



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF QUEENSLAND  
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE

Pro Bono Centre

# Pro Bono Centre

## Strategic Plan

2022-2025





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# Foreword

After a challenging two years working through the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are looking forward to the next phase in the Pro Bono Centre's development. What we have learned from the pandemic is that our students and our stakeholders, particularly the community legal sector, are highly adaptive and innovative. Despite the disruptions, our students and partners continued to provide essential legal services to those most in need. We intend to use these lessons to develop new and effective programs reaching more students and supporting more organisations and legal partners over the term of this strategic plan.

While our central mission and purpose remains unchanged, we have through consultation, developed an ambitious strategic plan which guides the Centre's growth and work over the next four years. This includes an incremental program that introduces first year students to the pro bono ethos and inspires them to progressively develop their skills, so that they graduate as committed and experienced pro bono practitioners. We continue our goal to deliver best practice and quality student pro bono programs through involvement of more academic staff and pro bono legal practitioners.

We have renewed our commitment to regional, rural and remote (RRR) areas. With the assistance of philanthropic financial support we will build sustainable programs that support regional organisations to deliver access to justice to RRR communities. We want to grow our Climate Justice Initiative and develop our expertise in human rights research. Importantly, through rigorous research we aim to measure the true impact of our students' pro bono work across three domains: the students themselves; our partners and the community

The Centre thanks the Advisory Board, our many partners, UQ law academics and our students for their continued support.

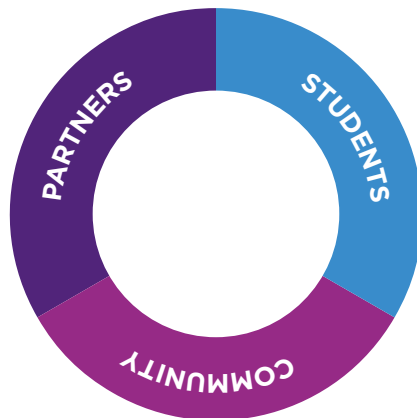


# Mission

As a nationally recognised leader in the development, promotion, and provision of student pro bono legal work, The University of Queensland Pro Bono Centre inspires students to understand the value and importance of access to justice. It is our aim that students graduate from law school with a lifelong professional commitment to pro bono legal service.

# Purpose

- Offer diverse pro bono opportunities to UQ students, providing them with high quality support and supervision, and a wide range of learning opportunities.
- Build and sustain pro bono partnerships, providing organisations with additional capacity and an opportunity to invest in student training and development, inspiring the community lawyers and volunteers of the future.
- Increase access to justice for the wider community through pro bono student contributions.



# Values

The UQ Pro Bono Centre values and actively promotes:

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Service</b>      | Learning through service.   |
| <b>Fairness</b>     | Supporting access to justice and the creation of a fair society.    |
| <b>Inclusion</b>    | Encouraging the participation of law students from all backgrounds. |
| <b>Partnerships</b> | Working collaboratively with all stakeholders.                      |



# Strategic objectives

## **1. Increase our work in areas of justice with First Australians.**

The Centre will strengthen its connections with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legal organisations.

## **2. Evaluate the impacts and increase greater awareness of pro bono student work.**

The Centre will increase awareness of student pro bono work by using research tools and methodologies to evaluate the impact of student pro bono work and publish findings through professional and academic publications.

## **3. Strengthen and develop pro bono partnerships to increase the reach of pro bono work.**

The Centre will continue its focus on supporting rule of law in the Pacific. It will also continue to strengthen connections with rural, regional and remote communities, building student roster projects, community legal education initiatives and clinical legal education programs in RRR areas.

## **4. Build human rights and social justice awareness within student and wider community.**

The Centre will focus on human rights and social justice through explicit learning outcomes in clinical legal education and roster projects.

## **5. Support sustainability and climate justice initiatives in Australia and overseas.**

The Centre will build and support the Climate Justice Initiative to increase project work and other initiatives that address climate change and justice.



# What we will do

## **Develop and build pro bono awareness, culture and participation through best practice programs.**

- Goal 1.1** Develop a scaffolded approach to pro bono student development opportunities.
- Goal 1.2** Increase academic and professional involvement in pro bono projects.
- Goal 1.3** Ensure high quality student pro bono and best practice clinical legal education programs.
- Goal 1.4** Encourage and support multi-disciplinary projects.

## **Evaluate impact and increase awareness of pro bono student work.**

- Goal 2.1** Improve internal and external communications for greater awareness of PBC.
- Goal 2.2** Increase the publication and visibility of student-authored scholarship arising from pro bono activities.
- Goal 2.3** Measure and report on the impact and engagement of pro bono student work on our stakeholders.

## **Strengthen and develop pro bono partnerships to increase the reach of pro bono work.**

- Goal 3.1** Strengthen connections with rural, regional, and remote organisations in Queensland.
- Goal 3.2** Continue to support the rule of law in the Pacific region by facilitating Asia-Pacific initiatives.
- Goal 3.3** Continue to develop new and sustain existing pro bono roster partners, including with First Nations organisations.
- Goal 3.4** Sustain and develop ongoing relationships with Pro Bono organisations.

## **Build human rights and social justice awareness within student and wider community.**

- Goal 4.1** Clinical Legal Education program focus on human rights and social justice.
- Goal 4.2** Manning Street project focus on human rights and social justice.
- Goal 4.3** Support roster projects with human rights and social justice focus.

## **Support sustainability and climate justice initiatives in Australia and overseas.**

- Goal 5.1** Support and build Climate Justice Initiative.





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