

Editorial

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“Why is it that I, and many like me, now in an industry arguably most apt to make a difference to things, or at least contribute to intelligent debate, seem not to care?”

The 2005 Survey response (4% 197 people) was the slap in the face the Young Lawyers Section (YLS) needed. In 2006, the YLS must lose all pretences and justify its reason for being.



Aside from voter apathy, one critical issue facing young lawyers is disillusionment. There is an increasing amount of Australian data that indicates lawyers have one of the highest job dissatisfaction rates of any profession. Almost 50% of Australian young lawyers change professions by the time they reach

5th year. This is not a new trend – and it's not one that's likely to change anytime soon.

A competitive environment, work demands and associated stresses may be contributing factors. In addition, law in practice tends to be very different from law in theory – law is now considered a good generalist degree (there is clearly an over supply of law graduates in Australia – saturating the market and affecting employment opportunities) and law students only really appear to evaluate their career post admission. Perhaps the reason why so many young lawyers feel displaced is

that reality often fails to meet expectations. Perhaps becoming a lawyer is simply a stepping stone to bigger and better things ... but bigger and better what?

We would like to explore these issues further.

In this edition you'll find reflections from those who have got more from their law degree: a journalist; an animal liberationist; a recruitment consultant; an electorate officer and a Federal Magistrate's Associate. Our feature article, written by Psychologists/ Lawyers Qusai Hussain and Catherine Lally, examines the stresses young lawyers may face and offers survival tactics for when things get a bit rough. Our resident Career Doctor looks at how 2nd to 5th year lawyers can make the most of their scarcity in the Australian market and discusses the merits of working overseas.

In March 2006, the LIV launched a new website called Careers in Law at careers.liv.asn.au as a one-stop-site for employment, career management and human resources.

Do you think Victoria should keep articles?

Should there be compulsory practical legal training for all graduates wishing to practice? Go to www.justice.vic.gov.au to have your say on the Review of Legal Education Services.

Tell us what you want:

This Journal is supposed to encapsulate interesting and relevant issues for young lawyers. Does it? If it doesn't, please email us and tell us why: younglaw@liv.asn.au, or why not submit something for the next issue: www.liv.asn.au/members/sections/younglawyers/about/younglawyers-Editoria.html.

Photo competition SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Next edition, we're having a photography competition for the cover. Snap anything you like that says "social responsibility" and your artwork could grace the cover of the next edition of the *Young Lawyers Journal*.

See the Young Lawyers website
[<https://www.liv.asn.au/members/sections/younglawyers/about/younglawyers-Latest.html>]
for submission details.