

Community issues committee report

Kristen Abery, Wisewoulds, Co-Chair Community Issues Committee and Penny Martin, Minter Ellison, Co-Chair Community Issues Committee

As incoming co-chairs, we see the Community Issues Committee as having a key role to play this year in refugee and human rights issues. For young lawyers wishing to know more about these issues and take practical action, the Committee is a great way to become involved.

This year the Community Issues Committee will be closely linked with the Law Reform Committee so that our members can be involved in issues of interest to them across the Young Lawyers' Section.

We will keep members informed about new opportunities and projects, and already have people working on activities such as a public forum on refugee issues and a law reform project relating to the donation of

food for homeless people (in conjunction with the Law Reform Committee and outside organisations).

Our annual Shadowing Programme will be held during Law Week, which runs from 13 to 17 May 2002. This involves high school students spending a week with a lawyer, in which they gain exposure to the law. We will be developing the programme this year to make the task easier for the many practitioners who take part, for example, running tours of city legal sites and compiling suggestions for student activities. The Shadowing programme has received great feedback in previous years and we hope that you will volunteer to take on a participating student.

The next event, also targeted at the school community, is our second annual social

justice essay contest. This year's theme, following on from "Aboriginal Reconciliation" in 2001, is the refugee issue. The contest is open to all Victorian secondary schools and encourages students to write about their ideas on a current issue.

Our projects for the rest of the year will include Corporate Responsibility and Lawyers as Volunteers (following on from the Volunteers Guide which is available on the Law Institute website).

New ideas and members are always welcome. Our meetings are held on Tuesday lunchtimes every six weeks at the LIV. Please email us at kxa@wisewoulds.com.au or penny.martin@minterellison.com or ring Jacqui Boymal at the LIV on 9607 9379 for details.

Professional development committee report

Katie Coghlan, Just Jeans Group, Co-Chair Professional Development Committee and Catherine Dwyer, Abbott Stillman & Wilson, Co-Chair Professional Development Committee

The Professional Development Committee's theme for 2002 is "employment issues" and a lot of the projects, whether they be annual projects or new initiatives, are designed to address the employment theme and to focus upon the professional development of Young Lawyers. Here is a summary of the Committee's projects for 2002:

Articled Clerks Information Kit

The Professional Development Committee has formulated the Articled Clerks Information Kit 2002, which provides guidance for articled clerks who are starting their career in the legal profession.

The Kit includes a copy of the statutory rules governing articles, guidance on how to prepare and lodge Articles documentation and general tips for practising as a solicitor.

The Kit may be purchased from the Law Institute Bookshop at 470 Bourke Street at a cost of \$22.00 (10% discount is available for Law Institute members).

Annual Conference at Hepburn Springs

The annual Young Lawyers' Section conference is on the agenda for 17 May 2002. We will provide a full report in the next edition of the Young Lawyers' Journal.

Young Lawyers' Lecture Series

Every Tuesday evening, commencing on 5 March 2002, at the Snail 'n' Bottle Restaurant at the Law Institute, young lawyers will be presented with an informative one hour lecture on a specific area of law. The first lecture held on 5 March 2002 focused on "New Issues in Privacy". The lectures will focus on a range of topics ranging from commercial law, property law, litigation, criminal law and employment law. The cost is \$38.50 per lecture for Young Lawyers' Section members, \$49.50 for other LIV members and \$66.00 for non-LIV members. For an overview update on a variety of topics, the Lecture Series is a recommended activity for all young lawyers.