

# Community Minded



**By Verity Quinn and Jane Levin, Editors 2003**

**A**s the results of this edition's popular opinion poll show, young lawyers don't tend to think of themselves as forming part of a community, instead they identify with the firm they are employed by, or perceive themselves to be individuals practising the law without any particular bond to their fellow practitioners. Yet as part of the legal profession, we make up a community with a common purpose and shared ethics.

In this edition of the journal we focus on the idea of "community" – looking at the different people who make up the legal community, the way our membership of various communities can enhance the way we practice law and enrich the legal community as a whole, as well as asking what it's like to practice in regional and suburban communities.

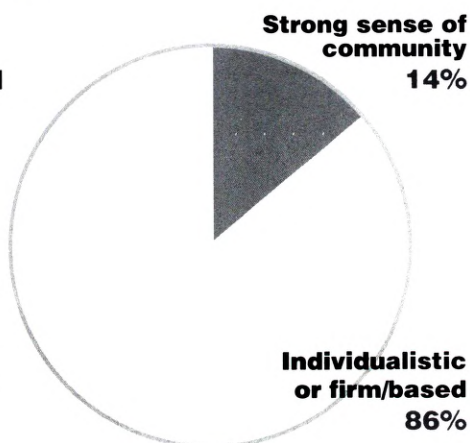
We also look at the role of junior practitioners within the wider Australian community in their performance of pro bono work and raise the question of whether it is part of the profession's role to uphold certain values of the legal system by performing work for the benefit of the public good or whether, reflecting the discussion forum question, it is a matter for individual conscience.

We also consider the role of law in the international community - a question raised squarely in relation to Iraq, but also relevant to our own shores and the Australian Government's treatment of asylum-seekers.

Whilst the differences between new practitioners are often more obvious than the similarities, the contributions to this edition of the journal all reflect a common hope that the legal profession, and young lawyers in particular, will continue to strive for a diverse, inclusive and tolerant profession that recognises its important role in society and what it can do to be "community-minded." ■

## Results of YLJ Opinion Poll

**Is there a strong sense of community amongst the legal profession or is it an individualistic or firm/based profession?**



To view the latest poll and forum questions, visit [www.liv.asn.au/sections/younglawyers/about-What\\_s.html#Heading2](http://www.liv.asn.au/sections/younglawyers/about-What_s.html#Heading2)

## Contributions Welcome

If you would like to contribute to the Journal, please contact us. We welcome your ideas!

To find out more about what we have planned for the YLJ this year and how to contribute please go to [www.liv.asn.au/sections/younglawyers/about-Publicat.html#Heading60](http://www.liv.asn.au/sections/younglawyers/about-Publicat.html#Heading60)

## Have Your Say!

The next edition will be your last chance to participate in our "Have Your Say" section.

We encourage you to participate by either answering the informal poll question or making an anonymous contribution to the discussion forum.

This is your chance to be heard on important issues and a prize will be drawn for each best discussion forum response.

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## Join the Young Lawyers' Section

Membership of the Young Lawyers' Section is free to all members of the Law Institute and allows you to become involved in a wide variety of events and committees. To join the Young Lawyers' Section, you must be a practitioner who is under 36 years of age or with less than 6 years experience.

For more details go to [www.liv.asn.au/sections/younglawyers/about-Get.html](http://www.liv.asn.au/sections/younglawyers/about-Get.html).

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