



15 years of volunteer pro bono in Queensland

2001-2016

A tribute to the people who volunteer their time to help disadvantaged and vulnerable people to access the justice system.

About QPILCH

Queensland Public Interest Law Clearing House (QPILCH) coordinates pro bono civil law services for:

- the homeless and people at risk of homelessness
- self-represented litigants
- people experiencing mental ill-health
- young people transitioning from State care to independence
- refugees who have been in Australia for less than five years and
- people who cannot afford legal representation or obtain legal aid and whose matter warrants pro bono assistance.

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About this publication

This publication records the invaluable assistance provided to QPILCH and its clients by volunteers-current and former practitioners who represent members, retired and career-break lawyers, people from other professions and disciplines and students, all who have given their time for the benefit of disadvantaged and vulnerable Queenslanders.

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**Foreword by The Honourable Catherine Holmes
Chief Justice of Queensland**

It is virtually impossible to measure either the economic or the social benefit of the work that volunteers do (beyond the meagre measure of its replacement cost) but we judges are well aware of the massive contribution that QPILCH's volunteers have made to the administration of justice in helping unrepresented litigants.

This publication honours the work of particular individuals who assist QPILCH. They include professionals from other disciplines, and those with legal backgrounds who give their time as students, or between different stages of their careers, or during retirement, to the work of QPILCH. Their common characteristic is that they are willing to contribute when they could be spending their time doing things for their own advancement, or, even more appealing, relaxing.

The publication makes for an interesting read, profiling intriguing and impressive people. They are a marvellous example to all of us. It makes one think, to steal from Shakespeare, that our legal profession is a "brave ...world, to have such people in it!"



Welcome from Lucy Bretherton, QPILCH President

Pro bono has matured in Queensland over the last 15 years through the establishment of QPILCH's structured, coordinated and targeted services. Law firms and barristers have made an impressive contribution, helping disadvantaged and vulnerable people in more than 22,000 hours of pro bono work in 2015-16 alone. We estimate conservatively that the commitment to Queensland over the last 15 years amounts to more than \$60m worth of legal services, at no cost to the taxpayer or to the individuals and not-for-profit organisations assisted.

A smaller but equally appreciated contribution has been made by retired and career-break legal practitioners and others who have volunteered their own time in the cause of social justice. These volunteers have pitched in to make a lasting and invaluable contribution in many different ways.

This publication describes those contributions and stands as a record of their inspiring commitment and practical help. I thank them for their selfless and willing involvement in our work.



INTRODUCTION

The pro bono work provided by law firms and barristers in Queensland over the last 15 years has been recorded in other publications. However, the many hours of pro bono work provided on a voluntary basis by retired and career-break practitioners, other professionals and students has been unheralded. The contributions of volunteers have helped many people and their participation through QPILCH is acknowledged in this publication.

Unmet legal need in Queensland is significant and demand for free and low cost legal services by disadvantaged and vulnerable Queenslanders is growing. Retired and career-break lawyers can make a real contribution to addressing this need.

Research shows that the number of lawyers approaching retirement age is increasing. Many retiring lawyers want to continue to use their skills and experience and many want to do so for the benefit of their communities.

The Queensland Law Society's free volunteer practising certificate and QPILCH's infrastructure and professional indemnity insurance supports legal volunteers. QPILCH can match the skills of retired and career-break lawyers with legal need.

Opportunities for involvement are wide and varied.

Career-break and retired lawyers support staff in assessing applications for pro bono assistance, help with difficult legal cases, give advice on legal matters, mentor staff members and help steer our programs.

QPILCH is also fortunate to have the strong support of other professionals who assist with fundraising, strategic development, financial management and administration.

Volunteers sit on sub-committees and reference groups, enabling QPILCH to draw on wider expertise and experience.

Students also make a contribution that enables staff to assess many more cases than we could without their support. Some students assist as lay advocates. In return for their energy, enthusiasm and altruism, student volunteers are well supervised and given practical experience in a structured setting.

QPILCH is managed by a committee comprised of representatives of its members. Committee members volunteer their time outside work hours to lead and guide QPILCH. By joining the management committee, committee members accept responsibilities in law for the proper operation of the organisation.

QPILCH is enriched by the support we receive from the people profiled in this document. Their involvement adds a dimension to our work that is beyond our resources and is often needed urgently. The effort of volunteers enables us to work more efficiently and effectively and staff members benefit from access to the skills and accumulated experience of our professional volunteers. We are very grateful for their support.



QPILCH SERVICES

REFERRAL SERVICE

Comprised of the Public Interest Referral Service and the Queensland Law Society and Bar Pro Bono Referral Service, QPILCH's Referral Service distributes matters to firms and barristers where the applicant cannot afford a lawyer or obtain legal aid and the case justifies pro bono assistance. People who have civil law problems and need representation can be left with few options if they cannot afford a lawyer. The Referral Service is their safety net.

Over the last 15 years, almost 4,000 applications have been assessed and more than 1,200 people and community organisations have obtained full pro bono representation through the Referral Service.

Coordinated by two solicitors, the Referral Service deals with the hard and complex civil law cases with which other legal assistance services cannot help. As staff members and secondees are now assessing for legal merit more than 450 often complex applications each year, volunteer practitioners and students have been crucial to ensuring that the demand is met within a reasonable timeframe.

While no longer volunteering, retired Judge of Appeal, The Honourable John Jerrard, and highly experienced solicitor Lex MacGillivray gave timely assistance to QPILCH and its clients when QPILCH was faced with a sudden increase in demand.

Matching the expertise of volunteers with legal need is a key aspect of a successful volunteer program.



The Honourable John Jerrard, former Queen's Counsel and judge of the Family Court, served as a Judge of Appeal from 2002 until his retirement from the bench in 2008. John

supported QPILCH staff in assessing cases outside our experience. His wide experience was crucial in helping clients with cross-jurisdictional problems and enabled staff to see assistance avenues that were hard to identify without such experience. He was also a valued mentor to staff. John left QPILCH to take up a position with the QCAT appeal division.



Lex MacGillivray's vast consumer law knowledge and experience benefitted a number of clients of QPILCH who needed ongoing direct advice and assistance in complex

matters. Instructing Gary Coveney of Counsel, Lex represented one of the Self Representation Service's early clients in the Court of Appeal, and was indefatigable in helping several clients in consumer law matters over a long period. The way he conducted the files he worked on demonstrated to staff and students the highest standards of legal practice.

We are fortunate to have four highly experienced and active practitioners who are providing legal advice and support to all our services. Andrew Buchanan is a founder of QPILCH and since retiring has maintained a high level of involvement. Brian Bartley is ‘on

call’ to assist when needed and Dan Pennicott volunteers for two days a week to help with any tasks from casework to advice on work practices. Elisa Kidston assists the Referral Service with the more difficult applications received.



As a partner at Allens Arthur Robinson (now Allens), a foundation member of QPILCH, **Andrew Buchanan** was QPILCH’s first president, serving as president from 2001 to 2004.

Andrew has remained on the QPILCH management committee since retiring as president, first as a representative of Allens and since retiring from Allens, as a co-opted member. His continued involvement with the committee attests to his commitment to QPILCH and his wise counsel has provided consistency and depth to committee deliberations.

In addition to serving on the management committee, Andrew has been an active supporter of QPILCH in many ways.

In particular, Andrew mentors the referrals team, sharing his expert legal skills and long legal experience with the younger lawyers who assess and refer cases to our members for pro bono assistance. He also chairs QPILCH’s Funding and Fundraising Sub-committee. Andrew supports QPILCH events with enthusiasm and encouragement, attending planning sessions, supporting events like the *Queensland Legal Walk* and *Red Wine for Justice* and catering lunches for staff, volunteers and guests, using his culinary skills to boost morale and collegiality.

Andrew is a valued volunteer and friend of QPILCH.



Dan Pennicott became a QPILCH volunteer after retiring from Gadens in June 2016. Prior to retiring, Dan was in practice for more than 33 years, including 26 years as a partner specialising in commercial litigation. His volunteer role includes providing review, advice and assistance to QPILCH staff members on issues as they arise in day to day practice across the various service groups. Dan volunteers for two days per week.

The types of matters Dan has worked on include consideration of prospects of an application to the High Court for special leave to appeal a decision of the Federal Court upholding the rejection of a protection visa to a Sri Lankan applicant; assessment of prospects of a self represented litigant in defending a claim for monies owing under a commercial agreement; assessment of prospects and assistance to a father who, following the death of his son, wished to resist a demand by his daughter-in-law that he vacate a property registered in her name but to which he had made contributions to the purchase price on the basis that he could remain in the property for his lifetime; assessment of prospects and assistance to a self represented litigant in respect of claims under the Australian Consumer Law regarding the supply of equipment to him that did not comply with the guarantees set out in that legislation; and assistance in drafting a guide for family members of a deceased regarding the processes which operate in a coronial inquest.

“Until retiring in June 2016, I enjoyed a rewarding professional life as a solicitor in Queensland for more than 30 years. Whilst I was happy to retire from the commercial practice of the law, I was mindful that the skills acquired over years in practice could be put to use to advance the interests of people who sometimes do not have the access to justice which my clients over many years took for granted. Volunteering at QPILCH has given me the opportunity to continue to enjoy the practice of the law without the stresses of commercial practice and in circumstances where my contribution is hopefully of benefit to the clients of QPILCH.”

Dan Pennicott



Elisa Kidston has over 12 years experience as a commercial property lawyer in Brisbane and was a Senior Associate with Clayton Utz from 2008 to 2016. In March 2016 Elisa commenced as a volunteer lawyer in the Referral Service, and attends one day a week. Elisa's work is highly valued as she works on particularly complex files, which increases the capacity of the Referral Service.

Elisa worked on an application from 'Michelle', which concerned whether a restraint of trade clause in Michelle's employment contract was unfair and whether Michelle had suffered

sufficient loss to establish a cause of action. With a dispute spanning several years and a large volume of information, Elisa assessed the legal merit of Michelle's application, which included elements of workplace law, common law, and privacy law. The conclusion was that Michelle lacked legal merit in establishing a claim against her employer; however she was referred to the Fair Work Ombudsman to seek a resolution of the dispute.

"Volunteering at the Referral Service allows me to assist in varied and interesting legal matters that I would not ordinarily undertake in private commercial practice. Through my involvement with the QPILCH structured referral scheme I have undertaken detailed assessments of applications for the allocation of legal assistance to the most vulnerable people in our community such as the homeless, people with mental illness and self-represented litigants with meritorious cases. It is personally satisfying to be involved in the provision of such an important community service and it has the added benefit of allowing me to develop further professionally."

Elisa Kidston

The Referral Service also highly values long-term solicitor volunteers, as their support increases the capacity for staff to undertake non-file related tasks.

With a previous career in consultancy and now working as a lawyer, **Carmel McMahon** has been a regular volunteer lawyer at QPILCH since 2012. Carmel has provided valued support to the Referral Service assessing applications, gathering information from applicants and preparing correspondence and briefs. Examples of Carmel's work include assisting victims of elder abuse and applications to review adverse social security and migration decisions.

"Volunteering is a great way to return the favours and assistance I have received over the years, and QPILCH is a wonderful environment to volunteer in. From a legal viewpoint, the range of applications covers wide areas of law so I'm always learning."

Carmel McMahon

Other retired and career-break solicitors who have volunteered with the Referral Service include Suzanne Webcke, Tom Lyons, Jane Whipps, Megan Window, Allira Thomson, Jan Logan, Patricia Cabrera, Nel Jayasinghe, Madeleine Murphy, Robert Lake, Kisa Rajapakse, Alexander Millman and Nadia Byrne.

Nadia Byrne has twelve years' experience in the medico-legal and personal injuries litigation fields, having worked as an associate at Maurice Blackburn Lawyers and solicitor at MurphySchmidt Solicitors. In between developing her own business as an expert witness consultant, Nadia has volunteered at QPILCH to assist with a matter that now involves an application to the government for ex gratia compensation for personal injury. Nadia's expertise has come at an opportune time for QPILCH to make this application for our longstanding client.

LEGALPOD

LegalPod involves small teams of volunteer lawyers and other staff from member law firms working with young people transitioning from State care to independence, assisting them with any presenting legal problems and helping with holistic and personalised support. The transition begins at the critical time when the young person turns 18 and they are at heightened risk of homelessness. The 'Pod' stays with the client for 4 years as they work through this challenging period.

LegalPod is supported by an able and experienced Reference Group comprised of The Honourable Margaret White, Lucas Moore (CREATE Foundation), Tracey Smith (Peak Care Queensland), Paul Newman (Ashurst) and Dr Cameron Parsell (Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, Queensland Research Centre).



The Honourable Margaret White AO was a justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland from 1992, the first woman to be appointed to this role, and was appointed to the Court of Appeal in 2010. Justice White was awarded a Centenary Medal for services to law in 2003 and, in 2013, was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia “for distinguished service to the judiciary and to the law particularly in Queensland - as a leading contributor to legal education and reform, and to professional development and training”. She is the Chair of the

Winston Churchill Memorial Trust and continues to be actively involved in legal education. Margaret was recently appointed as the co-commissioner to the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.

On retirement from the bench, Margaret was quick to offer to help QPILCH and has chaired the LegalPod Reference Group since it was established to oversee and advise our LegalPod program, which assists young people transitioning from State care to independence. Margaret is also an active and kind advocate and supporter, attending QPILCH functions, including as a speaker at our 2016 Public Interest Address. She spoke with passion of how LegalPod had made a difference in the lives of the young people it helped, and how she felt the clients had repaid that investment through their progress towards independence and stability. QPILCH is indeed fortunate to be able to call such an eminent lawyer and jurist a volunteer.

SELF REPRESENTATION SERVICE

QPILCH's Self Representation Service (SRS) assists self-represented parties with civil law problems to navigate the court and tribunal systems in Queensland. Volunteer lawyers from Brisbane's private law firms provide pro bono advice and assistance to self represented parties during appointments to complete the legal tasks associated with litigation, or alternatively to identify unmeritorious cases and help them find more appropriate resolution avenues. Three hour-long appointments are held in afternoon sessions Tuesday to Thursday each week in each jurisdiction. Law firms generally rotate in the roster every 4-8 weeks. Barristers also accept referrals from the SRS to advise on complex matters, advocate for vulnerable clients and conduct mediations.

Soon after the SRS was founded in October 2007, a Reference Group was established to oversee its development and to advise QPILCH on operational questions. The inaugural chair of the Reference Group was The Honourable Martin Moynihan AO, who had stepped down as Senior Judge Administrator of the Supreme Court of Queensland.



The Honourable Martin Moynihan AO was a judge of the Supreme Court and Senior Judge Administrator who helped develop the Self

Representation Service, participating in an early forum to discuss issues involved in providing such a service. On retirement from the bench, Martin was the first chair of the SRS Reference Group, established soon after the SRS began. Martin provided great guidance in the growth of the SRS in these formative times. He was subsequently appointed chair of the Crime and Misconduct Commission. On completion of this appointment, Martin renewed contact with QPILCH, providing sage advice to staff members and students alike.

Current Reference Group members are: Marshall Irwin (Chair), Joanne Rennick (Managing Partner, MurphySchmidt), Monica Taylor (UQ Pro Bono Centre), Stephen Colditz (Barrister-at-Law) and Narelle Bedford (Bond University Law School).

Others who have served on the Reference Group since 2007 are:

Magistrate Trevor Morgan
Magistrate Bronwyn Springer
John Bond SC (now Justice Bond)
Dr Joan Lawrence
Greg Mackay
Professor Jeff Giddings
Dr Shelley Keane

Queensland Courts

In the civil jurisdictions of the Supreme and District Courts and the Queensland Court of Appeal, the service is available to self-represented parties with existing or prospective proceedings, in person in Brisbane and Townsville and by telephone or email across the State. The Townsville office also assists clients in Magistrates Court proceedings.

The operation of the service in the Queensland Court of Appeal was greatly

assisted by John Rowell, who had retired as managing partner of Blake Dawson Waldron (now Ashurst).

Other career-break and retired practitioners who have volunteered for the Self Representation Service include: Christian Curtis, Sophia Finter, Peter Da Silva, Cameron Young, Jan Logan, Jo Cameron and Brian Bartley.



Brian Bartley was one of Queensland's foremost litigation specialists before retiring in 2013 from Bartley Cohen Litigation Lawyers, a

boutique firm he established after leaving the Corrs Chambers Westgarth partnership. Bartley Cohen is a member of QPILCH, accepting referrals and participating in the Self Representation Service.

Since retirement, Brian has been an active volunteer, giving advice on difficult cases for the Referral Service and the Self Representation Service, advice that the lawyers at QPILCH value. He has also directly advised SRS clients, sharing his experience and adding the gravitas that complex cases require.

Brian has shared his knowledge and expertise with QPILCH staff and other CLC lawyers by speaking at training events, usually on dealing with ethical issues. Brian is also an experienced mediator and participates in our mediation service.

Federal Courts

In the Federal Circuit Court and Federal Court of Australia the service provides assistance in the following areas: bankruptcy; employment, judicial review; anti-discrimination; competition and consumer; information privacy; and appeals.

In the employment jurisdiction, QPILCH operates a Fair Work Conciliation Service, supported by volunteer accredited mediators.

This service offers a free conciliation service to parties attending a first court date for an unpaid wages claim proceedings in the small claims list of the Federal Circuit Court. The Fair Work Conciliation Service panel includes:

Stephen Lee	John Farren
Chris Lenz	Kelly McIntyre
Matt Jones	George Kalimnios
Roman Krumins	Joe O'Hare
Jacob Owen	Kirsty Petersen
Farley Tolpen	Rob Stevenson
Lynette Vanderstoep	Patrick Wedge

Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT)

The QCAT service provides assistance in the following areas: administrative review; anti-discrimination; children and young people; disciplinary; guardianship and administration; information and privacy rights; manufactured homes; residential tenancies and rooming accommodation disputes if they involve termination of an agreement or domestic violence issues; retirement villages; and appeals.

Career break and retired practitioners Shane O'Connor, David Moore and Alvin Goh have volunteered for this service.

PILOT REPRESENTATION SERVICES

Three new pilot representation services were established in early 2016 as part of the Self Representation Service to provide representation for self-represented litigants in particularly challenging steps in the litigation process. These services are supported by volunteer barristers instructed by a QPILCH solicitor and by senior law students who also provide administrative support.

- The **Child Protection Conference Service** offers advice and one-off legal representation at QCAT compulsory conferences for parents and carers who apply for review of a decision of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, or for review of a blue card related decision that impacts on the placement, contact or removal of children under child protection orders.
- The **Workers Compensation Appeals Service** provides one-off legal representation at compulsory conferences in the Queensland Industrial Relations

Commission for people who are appealing a decision of the Workers Compensation Regulator, and who cannot afford private legal assistance. Volunteer solicitors also assist the client to finalise their statement of facts and contentions and/or consider possible referrals for pro bono representation of the client at their hearing.

- The **Enforcement Hearing Duty Lawyer Service** offers legal advice and one-off representation to enforcement debtors at their enforcement hearing in the Brisbane Magistrates Court.

Marshall Irwin was instrumental in establishing the pilot Magistrates Court and QIRC representation services.



Marshall Irwin has come to volunteer at QPILCH with a wealth of accumulated experience. He has been variously a Crown Prosecutor,

General Counsel of the Criminal Justice Commission (now Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC)), barrister at the private Bar, Chief Magistrate of Queensland and more recently judge of the District Court, from which he retired in 2014. He is currently chair of the Prostitution Licensing Authority and a part-time commissioner of the CCC.

In addition to helping to develop the barrister-based Magistrates Court civil enforcement hearing and QIRC mediation conference duty lawyer schemes, Marshall mentors a staff member of the Self Representation Service (SRS), is the chair of the SRS Reference Group and provides valuable advice on casework. Marshall is also an enthusiastic supporter of our non-legal activities, participating in events like the Queensland Legal Walk and Red Wine for Justice, an involvement that enriches QPILCH.

MENTAL HEALTH LAW PRACTICE

QPILCH's Mental Health Law Practice (**MHLP**) provides free legal advice and assistance to people with mental illness or impacted by mental health law and who cannot afford a private lawyer. There are five parts to the MHLP:

- **Mental Health Advice Service** provides direct advice about issues arising under the Mental Health Act, including: Involuntary Treatment Order (**ITOs**); ECT applications; Justice Examination Orders/Emergency Examination Orders; and other legal issues arising out of the application of mental health law, including advice about patient rights under the Mental Health Act.
- In the **Mental Health Civil Law Clinic**, two member firms are imbedded with two mental health support agencies in Brisbane to provide civil law advice and assistance to people experiencing mental health concerns.
- A fortnightly service is conducted at the **Princess Alexandra Hospital Mental Health Unit**, helping in-patients with mental health law and civil law matters, including debts, guardianship and administration, SPER fines and active referrals in criminal and family law.
- The **Health Advocacy Legal Clinic** at the **St Vincent's and Mater Hospitals** is a collaboration of law students, social work students, medical students and a supervising lawyer, help patients to solve the legal and social challenges. Clients are helped with civil law matters, including advance care planning, guardianship and administration, mental health law and discrimination.
- The **Tribunal Advocacy Service** assists people with ITO review hearings in Queensland's Mental Health Review Tribunal. Trained student volunteers help people to prepare for hearings, to present their views to the tribunal and advocate on their behalf at their hearing. In this therapeutic jurisdiction, the attention of sensitive, caring and responsible advocates make an impressive contribution to this important legal need.

Since establishing the Tribunal Advocacy Service in 2012, student advocates include:

Aanand Jayachandran	Keerton Samra
Ada Sculthorp	Lara Henshall
Alice Nagel	Laura Manley
Alisa McKeon	Laura Rose Lynch
Amanda Bosworth	Lauren Hickling
Anna Redmond	Lily Fletcher
Anna Brasnett	Liz O'Connor
Amelia Bell	Lucy Conway
Anna Fanelli	Lucy Thwaites
Anthony Gardner	Lydia Hugrass
Ashleigh-Rae Bretherton	Maddison Jago
Beenush Khokhar	Madushi Senadeera
Bob Jacobs	Manasa Addepalli
Bogart Phillips	Marianne Wyder
Bonita Wong	Maria Hall
Bronte Maddaford	Marie Corrigan
Caitlin Scantlebury	Marie Fernando
Caroline Foley	Matthew Leadbetter
Chantelle Lee-Jones	Megan Girvan
Courtney Blomfield	Michael Stephens
Constance McLaran	Mitchell Goodall
Connor Davies	Mitchell Rawlings
Daniel Argyis	Naadira Omarjee
Daniel O'Connor	Nastassja Milevskiy
Eleanor Livsey	Nathan Condoleon
Ellen Clare Jones	Paris Astill-Torchia
Ella Ma	Portia Tyle
Gabriel Perry	Rachel Hew
Georgia May	Rebecca Andaerson
Halligan Quinn	Rebecca Bellamy
Hayley Grossberg	Rebecca McDonough
Iain McGregor-Lowndes	Rina Biswas
Jack Baldwin	Robyn Dawe
Jean Lukin	Sarah Brown
Jessica Fenech	Sarah McCray
Jessica Lawrence	Sarah Nicol
Jessica Mudryk	Scott Guar
Jessica Duncan	Shannon Hurley
Jessica Greenside	Summer Brady
Jessica Szabo	Timothy Karfs
Jenny Wang	Thomas Cameron
Jo Sampford	Tristan Pagliano
Joanne Choy	Tony McCarthy
Juliet Walker	Tzu-Kai Lin
Kathryn O'Hare	Xing Lee

The advocates spend on average 10 hours assisting a client prepare for a review hearing. Many of our advocates have helped with over 10 ITO review hearings, and sometimes are able to assist the same client over several periodic reviews.

The advocates are provided intensive training before assisting clients. The training is coordinated and provided by QPILCH

staff members supported by experts Helen Webster, Clinical Nurse, Barry Thomas, President Mental Health Review Tribunal, Michelle Radke, Legal Officer, Mental Health Review Tribunal, Gordon Kay and Ann Herriot, Member, Mental Health Review Tribunal.

The MHLP has also received critical advice and assistance from volunteer practitioners.



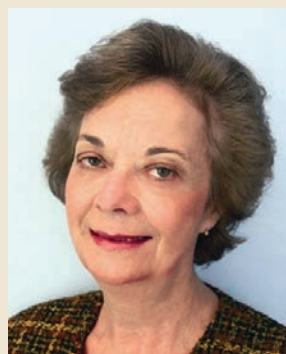
FUNDING, FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS

The Funding and Fundraising Sub-committee (**FFS**) is QPILCH's only formal sub-committee of the management committee. The sub-committee is chaired by Andrew Buchanan who is also a member of the Management Committee. The FFS assists with financial management, fundraising activities and events development and coordination. The FFS is particularly useful because it introduces into our work the expertise of professional legal marketer Kathleen Singleton and economist and consultant Bob Shead.



Bob Shead, along with fellow BDO partner Graham Carpenter, instigated BDO's membership of QPILCH in 2002, QPILCH's first non-legal member. Bob led

the firm's pro bono commitment, helping many clients, particularly the homeless and not-for-profit groups, over the intervening years with pro bono accounting and related advice. In semi-retirement, Bob has continued to help QPILCH as a member of the *Funding and Fundraising Sub-committee*, providing wise accounting and general advice. Bob has also supported QPILCH fundraisers such as the Queensland Legal Walk. Prior to joining BDO, Bob worked with Queensland Treasury and, since retiring from BDO, has been active as a consultant and board member of some major corporations. QPILCH has been fortunate to broaden its skills base by being able to call on Bob's experience and skills.



Kathleen Singleton is a principal of Eloquent Business Consulting, which specialises in professional services firm business planning, marketing and

management. Since the late 1980s Kathleen has both worked for and consulted to several local and national law firms, as well as advising legal alliances, industry associations and an international bar association.

Kathleen has contributed to QPILCH in many ways for a number of years. She has helped organise and promote events such as the Queensland Legal Walk, Public Interest Address and Red Wine for Justice. Kathleen has facilitated strategic planning workshops and consultations with our members and has helped in developing a new brand and profile for QPILCH.

As a member of the *Funding and Fundraising Sub-committee*, Kathleen has provided expert, intelligent and insightful advice on our fundraising and marketing activities and strategies.

Along with all this, Kathleen shows her support by participating in and attending many QPILCH events. QPILCH is privileged to have Kathleen's generous and strong support.



RESEARCH AND TRAINING

A key aspect of our work and a critical QPILCH objective is to “undertake research and exercise a responsible influence to achieve systemic change”. To make a

constructive contribution to policy and law reform, our research work is guided by a Reference Group led by retired Judge of Appeal, The Honourable Margaret Wilson.



The Honourable Margaret Wilson QC retired as a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 2014 after more than 15 years on the bench. In that time, she was an Additional Judge of the Queensland Court of Appeal from 2011 to 2012 and a judge of the Queensland Mental Health Court from 2002 to 2005. Margaret is currently a judge of the Court of Appeal of the Solomon Islands and is a member of the Queensland Law Reform Commission. Margaret was Commissioner of the Barrett Adolescent Centre Inquiry from 14 September 2015 to 24 June 2016.

On retirement from the bench, Margaret offered assistance to QPILCH and except for the period as commissioner, has chaired QPILCH's Research Reference Group. This group, which includes legal academics and practitioners, was established to oversee the research activities of QPILCH. Its aim is to promote best practice in research design and develop research proposals to obtain data and develop knowledge to support QPILCH's practical services and continue our innovative program. We are very grateful for Margaret's advice, practical wisdom and wealth of experience.

Other members of the Research Reference group include: Professor Richard Johnstone (Dean of Research, QUT), Katherine Curnow (UQ) and Rebekah Leong (Queensland Advocacy Incorporated).

Since 2002, many people have assisted our research program, including Professor Jeff Giddings (Griffith Law School), Associate Professor Blake McKimmie (UQ Psychology), Dr Kate Banks, Tamara Butler (UQ) and Associate Professor Tamara Walsh. We are also grateful to Kerrie Donaldson who has helped QPILCH to develop its evaluation strategy and our first impact report

Since 2002, many other people, too numerous to name, have spoken at QPILCH events and training sessions. We thank them for their willingness to share their knowledge and experience.



Associate Professor Tamara Walsh

has degrees in law and social work. Of particular relevance to QPILCH clients, Tamara is an expert in social

welfare law. She is an academic at the TC Beirne School of Law, The University of Queensland, where she has conducted research on homelessness, public nuisance and policing. Tamara has been instrumental in helping QPILCH to prepare important submissions and reports to bring about law reform to improve policies that impact harshly on the homeless.



REGIONAL OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

TOWNSVILLE

In early 2014, QPILCH opened a full-service office in Townsville. Admitted practitioners and student volunteers have made a vital contribution in assisting staff members to establish the new office and operate our services. The Townsville office has been particularly helped by solicitors Alan Birrell and Harry Bechmann and not for profit sector manager Nicole Maruff.

Alan Birrell holds degrees in business management and law and has many years of experience in business as CEO of his own IT company. He came to QPILCH initially as a law student seeking work experience. He subsequently completed his PLT at QPILCH and was admitted to practice in 2016. Alan's contribution to QPILCH in Townsville went far beyond his role as a student volunteer. Alan worked full time for QPILCH as a qualified volunteer over an 8 month period. In this time he project managed the Townsville arm of the legal walk and undertook a heavy load of casework. He has continued as a volunteer and became a regular at our Homeless Persons Legal Clinic.

Nicole Maruff has made a great contribution to QPILCH by contributing her knowledge and experience in the not for profit fundraising area. Nicole is a law student who holds a diploma in community business management and has many years experience working in the not for profit sector. Nicole has been a mentor to QPILCH Townsville in the development of our profile in the legal community and beyond, in particular contributing to the legal walk and her organisation of our first red wine auction in Townsville, which has become a fixture on the legal social calendar.

CAIRNS

Like Townsville, Cairns HPLC relies on the countless volunteer hours contributed by law student and PLT volunteers to support our core casework for vulnerable clients, in addition to the support of qualified volunteers.

Bill Sanderson, a semi-retired lawyer of 40 years' experience, has been volunteering with the QPILCH Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic in Cairns since August 2016. After selling his own practice in Biloela, he ran a community legal centre for four years in the Banana Shire, providing legal outreach across a vast rural area of Central Queensland where many of his clients were Indigenous or refugees. He is a general practitioner experienced in property, family, domestic violence and criminal law. His particular interest is acting for women who have experienced domestic violence. Between locum positions, Bill now generously contributes two days a week to assist vulnerable clients in Cairns, where his legal wisdom, his passion for access to justice and his down-to-earth approach continue to significantly enhance our capacity and impact.

New practitioners **Kimberly Thornley** and **Mark Daly** and career-break solicitor **Nicholas Condylis** have also volunteered 1-3 days a week with the Cairns HPLC during 2015 and 2016.



STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

Students, mostly law but some social work and medical, have played an integral role in developing QPILCH and providing services for the public. Their help has been constructive and impressive, giving many thousands of hours to help with assessments, coordination, administration and research.

From an initial student clinic developed by Professor Jeff Giddings of Griffith Law School, QPILCH has built an infrastructure that involves more than 100 students per year in our clinical and volunteer programs. Students who participate in the structured clinics get credit for their work, but those who volunteer do so on their own initiative and in their own time. A number of our students have gone on to become QPILCH staff members and leaders in law firms and at the Bar.

"I came to appreciate the difficulty in accessing the law. The clinic made me re-evaluate the role of law in society, the lawyer's duty to provide legal services to enhance access to justice and the affordability of legal assistance".

Griffith University law student



Professor Jeff Giddings is the Director of Professionalism in the Griffith Law School. As a specialist legal educator, he was responsible

for establishing the first student clinic in Queensland at Caxton Legal Centre in the early 1990s. He has gone on to establish many more clinics and has passed on his knowledge to assist other universities to create and develop their clinical programs. Jeff has researched and written extensively on supervision processes in legal education and legal practice. In 1999, Jeff received the Australian Award for University Teaching in Law & Legal Studies and the Griffith Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Jeff was an inaugural committee member and instigator of QPILCH's first student clinic in July 2002. Jeff recalls that some of the law firm representatives initially couldn't see a role for students in the work of QPILCH. After some lobbying, the committee agreed to Griffith University law students being part of a pilot program in 2002. It became clear that structured student involvement could extend QPILCH's work and it remains a hallmark of QPILCH today. Jeff retired from the management committee but retains an interest and involvement in our work.



MANAGEMENT

FIRST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: 2001-02

The first management committee was comprised of the following member representatives.

Andrew Buchanan	President – Partner, Allens
Hugh Scott-Mackenzie	Vice-President – Partner, King & Wood Mallesons
Simon Cleary	Secretary/Treasurer – Solicitor, Legal Aid Queensland
Merran Lawler	Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services Inc
Lucy Bretherton	Special Counsel, Blake Dawson Waldron
Tom Byrne	Queensland Law Society Incorporated
Associate Professor Jeff Giddings	Director, Clinical Legal Education, Griffith Law School
Geoff Harley	Managing Partner, Clayton Utz
Dan O'Connor	Chief Executive, Bar Association of Queensland Inc
Robert Reed	Senior Associate, MinterEllison
Peter Rosengren	Partner, McCullough Robertson
Robyn Wilkinson	Executive Legal Officer, Legal Aid Queensland

It is noteworthy that Andrew, Lucy, Robert and Robyn are committee members to this day (Lucy and Robyn returning after a lacuna), Andrew as a co-opted member along with Robert, who resigned at the 2016 AGM, giving continuous service to the committee for over sixteen years.

2015-16 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Lucy Bretherton, President	Counsel, Ashurst
Matthew Jones, Secretary/Treasurer	Barrister
Tim Baumann, from April 2016	Senior Associate, MurphySchmidt
Matthew Holmes, resigned February 2016	Partner, MurphySchmidt
Gabriella Ritchie, from October 2015	Senior Associate, McCullough Robertson
Richard Hundt, resigned August 2015	Lawyer, McCullough Robertson
Bronwyn Neroni	General Counsel, Queensland law Society
Kathryn McMillan QC	Barrister (BAQ representative)
Judith McNamara	Head, QUT Law School
Katharine Philp	Partner, TressCox
Robert Reed	Special Counsel, MinterEllison
Anthony Reilly, resigned February 2016	CEO, Legal Aid Queensland
Robyn Wilkinson, from April 2016	Acting Director, Executive Services, Legal Aid Queensland
Andrew Buchanan, co-opted member	Inaugural President, retired partner, Allens
Rochelle Carey, co-opted member, resigned 13 June 2016	

PAST PRESIDENTS

2001-4

Andrew Buchanan (Partner, Allens Arthur Robinson, now Allens)

2004-7

Peter Rosengren (Partner, McCullough Robertson, before becoming a partner at Deacons (now Norton Rose Fulbright))

2007-10

Joanne Rennick (Partner, MurphySchmidt)

2010-2013

Robert Reed (Special Counsel, MinterEllison Lawyers)

2013-16

Lucy Bretherton (Counsel, Ashurst)

PAST VICE-PRESIDENTS

2001-2011

Hugh Scott-Mackenzie

2011-2013

Darryl Rangiah QC (as he then was)

PAST SECRETARY-TREASURERS

2001-2006

Simon Cleary

2006-2010

Robert Reed

2010-2011

Samantha Carroll

2011-2013

Michelle Hutchinson

2013-2016

Matthew Jones

OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2002-2016

Simon Cleary (Legal Aid Queensland representative)

Genevieve Bolton (Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services representative)

Nicole Quinn (firm representative)

Brad Watkins (corporate legal unit member representative)

Cathy Pereira (Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services)

Emma Robinson (firm representative)

Tom Byrne (Queensland Law Society representative)

Glenn Ferguson (Queensland Law Society representative)

John Stannard (Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services representative)

Rob Davis (Queensland Law Society representative)

Bernadette Kasten (Legal Aid Queensland representative)

Elizabeth Shearer (Legal Aid Queensland representative)

Tony Denholder (firm representative)

Peter Carne (Queensland Law Society representative)

Russell Thirgood (firm representative)

Samantha Carroll (Lentell) (firm representative)

Sarah McBratney (firm representative)

Julie McStay - Senior Associate, Blake Dawson Waldron from 6 October 2008

Noela L'Estrange (Queensland Law Society representative)

Sarah McBratney – Lawyer, McCullough Robertson from 6 October 2008

Darryl Rangiah SC (Bar Association representative)

Matthew Holmes (firm representative)

Professor Brian Fitzgerald (associate member representative)

Michelle Hutchinson (firm representative)

Abby Richards (firm representative)



2001-16 QPILCH MILESTONES

28 November 2000 - first formal meeting of founding member representatives to plan establishment of QPILCH.

1 February 2001 - second formal meeting to confirm rules, funding and a timeline for incorporation.

5 March 2001 – The Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Chief Justice of Queensland, agrees to be the patron of QPILCH.

5 April 2001 - Special General Meeting held to resolve to incorporate.

8 June 2001 - QPILCH incorporated.

September 2001 – six foundation law firms (Allens Arthur Robinson (Allens), Blake Dawson Waldron (Ashurst), Clayton Utz, Mallesons Stephen Jaques (King & Wood Mallesons), McCullough Robertson and MinterEllison fund the establishment of QPILCH.

December 2001 – first staff member employed on part-time basis.

December 2001 to March 2002 - QPILCH accommodated at the offices of Legal Aid Queensland.

March 2002 – QPILCH moved to office space donated by Shine Roche McGowan (Shine Lawyers).

19 April 2002 – launch of QPILCH by The Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Chief Justice of Queensland at Customs House, Brisbane.

July 2002 - first student clinic with Griffith University law students commenced.

July 2002 – first secondee to QPILCH from Ashurst (Blake Dawson Waldron) to research and develop homeless persons' legal service.

10 December 2002 – launch of the Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic by the Hon Rod Welford MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice at St Vincent's Homeless Men's Hostel.

March 2003 – QPILCH moves to new offices in Margaret Street, Brisbane.

15 July 2003 – QPILCH and Griffith University co-host seminar on International Developments in Pro Bono, hosted by Allens.

14 August 2003 – QPILCH holds seminar on Human Trafficking, Sex Slavery and the Law, organised by Mallesons Stephen Jaques secondee, seconded to start a new QPILCH service for refugees on Temporary Protection Visas.

20 August 2003 – first Public Interest Address presented by lawyer and journalist David Marr on "Tampa and the Rule of Law".

3 September 2003 – first in a series of secondments from Allens and McCullough Robertson to undertake case assessments.

20-21 October 2003 – QPILCH co-hosts and representatives address the Second National Pro Bono Conference in Sydney.

December 2003 – the Queensland Government provides a small grant for the operation of the HPLC and referrals service.

December 2003 – small grants by Myer Foundation and Gambling Community Benefit Fund to establish a service for refugees on temporary protection orders for 12 months.

December 2003 – first in a series of secondees from MinterEllison to coordinate the HPLC.

March 2004 – first Rural Regional Remote project commenced with secondment from Allens.

9 July 2004 – launch of the Consumer Law Advice Clinic, a partnership of the TC Beirne School of Law, Clayton Utz and QPILCH, by the Hon Rod Welford MP, Attorney-General.

August 2004 – Administrative Law Clinic started with Bond University Law School.

August 2004 – participation in research for Rights in Public Space Action Group for submission on review of the *Vagrants, Gaming and Other Offences Act*.

April 2005 – employment of first projects coordinator.

March 2005 – first homeless policy researcher appointed with secondment from McCullough Robertson.

August 2005 – first grant from the Department of Communities to employ a coordinator for the HPLC.

August 2005 – first external training event on guardianship and administration in partnership with BAQ.

September 2005 – publication of Limitation Schedule for CLCs in partnership with Caxton Legal Centre, Ashurst and Clayton Utz (now on legalpediaqld.org.au).

January 2006 – first homeless policy coordinator employed with a grant by the Department of Communities.

March 2006 – HPLC student clinic commenced with UQ students.

April 2006 – research begins into self-representation in partnership with QUT law school.

21 June 2006 – HPLC forum on human rights.

5 October 2006 – appearance before Senate committee on Indigenous wages.

5 October 2006 - forum on Indigenous rights with Dr Elouise Cobell, elder of the Blackfeet Nation.

13 September 2006 – Public Interest Address presented by the Master of the Rolls, Sir Anthony Clarke and the UK Pro Bono Envoy Michael Napier.

10 March 2007 – first HPLC Art Show.

7 March 2007 – launch of UQ Law/QPILCH report “Nowhere to Go: The impact of Move-on Powers on Homeless People in Queensland”.

March 2007 – commencement of CLC support project, culminating in a firms/CLCs forum in May 2007.

30 March 2007 – forum with the Court of Appeal to discuss self-representation research and develop a self-representation service.

July 2007 – grant from Queensland Law Foundation to establish NFP training program.

July 2007 – first confirmed recurrent funding for QPILCH from the Legal Practitioners’ Interest on Trust Accounts Fund.

September 2007 – Self Representation Service in the Supreme and District Courts and Court of Appeal commences.

12 September 2007 – Refugee Civil Law Clinic, a partnership of the Multicultural Development Association, Corrs Chambers Westgarth and QPILCH, launched by The Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Chief Justice of Queensland.

25 September 2007 – launch of the first regional HPLC in Toowoomba by QLS president Megan Mahon.

24 November 2007 - QPILCH’s first fundraiser “Cocktails for a Cause” occurs, organised by solicitors from Mallesons Stephen Jaques and MacDonnells. Proceeds used to establish Disbursement Fund.

12 December 2007 - launch of the Self Representation Service in the Supreme and District Courts and Court of Appeal by the Hon Kerry Shine MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice.

26 March 2008 – Townsville HPLC commenced, and officially launched on 8 May by Senator Ursula Stephens and Hon. Mike Reynolds

19 May 2008 - first Walk for Justice held.

8 October 2008 – QPILCH granted PBI status with the assistance of Freehills.

December 2008 – Mediation service at State Courts started with assistance of Holding Redlich.

June 2009 – QPILCH begins management of the Queensland Law Society Pro Bono Service and the Bar Pro Bono Service.

July 2009 - commencement of the Mental Health Law Practice with a grant for three years from the *English Family Foundation* and subsequently from the *Sylvia and Charles Viertel Foundation*.

2009 – development of the Legal Health Check through a partnership of Roma House, Herbert Smith Freehills and QPILCH.

2009 – Self Representation Service in the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal commences.

6 July 2010 – three year funding for the HPLC provided by the Queensland Department of Communities.

23 July 2010 – first *Red Wine for Justice* fundraiser held.

9 June 2011 – Celebration of QPILCH's 10th anniversary at the Public Interest Address by the Chief Justice of Queensland, the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC.

27 July 2011 - launch of pilot Self Representation Service in the Federal Courts by the Federal Attorney General, the Hon Robert McClelland MP, in the presence of The Honourable Patrick Keane, Chief Justice of the Federal Court.

25 July 2012 – first Street Soccer held.

5 November 2013 - Launch of the Legal Health Check videos, a guide to using the LHC, by the Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice.

11 December 2013 - the Queensland Government provides a grant to staff the HPLC in Cairns.

February 2014 – launch of QPILCH's Townsville office.

23 April 2014 – launch of the Self Representation Service in the Federal Courts by Senator, The Hon George Brandis MP, Attorney General for the Commonwealth.

18 March 2015 - launch of the *Civil Justice Fund* by The Honourable Justice Margaret McMurdo AC, President of the Court of Appeal and the patron of the fund.

April 2016 – launch of the Pilot representation Services to assist clients in Queensland Industrial Relations Commission workers' compensation conciliation conferences, Magistrates Court enforcement hearings and QCAT Child Protection conferences.



*A tribute to the people who volunteer their time to help
disadvantaged and vulnerable people to access the justice system.
December 2016*