

NEW PRO BONO INITIATIVE TO PROVIDE GREATER ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN THE ASIA PACIFIC

The Commonwealth Attorney-General, the Hon. Nicola Roxon MP and Secretary-General of the Law Council of Australia, Professor Sally Walker, today launched the Centre for Asia-Pacific Pro Bono (CAPPB), a new initiative established to support international pro bono legal work in the Asia-Pacific region.

Attorney-General Nicola Roxon encouraged Australian lawyers to get more involved in pro-bono work both domestically and overseas.

“Pro bono work is critical in ensuring access to justice and I encourage the legal profession to undertake this important work,” Ms Roxon said.

“The Centre for Asia-Pacific Pro Bono will see Australian lawyers make a real difference in our region and extend legal services and support to those who most need it.”

Secretary-General of the Law Council of Australia, Professor Sally Walker, said the CAPPB, housed within the Law Council Secretariat in Canberra, provides a great opportunity for the Australian legal profession to promote the administration of justice and the development and improvement of the law in the Asia-Pacific.

“The pro bono work undertaken by Australian lawyers is a matter of great pride to us all.

“The CAPPB will provide a single entry point for government and private bodies in the Asia-Pacific region to contact providers of pro bono legal services in Australia.

“The Law Council of Australia expects the requests will come from a range of government and non-government organisations, courts and legal professional associations to provide legal advice, to draft legislation and to provide training and support.

“The CAPPB Secretariat has already been able to assist in the development and coordination of three pro bono projects and we will be closely monitoring the progress of these in the coming months.”

Professor Walker also thanked the Commonwealth Government for its support of the initiative.

“The Australian Government, through the Attorney-General’s Department, has been generous in funding this worthwhile project and the Law Council acknowledges its ongoing commitment to its success.”

Further information on the CAPPB is available at www.cappb.org

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