

All lawyers have an important role to play in facilitating access to justice. The Centre encourages you to support this initiative by becoming a Signatory.

The Target/Statement overleaf was developed by the Australian National Pro Bono Resource Centre in 2006 and incorporates, in part, language developed by the U.S. Pro Bono Institute and utilized in its Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge <sup>SM</sup>. That language is used with the specific permission of the Institute and cannot be further utilized, copied, disseminated, or adapted, in whole or in part, without prior written permission from the Institute. To request permission please contact the Institute at [probono@probonoinst.org](mailto:probono@probonoinst.org).

Visit the target page on the Centre's website at [www.nationalprobono.org.au/target](http://www.nationalprobono.org.au/target)

- to sign up online
- too see a list of current Signatories
- to obtain Statements of Principles for law firms and barristers' chambers.
- for further information

*The Centre receives financial assistance from the Commonwealth and State and Territory Attorneys-General Departments and support from the Faculty of Law at the University of New South Wales.*



T: (02) 9385 7381

E: [info@nationalprobono.org.au](mailto:info@nationalprobono.org.au)



# THE NATIONAL PRO BONO ASPIRATIONAL TARGET

The National Pro Bono Resource Centre is an independent, non-profit organisation established in 2002 that is committed to supporting and promoting pro bono legal services in Australia.

The Centre has announced a voluntary aspirational pro bono target ('the Target') of at least 35 hours per lawyer per year. Individual solicitors or barristers, law firms or barristers' chambers are encouraged to sign up.

The Target will enshrine a key ethical value of the legal profession - to provide pro bono legal services to low income, marginalised or disadvantaged people who would otherwise have no access to the legal system.

On 1 January 2007, over 3000 lawyers (through 45 Foundation Signatories) had committed to the Target.

### Why have the Target?

- The principal aim of the Target is to raise the profile of the professional commitment to conduct pro bono work across the profession - by providing a benchmark for the conduct of pro bono work.
- This is in accordance with the Centre's objective to promote the provision of pro bono work throughout the legal profession.
- The Target confirms the shared professional responsibility of lawyers to provide pro bono assistance.
- International experience has shown that aspirational targets have helped to increase significantly the volume of pro bono work performed and have challenged lawyers to be more innovative in their approach to pro bono work.

### How does it work?

- The Target contains principles to be followed in undertaking pro bono work ('the Principles').
- The Principles explicitly state that pro bono work is not a substitute for properly government funded legal services.
- Signatories endorse the Principles and agree to advise the Centre annually whether they have met the Target in the previous year, starting with the year ending 30 June 2008.
- The Centre will report annually on the number of signatories and the number (but not the names) of lawyers and firms who have met the Target.
- Individual lawyers, firms or barristers' chambers can all sign up.
- Firms can meet the Target by averaging their total pro bono hours across the total number of lawyers in their firm.

## STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

MINDFUL of the professional responsibility of all lawyers to provide pro bono legal services to address the unmet legal needs of the poor and disadvantaged in the communities in which we live, and

RECOGNISING that pro bono is not a substitute for the proper funding by government of Legal Aid agencies and Community Legal Centres

I am pleased to join with other lawyers across the country in subscribing to the following statement of principles and in pledging my best efforts to achieve the voluntary target described below.

- 1) I recognise my professional obligation to provide pro bono legal services.
- 2) I agree to use my best efforts to ensure that, by no later than 30 June in each financial year, first year ending 30 June 2008, I will undertake a minimum of 35 hours of pro bono legal services each year.
- 3) In furtherance of these principles, I also agree to monitor my progress towards the target established in this statement and to report annually to the National Pro Bono Resource Centre whether I have met the Target in the previous year.
- 4) I acknowledge that when I provide pro bono legal services, I owe the pro bono client the same professional and ethical obligations that are owed to any paying client and accordingly I must give that work the same priority, attention and care as would apply to paid work

**For a definition of "pro bono legal services", for accompanying notes, or to sign up online, see [www.nationalprobono.org.au/target](http://www.nationalprobono.org.au/target)**

SIGNATURE

DATE

NAME OF SIGNATORY

BARRISTER OR SOLICITOR OR BOTH

PRIMARY STATE OR TERRITORY OF PRACTICE

CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS

Mail to: National Pro Bono Resource Centre, Law Faculty, UNSW NSW 2052.



**NATIONAL PRO BONO RESOURCE CENTRE**