

the shadow program making a difference

By Georgina Costello, Mallesons Stephen Jaques & Young Lawyers' Community Issues Committee

Since 1997, the Young Lawyers' Community Issues Committee has organised a special event each year known as the "Shadow Program". The program provides the opportunity for a number of students from primarily disadvantaged schools to "shadow" a lawyer for a week.

The experience of spending a week with a lawyer may not always be exciting for a 15 or 16 year old student: Admittedly I have heard stories of kids being asked to remove their Discmans while sitting in court! But the idea of this program is that by meeting and working with a lawyer for a week, the students gain a number of opportunities. They gain a contact in the law upon whom they can call later, for example, if they want to pursue a career

in the law. Also, the students meet lawyers in objective and dispassionate settings. In this way, the program can help demystify the law. More importantly, the program aims to give students positive experiences with their host lawyers – to make them feel special – and to encourage them to be resilient and successful.

This year, the program ran between 14 and 18 May. To celebrate the program and thank the lawyers involved, the LIV hosted cocktails at the Snail 'n Bottle on 14 May. Ms Anna O'Connor, who recently received the Victorian Children's Lawyer of the Year Award, made an inspiring speech at the cocktail party.

Over 100 students who were keen to participate in the program had to be

turned away this year because there weren't enough host lawyers.

The Committee wishes to sincerely thank all of the lawyers involved in the program. Those lawyers and firms who maintain connections with their "shadows" from previous years, continue to make a valuable contribution.

The Community Issues Committee meets every two months. To find out more about the Shadow Program or other projects in which the Committee is involved, please contact Jacqui Boymal, Manager of the Young Lawyers' Section of the LIV by email: jboymal@liv.asn.au or by phone on 9607 9379.

We encourage all young lawyers to keep an eye out for the program next year and to take part.

the justice and liberty ball

By Sarah Field, Herbert Geer & Rundle & Young Lawyers' Social Committee

On 12 May 2001, the Law Institute of Victoria hosted the Justice and Liberty Ball in aid of the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind.

The ball was a black tie affair with dancing, fine food, drinks and great entertainment. The night was hosted by John Blackman and Tottie Goldsmith and the entertainment for the night included a fantastic performance by Jay Laga'aia, among others. The

production assistance provided by the Nine Network made sure the ball was a spectacular event.

To increase the presence of Young Lawyers at this event, the Law Institute of Victoria offered 60 discount tickets priced at \$100 exclusively for Young Lawyers (full price \$150). In addition, a prize draw of one night's accommodation for two people at the Lakehouse in Daylesford including dinner,

breakfast and massages for two, was drawn exclusively for Young Lawyers on the night.

This fantastic prize was sponsored by TMP Worldwide, which was formerly the Morgan and Banks Group. TMP Worldwide has the largest legal recruitment division in Australia and the world with over 100 legal consultants globally.