWM.

Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education with Michaela Byers Solicitor

The partnership between Michaela Byers Solicitors (MBS) and the Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education (Edmund Rice Centre) began two years ago with a focus on helping asylum seekers detained in Villawood Detention Centre. During the early stages of the partnership, MBS worked with the Edmund Rice Centre to provide immigration advice to asylum seekers, and legal support for cases of judicial review of migration decisions in the Federal Court.

After recent government funding cuts to the Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme, asylum seekers rely on this partnership for pro bono assistance with their matter. To date, the partnership has assisted more than 50 asylum seekers. MBS also provided pro bono legal advice and representation to approximately 770 detainees whose personal details were published on the internet by the Immigration Department.

Hunter Community Legal Centre with McCullough Robertson

Established two years ago, the partnership between Hunter Community Legal Centre and McCullough Robertson has resulted in specialist employment and industrial relations solicitors providing legal advice in a range of matters such as unfair dismissal, discrimination in the workplace and unpaid entitlements. Clients are drawn from the Newcastle and Hunter region which is home to 500,000 people in 13 Local Government Areas. McCullough Robertson also assists with Hunter Community Legal Centre's community legal education program, including a recent employment law program for sex workers in the region.

Each week, one or two McCullough Robertson employment law specialists travel to Hunter Community Legal Centre to provide telephone advice to clients. To date, the partnership has assisted 92 clients and succeeded in claiming over \$100,000 in unpaid entitlements from employers.

Pro Bono Partnership Award nominees *(continued)*

Redfern Legal Centre *with* Clayton Utz

Established three years ago, the partnership between Redfern Legal Centre (RLC) and Clayton Utz has resulted in a scheme to assist and represent people that have been unfairly dismissed from their employment in conciliations at the Fair Work Commission. Typically from low income backgrounds and often with poor verbal and written communication skills, clients would otherwise have to undergo an adversarial process without legal representation. Clients have had a high rate of settlement of their matters, and those settlements have been above the national average. In 2014, the partnership was extended to include general protections claims.

The partnership differs from other models in that it does not operate as a 'referral' system but rather on a 'seconded' basis, where Clayton Utz solicitors attend to the casework and provide client representation as part of RLC. This model allows RLC and Clayton Utz to work closely together to ensure continuity of service provision. The benefits of the partnership have meant RLC has been able to expand its employment law services, while Clayton Utz solicitors have gained experience outside their usual area of practice.

Redfern Legal Centre *with* Fragomen

The partnership between Redfern Legal Centre (RLC) and Fragomen (a specialist immigration law firm) began in 2011 with a focus on providing migration advice to international students in Sydney and across NSW. On a weekly basis, registered migration agents from Fragomen attend RLC's legal advice sessions to give advice to international students.

The sessions provide a 'one stop shop' covering tenancy and employment law, credit and debt issues, discrimination and domestic violence. With the support of Fragomen, international students also receive advice on how these legal issues may affect their student visa.

The partnership is notable for adopting a holistic approach to delivering legal services to meet the needs of international students. It combines the generalist legal expertise of RLC with Fragomen's specialist knowledge of migration law. International students can also seek advice via telephone or webcam interviews if they are unable to visit in person.

Youth Off the Streets *with* Baker & McKenzie

More than eight years ago, Baker & McKenzie and Youth Off The Streets (YOTS) formed a partnership to provide pro bono legal advice with a focus on assisting young people engaged through YOTS services.

Baker & McKenzie provides legal assistance for young people who have accumulated fine debts due to extreme personal and domestic circumstances. The sanctions from non-payment of fines, such as disqualification from applying for a driver's licence, prevent many young people from engaging in further education and employment. A cooperative service delivery model ensures that YOTS workers and teachers provide support to the young people, while Baker & McKenzie assist with the legal issues. To date, Baker & McKenzie has assisted more than 60 young people, including making submissions to the State Debt Recovery Office for write-off of fine debt, or facilitating young people's participation in the WDO scheme and making time-to pay arrangements to pay off remaining debt. The partnership not only produces positive legal outcomes, but also improves perceptions of the legal system among young people.

Aboriginal Justice Award



Presented by:

The Hon. Brad Hazzard MP
Attorney General and
Minister for Justice

Sponsored by:

Department of Justice NSW

The Aboriginal Justice Award is presented to an Aboriginal individual or group of individuals who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to improving access to justice for Aboriginal people in NSW. This may have occurred in a range of activities over a long period, or in a single significant activity.

The Foundation acknowledges the support of the Department of Justice NSW.

www.justice.nsw.gov.au

The nominees are:

Mr Kevin Cook

Nominated by Mr Brian Doolan, The Fred Hollows Foundation

Kevin is a Koori man of the Wandandian people, with a lifetime commitment to improving access to justice for disadvantaged people in NSW. Kevin is an advocate of innovative Aboriginal-controlled adult education, a widely-respected land rights activist and a union organiser.

Kevin played an instrumental role in the famous Green Ban movement in the 1970s and at the same time helped Aboriginal people gain title to their homes in Redfern. In 1981, Kevin became the first Aboriginal General Secretary of Tranby Aboriginal College and worked to build the college into an Aboriginal adult learning centre, and a place for revival and renewal of Aboriginal culture for people across NSW. Kevin developed the nationally accredited Diploma of National Indigenous Legal Advocacy course which is still offered today. Tranby was home to campaigns to establish the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and generate public awareness of the Stolen Generation, and served as a base for people from the bush to participate in the Aboriginal land rights movement. Kevin established the Trade Union Committee for Aboriginal Rights and advocated for Indigenous rights to the International Labour Organization. Kevin played a key role in organising the Long March during the Bicentenary.

Today, Kevin remains committed to advocating for justice and is active in Indigenous affairs.

Ms Mavis Davis

Nominated by Ms Debra Morris, Department of Justice NSW

Aunty Mavis is a Dunghutti woman from Kempsey who grew up on the Burnt Bridge Mission. She has been nominated for her 30-year commitment to the Aboriginal community of the Mid North Coast. Often referred to as the unofficial Mayor of South Kempsey, Mavis is known for her strong voice within the community. She is heavily involved

in Circle Sentencing, the Aboriginal Community Justice Group, the PCYC and the Domestic Violence Monitoring Committee.

An innovative community leader, Mavis constantly seeks to better the lives of her people and foster strong relationships with the non-Aboriginal community. Mavis advocated for the Sea of Hands reconciliation project and initiated the South Kempsey Neighbourhood Improvement Program. A respected elder, Mavis regularly participates in workshops and education programs about domestic violence for Aboriginal women and serves as a role model for them. She recently trained as an Aboriginal facilitator in the school-based Love Bites domestic and family violence and sexual assault prevention program.

Mavis works with the local police and young people during Youth Conferencing and the issuing of cautions, and responds to calls from the police at all hours to help young Aboriginal people when they are arrested. She continues to seek justice for her people by breaking down the barriers between the police and young people.

Ms Kelly Jones

Nominated by Ms Lauren Crook, Waminda South Coast Women's Health and Welfare Aboriginal Corporation

Kelly is Wiradjuri woman from the Wellington region of NSW, who works tirelessly helping imprisoned Aboriginal women and their families in preparation for their release. In her role as the Aboriginal family health worker, she is the key mediator between Aboriginal women and the various services they will require once they leave prison. Without Kelly's strong commitment to ensuring Aboriginal women leave prison with services to support them, including helping them find a safe place to live, and supporting them to reestablish relations with their families, many may reoffend and return to prison.

Kelly works directly with 25 to 30 women and their families each month

Aboriginal Justice Award nominees *(continued)*

to ensure they are supported in the community. Kelly is passionate about creating opportunities for women and works with them to determine their needs to connect them to the most appropriate support and counselling services, such as Indigenous-specific wellbeing programs like the Healing House Respite Program for women with mental health issues. Kelly also conducts school education programs on healthy relationships.

Ms Elizabeth (Liz) Layland

**Nominated by Ms Melissa Bryan,
Thiyama-li Aboriginal Family Violence
Legal Service**

A Ngemba woman from Barwon River, Liz has coordinated Circle Sentencing in Brewarrina since 2005 and is a widely-respected community leader and advocate. Her passion for her community led her to take a strong stance on the sale of takeaway alcohol and the neglect of children. She is known as the go-to person when someone is struggling with a fine or bill, dealing with the Police, involved in a child protection matter or required to attend court.

Liz is involved with learner-driver programs to assist Aboriginal drivers to obtain their driver's licence. This important initiative not only reduces the high rates of unauthorised driving but gives Aboriginal people access to work, educational and social opportunities.

Aside from her community work, Liz also liaises with a number of legal service providers in Brewarrina such as the Western NSW Community Legal Centre, Legal Aid NSW and Thiyama-Li Aboriginal Family Violence Legal Service. She is on the ground during the fortnightly court lists for Brewarrina Local Court, where she works closely with the Aboriginal Legal Service. In May each year, Liz is the front person for Law Week activities in Brewarrina, a role she fulfils with pride and grace.

Ms Kristy Masella

**Nominated by Ms Belinda Russon,
Tranby Aboriginal College**

Kristy is a Murri woman from Dharumbal country in central Queensland and has been nominated for her commitment to Aboriginal land rights, education and training.

As Group Manager, Social Justice in Aboriginal Affairs, Kristy was a member of the working group that reviewed the Aboriginal Land Rights Act. She made a significant contribution to the development of proposals that seek to build a sustainable network of land councils to drive stronger economic outcomes for Aboriginal people. In addition, she was the driving force behind amendments to remove unworkable and inefficient provisions in the Act.

Kristy also implemented a statewide Aboriginal Healing Forum to raise awareness of the need to seek healing therapies to address the systemic trauma endemic in some Aboriginal communities that often leads to high rates of violence, suicide and interaction with the criminal justice system.

Passionate about Aboriginal education, Kristy has been the Chair of Tranby Aboriginal College since 2010 and served as CEO in that year. In 2013, Kristy engaged in a national dialogue with Indigenous Australians to raise awareness of the training courses offered by Tranby, resulting in a 210% increase in enrolments in 2014.

Kristy is currently completing a Masters degree in Human Rights Law and Policy at the University of NSW specialising in Indigenous Rights.

Mt Druitt / Blacktown Aboriginal Community Justice Group

**Nominated by Ms Vanessa Sakal,
Department of Justice NSW**

The Mt Druitt / Blacktown Aboriginal Community Justice Group (ACJG) is a volunteer organisation that has been nominated for its work in the Aboriginal community and with the police to break down the cycle of offending in the local area. The ACJG undertakes its work on Darug land and draws its members from the Wiradjuri, Kamilaroi, Dunghutti/Gumbaynggir, Darug, Awabakal/Anaiwan/Barranbinya, Darumbal/Gungarri and Darug/Yuin tribes and nations.

Members of the ACJG have developed crime prevention and diversionary strategies, worked with police to prevent young people coming into contact with the criminal justice system, and provided advice and education programs to the local community.

Since 2007, the ACJG has been involved in the Circle Sentencing program, participated in the Police and Aboriginal Consultative Committee, and provided custody support to Aboriginal clients and their families. The ACJG has partnered with the police and other local community services to deliver the Koori Love Shouldn't Hurt domestic violence program and developed the Breaking Barriers Fitness Program that provides mentors to young Aboriginal people at risk of contact with the criminal justice system.

Mr Peter Rose

**Nominated by Mr Phil Naden,
Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT**

Peter is a Gunditjmara man from Victoria, who was the coordinator of the Prisoner Through Care service until funding ceased for this service in June 2014.

Peter's commitment to helping prisoners leaving custody means that Aboriginal people get off to the right start, with Peter helping them before and after their release from prison.

Peter's work includes arranging travel assistance to enable people to return to their community, coordinating support services to help ease their transition back into the community, and maintaining regular contact to assist them with problems that arise after their release.

Peter's caring and compassionate nature means Aboriginal people are made to feel proud, strong and supported in their post-release life. He works to instil in people the self-belief and determination to get on with their lives with their families and within their communities. In addition, he is firmly committed to helping his Aboriginal clients regain custody of their children.

Toronto Aboriginal Community Justice Group

**Nominated by Ms Anita Barker,
Department of Justice NSW**

The Toronto Aboriginal Community Justice Group (TACJG) has been nominated for developing the domestic violence event Koori Love Shouldn't Hurt in response to high levels of domestic and family violence among the Aboriginal community in the Lake Macquarie region.

Koori Love Shouldn't Hurt starts a conversation in the community about domestic violence and gets people to open up and talk about their experiences. The event has grown to include guest speakers – some of whom are perpetrators of domestic violence – and panel-type discussions involving support services and seeks to inform both women and men about support services available, and the processes around reporting domestic violence. Such is the success of the Koori Love Shouldn't Hurt event that it is now being adopted by Aboriginal Community Justice Groups across the state.

The TACJG also runs workshops about domestic violence, takes part in White Ribbon Day and Reclaim the Night activities, and supports the Love Bites and Sista Speak programs. The TACJG participates in a number of committees, and works closely with the Benevolent

Society, Relationships Australia, refuges and community health organisations.

The members of this group comprise members from the nations in the Toronto areas which includes the Bunndjalung, Worimi, Darkinung, Awabakal, Anaiwin, Kamilaroi, Wiradjuri, Biripi, Gumbainggir, Wonnarua, Dharug, Yuin, Wiljali, Yorta Yorta and Tharawal nations.

Ms Gail Wallace

**Nominated by Ms Dianne Day,
Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre**

Gail is a descendant from the Wemba Wemba clan in Victoria and the Durag clan in NSW, and has been nominated for her 35-year commitment to improving access to justice for Aboriginal people. As the first Aboriginal person to graduate with a law degree from the University of Wollongong, she has used her education and cultural knowledge in various roles with the Aboriginal Legal Service, NSW Department of Education, Centrelink, Department of Justice NSW, the NSW Aboriginal Justice Advisory Council and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to improve access to justice for Aboriginal people in NSW.

In her role as Circle/Care Sentencing Project Officer at Nowra Local Court, Gail was involved in piloting the Circle Sentencing and Care Circles programs that incorporated Aboriginal cultural practices into the judicial process. The success of these two groundbreaking programs has resulted in the statewide rollout of both programs. Gail's commitment to justice and her standing within the Aboriginal community has meant that both programs are accepted and embedded within the justice system and accepted by the Aboriginal community.

Mr Rick Welsh

**Nominated by Magistrate Fiona Toose,
Local Court NSW**

Rick is a Murrawarra man of North West NSW, and has been nominated for his outstanding commitment to building new relationships between Aboriginal people and the legal system in NSW. He has sought to overcome the long history of mistrust of the legal system with the aim of ensuring that Aboriginal people have fair and equal access to the justice system.

As the coordinator of The Shed in Mt Druitt, Rick has built an on-site, in-community therapeutic service around Aboriginal people to address both their health and legal needs. Rick has built solid relationships with key health care service providers that have delivered health and wellbeing programs to support better outcomes for his Aboriginal clients. Coupled with this service is Rick's coordination with legal assistance services to address the legal problems that are often associated with the Aboriginal community.

Rick is a pioneer in preparing and delivering legal literacy courses in family law, and care and protection law, to the Aboriginal community. He is a key contributor to and the co-chair of the Aboriginal Family Law Pathways Network which is designed to bring together legal practitioners and family dispute resolution experts to assist Aboriginal clients with family law problems.

Justice Medal



LAW AND JUSTICE
FOUNDATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Presented by:

**The Hon. Sir Anthony Mason
AC, KBE**
Patron
Law and Justice
Foundation of NSW

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Foundation of NSW

The Justice Medal is presented to an individual for outstanding achievement in improving access to justice in NSW, particularly for socially and economically disadvantaged people. This may have been demonstrated in a range of activities over an extended period or work over a shorter period but of exceptional impact.

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The nominees are:

Ms Karen Bowley

**Nominated by Ms Sarah Rodgers,
Hume Riverina Community Legal
Service**

Karen has been nominated for her achievement in improving and expanding legal outreach services in the Hume Riverina regional area of NSW for socially and economically disadvantaged people. In 2004, Karen commenced as the Principal Lawyer for the Hume Riverina Community Legal Service where she quickly identified several remote communities without access to legal services.

Through her extensive involvement in various regional networks, Karen raised the profile of the Hume Riverina Community Legal Service and expanded its legal outreach services. In 2008, Karen secured for a dedicated outreach solicitor to service geographically isolated areas.

Karen established the Deniliquin Coordinated Outreach Clinic and the Corowa Coordinated Clinic, ensuring that each service was partnered with services such as the Disability Advocacy and Information Service, South West Tenants Advice Service, Family Relationship Services and Financial Counselling Services, and private pro bono lawyers.

Associate Professor Judy Cashmore AO

**Nominated by Ms Ruth Jones, Family
and Community Services NSW**

Judy has been nominated for her outstanding 25-year commitment in researching children's involvement in civil and criminal proceedings, and other systems where decisions are made about the lives of children.

Judy is Associate Professor in Socio-Legal Studies, Sydney Law School, University of Sydney, and Adjunct Professor at Southern Cross University.

Judy's work has significantly improved the evidence base that informs government policy and practice on how the voice of the child is heard within

the justice system. Key contributions include conducting an empirical study on the use of closed circuit TV that laid the groundwork for children in NSW to give evidence via video link, and co-chairing the Implementation Committee that led to changes to the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1988. Judy also contributed to the enshrining of mandatory reporting of child abuse into legislation, and wrote the 1994 report on the systematic abuse of children for the NSW Child Protection Council. In 2005 and 2011, Judy led the non-government delegation to the United Nations concerning Australia's implementation on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Mr Kevin Cook

**Nominated by Mr Brian Doolan, The
Fred Hollows Foundation**

Kevin is a Koori man of the Wandandian people, with a lifetime commitment to improving access to justice for disadvantaged people in NSW. Kevin is an advocate of innovative Aboriginal-controlled adult education, a widely-respected land rights activist and a union organiser.

Kevin played an instrumental role in the famous Green Ban movement in the 1970s and at the same time helped Aboriginal people gain title to their homes in Redfern. In 1981, Kevin became the first Aboriginal General Secretary of Tranby Aboriginal College and worked to build the college into an Aboriginal adult learning centre, and a place for revival and renewal of Aboriginal culture for people across NSW. Kevin developed the nationally accredited Diploma of National Indigenous Legal Advocacy course which is still offered today. Tranby was home to campaigns to establish the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and generate public awareness of the Stolen Generation, and served as a base for people from the bush to participate in the Aboriginal land rights movement. Kevin established the Trade Union Committee for Aboriginal Rights and advocated for

Indigenous rights to the International Labour Organization. Kevin played a key role in organising the Long March during the Bicentenary.

Today, Kevin remains committed to advocating for justice and is active in Indigenous affairs.

Ms Robyn Cotterell-Jones

Nominated by Ms Helen Cummings, VOCAL, and Ms Ariel Marguin, Justice for Children Australia Inc

Robyn was a publican until she became a victim of attempted murder. She joined the Victims of Crime Assistance League (VOCAL) 'to fix a legal system', having experienced first-hand the gaps in services and the multiple impacts of crime.

In this nomination, Robyn is recognised for her 20-year commitment to VOCAL where she has led a needs-based, cutting edge, positive victim support program. Over time, Robyn has developed a holistic, inclusive program which culminated in the opening of the Victim Support Centre in Newcastle.

Since joining VOCAL, Robyn has helped thousands of people, from victims of violent crime including attempted murder and assault, to those who have experienced domestic violence, sexual violence and child abuse. She leads education programs about the impact of violence, training VOCAL staff and talking to police, judges, law students, schools and community groups. Robyn regularly attends difficult cases in the Family Court to support clients.

Robyn has also performed the role of life coach and mentor to clients while aiming to address systemic issues affecting victims of crimes and the wider community.

Reverend Bill Crews AM

Nominated by Mr Anthony Tudehope, The Exodus Foundation

Bill began volunteering at the Wayside Chapel in 1969, before giving up his job as an engineer to work for the organisation full-time in 1971. After completing theological studies in 1986, Bill was ordained as a minister of the Ashfield Uniting Church. In 1989, he created The Exodus Foundation as a refuge for homeless and abandoned youth, and other marginalised and disadvantaged people.

In the 1980s, Bill identified the need to adopt an integrated approach to meeting the needs of people who are poor, homeless and disadvantaged. His pioneering vision saw him grow The Exodus Foundation from providing free meals and food parcels to the poor and homeless into The Exodus Social Health and Wellbeing outreach centre. The centre offers a suite of services including free legal services, primary health and dental services, counselling services, social workers, chaplaincy, emergency financial assistance and food parcels.

Free legal clinics were established in 1988 and Bill secured the pro bono legal services of Blake Dawson Waldron (now Ashurst) in 2002. The clinics provide legal assistance in areas such as tenancy, fines, debts, victims' compensation, criminal matters, apprehended violence orders, family law, and Housing NSW and Centrelink matters.

Mr Roger de Robillard

Nominated by Ms Jane Healy, Supporting Asylum Seekers Sydney, and Mr Charles Pragnell, National Child Protection Alliance of Australia

Roger has been nominated for his pro bono legal work with the National Child Protection Alliance of Australia and Supporting Asylum Seekers Sydney. Roger has worked tirelessly in providing legal advice and pro bono legal representation for clients. Roger's unwavering dedication to help those most in need often means he sacrifices both personal and professional time.

Roger's skill as a barrister has enlivened both organisations by streamlining their legal case management procedures, and mentoring law students and graduates through the complexities of the justice system. Volunteers now spend their time where it is needed most, helping their disadvantaged clients. Law student volunteers are now more effective in identifying legal problems.

Roger's significant achievements include preventing the deportation of a client undergoing dialysis treatment, working on a test case challenging government policy that continues to detain asylum seekers after minor criminal charges have been dismissed by a court, and preventing the return of children to abusive parents.

Justice Medal nominees (continued)

Mr Graeme Innes AM

Nominated by Mr David Mason

Graeme has been nominated for his outstanding commitment to advocating for the rights of people with disabilities. For over 20 years, Graeme has led the charge to enable people with disabilities to exercise their full rights in society.

Throughout his career, Graeme has adopted an inclusive and strategic approach to achieve systemic change for people with disabilities by engaging and working with business, government, NGOs and organisations who represent the interests of people with disabilities.

He made a major contribution to the development of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992, and played a key role in encouraging the involvement of people with disabilities in the development of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. He was also at the forefront of developing the 'Access to Premises' standards that changed Australia's building laws, and contributed to the development of transport standards to improve accessibility for people with disabilities.

Graeme demonstrated immense personal courage in pursuing RailCorp for its failure to make audible announcements on trains. He continues to play an active role in human rights today as a part-time commissioner of the Australian Law Reform Commission.

Mr Ken Marslew AM

Nominated by Ms Lisa O'Grady, Enough is Enough Anti Violence Movement

As the founder of the Enough is Enough Anti Violence Movement, Ken has been nominated for his work to improve access to justice for victims of crime and reduce violence in the community. Ken established Enough is Enough in response to the murder of his son Michael 20 years ago in a bungled armed robbery.

Through Enough is Enough, Ken provides a range of services for victims of crime, including counselling and support groups, as well as education programs for the community. The Peacemaker Project school programs cover bullying and personal responsibility. Workshops for inmates in correctional institutions and juvenile justice centres focus on the principles of restorative justice.

Ken has played an important role in the formation of the Restorative Justice system in NSW. Ken has also had a strong hand in the development and implementation of Victims Impact Statement legislation, and in Forum Sentencing which brings victims and offenders together to help repair the harm of violent crime.

Professor Andrew Mowbray

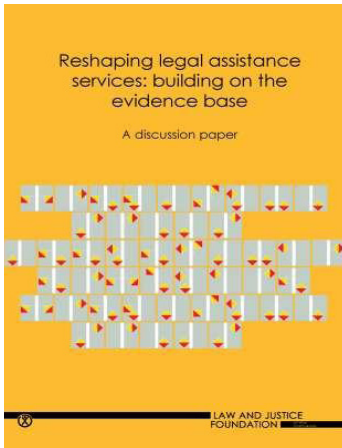
Nominated by Justice Ruth McColl AO, Supreme Court of NSW

Andrew has been nominated for his work in revolutionising the way Australians access legal information. In partnership with Professor Graham Greenleaf, Andrew established the Australian Legal Information Institute (AustLII) in New South Wales in 1995.

This groundbreaking work is now firmly embedded within the justice system. AustLII provides free access to legal information to people in all jurisdictions across Australia, including tribunal decisions that would not otherwise be available, such as those dealing with consumer and fair trading law, tenancy, health and medical practice, disability law, and the law affecting people with diminished capacity.

Andrew has dedicated 25 years of his professional life to ensuring Australians have free access to legal information. His contributions range from convincing governments and courts that legal information should be free to everyone, to writing the software that is the backbone of AustLII.

Andrew has transformed the way the legal system operates through the invention and realisation of free access to legal information in Australia. His software is the backbone of similar systems in more than 50 countries around the world, including developing nations in the Pacific and Africa. Without free access to legal information, access to justice would be much more difficult for people who are disadvantaged, and their advisers and representatives.



Reshaping legal assistance services: building on the evidence base – A discussion paper

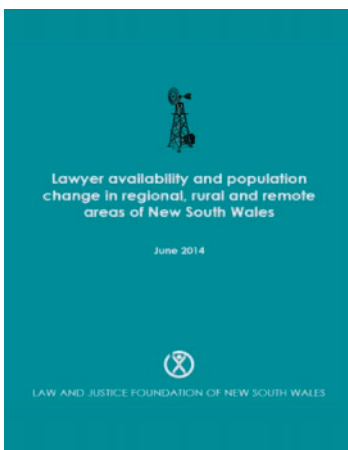
This report draws on more than a decade of empirical research evidence – together with current experience of service providers – to inform the design and delivery of efficient and effective legal assistance services. Written as a tool for policy makers, practitioners, service managers and researchers, the report highlights the key directions for reform suggested by research evidence, and identifies the benefits and challenges of different service options. Acknowledging current arrangements and resources, the report provides a basis for considering how to move from the theory to the practice of client-centred service delivery.

This report was launched by the NSW Attorney General on 28 October 2014.

Reaching in by joining-up – Evaluation of the legal assistance partnership between Legal Aid NSW and Settlement Services International

The partnership between Legal Aid NSW and Settlement Services International Inc. was evaluated as part of the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales's Research Alliance with Legal Aid NSW. Established in March 2013, the partnership provides family, immigration and other civil law outreach services to target communities across the greater Sydney area, Illawarra and Newcastle through eight migrant resource centres in ten locations. The evaluation provides compelling evidence of the partnership as an effective pathway for clients from diverse cultural backgrounds, including those newly and recently arrived in Australia.

This report will be launched in December 2014.



Lawyer availability and population change in regional, rural and remote areas of New South Wales

This research extends the 2010 report published by the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales into the availability of lawyers in regional, rural and remote (RRR) areas in New South Wales. The report finds that while starting from a lower base, solicitor numbers in RRR NSW have not been declining overall or as a per capita rate. However, there were area to area variations, with changes in solicitor numbers generally paralleling population changes. Greater attention needs to be paid to the broader challenge of providing the appropriate mix of legal services in RRR areas, rather than narrowly focusing on recruitment and retention issues.

This report will be launched in November 2014.

More information

For more information about our reports and other publications, visit www.lawfoundation.net.au

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Mr Richard Fisher AM

State Library of NSW

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Mr Wayne Flynn

Sir Owen Dixon Chambers

Mr Rob Gandiaga

Casula High School

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Bradfield and Scott Lawyers

Professor Graham Greenleaf AM

University of New South Wales

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Newcastle Legacy

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NSW Police Force

Mr Gregory James AM QC

Frederick Jordan Chambers

Ms Melanie Kallmier

Mid North Coast Community Legal Centre

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Mr Dan Proudman
Newcastle Herald

Mr Gary Pudney
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Ms Lorraine Rodden

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State Library of NSW

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Youth Off The Streets

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Newcastle Legacy

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Family and Community Services NSW

Ms Louise Walsh
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Fragomen

Ms Charmaine Weldon
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Macquarie Scorpions

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Waminda South Coast Women's Health and Welfare Aboriginal Corporation

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