



TC Beirne School of Law

The UQ PRO BONO CENTRE

2 February 2009

1.0 BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

1.1 Name of the Centre

The name of the Centre is the *UQ Pro Bono Centre*.

1.2 The Purpose of the Centre

The principal purpose of the Centre is to engage with Community Legal Centres (CLCs) and the law profession for the benefit of community, law students, and the legal profession through involvement in the delivery of pro bono legal services in Queensland.

1.3 Type of Centre

The Centre is a School Centre within the terms of HUPP 1.30.6.

1.4 Strategic Rationale

The University of Queensland has identified engagement with the wider community, industry, commerce, and government as a central strategic priority. The establishment of the Centre will significantly further this goal in that through the Centre the Law School will effectively and deeply engage with its particular professional stakeholders and communities for the benefit of the wider community.

2.0 THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE

The central features and activities of Centre would, in outline, be as follows:

- a) Administration and co-ordination of the Law School's Clinical Legal Education Programme;
- b) Development and management of a Pro Bono Roster for student Involvement in the pro bono activities of the CLCs and law firms;
- c) Maintenance of a Law School staff pro bono register to record and facilitate pro bono work by staff of the Law School;
- d) Staff secondment programme that would enable academic staff to share academic knowledge in return for the experience of the practical aspects of the legal issues;
- e) Research support for pro bono activities;
- f) Development and maintenance of UQ pro bono website.

3.0 GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The activities of the Centre will be conducted under the direction of the Directors and the Advisory Board. The Directors and the Advisory Board report to the Head of School of the TC Beirne School of Law.

3.1 The Directors

The Directors shall be academic staff members of the Law School. The Directors will receive appropriate workload credit within the terms of the Law School's workloads policy.

The Directors of the Centre are together responsible for all aspects of the Centre's operation.

The inaugural Directors are Paul O'Shea and Tamara Walsh.

At the commencement of the Centre's operations, primary responsibility for the central functions shall be divided as follows:

- Management of the Clinical Legal Education Programme, including student selection and assessment, and liaison with Community Legal Centres and participating law firms (Walsh).
- Development and management of the Pro Bon Register, including the development of the register, student selection and induction, and liaison with Community Legal Centres and participating law firms (O'Shea).

3.2 The Advisory Board

The Advisory Board of the Centre is comprised of:

- Director (or nominee) of Queensland Public Interest Law Clearing House Incorporated (QPILCH).
- Director (or nominee) of Caxton Legal Centre Inc.
- Director (or nominee) of Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services (QAILS).
- Director (or nominee) of Legal Aid Queensland.
- President (or nominee) of the Queensland Law Society.
- President or nominee of the Queensland Bar Association.
- Two members of the legal profession nominated by the Head of School, TC Beirne School of Law.
- The Directors of the UQ Pro Bono Centre.

The inaugural chair of the Advisory Board shall be Mr Randall Dennings.

The principal functions of the Advisory Board are to advise the Directors and Head of School as to the strategic direction and operation of the Centre. In particular, the Advisory Board will:

- Represent the views of the Centre's stakeholders;

- Provide advice to the Directors to guide development and improvement;
- Utilise the contacts and knowledge of Committee members to further the interests of the Centre.

4.0 RESOURCES

4.1 Staff

There will be no staff specifically dedicated to the operation of the Centre. Administrative support will be provided by professional staff of the Law School. Depending on the extent of the additional workload, the Law School may engage an additional professional staff position.

4.2 Space

It is intended that space for the undertaking of the clinical legal education programme will be provided in a new CLC facility as part of a co-location arrangement.

Pending the establishment of collocation, the School will endeavor to provide some space to facilitate the Centre's operations.

4.3 Equipment

Some minor IT and general office equipment may be needed. These will be provided by the Law School.

5.0 BUDGET

The total annual cost of the Centre's operation will be negotiated by the Directors with the Head of School annually.

6.0 ARRANGEMENTS FOR REVIEW AND TERMINATION

The Centre shall be reviewed on the third anniversary of its establishment in accordance with the procedure set out in HUPP 1.30.6.
