

Law Firms

Allens Arthur Robinson
Ash Solicitors
Blake Dawson Waldron
Brian Bartley and Associates
Clayton Utz
Cooper Grace Ward
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Deacons
Donnelly and Associates Lawyers (Gold Coast)
Ebsworth & Ebsworth
Freehills
Macrossans Lawyers
Mallesons Stephen Jaques
McCullough Robertson Lawyers
McInnes Wilson
McPhee Lawyers
Miller Harris (Cairns)
Minter Ellison
MurphySchmidt
Nathan Lawyers
Phillips Fox
Piper Alderman
Quinn & Scattini
Shine Roche McGowan
Smith & Stanton Lawyers
Sparke Helmore Lawyers
TressCox Lawyers
Walkers Solicitors (Toowoomba)

Barristers

Nicholas Andreatidis
Michael Ballans
Ken Barlow
John Bond SC
Jacoba Brasch
Vincent Brennan
Judy Brien
Sue Brown
Gary Coveney
Christopher Crawford
Quentin Cregan
Jean Dalton SC
Cameron Dick
Tracy Fantin (Cairns)
Joshua Hanna
Patrick Hay
George Kalimnios
Stephen Keim SC
Liam Kelly SC
Nitira Kidson
Carla Klease
Michael Labone
Peter Lyons QC
Ross Mack
Nicole Martin
James McNab
Damien O'Brien
TP O'Brien
Daniel O'Gorman
Gavin O'Sullivan
Darryl Rangiah
Guy Sara (Gold Coast)
Hugh Scott-Mackenzie
Sarah Scott-Mackenzie
David Thomae
Terence Walsh
Karen Williams
Michael Wilson
Julene Winn

Specified Members

Bar Association of Queensland Inc
Legal Aid Queensland
Queensland Association of Independent
Legal Services Inc
Queensland Law Society Incorporated

Associate Members

BDO Kendalls, Chartered Accountants
Griffith University Law School
Queensland University of Technology Law School
Faculty of Law, Bond University
T.C. Beirne School of Law, University of Queensland

Government Legal Unit Members

Australian Competition and Consumer
Commission

Queensland Public Interest Law Clearing House Incorporated

2005-06 Annual Report



STATISTICAL SNAPSHOT

2005-06 CASEWORK

Referral services

200 applications received - 1.5% increase

77 referrals – 20% increase

Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic

251 new files opened - 16% increase

Consumer Law Advice Clinic

178 new files opened - 53% increase

Administrative Law Clinic

29 new files opened - 3% increase

PRO BONO VALUE SINCE 2002

734 applications received to date

256 referrals

111 referrals finalised and costed with an estimated value of **\$781,000**

(not including contributions to the clinics and through secondments)

2005-06 FINANCIALS

Revenue - \$365,733

Expenses - \$352,194

Surplus carried forward - \$13,539



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

QPILCH was formed to expand the availability of legal services for people who could not obtain legal aid or afford private legal services. Uniquely, it is QPILCH members that conduct these free services to improve access to justice by the community. As a broker of these services, QPILCH itself faces a number of challenges, no less so than in the financial year covered by this report.

Our first challenge is to ensure that our services are known, accessible and of relevance to our applicants/clients. With little advertising, we are now widely known within the community, legal and government sectors. We receive many referrals from government, justifying a greater reliance in 2005-06 on government funding to sustain key components of our work.

We have worked through the year to make our website and public interface clearer and simpler, produce accessible legal education materials, and expand the HPLC to new locales and in different formats. We have done this to demonstrate our commitment to ensuring that as many Queenslanders as possible can use the services we provide and better understand the legal system.

Over the year we have been reviewing and evaluating all our activities and planning or developing new proposals to make our services more relevant and useful to the people who need them.

It is also a challenge to continually expand our membership. An expanding membership is essential to match applicant/client with member firm or barrister and to spread pro bono work. QPILCH is an opportunity for all members of the legal profession and other professionals to make a difference in their community through a structured pro bono scheme. It is a challenge to convince already busy and active professionals to dig deeper, but it is a common feature of our profession that many do. The referral statistics, showing the annual increase in applications and the acceptance of referrals, is testament to the ongoing relevance of our work and the broadening membership base.

Another important challenge for QPILCH is to support our members and volunteers, in return for the great support they provide to QPILCH and the community. We would not exist without our members and volunteers. For this reason, over the year, QPILCH has implemented a training regime that has proved successful and welcome.

For the first time in 2005-06, QPILCH obtained government funding from three sources - the Queensland Department of Communities, the Consumer Credit Fund and the Legal Practitioner Interest on Trust Accounts Fund (LPITAF) to continue the operation of the HPLC, the Consumer Law Advice Clinic and our core services respectively. These aspects of our work would not have continued without this funding. I want to place on record here our sincere thanks to the Minister for Communities, the Hon Warren Pitt MP, the Minister for Fair Trading, the Hon Margaret Keech MP, and the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, the Hon Linda Lavarch MP, for acknowledging by these grants the importance and value of the services we provide.

Again this year, there are some contributions and activities that I want to specifically refer to.

Contribution by our members

Pro Bono referrals

In the period July 2005 to June 2006, QPILCH received 200 written applications for pro bono assistance, of which 77 were referred to member firms and barristers. While this represents only a small increase in applications (from an 11% increase last year), it should not be forgotten that we have been able to refer a number of applications internally to the Consumer Law Advice Clinic and Administrative Law Clinic for direct assistance. At the same time, there has been 20% increase in referrals, constituting a 38% referral rate (32% last year). The demand on our service continues to rise. The referrals were to law firms, barristers and an associate member (accountancy firm BDO Kendalls)

As occurred last year, we are unable to give a comprehensive report on the cost of these services because many matters are ongoing. Of the cases referred in the year, 28 have been costed to date, amounting to over \$137,000.

The total value of pro bono referral services since inception (putting aside the contributions to the clinics and through secondments and other support) now exceeds \$781,000, with just 111 (43%) of 258 matters referred since 1 July 2002 costed. This highlights the contribution made by our members to the provision of direct pro bono services to disadvantaged members of the community.

Volunteers

Eleven firm members permit their staff to volunteer in work time for the homeless persons' legal clinics that now operate in eight locations around Brisbane and are soon expanding to regional areas. We have not costed this support for the year. However, up to July 2005, it exceeded \$2m.

Secondments

Until we received the funding from the Department of Communities in August 2005, Minter Ellison had seconded staff to coordinate the *Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic*. Clayton Utz seconded senior solicitor Linda Macpherson up to December 2005 to coordinate the Consumer Law Advice Clinic and Deacons seconded Emily Lucas to the important casework assessment position.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to these firms.

Over 2005-06, we needed secondments less because of the increased funding. However, over coming years, we will need new secondees for the positions that do not have secured funding and for other positions to expand our services. I urge our members with the capacity to second a solicitor (usually for as little as two days per week for up to six months) to dig deep for the benefit of the community and to create a positive and rewarding experience for their staff.

Projects and programs

Project reports are provided for readers' information later in this report. Here, several points are worthy of specific mention.

The success of the **Consumer Law Advice Clinic**, a partnership of QPILCH and the University of Queensland Law School with the support of Clayton Utz is due to the excellence in supervision provided by Linda Macpherson and the enthusiasm of the students involved. Unfortunately, Linda has now finished as the supervisor of the clinic. I want to acknowledge her outstanding contribution over the five semesters so far offered and thank her and Clayton Utz for making this clinic a valuable part of the QPILCH stable and UQ curriculum.

The **Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic** continues to deliver essential services to the most marginalised members of our community. We now have eight operating clinics, with two more outside Brisbane about to start. I also mention the HPLC training program which equips volunteers with vital information relevant to this area of law. The HPLC also saw the trial of another UQ based student clinic in 2006. In addition, although not started until recently, much work occurred during 2005-06 in preparing the ground for an innovative clinic involving the provision of telephone advice and assistance by Minter Ellison lawyers for clients of the Inala based *Pathways to Prevention* project. Special mention must be made of the HPLC coordinator Monica Taylor and policy worker Sue Garlick for the great work they have done over the year.

The **Refugee and Immigration Legal Support (RAILS)** project, ably coordinated by Nitra Kidson, was wound down in January 2006 with the end of funding from the *Gambling Community Benefit Fund*. Nitra built a foundation for QPILCH to assess future refugee applications to support the work of the Refugee and Immigration Legal Service at South Brisbane and is finalising a refugee law database which we will launch in early 2007. I thank the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for making the project possible, and Nitra Kidson for her great work.

The **Administrative Law Clinic** with Bond University completed its fifth term in 2006 under the fine supervision of Rebekah Leong. We hope to expand on this project

in coming years as administrative law is clearly an under-serviced area of law in Queensland.

Our oldest clinic, the Griffith University **Public Interest Lawyering** clinic, continues to support QPILCH's assessment and referral work in first semester each year. In forthcoming years, we hope to focus more on developing excellence in legal research and analysis skills as part of this course.

From early 2005 and then over 2005-06, under the stewardship of Gayle Gasteen, we put down the foundations of a **professional development program** for a range of stakeholders, again supported by a grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund.

Over the year, Rebekah Leong organised successful **training** in guardianship and administration and discrimination law in conjunction with the Bar Association. These CLE courses have set the tone for future training for the broader profession in areas in less common CLE areas. I also acknowledge Rebekah's excellent coordination of our **student volunteer program**.

The year ahead

Recurrent funding will be an ongoing challenge for QPILCH into the foreseeable future. But as with previous years, we are considering every option.

We are still working on ways to improve our services. Rebekah Leong has surveyed our members with a view to refining our referral services. Allens Arthur Robinson is helping us to improve our systems. Gayle Gasteen is reviewing our processes and skills. This is not just navel gazing. We hope to roll out in 2007 a comprehensive package that will also benefit our colleagues in other community legal services.

We hope to attract broader membership and corporate contributions in the coming year. I urge legal units in the corporate sector and government to encourage their legal staff to participate in our organisation.

We have been developing a submission to the Queensland Government and Legal Aid Queensland promoting some small but achievable reforms to the civil justice system, particularly through better understanding of the system and better coordination.

We have not forgotten the Rural Regional and Remote project with a view to expanding our services in user friendly ways across the state, although in 2005-06, this project stalled. We plan more HPLC clinics in regional Queensland.

We are progressing the *Coordination of Referral Services* project with the aim of reducing duplication and misdirection of free legal services by establishing a centralised referral service for all pro bono referrals. The Bar Association and Queensland Law Society support this proposal. We now only have to convince LPITAF of its merits to activate this long planned project.

We are still participating, albeit marginally, in the Supreme Court project to improve e-access for CLCs which represent the marginalised and disadvantaged.

Finally, with QUT Law School, we were successful in obtaining funding from LPITAF to research the legal needs of litigants in person (LIPs) before the Court of Appeal, with a view to developing improved services for LIPs. We hope to conduct a seminar and report on this research in early 2007.

Once again, I thank all those who have contributed to QPILCH over the last productive year and look forward to continuing the relationships that have taken shape since 2001 to enhance the avenues for disadvantaged members of the community to access the legal system.

Special acknowledgments

On behalf of the management committee, I again thank our patron, **The Hon Paul de Jersey, AC**, Chief Justice of Queensland, who has continued to spread the word about our work throughout the profession. We are indebted to him for his support.

I thank **our members** for being part of QPILCH and for accepting referrals on a pro bono basis to assist people in need and other assistance without which QPILCH

could not operate. I am pleased that we are continuing to attract membership from across the profession, although I urge the bigger firms who have not yet joined to join this worthy legal organisation. We consider that QPILCH is the profession's organisation. It is a place where a range of issues not debated by other legal professional bodies can be canvassed – issues of public interest for those voices in the community that are less often heard. Our members are the backbone of QPILCH and I thank them sincerely.

I thank the many **students** who have volunteered or participated in clinical programs at QPILCH over the year, without whose assistance we could not have met deadlines in case assessment, provided essential advice, or produced publications for the benefit of the community and profession.

I thank the dedicated team of **staff** for their hard work, their energy, and their commitment throughout the year.

Finally, I thank **committee members** who have once again given so much of their time and energy to the management of QPILCH. I particularly thank Simon Cleary who retired as secretary/treasurer during the year after five years of dedicated service to QPILCH and to Emma Robinson, a co-opted member, for her valued contribution.

Peter Rosengren
President

TREASURER'S REPORT

I present as Treasurer my first audited financial report for the financial year 2005-2006.

QPILCH endeavours to use the funds it receives as efficiently as possible to obtain the best possible legal outcomes for applicants and clients. To that end, we seek to be open and accountable in our management of the resources that are available to QPILCH to maximise pro bono legal assistance in Queensland.

In the 2005-06 financial year QPILCH obtained the first of its funding from government under formal funding schemes:

- for core services under the LPITAF program managed by the Queensland Department of Justice from October 2005 to 30 June 2006
- from the Department of Communities for the coordination of the Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic from August 2005 to August 2006, and
- from the Consumer Credit Fund administered by the Office of Fair Trading from 1 January 2006 to 30 June 2006.

This important funding has enabled QPILCH to perform duties previously undertaken by secondees on a part-time basis. The newly funded full-time positions have enabled the services to become much more professional and comprehensive to the benefit of all stakeholders.

Last year, previous treasurer Simon Cleary said that it remains a goal of QPILCH to reach a position of funding stability where QPILCH receives adequate recurrent funding to perform core work without needing to rely on non-recurrent grants. While we are very pleased to have obtained the funding as outlined above, unfortunately, we are still some way from securing stable funding. QPILCH has prepared and is preparing submissions to encourage government to translate its support into a recurrent base.

But we are also conscious that QPILCH is a member based organisation whose independence is paramount. Security is one thing, independence and self-sufficiency is another cherished aim. Nonetheless, government has a clear role in facilitating pro bono services.

Our major cash source for 2005/06 has been membership fees and government funding, and I thank **our members** and funders for their support. Our major outgoings are wages.

I wish to acknowledge the support of the following other generous donors that have made our services possible:

- **Gambling Community Benefit Fund** for the funding of RAILS and the professional development project.

- **Clayton Utz** for seconding senior solicitor Linda Macpherson to coordinate the CLAC to December 2005.
- **Deacons** for seconding Emily Lucas to coordinate casework assessment in late 2005.
- **Member law firms** who have provided staff to attend seven homeless persons' legal clinics.

To all QPILCH supporters, I thank you for your support over the last year. I thank all QPILCH staff. I also specifically acknowledge the contribution of my predecessor who did so much for establishing the foundation upon which QPILCH now rests.

Robert Reed
Secretary/Treasurer

2005-06 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE

Peter Rosengren, President – Partner, Deacons

Hugh Scott-Mackenzie, Vice-President – Barrister

Simon Cleary, Secretary/Treasurer – Solicitor, Legal Aid Queensland resigned 20 January 2006

Robert Reed, Secretary/Treasurer – Senior Associate, Minter Ellison Lawyers, since 20 January 2006.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Lucy Bretherton – Special Counsel, Blake Dawson Waldron

Andrew Buchanan, Partner, Allens Arthur Robinson

Rob Davis – President, Queensland Law Society Incorporated

Professor Jeff Giddings – Griffith University Law School

Bernadette Kasten - Senior Legal Consultant, Legal Aid Queensland, from February 2006

Dan O'Connor – Chief Executive, Bar Association of Queensland Inc

Robert Reed – Senior Associate, Minter Ellison, appointed Secretary January 2006

Joanne Rennick – Partner, MurphySchmidt

John Stannard – Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services Inc

COOPTED MEMBERS

Emma Robinson – Senior Associate, McCullough Robertson resigned January 2006

Dominic McGann – Partner, McCullough Robertson from January 2006

Robyn Wilkinson – Solicitor, Legal Aid Queensland

2005-06 STAFF

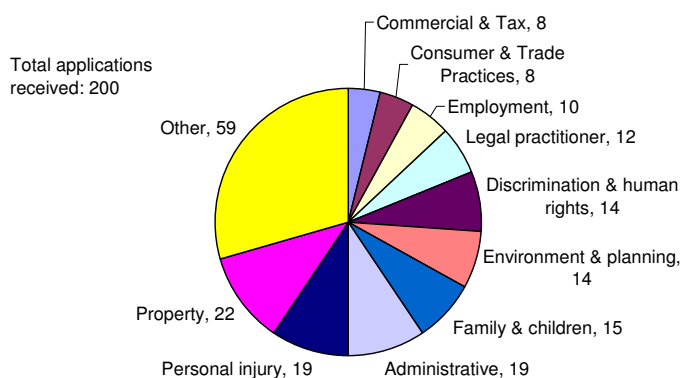
Name	Position
Jane Auyeung, Angela Borgna, May Chan, Joanna De Souza, Penny Jessup, Jackson Lim, Joanne Lock, Katherine McGree, Erin Thomas, Sarah Walters, Rhian Ward	Law students who work as our administrative assistant (casual job-share position one day per week per semester)
Michelle Bradfield	HPLC policy officer (part-time)
Michael Carey	HPLC policy (part-time)
Sue Garlick	HPLC policy (part-time)
Gayle Gasteen	Training and Development coordinator (part-time)
Nitra Kidson	RAILS coordinator (part-time)
Rebekah Leong	Projects coordination officer (full-time)

Emily Lucas	Assessment secondee (part-time)
Sue McComber	Bookkeeper (part-time)
Linda Macpherson	CLAC coordinator (part-time)
Monica Taylor	HPLC coordinator (full-time)
Tony Woodyatt	QPILCH coordinator (full-time since Jan 2006)

REFERRAL SERVICES

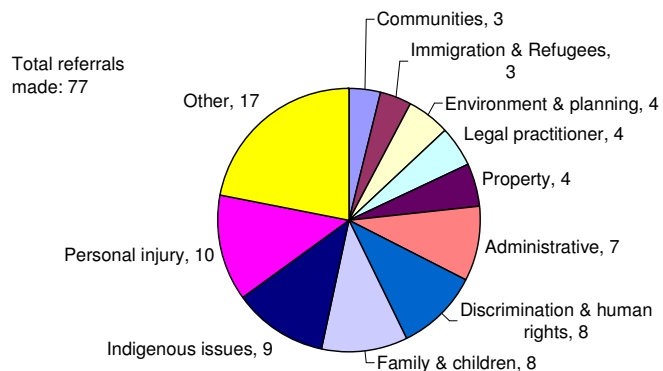
In 2005–2006 there were a total of 200 written applications for assistance to QPILCH. A total of 77 applications that met the public interest and legal merit tests were referred to our member firms and barristers (57 to member firms, 19 barristers, 1 to associate member).

Applications received 2005-06 - Top 10 Areas Of Law



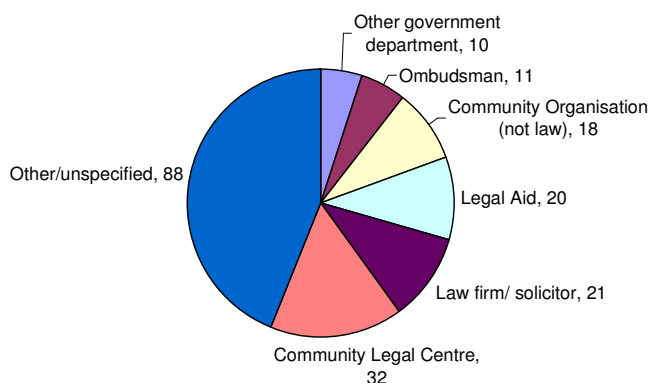
Referrals made 2005-06 - Top 10 Areas Of Law

NB. A matter may be referred more than once, eg. to a barrister and a law firm



Most general referrals to QPILCH are from Legal Aid Queensland, community legal centres, law firms, community organisations, the Ombudsman and government departments, including the office of the Attorney-General. The other category includes MPs, the Legal Services Commission and the Queensland Law Society.

Applications received 2005-06 - Sources of referral



Of the matters not referred by QPILCH to members, some were referred internally to our clinics or to other legal service providers that could provide the appropriate assistance.

2005-06 statistics

	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-2	Total
Written applications	200	197	76	111	50	734
Referrals	77	64	46	40	17	248

The following list represents a small sample of cases assisted by members during the year:

Not for profit and community organisations

- **Allens Arthur Robison** provided detailed legal advice to a non-profit indigenous organisation in relation to whether particular land could potentially be the subject of a native title claim.
- **Judy Brien** of counsel provided advice on a planning issue to a not for profit organisation.
- **Allens Arthur Robison** provided assistance to a non-profit organisation which was seeking legal advice in relation to the amendment of their risk management guide and insurance for their members.
- **Clayton Utz** provided assistance to a not for profit organisation which required amendment of its constitution in compliance with the *Association Incorporation Act 1981* (Qld).
- **Clayton Utz** assisted a non-profit organisation which sought advice regarding legal liability arising because of statutory obligations placed on licensees and nominees under the *Child Protection Act 1999*.
- **Nathan Lawyers** provided advice on procedure and prospects to a non-profit organisation seeking to appeal a development approval. The advice enabled the organisation to achieve a negotiated outcome satisfactory to all parties.
- **Minter Ellison** acted on behalf of a community legal centre which had overlooked a time limitation period in relation to their client. Leave for the client to proceed was obtained by consent.
- **Sue Brown** provided counsel's opinion as to the prospects of seeking judicial review of Queensland Government's decision to expand the move-on powers.
- **Damien O'Brien** of counsel assisted a not-for-profit association to settle a submission to the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee on its Inquiry into the Accessibility of Administrative Justice.
- **Allens Arthur Robison** drafted a precedent engagement letter for a community legal centre which would ensure costs were recoverable if awarded.
- **Freehills** provided assistance to an organisation which sought to appeal a QCOMP decision granting WorkCover compensation to a former employee. The QCOMP decision put the organisation's actions into question and could have affected their insurance premiums.
- **Christopher Crawford** of counsel provided advice to a community group about the prospects of bringing an action in discrimination or under the Rights of the Child Convention in relation to a proposed development to be built near a school.
- **Allens Arthur Robison** prepared and presented to a workshop of leaders of African community associations on legal issues affecting community associations.

Individuals

- **Allens Arthur Robison** assisted a pensioner who was the respondent in an appeal from a decision of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal to the Federal Court in relation to a Freedom of Information decision. The Federal Court remitted the matter back to the AAT, however, the applicant decided to discontinue the AAT action on the basis that each party bear their own costs.

- **Clayton Utz** and barrister **Hugh Scott-Mackenzie** assisted an invalid pensioner to resolve a property dispute with her defacto ex-husband. A settlement was negotiated between the parties and resulted in a satisfactory outcome. Furthermore, the applicant was provided with assistance to obtain a loan required to effect the settlement.
- QPILCH received an application from a man seeking judicial review of the Queensland Community Corrections Board's decision to refuse him parole. Barristers **Mark Plunkett** and **Karen Williams** agreed to review the matter for merit and undertook a careful review of the applicant's documents.
- **Clayton Utz** assisted an applicant who contested a traffic offence in relation to the usage of a T3 traffic lane. The firm provided advice and appeared in court on behalf of the applicant, who ultimately pleaded guilty.
- **BDO Kendalls** assisted a Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic client who had failed to lodge tax returns for a number of years.
- **Clayton Utz** instructed Richard Fryberg of counsel to assist a divorced applicant involved in proceedings with a Trustee in Bankruptcy involving rights to marital property.
- **Blake Dawson Waldron** helped to resolve a dispute between an Indigenous woman and her former partner regarding the burial of their deceased son according to Aboriginal customs.
- Barristers **Quentin Cregan** and **Peter Lyons QC** provided a detailed opinion regarding possible causes of action open to an applicant whose commercial fishing licenses had been affected by the closure of certain areas of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park to commercial fishing.
- Barrister **Karen Williams** instructed by QPILCH were appointed separate representative by the Guardianship and Administration Tribunal for a man the subject of a decision to withhold artificial nutrition and hydration.
- **Karen Williams** also represented a woman who had been refused registration by the Board of Teacher Registration Queensland on the grounds that she is not of good character.
- Barrister **Hugh Scott-Mackenzie** advised on the prospects of success in relation to an application for judicial review of a Refugee Review Tribunal decision.
- Barrister **Nitra Kidson** advised on prospects on a similar application.
- **Macrossans** with barrister Damien Atkinson was successful in representing an applicant in an appeal of a Refugee Review Tribunal decision. The Federal Magistrates Court quashed the decision and remitted the matter to a differently constituted Tribunal for determination according to law.
- **Murphy Schmidt** prepared submissions to the Information Commissioner in relation to the review of a decision of the Health Rights Commissioner to refuse the applicant access documents.

Research and publication

- Again during the year, **Blake Dawson Waldron** updated our limitation schedule (see our website) which provides a resource for CLCs to assist in checking important limitation periods.
- **Minter Ellison Lawyers** undertook considerable work for QPILCH's submission to Legal Aid Queensland's review of the Civil Law Legal Aid Scheme. This involved checking information across Australia and elsewhere and examining comprehensive reports on different forms of litigation funding.
- **Blake Dawson Waldron** assisted QPILCH in seeking an indicative ruling on Deductible Gift Recipient status.
- **Allens Arthur Robison** assisted in reviewing QPILCH's systems as part of an internal quality audit process.
- **Minter Ellison, Freehills** and **Allens Arthur Robison** kindly offered to have their technical experts review the new website and provide feedback.
- **Minter Ellison** drafted a deed of agreement and license deed for use in securing intellectual property rights to training material created by volunteers which are subsequently published on the QPILCH website.

Thanks

I thank QPILCH members and members of the QPILCH board for their great support throughout the year.

I also thank all QPILCH staff members who have done so much over the year with such good humour, teamwork, hard work and professionalism. It is to them that QPILCH's achievements can be attributed.

Tony Woodyatt – contact@qpilch.org.au

HOMELESS PERSONS' LEGAL CLINIC

2005-06 has been a productive year for the HPLC. The full-time funding from the Queensland Department of Communities enabled the Clinic to employ a full-time Coordinator and a part-time Policy and Clinic Expansion Officer, which in turn has led to greater output in a number of the HPLC's core areas of work.

2005-06 statistics

From 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006, the HPLC opened 251 new files, bringing the total number of HPLC clients to 958 since the Clinic's inception in December 2002. As at 30 June 2006, the following clinics were operating:

Clinic	Firms
Mission Australia Café One on Wickham	Minter Ellison Freehills
Brisbane Homelessness Service Centre (formerly Ozcare Men's Hostel)	Murphy Schmidt Blake Dawson Waldron
Pindari Salvation Army Men's Hostel	Clayton Utz
4AAA Kiosk	McInnes Wilson McCullough Robertson
Anglican Women's Hostel	Allens Arthur Robinson
HART 4000	Allens Arthur Robinson
Red Cross Night Youth Cafe	Gilshenan & Luton Mallesons Stephen Jacques
Pindari Salvation Army Women's Hostel	Phillips Fox

70% of HPLC clients are male and 30% female. This gender breakdown reflects the demographic of homelessness and has remained static since the Clinic's inception. The areas of law which homeless persons required assistance in 2006 remained static, with our "top 4" being: criminal 22%; family 11%; house/tenancy 11%; and fines/Debt 11%.

In addition to the top four areas of legal need, the HPLC also assisted clients with a range of "other" matters in 2005-06, including employment law, guardianship & administration, personal property, bankruptcy, social security and taxation law matters.

HPLC moves to homelessness hubs

In 2005-06, as part of the move towards holistic and co-located service delivery, the HPLC moved into the two new "homelessness hubs" in Brisbane. In March 2006, the HPLC clinic at the Ozcare Homeless Men's Hostel relocated into the Brisbane Homelessness Service Centre (BHSC), the newly operational homelessness hub on the Southside. This move has resulted in a steady increase in clients as the clinic lawyers now see a significant number of female clients. Blake Dawson Waldron and MurphySchmidt continue to operate the BHSC clinic.

In April 2006, the HPLC also opened a new clinic at HART4000, the other homelessness hub in the Brisbane CBD. Allens Arthur Robinson has taken up the

operation of the HART4000 clinic on a fortnightly basis, in addition to its existing clinic at the Anglican Women's Hostel, which dropped back to a fortnightly rotation in April 2006 due to reduced client numbers.

Criminal law list

In 2005/06, the HPLC established a Criminal Law List comprised of barristers at the private bar who are willing to represent (on a pro bono basis) homeless clients charged with summary offences who wish to plead not-guilty. The following members of the Queensland Bar took up the offer and the HPLC is very grateful for their contribution:

Michael Byrne QC	Elizabeth Wilson	Anthony (Tony) Smith
Tony Glynn SC	Bill Crane	Paddy Cullinane
Richard Perry SC	Sue Weber	Peter Hurrey
Thomas (TP) O'Brien	Bob Reed	Phil Canning
Roland Peterson	John Allen	Carla Klease
Josh Hanna	Dr. Astrid M.S. Vallati	Danielle Lynas Torr
Tim Ryan	Hugh Scott-Mackenzie	Ben McMillan

HPLC training

As part of its ongoing professional training & development program, the following CLE activities were organised by the HPLC in 2005/06. The HPLC acknowledges and thanks the participating law firms who hosted and/or presented papers, thereby increasing the knowledge and capacity of all HPLC lawyers to assist our clients:

Month	Host Firm	Topic
September 2005	Blake Dawson Waldron	Disability & the Law, guest presented by Queensland Advocacy Incorporated
October 2005	Gilshenan & Luton	Criminal Law Issues – internal presentation
November 2006	Freehills	Strategies for dealing with SPER, guest presented by SPER officers
January 2006	Clayton Utz	Criminal Law Referrals Practical CLE Workshop, guest presenter: LAQ Duty Lawyer Andrew Kennedy
March 2006	Allens Arthur Robinson	Family Law Referrals Practical CLE Workshop, guest presenters: Women's Legal Service & LAQ Family Duty Lawyer
April 2006	MurphySchmidt	Wills & Estates - internal presentation
May 2006	Phillips Fox	Mental Health & Homeless Persons' Court Diversion Program (various presenters)
June 2006	Minter Ellison	Practical CLE Workshop on Tenancy Law, guest presenters: TUQ & TAAS

In 2005/06, in addition to providing internal training, the HPLC also organised a Human Rights and Legal Information forum for the homelessness assistance sector. This involved a presentation on human rights in the lead up to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing's visit to Australia.

The HPLC hopes to build its legal training role for the homelessness sector in future, which will in turn improve the sector's service delivery for clients.

HPLC law subject

From February to June 2006, the HPLC co-supervised a clinical legal education subject in partnership with Dr Tamara Walsh from the TC Beirne School of Law. The subject involved 6 law students from the University of Queensland Law

School undertaking a semester-long placement at QPILCH and participating HPLC law firms. The students were:

Megan Breen
Aroshana (Binny) de Saram
Lindsay Nicholson
Hillary Nye
Marianna O'Gorman
Davina Wadley

The subject was a great success and will be run again in 2007.

Policy and advocacy

Police move-on powers

In 2006, the HPLC's law reform efforts were focused on public space issues, particularly the Brisbane expansion of police move-on powers and the subsequent statewide expansion of the powers via the amendment of the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*. The HPLC undertook a major research project in conjunction with the TC Beirne School of Law to empirically assess the impact of police move-on powers on vulnerable people in public space.

In 2005-06, the HPLC assumed the Secretariat function for the Rights in Public Space Action Group (RIPS). RIPS major work included continued lobbying against the implementation of statewide police move-on powers, and consultation with the CMC regarding its review of the offence of public nuisance.

CMC Review of Public Nuisance

In addition, the HPLC also made a stand-alone submission to the CMC about the impact of the offence of public nuisance on people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The CMC is likely to report on its findings at the end of 2006 or early 2007.

Homeless Persons' Court Diversion Program

In 2005 to 2006, the HPLC continued its involvement in the governance of the pilot Homeless Persons' Court Diversion Program. The HPLC is represented on the Stakeholder Reference Group and the Client Reference Group. The HPLC made a number of referrals to the Homeless Persons' Court Liaison Officer during the initial months of the program's operation.

Clinic expansion

QPILCH has developed three new clinics at the Gold Coast, Toowoomba and Inala over the year which will be implemented in 2006-07.

The Gold Coast clinic will be located at St Johns Drop-in Centre, Surfers Paradise, which is one of the 'access points' for the new Gold Coast Homeless Services "hub". Minter Ellison and Jones Mitchell will be supporting this clinic.

A clinic will also commence in Toowoomba before the end of 2006 located at "The Basement" Youth Drop-in Centre. Local lawyers from Shannon Donaldson Province Lawyers and Clewett, Corser and Drummond will initially staff this clinic.

A Telephone Legal Clinic (TLC) commenced on August 30, through the Pathways to Prevention Project at Inala. The biggest challenge for this clinic will be appropriately managing the need for interpreter services (provided by Pathways staff) for most matters.

Our partnership with Pathways should provide an excellent foundation to duplicate this service, which, funding-permitting, we are eager to do over coming years.

Publicity

HPLC publicity in 2005/06 included: February, May and September 2006 editions of *Street Law*, the external newsletter of the HPLC; Verdict article, *Using the*

law to respond to homelessness, Vol 2, 2006; Parity article, *Moving-on homelessness: the impact of police move-on powers in public space*, February 2006; speeches at the Brisbane Homelessness Taskforce Policy Forum in September 2005, the International Society for the Reform of the Criminal Law and the *Lock em Up: Disability and Mental Illness Aren't Crimes* Conferences in July 2006, regarding the criminalising effect of public space law on homeless people in Queensland; and an address to the Brisbane City Councillor in November 2005 on its intention to expand police move-on powers into three major public spaces in Brisbane.

Acknowledgements

The HPLC would like to thank all volunteer lawyers, participating law firms and our host agencies for their continued support and efforts in ensuring the legal and human rights of homeless people are recognised and respected.

Monica Taylor - hplc@qpilch.org.au and **Sue Garlick** – homelesspolicy@qpilch.org.au

CONSUMER LAW ADVICE CLINIC

The third semester of CLAC commenced on 4 August 2005 and the fourth ended on 30 May 2006. Over the year, 178 new files were opened, a 53% increase over the previous year.

Both semesters of the Clinic were characterized by a good flow of referrals continued from Legal Aid Queensland and the Office of Fair Trading as well as community legal centres. The Thursday appointments were fully booked for weeks in advance. Students worked on a variety of matters including: providing advice to clients who have signed finance contracts to purchase unsolicited goods, in many cases assisting the client to successfully rescind the contract; drafting complaints to the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman; providing advice on the consequences of bankruptcy; assistance with drafting small claims; providing advice to clients who have had their car repossessed or are under threat of having their car repossessed; and assisting clients to have their credit contracts varied under the hardship provisions in the *Uniform Consumer Credit Code*.

The clinic has been able to achieve some very good outcomes for clients and the majority of feedback received is immensely positive. The overwhelming message is that clients feel empowered and confident simply because they know that they are being “backed” by the clinic. Many clients are in a state of despair when they first book an appointment with the clinic: they are often being bullied by the other party; are confused about their rights; and don't see a way out of their financial difficulties. While the assistance provided is relatively minor, the quality of the work is extremely high. In feedback from clients, CLAC makes a difference to their lives.

Feedback received from students has also been positive. As part of their assessment students completed a fact sheet outlining the key features of and differences between consumer loans, mortgages and leases.

In addition to the continued secondment of Linda McPherson by Clayton Utz (until December 2005 and subsequently funded from the Consumer Credit Fund), CLAC has also more recently received support from Blake Dawson Waldron. Amanda Hess, a solicitor from the firm's Brisbane banking and finance group, has been seconded to the clinic since July this year. QPILCH is now seeking assistance from other member law firms to enable the clinic to continue in first semester 2007.

CLAC students semester 1 2006	CLAC students semester 2 2006
Mani McIntyre	Darin Clearwater
Rhian Ward	Duncan Marckwald
Matthew Smith	Louisa Young

Kate Philips	Stephanie Dunn-Balzer
Adrian Tan	Rebecca Rowling
Simon Seguna	Paul Stevenson

Linda Macpherson – consumer@qpilch.org.au and Amanda Hess – secondeee@qpilch.org.au

GRIFFITH LAW SCHOOL PUBLIC INTEREST LAWYERING CLINIC

The Griffith Law School clinic again operated in first semester 2006 with six senior law students involved in case assessment, presenting seminars on topics concerned with public interest and related issues and the preparation of two projects – finalisation of a chapter for the *Lawyers' Practice Manual* on the Coroner's Court and research on the civil law system. Work of earlier Griffith clinics was invaluable in the recent preparation of a submission to SCAG on litigation funding.

The clinic continues to attract dedicated and enthusiastic students, whose support ensures that applications for assistance are expeditiously assessed.

Public Interest Lawyering students

Semester 1 2006

Karen Beattie
 Leon Bertrand
 Saranjit Kaur
 Melinda Lund
 Angela Moy
 Melissa Wilson

We thank Griffith University's Professor Jeff Giddings and Zoe Rathus for their ongoing support for this clinic and the students who participated in 2006.

Tony Woodyatt – contact@qpilch.org.au

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW CLINIC

The Administrative Law Clinic, a joint project of QPILCH and Bond University, has now seen its fifth semester of operation.

During that time, the clinic has provided assistance to over 51 people (29 in the 2005-06 financial year) who have had problems with government decision making. Figure 1 below outlines the types of matters the clinic dealt with last financial year:

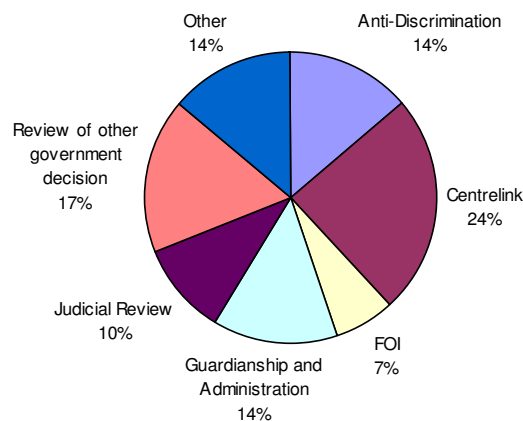


Figure 1: Types of matters dealt with by the Administrative Law Clinic in the 2005-06 financial year

The students also undertook group assignments on the following topics:

- submission to the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee on "The Accessibility of Administrative Justice"
- factsheet on extension of time limitations under the Judicial Review Act
- factsheet on obtaining reasons for a decision

Thanks to the following students who participated last year:

**Administrative Law Clinic
students Term 3 2005**

Michael Wilson
Alexis Gage
Clea Viney
Annabel Vadasz
Sarah Vuniloaloa
Jason Browne

**Administrative Law Clinic
students Term 1 2006**

Guy Kartuz
Jason Botelho
James Boyers
Rochelle Laidlaw
Ari Comert

The clinic did not run in Semester 2 of 2006.

Rebekah Leong - referral@qpilch.org.au

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Training

The last financial year has seen 2 very successful training sessions being conducted by QPILCH with the Bar Association of Queensland.

The first, in October and November 2005, was in guardianship and administration. Speakers included members of the Guardianship and Administration Tribunal, representatives from the Adult Guardian and Public Trustee, a representative from Carers Queensland and many solicitors and barristers experienced in this area of law. Many thanks also to MurphySchmidt and Clayton Utz for hosting the events.

In May and June 2006, training in discrimination law was held, with a particular focus on preparing for Anti-Discrimination Commission of Queensland and Anti-Discrimination Tribunal hearings. We were again overwhelmed by the generosity of our many speakers including members of the Tribunal, the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, other representatives of both the Commission and the Tribunal, and barrister and solicitor experts on discrimination law. The training was hosted by members Deacons and Phillips Fox.

Both training sessions were highly successful and have led to the establishment of expert panels of lawyers willing to accept matters in these areas of law on a pro bono basis.

Rebekah Leong - referral@qpilch.org.au

Professional development

Funding

In December 2005 we were fortunate to obtain a grant from the *Gambling Community Benefit Fund* for an Information Technology and Organisational Development Project. This enabled us to develop our education and training systems, revamp our website and case management database and develop an Intranet for management of our internal information.

Opportunities for further expansion of our professional development work emerged in the course of this project and we were fortunate to obtain funds from LPITAF to expand and continue the project into 2006-07.

Review

The basis of the project was a review of QPILCH existing programs and processes and an investigation of best practice in the areas of learning and development and information management. We reviewed the literature on clinical legal education programs, the learning needs of pro bono and volunteer lawyers and students and website development. We conducted interviews to investigate Australian best practice in relevant areas and interviewed and surveyed stakeholders to assess development and information management needs. We re-examined our clinical programs, our legal education programs, and our website and database with a view to identifying and implementing improvements.

Program developments

Consequent on our review we implemented the necessary changes, evaluating their effectiveness and improving further as we went. The methodology which we developed will be useful in the future.

Few changes were made to the clinical legal education programs, most improvements concentrating on streamlining our processes and facilitating reflection for students. Minor refinements were made to continuing legal education programs.

We identified changes which were necessary to our website and database and briefed consultants to develop the new website and database (see below). These new applications were user-tested, improved and launched.

A procedure for capturing and accessing precedents was developed as well as a system to act as a clearing house for CLC publications and training.

Database redevelopment

We were able to do some much needed work to our database, which records all the information about the applications received by QPILCH. As a result, our database now has much more user-friendly and robust interface.

Website and intranet development

We undertook major redevelopment of the website and launched the QPILCH intranet. Improvements to the website include: updated layout and design; improved organisational structure; password protected areas for Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic lawyers and training materials ("the HPLC intranet"); and better search facilities.

The Intranet was developed to improve information management and systems within QPILCH.

ToadShow, a Brisbane based full-service media agency, provided its services at a reduced cost in recognition of QPILCH's non-profit status.

Going Forward

Predictably, the project has highlighted a number of opportunities for QPILCH to leverage off the project outcomes. Though limited by a lack of resources, we see some exciting possibilities, particularly to use our technology, to innovate particularly in the areas of student clinics and community education and to use our processes to model best practice for CLC's, all taken up in 2006-07.

Further reading

A full evaluation of the project is available from our website.

Gayle Gasteen – pd@qpilch.org.au and **Rebekah Leong** – referral@qpilch.org.au

PUBLICATIONS, SUBMISSIONS AND EVENTS

Publications

The year again proved productive in terms of publications and pamphlets aimed to assist the public. They were:

- A brochure on unsolicited goods and consumer rights.
- A guide to the Queensland Coroners Court and the coronial process.

- A factsheet outlining the consequences of applying for bankruptcy.
- A factsheet regarding debt collectors, debtor harassment and consumer rights.
- A factsheet on "Part 9 Debt Agreements"
- A factsheet on police move-on powers
- A guide entitled "You and your Lawyer" regarding the client/lawyer relationship, how to resolve disputes and making a complaint to the Legal Services Commission.

This list does not include the work done to update the many existing factsheets, internal publications used for student training, and contributions made to other publications, such as the Lawyers Practice Manual.

Work continues on a comprehensive guide to guardianship and administration and a plain English version of "You and your Lawyer".

Another innovation this year has been the listing on the QPILCH website of existing and proposed publications by community legal centres, courts and other bodies. Eventually, we hope to have a comprehensive listing of all publications to promote resource sharing and reduce duplication of effort, thereby maximising the limited resources of the sector.

Submissions

LCARC submission

On 6 April 2006, QPILCH made a submission to the Inquiry into the Accessibility of Administrative Justice by the Queensland Parliament Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee. The inquiry called for comments on the accessibility of existing administrative law mechanisms, with particular interest in:

- fees and charges under the FOI Act
- costs associated with proceedings under the JR Act
- information relevant to and about government decisions
- diversity of access, and
- the efficiency of access to administrative justice

In addition to answering key issues, the submission provided a detailed overview of the administrative law framework in Queensland and commented on the overall need for the establishment of a generalist merits review tribunal. The submission has been tabled in parliament and can be viewed on the QPILCH website under *Publications & Resources > Submissions*. Our thanks to Corrs Chambers Westgarth, and in particular David Starkoff, for their assistance in preparing the submission.

Further public consultation was held in late April. Peter Rosengren, Tony Woodyatt and Rebekah Leong attended the discussion. Outcomes of the discussion are available on Queensland Parliament's website.

LAQ reviews

In 2005-06, QPILCH made submissions to three reviews conducted by Legal Aid Queensland regarding

- Financial Eligibility for Legal Assistance
- Civil Law Services and
- the Civil Law Legal Aid Scheme.

These submissions outline QPILCH's argument for more research, greater coordination of the civil justice system, and the need for more targeted and innovative funding to address inequity in the system.

BCC move on powers submission

In October 2005, QPILCH made a submission to the Brisbane City Council arguing against an extension of the move on powers which impact negatively and unequally on the homeless.

All QPILCH submissions and other publications are available online at www.qpilch.org.au.

Rebekah Leong - referral@qpilch.org.au

Events

The third *Public Interest Address* was held at the Customs House on 18 October 2005. Christina Rau informed the gathering of her insights into Australia's system of immigration detention and the treatment of people with psychiatric illness following the experiences of her sister, Cornelia Rau, who was detained for deportation despite being an Australian citizen.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Referral services coordination project

The Referral Services Coordination Project aims to improve access by the community to pro bono services and enhance practitioner involvement in pro bono in Queensland, by coordinating the pro bono referral schemes of the Bar Association (BAQ), Queensland Law Society (QLS) and QPILCH and establishing an umbrella service to manage and administer the schemes.

QLS has indicated their in principle support for the project and has asked the Access to Justice Pro Bono Committee to develop a discussion paper for consideration by the Council as to options for creating a formal QLS pro bono scheme. BAQ remains committed to the project.

Unfortunately, there have been difficulties securing funds to establish the project, which include the cost of employing a full-time coordinator for the BAQ and QLS schemes and running expenses. QPILCH proposes a funding arrangement similar to the VicPILCH experience where the Law Institute of Victoria funds 25% of the scheme and applies to the Solicitors' Trusts Accounts for the remaining 75%. A combined submission by BAQ and QLS to LPITAF for the 2006-07 financial year was unsuccessful. Different funding sources are now being explored.

Rebekah Leong - referral@qpilch.org.au

Panels

This year saw the commencement of our first non-legal expert panel.

On occasion, QPILCH receives a request for assistance which is considered to have strong legal merit but requires the evidence of an expert psychiatrist to go forward. Many applicants cannot afford the services of a psychiatrist and it is difficult to ask member firms who already give generously of their time to also fund this disbursement. This has prevented otherwise legitimate claims from being assisted.

To address this issue, QPILCH has established a **panel of registered psychiatrists** willing to provide their services for free or at a reduced fee in public interest legal matters.

We have three other panels – a family law panel to assist CLC lawyers, and panels to assist applicants with GAAT and discrimination law matters.

eCourts Project

In November 2005, the Supreme Court, in conjunction with QUT, held a conference called "Courts for the 21st Century: Access for the Disadvantaged". The purpose of this conference was to explore the opportunities technology offers for better access to the courts by Legal Aid Queensland and community legal centres.

Both Tony Woodyatt and Rebekah Leong were involved in preparation for the conference and presented papers.

At the conference, it was proposed that a trial project be developed to explore e-access to the courts in administrative law matters, particularly judicial review.

A discussion group was set up, involving representatives from Prisoners Legal Service, QPILCH, Supreme Court of Queensland, Townsville Community Legal Service, Crown Law and Legal Aid Queensland. The group was chaired by the Honourable Justice Roslyn Atkinson.

The group discussed a number of possible improvements to judicial review procedure using technology, including:

- provision of better procedural information, fact sheets and forms on the court's website;
- enhancement of the file information available on eCourt searches;
- electronic requests for file searches
- eFiling
- standard directions order for judicial review applications
- electronic case flow management
- electronic generation and processing of orders
- transcripts by email.

It also proposed piloting a "bail by e-mail" system based on the current "bail by mail" scheme.

The discussions coincided with the Supreme and District Courts' Continual Process Improvement Program ("CPIP"), which has written a Business Improvement Recommendation Report in relation to judicial review applications. Not yet publicly available, the report has incorporated many of the group's discussion points and will hopefully be implemented in the near future.

Rebekah Leong - referral@qpilch.org.au

Litigants in person project

The aim of this project is to research civil appeals to the Court of Appeal with a view to implementing some initiatives to assist litigants in person before the court. Assistance could include research, drafting of pleadings and submissions, information about court processes and procedures, and information about self-representation, facilitated through a new dedicated student clinic and a volunteer panel.

To date, the project, a partnership of QPILCH and QUT Law School, has involved the assessment of court files over the last three years and the preparation of a survey of litigants in person to be conducted before the end of 2006.

We were successful in receiving LPITAF funding to conduct the survey and hold a seminar in early 2007, with a view to establishing the student clinic and panel by July 2007.

Tony Woodyatt – contact@qpilch.org.au

STUDENTS

We have again been fortunate to obtain the volunteer assistance of many law students throughout the year. As many as 24 volunteer students (not including clinic participants) attend QPILCH each week during semester and some return during their holidays. This assists us greatly in completing the assessment of applications in a timely and accurate manner, and allows us to pursue other access to justice initiatives such as writing fact sheets. Our student program is managed by Rebekah Leong.

Vacation clerkships

For the first time, we organised winter vacation clerkships in which 4 senior law students attended QPILCH for 2 weeks over the University semester June break. We would like to thank Bruce Chen, Sarah Leslie, Emma Timms and Michael Davidovici for the commitment, enthusiasm and assistance during the clerkship.

Interns

QUT intern Semester 1 2006

Lynne Kozak

Griffith PLT 2005

Danielle Govender

Bunu Gautum

Volunteers

We thank the following dedicated and hardworking student volunteers who freely give their time to research and assess applications for assistance.

Ashe ABFALTER

Jane, AUYENG

Darryl BARRETT

Philip BEATTIE

Tegan BLEYS

Angela BORGNA

Catriona BURKE

Caragh CALDER-POTTS

May CHAN

Eva CHONG

Rebecca CHRISTOPHERSON

Juliet CUMMINS

Melissa DAWBER

Teresa Dwight

Nastassja FERREIRA-JARDIM

Colin HARRIS

Lei-Lehua HELU

Courtney HOULAHAN

Daniel HUA

Penelope JESSUP

Melanie JONES

Sam KINGSTON

Nina LAMPRELL

Charlotte LAU

Jackson LIN

Tara MAINWARING

Elena MASTYUK

Aleisha MEIER

Elsbeth MEREDITH

Anders MYKKELTVEDT

Andrew McGLASHAN

Katherine McGREE

Matthew McKEOWN

Marnie O'BRIEN

Melissa ODESSA

Sophia QUINNEY

Carlie ROGERS

Matt RUSSELL

Corinna SANDYS-BROOKE

Judy SHUM

Lina STARLING

Joyce TEH

Erin THOMAS

Emma TIMMS

Tao VAN DE GRAAFF

Sarah WALTERS

Bing Ying WANG

Rhian WARD

Cindy YANG

Charlie YOUNG

Chen ZHANG

**Queensland Public
Interest Clearing
House Inc.**

**Special Purpose Financial
Report for the year ended
30 June 2006**

Pitcher Partners
Level 21 300 Queen Street
Brisbane Qld 4000
Telephone: (07) 3228 4000

**QUEENSLAND PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CLEARING
HOUSE INC.**

***SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006***

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	5	Balance Sheet
	6	Income Statement
	7	Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements



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AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF BAKER TILLY INTERNATIONAL - OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF QUEENSLAND PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CLEARING HOUSE INC.

Scope

The financial report and committee's responsibility

The financial report comprises the balance sheet, income statement, accompanying notes to the financial statements, and the Management Committee's declaration for Queensland Public Interest Law Clearing House Inc (the association), for the year ended 30 June 2006.

The Management Committee of the association are responsible for the preparation and true and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 1981. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial report.

Audit approach

We conducted an independent audit in order to express an opinion to the members of the association. Our audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgement, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive rather than conclusive evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

We performed procedures to assess whether in all material respects the financial report presents fairly, in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 1981, including compliance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia, a view which is consistent with our understanding of the company's financial position, and of its performance as represented by the results of its operations and cash flows.

We formed our audit opinion on the basis of these procedures, which included:

- examining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial report, and
- assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Management Committee.

While we considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting when determining the nature and extent of our procedures, our audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Audit opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of Queensland Public Interest Law Clearing House Inc is in accordance with:

- (a) the Associations Incorporation Act 1981, including:
 - (i) giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2006 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
 - (ii) complying with Accounting Standards in Australia and the Associations Incorporation Act 1981; and
- (b) other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia.

Pitcher Partners

PITCHER PARTNERS

R J St Clair

R J St Clair

Partner

Brisbane, 30 October 2006

**QUEENSLAND PUBLIC INTEREST LAW
CLEARING HOUSE INC.**

Management Committee Statement

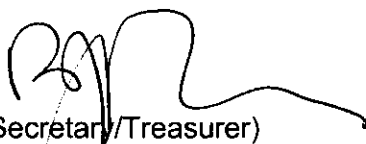
In the opinion of the Management Committee -

- (a) The financial report, as set out on pages 5 to 9 , presents fairly the Association's financial position at 30 June 2006 and its performance, as represented by the results of its operations and cash flows, for the year ended on that date, in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, mandatory professional reporting requirements and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board; and
- (b) At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Management Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Management Committee.



(President)
Mr Peter Rosengren



(Secretary/Treasurer)
Mr Simon Cleary
Robert Reed

Brisbane, 30 October 2006

**QUEENSLAND PUBLIC INTEREST LAW
CLEARING HOUSE INC.**

Balance Sheet

As at 30 June 2006

	Note	2006	2005
		\$	\$
Current Assets			
Cash	2	95,042	24,671
Receivables	3	1,557	8,193
Total Current Assets		96,599	32,864
Non-Current Assets			
Furniture & equipment	4	25,714	26,173
Total Non-Current Assets		25,714	26,173
Total Assets		122,313	59,037
Current Liabilities			
Creditors & accruals	5	13,178	7,470
Subscriptions in Advance		3,000	3,700
Provision for Employee Entitlements		9,006	9,687
Unexpended Grants	6	45,411	-
Total Current Liabilities		70,595	20,858
Total Liabilities		70,595	20,858
Net Assets		51,718	38,179
Equity			
Members Retained Funds		51,718	38,179
Total Equity		51,718	38,179

The accompanying notes form part of the financial report.

**QUEENSLAND PUBLIC INTEREST LAW
CLEARING HOUSE INC.**

Income Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2006

	Note	2006	2005
		\$	\$
Revenue			
Membership		60,850	61,700
Grants	7	291,538	46,979
Interest		1,208	3,035
Donations and Fundraising		11,954	9,452
Sundry Income		183	202
Total Revenue		<u>365,733</u>	<u>121,368</u>
Expenses			
Staff Costs		273,678	169,988
Operating Expenses		78,516	52,852
Total Expenses		<u>352,194</u>	<u>222,840</u>
Operating Surplus (Deficit)		<u>13,539</u>	<u>(101,472)</u>
Members Funds			
Members funds beginning of year		38,179	139,651
Operating Surplus (Deficit)		13,539	(101,472)
Members funds end of year		<u>51,718</u>	<u>38,179</u>

The accompanying notes form part of the financial report.

**QUEENSLAND PUBLIC INTEREST LAW
CLEARING HOUSE INC.**

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2006

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Qld) 1981.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

- a) Income Tax**
Queensland Public Interest Law Clearing House Inc. is exempt from income tax as a non-profit charitable institution.
- b) Fixed Assets**
Fixed assets have been capitalised at their cost of acquisition.
Depreciation has been calculated on the Prime Cost basis based on an estimate of the asset's useful life.

**QUEENSLAND PUBLIC INTEREST LAW
CLEARING HOUSE INC.**

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2006

	2006	2005
	\$	\$
2. Cash		
Cash float	86	104
Cash at bank	94,956	24,567
	<u>95,042</u>	<u>24,671</u>
3. Receivables		
Security Deposit	1,450	1,250
Debtors	107	6,943
	<u>1,557</u>	<u>8,193</u>
4. Furniture & Equipment		
Office furniture, at cost	28,891	25,553
Less: accumulated depreciation	(6,330)	(4,046)
	<u>22,561</u>	<u>21,507</u>
Computers, at cost	10,132	10,132
Less: accumulated depreciation	(6,979)	(5,466)
	<u>3,153</u>	<u>4,666</u>
	<u>25,714</u>	<u>26,173</u>
5. Creditors and Accruals		
Sundry creditors	13,010	437
GST	168	244
PAYG	-	6,789
	<u>13,178</u>	<u>7,470</u>
6. Unexpended Grants		
Department of Communities	39,015	-
Office of Fair Trading	6,396	-
	<u>45,411</u>	<u>-</u>
7. Grants		
Qld Law Society Grants Committee	-	36,400
Department of Communities	80,265	-
Department of Justice & Attorney General	155,000	-
Office of Fair Trading	30,704	-
Other	25,569	10,579
	<u>291,538</u>	<u>46,979</u>

**QUEENSLAND PUBLIC INTEREST LAW
CLEARING HOUSE INC.**

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2006

8. Commitments

As at 30 June 2006 there were no mortgages, charges or securities of any description affecting the assets of the Association.

9. Management Committee Members

Management Committee Members during the year were

Peter Rosengren (President)
Hugh Scott-Mackenzie (Vice-President)
Robert Reed (Secretary/Treasurer)
Lucy Bretherton
Andrew Buchanan
Rob Davis
Professor Jeff Giddings
Dan O'Connor
Bernadette Kasten
Joanne Rennick
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The Management Committee Members do not receive any remuneration for their services.

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We thank the following for their financial support in 2005-06:



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