



**Annual Report 2008-09**



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## President's Report

It is a delight to be preparing the President's report for the inaugural annual general meeting of JusticeNet SA.

The establishment of JusticeNet SA was a moment long anticipated by the members of our committee. My involvement began two and a half years ago when I first sat down to dinner at the Star of Siam with Jonathan Wells QC, Aleecia Murray and Kerry Clark. We had a general idea about setting up an organization to facilitate pro bono in South Australia but not, at that stage, too much more.

The idea of JusticeNet SA gradually took shape over many more dinners and bottles of wine. Knowing that we needed the right people to help us, our group grew to include contributions from Elicia Savvas, David Bulloch and Ross Richards from Westside Lawyers, Joanne Staugas and Nick Linke from the private profession and Gabrielle Canny from the Legal Services Commission. JusticeNet SA has reaped the benefits of a management committee representing the private profession, the bar, the Legal Aid sector and the community legal centres. The centre's close relationships with the Law Society and the Bar Association have also been central to its success in the first year.

Our vision for JusticeNet SA as the peak pro bono body for SA evolved through hours of talking, talking, talking. We conducted consultations with the private profession, the bar, the community legal sector and the Legal Services Commission, believing that the project would stand or fall on the strength of its relationships with its stakeholders. Having received good feedback and plenty of ideas from the consultation, the group settled on a model for JusticeNet SA that we believed would best suit the needs of South Australia's legal community.

Having decided the conceptual model for the project, the group rolled up its sleeves and got down to the nitty gritty of setting up an organization like JusticeNet SA. Many thanks must go to our Vice President, Kerry Clark, for arranging the incorporation of the centre and drafting its founding constitution. Special thanks also to our treasurer, Nick Linke, who (amongst many other things) cheerfully accepted the task of overseeing the centre's finances. All of the committee members, however, were involved in many long meetings and out-of-hours work attending to the myriad requirements of a newborn legal centre. Thanks to Fisher Jeffries for hosting our meetings and providing the wine and cheese to keep people going late into the evening.

Obtaining funding to establish a project like JusticeNet SA is always the biggest hurdle. Approaches to Commonwealth and State Attorneys-General were unfortunately unsuccessful. Thankfully, the Law Foundation of South Australia came on board with a \$100,000 grant for the centre's first year of operation and the University of Adelaide's Law School generously offered accommodation. It was an exciting moment for us all to know that JusticeNet SA was finally to become a reality!



Our funding allowed us to hire one person to run the whole of JusticeNet SA. The role of Executive Director of JusticeNet SA is a large and ill-defined job but one that presents daily challenges and rewards. Our committee knew that finding the right person to lead JusticeNet SA in its first year was crucial. Much to our delight, our final interviewee for the position turned out to be Tim Graham, an experienced solicitor with a background in private practice, the community sector, government and university work. The committee has been delighted to have Tim on board - not only because he has lightened our individual loads! – but because of the professionalism, empathy and enthusiasm with which he has approached the work of JusticeNet SA. Welcome, Tim, and thank you.

Tim's first weeks were devoted to organizing the official launch of JusticeNet SA, hosting a meeting of our interstate colleagues in the pro bono sector and organizing a series of workshops for South Australia's private, Legal Aid and community sectors. All were a huge success and marked the advent of JusticeNet SA into South Australia's legal scene.

Our funding from the Law Foundation will finish all too soon at the end of the 2009/2010 financial year. The single biggest challenge will be to obtain sufficient funding to support JusticeNet SA's operations in the 2010/2011 financial year and beyond. The Centre welcomes all and any assistance in reaching this goal. In the coming months JusticeNet SA will seek to extend its membership base and strengthen its relationships with all stakeholders. It looks forward to working with its members and all other participants in the South Australian legal community to make its first year of operation a success.

Of course, the establishment of JusticeNet SA would not have come about without the assistance from a large number of supporters. No doubt I will fail to mention some of them, and for that I apologise in advance. I take this opportunity to thank the Law Foundation of South Australia, the University of Adelaide Law School, the Law Society, the Bar Association, the Honourable Chief Justice Doyle and other members of the judiciary for leading our Walks for Justice, the Honourable Justice Mansfield AM, who launched JusticeNet SA and supported our funding application, Malcolm Blue QC, who also supported the funding application, John Corker and the National Pro Bono Resource Centre, our colleagues at PILCH Victoria, PILCH NSW and QPILCH, the Flinders Law Students' Association, Robyn Parkinson, our minutes secretary, the Hilton International Hotel, Two Brothers Catering, the staff of the Legal Services Commission, Steve Balmer from BMD Designs for our website, Heidi Angove from Internode for our web access and Dilfinch & Dilfinch for their graphic design.

It is with pleasure that I table this report for the information of members.

Paula Stirling  
President

## Executive Director's Report

### Introduction

JusticeNet is an independent, not for profit legal assessment and referral service. JusticeNet facilitates access to justice by matching eligible charitable organisations and members of the community with a safety net of member firms and barristers willing to give their services without charge.

JusticeNet aspires to be a 'clearing house' for pro bono legal service delivery in South Australia. JusticeNet's primary function is to receive, assess and refers requests for pro bono legal assistance in a coordinated manner that maximizes the efficient use of pro bono capacity within the legal profession and, through its activities, grows that capacity.

JusticeNet works collaboratively with other stakeholders that make up the South Australian legal profession, including the Legal Services Commission, Community Legal Centres, law schools, private law firms and the South Australian Bar.

### 2008-09 Financial Year

After years of preparation, seed funding from the Law Foundation, and the kind donation of premises from the University of Adelaide, JusticeNet SA was officially launched by the Honourable Justice Mansfield AM on 2 July 2009. The Executive Director commenced on 15 June 2009.

The last fortnight of the 2008-09 financial year was frenetic. In the first two weeks of operation JusticeNet received **26** enquiries and managed to refer **3** matters to members and/or supporters. It is amazing what can be achieved without basic administrative systems and procedures. Needless to say, I regularly exercised my executive 'discretion' in those hectic first weeks. It is noteworthy that one of those first 3 referrals recently culminated in a four day hearing before the AAT and a successful outcome for the JusticeNet client.

As of 18 September 2009 JusticeNet has received **98** enquires and **26** written applications for assistance, and referred (or attempted to refer) **8** matters to members for pro bono legal assistance. (These figures do not include the **4** referrals facilitated by members of the Justicenet management committee over the several months prior to the launch of JusticeNet.)

### Looking Ahead

The single greatest challenge facing JusticeNet is to secure its financial sustainability. This is a more challenging task than what might have been the case only 12 months ago thanks to the 'GFC', however, I am confident that it can, and will, be achieved.

JusticeNet currently has **6** member firms and **26** individual members (most of whom are members of the South Australian Bar). This is a promising start and we have strong expressions of interest from several more SA firms. Clearly, however, we must substantially increase our membership base to be self-sustaining. (And this is not only imperative from the perspective of financial viability but, as the referral scheme matures, will be essential to share the workload around.)

JusticeNet is currently preparing a comprehensive funding strategy that will address the potential funding opportunities and alternatives available. That strategy will, amongst other things, seek to engage all of our key stakeholders, including government, the legal profession and educational institutions, to ensure the success and longevity of this important project.

### **Acknowledgements**

In addition to those mentioned in the President's report, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the JusticeNet management committee who have been tireless in getting JusticeNet off the ground, and unfailingly supportive of my efforts. The management committee of JusticeNet consists of:

*Paula Stirling  
Nick Linke  
Gabrielle Canny  
David Bulloch (resigned 08/09)*

*Kerry Clark  
Jonathan Wells QC  
Joanne Staugas (resigned 08/09)*

Thanks also to the small group of law student volunteers who have donated a day/week to JusticeNet with enthusiasm and professionalism. JusticeNet's current law student volunteers are:

*Jessica De Silva  
Dayna Zuikelis  
Sarah Broome*

*Benjamin Stuart  
Louise Young  
Laura Daminato*

Thanks also to our members for supporting JusticeNet and accepting pro bono referrals for those in need. Our current member firms are:

*Campbell Law  
DLA Phillips Fox  
Fisher Jeffries*

*Donaldson Walsh  
Cowell Clarke  
Piper Alderman*

JusticeNet's member barristers are:

*Mark Livesey QC  
George Stathopoulos  
Neville Morcombe QC  
Martin Anders  
Jonathan Wells QC*

*Hugh Abbott  
Margaret Kelly  
Michael Mills  
Kerry Clark  
Ian Robertson SC*



*Roger Sallis  
Philip McNamara QC  
Michael Roder SC  
Kerry Kovacs  
Arlene Macdonald*

*Claire O'Connor  
Christopher Brohier  
Malcolm Blue QC  
Neville Rochow SC*

Tim Graham  
23 September 2009

## JUSTICENET SA INC. FINANCIAL REPORT - to 30 JUNE 2009

Money at Bank 30 June 2009 = \$30,547.65

Further Grant Money Due = \$25,000 in each of September and December 2009 and March 2010

### PROFIT AND LOSS REPORT - FY2009

#### Income

Law Foundation Grant	\$25,000.00
Membership Fees: Barristers (various)	\$1,200.00
Donations: Walk for Justice 2008	\$5,064.26
Flinders Uni Law Students Quiz Night	\$1,182.87
Walk For Justice 2009	\$302.95
Miscellaneous	\$100.00
Bank Interest	\$12.00
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b><u>\$32,862.08</u></b>

#### Expenses

Wages	\$1,886.30
ASIC ARBN Application Fee	\$350.00
Internet Subscription Fees	\$61.10
Bank Fees	\$17.03
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b><u>\$2,314.43</u></b>
<b>Operating Profit for period 30/6/09:</b>	<b><u>\$30,547.65</u></b>

### BALANCE SHEET (as at 30 June 2009)

#### Assets

Current Assets	
Cash at Bank	\$30,547.65
<b>Total Current Assets:</b>	<b><u>\$30,547.65</u></b>
Other Assets	
Future Grant Funding	\$75,000.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$105,547.65</u></b>

#### Liabilities

<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$105,547.65</u></b>