



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE

Pro Bono Centre

End of Year Report UQ Pro Bono Centre

2024



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Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the Yuggera and Turrbal peoples as the True Owners and Custodians of this land, the waters, and the skies. We pay our respects to their Ancestors and their descendants who continue cultural and spiritual connections to Country.

We acknowledge that TC Beirne School of Law sits on stolen land, sovereignty was never ceded, and no treaty has been negotiated.

We acknowledge the Traditional Law and Lore which was practised upon this land for millennia before the common law was forced upon it, and which continues to be practised today. We acknowledge the injustices faced by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities as a result of settler law. We recognise their valuable contributions to Community through activism and advocacy and to wider Australian and international society.



This Acknowledgement of Country was drafted as part of a Student-Staff Partnership 'Embedding culturally safe processes, practices and perspectives in the programs and activities of the UQ Pro Bono Centre'. Ruby Traucnieks (student leader), Indi McKeown, Devsi Patel, Christina Gabiana and Grace Brunton worked with 2023 Practitioner-in-Residence Faye Austen-Brown on this project.

Director's Report

It has been another period of change for the UQ Pro Bono Centre. I am so proud to say that, despite the fact that this has been a tumultuous time for us, our students have continued to do us proud. The quality of their work, and their commitment to access to justice, has been nothing short of outstanding.

I came into this year with two goals for our Centre. I wanted to ensure that every student who wanted to do pro bono with us, could, and I wanted to bring our students back onto campus.

The entire university is still experiencing the 'COVID-effect' – students' class attendance remains down, and there seems to be a 'norm' of online engagement. Our observation at the UQPBC has been that this does not promote the mental health of our young adults. At this life stage, it seems to be important to meet together, in person – to make friends, to build a community.

This semester, students were asked to commit to on-campus attendance for pro bono projects. We ran a morning and afternoon session every day of the week. This was hard work for us, but I am so pleased to say that the students responded well. Attendance remained high, right until the end of semester, and many of the students said they made lifelong friends this semester within their pro bono teams.

Meanwhile, several students undertook external pro bono projects for our partners, attending their premises, often once a week. These students assisted community lawyers to provide vital services to vulnerable members of the community across southeast Queensland. They consistently say they benefit enormously from the mentoring they receive from community legal centre staff.

The fact that our pro bono room has been bursting at the seams most days of the week feeds into my first goal. As you know, I have spent much of this year lobbying for the UQPBC to obtain 'a premises'. It is difficult for us to grow, and provide a 'pro bono involvement guarantee' to students, without more space. I am pleased to say that we are very close to obtaining some space within the Forgan Smith Building. I have not yet been provided with formal assurance of this, however I feel confident that I will have something to announce early next year.

I am so grateful to the UQPBC staff for their hard work and dedication. I will be terribly sad to bid farewell to Rossie Williams at the end of this year. She has been the steady hand of the UQPBC this year – I am indebted to her for her kindness and patience. I will miss it, and I will miss her!

However, I have been thrilled to welcome Bridget Burton to our staff as our first Clinical Educator. Bridget has wasted no time whipping the Centre back into shape, following months of us being understaffed. She has already made a wonderful contribution to our projects and our students' development, and I look forward to what we can achieve together.

Last, but certainly not least, we have welcomed our new Administrator, Loretta Smyth. Loretta is perfect for this role! She is organised and precise, as well as being warm and welcoming. She is the perfect addition to our team.

In what follows, you will get a sense of our students' remarkable achievements this semester. As always, I am grateful to the Advisory Board for their ongoing support – particularly Jo Rennick, our Chair. I have drawn on her for support several times this year. Most importantly, none of our work would be possible without the assistance of our Dean of Law, Prof Rick Bigwood. His support of the UQPBC is unwavering, and I am so thankful for his commitment to us and what we do. I look forward to continuing to work with you all in 2025.

Tamara Walsh



Introducing our new Patron

Following his recent retirement, His Honour Justice Peter Applegarth has decided to step down as our Patron.

We take this opportunity to thank Peter Applegarth AM for acting as Patron of the UQPBC since July 2014. His Honour's commitment to access to justice is well-known amongst members of the legal profession, and he was appropriately described as a 'treasured' judge and scholar by the Queensland Law Society in [*Proctor*](#).

We are so grateful for his decade-long commitment to our Centre, and we look forward to welcoming him back as a colleague and mentor when he returns from a well-deserved break.



We are pleased to announce that Chief Justice Helen Bowskill has agreed to become our new Patron.

Her Honour was appointed to Chief Justice of Queensland in March 2022, having previously served as a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland, the District Court of Queensland, the Childrens Court of Queensland, and the Planning and Environment Court of Queensland.

Chief Justice Bowskill is a University of Queensland alumnus, having completed a year of Arts at UQ before commencing a communications degree at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT). She completed her Bachelor of Laws at QUT, and was awarded the University Medal, in 1995. Her Honour took silk in November 2013. Since 2016, she has been a member of the Judicial Council on Diversity and Inclusion.

We welcome Her Honour to this role, and we look forward to working with her.



Strategy 2022-2025

Rural, Regional and Remote (RRR) Justice Project

UQPBC's Rural, Regional and Remote (RRR) Justice Project has continued to achieve the aims set for it when it commenced in 2020.

The RRR Project aims to increase access to justice by supporting legal service delivery in RRR areas in Queensland. It is overseen by a Steering Committee, whose membership includes practitioners based in RRR areas throughout Queensland.

In the second half of 2024, the centre continued its grants program, its RRR clinical placement program, and its RRR legal research initiatives.

Grants Program

The RRR Grants Program is advertised on the UQPBC [website](#). Not-for-profit legal service providers are invited to apply for grants of up to \$20,000 to assist in the delivery of legal services and programs in RRR areas. We offer financial assistance and student support as part of this program.

We did not receive any applications in the second half of 2024. We recognise that the grants program has not been well-advertised, and we will aim to rectify that in 2025.

However, the Director has met with staff from Basic Rights Queensland (BRQ) and Prisoners' Legal Service (PLS) to discuss ways we can assist with their ongoing RRR projects.

- BRQ is committed to delivering legal services in remote communities on an outreach basis. They have conducted several RRR trips since 2022, some of which we have supported, and it is our intention to provide financial and student support for additional trips in 2025.
- PLS ran a Prison Expo at the Townsville Correctional Centre in February 2024 which brought service providers into the prison creating a 'one-stop-shop' for prisoners to access over a two-day period. The expo was well received, and we are hopeful that we will be able to support PLS to run additional expos.



RRR Clinical Placement Program

Our RRR clinical program has now become a fixture at the UQPBC.

This sets us apart from most other universities across Australia. To our knowledge, La Trobe University is the only other metropolitan law school that offers a dedicated RRR clinic.

Our RRR placements are run as a LLB elective (LAWS5180). The students travel to a RRR CLC and spend two working weeks there. They participate in client interviews, legal research, project work, community engagement, and more, under close supervision. The students undertake an additional three days' work from home after they return.

Over winter, we sent two students to TASC Toowoomba, and one student to Townsville Community Law. These clinics aim to inspire students to consider a career in RRR legal practice. All of these students were of RRR origin themselves and were going home for winter break.

As always, the students indicated that they thoroughly enjoyed, and enormously benefitted from, the experience. They said:

My experience at the Townsville Community Law (TCL) clinic was transformative, blending legal theory with practical application. Engaging with clients during appointments, conducting legal research, and drafting client letters under the supervision of experienced lawyers enhanced my understanding of the law and refined my communication skills. I learnt a lot about the balance between empathy and professionalism, along with the importance of understanding a client's background, experiences and culture when providing advice. I was also able to hone my research and letter drafting skills in a supportive environment for unique and interesting topics I had not yet explored in my degree. This placement has been incredibly beneficial in shaping my understanding of legal practice.

I would highly recommend the Clinical Legal Education course to students. My experience really transformed my perspective of what it means to practice law within this area and gain a deeper understanding of the legal needs of vulnerable people within our communities. As well as this, the people that you meet and connections you make during the placement are truly invaluable, and I am truly grateful to support and mentorship from the lawyers at TASC who answered every one of my questions with enthusiasm.

In 2024, the Director undertook a formal review the RRR clinical program. She interviewed the nine students who have participated in a RRR clinic to date, asking them to reflect on their experience, including whether their placement had increased their intention to pursue employment in RRR areas. The students' comments indicated that their eyes were opened to the specific legal needs faced by people living in RRR areas, and many said they were now considering going home to work in their communities after graduation. The students consistently said that the 'highlight' of clinic was working with the solicitors. They appreciated the solicitors' kindness and the efforts they went to to ensure they had a positive learning experience, and they were inspired by their dedication to their clients.



Embedding Cultural Safety in the UQ Pro Bono Centre

The Centre is committed to culturally appropriate practices that are sensitive to the needs and experiences of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Our 2023 Staff-Student Partnership project 'Embedding culturally safe processes, practices and perspectives in the programs and activities of the UQ Pro Bono Centre' is continuing to provide us with direction, and we have begun implementing the roadmap produced by the team.

In October 2024, we received a philanthropic gift in honour of Justice Peter Applegarth to enable two Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students to attend the National Indigenous Legal Conference in Melbourne in December.

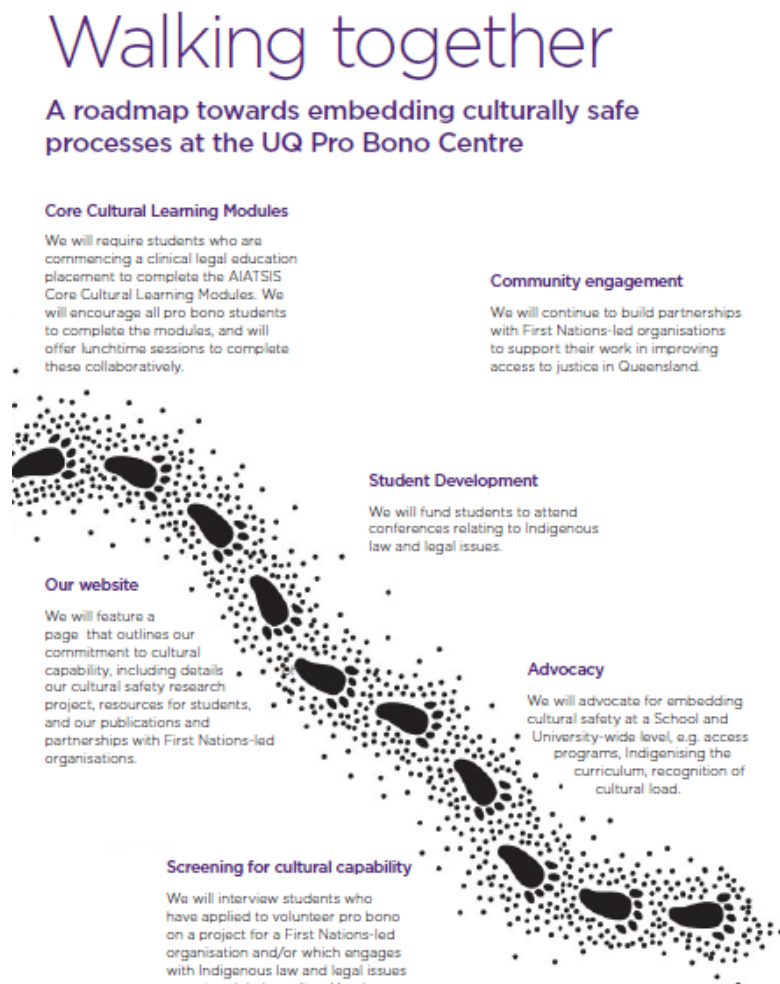
We developed additional opportunities for students to work under supervision of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander lawyers, and for the benefit of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities including through new partnerships with the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health's Legal Centre and the Truth Telling and Healing Inquiry.

All students now complete the AIATSIS Core Cultural Competency Learning Modules prior to commencing clinical legal education placements.

Students are assessed for suitability for projects with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander clients or organisations.

We are also drafting new content for our website that will articulate our commitment and the measurable steps we are taking to embed cultural safety across all our work.

Our Student-Staff Partnership research has been written-up as a journal article and is currently being considered for publication.



Multidisciplinary pro bono at UQ

One of the UQPBC's priorities is to increase our level of engagement with staff and students from other schools and faculties. In the second half of 2024, we have continued to build new, and solidify existing, partnerships with other schools at UQ.

UQ School of Anthropology and Fryer Library

We have recently connected with Associate Professor Sally Babidge from the UQ School of Anthropology, and the wonderful team at the Fryer Library, particularly Simon Farley and Leslie Acres. We are collaborating on a new project which is commencing over summer 2024/25, with the Truth Telling and Healing Inquiry. Students from Law and Anthropology, with the support of a multidisciplinary team of UQ staff, will provide research assistance and discovery support to the Inquiry.

UQ School of Language and Cultures

This year, the Centre has connected with the UQ School of Languages and Cultures. Led by Dr Angie Knaggs, their students are working with us to translate community legal education resources, including for the UQ Pro Bono Centre's Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Education Project, into a range of other languages.

The UQ School of Languages and Cultures also played a significant role in our very successful Interpreters Workshop (see p 10).

UQ Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology

A postgraduate student from Computer Science is currently working with our NDIS case law team on a pro bono basis to translate our NDIS case database into a searchable online tool that is accessible to all. This resource should be ready for launch in 2025.

UQ School of Business

Joshua Hartmann, Senior Web Applications Developer in the Business School, is continuing to work with our Deaths in Custody clinic to develop a new and improved website, which should be ready for launch in semester 1 of 2025.



10,350 certified practitioners
14,900+ credentials
179 languages, including 29
Indigenous languages
Australia wide, universal system



Practitioner-in-Residence Report

Reflecting upon my secondment from Caxton Legal Centre Inc. to be the 2024 Pro Bono Centre Practitioner-in-residence, it is my sincere hope that I have helped our students learn that commitment to pro bono service is a core professional duty in their future careers.

During this semester I have been eager to connect with law students in the colleges on campus. They often miss out on connecting with their faculty and taking advantage of important professional opportunities offered by the University. This semester, I attended at: the Duchesne College BEL networking evening, another careers networking evening at Grace College and at a special meeting with law students at the Women's College where I spoke on "Giving back: why (nearly all) lawyers work pro bono". Only one student I met had been involved in PBC projects, but most became very interested following these events.

I also spoke on a panel of UQ Law alumni at a Women in Law event at Herbert Smith Freehills. Naturally, I spoke about working in the Legal Assistance Sector. I also joined a JATL panel (as a contributing author) for the launch of the 30th anniversary edition of Pandora's Box. I was focused on issues pertaining to work in the community legal sector and this was complemented by the human rights work spoken of by the other speakers.

I will miss working with our PBC students on their many projects, from elder law educational materials through to the database groups. Seeing the Human Rights case group working away every Thursday night when the rest of the building has been vacated is, I think, a great demonstration of their commitment to the PBC and is very inspiring!

Ros Williams

Clinical Educator Report

In August 2024 I returned to UQ Law as the School's first Clinical Academic, attached to the Pro Bono Centre. I was previously seconded into the Centre in an acting capacity in 2018/19 before returning to Caxton Legal Centre. This time the move is permanent and, three months in, I am enjoying familiar and new activities, while still finding my feet.

Initially my work has been to develop opportunities for students with new and existing partners and to support students engaged in ongoing projects. I have, for example, built on our connections with the Truth Telling and Healing Inquiry, by working with colleagues in Anthropology and the University's Fryer Library to develop a project, due to commence over summer, assisting the Inquiry team to review evidence held by the library.

Looking forward to 2025 I will take on more duties in the clinical program, and continue to support the pro bono projects, while also having the opportunity to undertake research and other teaching tasks. I particularly hope to continue to increase our work for and with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities.

I am grateful to many colleagues in the Law School and other parts of UQ for the very warm welcome (back). I have felt deeply supported through the many adjustments one makes during such transitions.

Bridget Burton





Profile and Advocacy

Working with Interpreters Workshop | 18 July

Our Practitioner-in-Residence Rosalind Williams organised and hosted a workshop on using interpreters with the generous assistance of NAATI (the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters), AUSIT (the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators Inc.), ASLIA, the Australian Sign Language Interpreters and Translators' Association and the UQ School of Languages and Culture.

The workshop was attended by around 50 people, mainly law students. Feedback was excellent with many attendees reflecting on the quality and usefulness of the presentations. Presenter Lynn Geng complemented the Centre on leading the way with our training of lawyers in the correct use of Interpreters.

'Being a student of Chinese descent, listening to our esteemed guests such as Mrs. Lynn Geng discuss her experience and challenges as an English-to-Chinese interpreter was truly inspiring. Lynn helped me realise the immense value of knowing a second language, and importantly, the pivotal role that I can play in giving back to the community by assisting underrepresented and misrepresented non-English speaking minorities in my capacity as a NAATI certified lawyer...'

'Prior to attending the event hosted by the Mrs Rosalind Williams and the Pro Bono team, I had little to no knowledge of the existence of interpreters and the critical role they play in the legal field. However, after being given the opportunity to connect with experts in the field like Lynn, it dawned on me that they are the sidekick you need the most alongside you to succeed in the legal field, much like how Batman needs Robin to succeed. '



Client Interviewing Skills Workshop | 15 August

Former Practitioner-In-Residence Faye Austen-Brown initiated client interviewing workshops for students in 2023 and on 15 August 2024 we ran that program again. Students were given role plays and guidance by Rosalind Williams, supported by the law school's Student Support and Wellness Officer Dony Rodriguez.

Although only attended by a small number of students on this occasion, feedback is consistently positive and the students who attended were grateful for the opportunity.



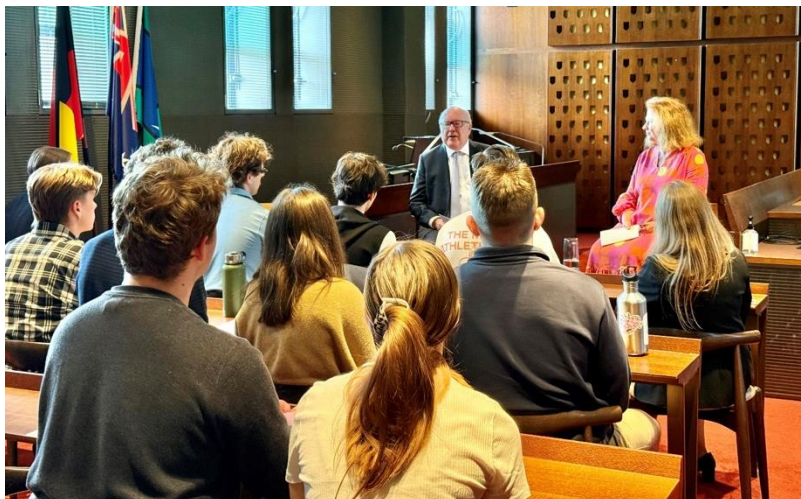
Inspire U | 25 September

UQ hosts an annual program, called Inspire U, for high-achieving Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander high school students who want to know more about life at university. This time, our Practitioner-In-Residence Rosalind Williams accompanied the Inspire U group to Caxton Legal Centre where she worked with Hannah Marai to deliver an interactive workshop. Hannah is a staff lawyer at Caxton and a Torres Strait Islander woman. The workshop covered human rights law and protection and offered students an opportunity to ask questions and talk about careers in law.



A Conversation with George Brandis KC | 3 October

The Centre held a popular in-conversation event with former Attorney-General and UQ Law alumni and lecturer George Brandis KC.



Mr Brandis reflected on a career of service as a lawyer, politician, High Commissioner and teacher. Feedback from students was positive with many reflecting that his comments on excellence and service resonated with them and their professional aspirations. Students asked some wonderful questions, and Mr Brandis gave some truly thought-provoking answers.

Anti-Discrimination Law Changes Masterclass | 6 November

Our Clinical Educator, Bridget Burton, organised a masterclass session for key partners in the legal assistance sector to help them navigate the incoming changes to Queensland's anti-discrimination law. We collaborated with event partner Community Legal Centres Queensland (CLCQ) and speakers from the Queensland Human Rights Commission, Queensland Advocacy for Inclusion, Legal Aid Queensland, The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service, The Institute for Urban Indigenous Health and The University of Queensland.

The event was timed to allow regional practitioners who were in Brisbane for a CLCQ leadership forum to attend. Students included in the Masterclass functioned as Centre Ambassadors, and we hope that the event will lead to further collaborative projects with these key partners.



Clinical Legal Education (Teaching and Learning)

In 2024, a total of 83 students undertook a formal (for course credit) clinical placement with one of our community legal centre partners, including the nine students who went on the four new regional clinics.

Our nine Brisbane-based clinics run each semester at seven community legal centres: Environmental Defenders Office, YFS Legal, Prisoners' Legal Service, LawRight, Caxton Legal Centre, RAILS and Tenants Queensland.



We noticed a small reduction in enrolments in clinic in Semester 2, 2024 and we will be carefully monitoring the numbers in Semester 1, 2025 to see if this is indicative of a trend.

One of our clinics, the Culturally Safe Criminal Law Clinic at YFS Legal, was the subject of a recent [journal article](#) in the Legal Education Review. Clinical Educator Bridget Burton was a contributing author, having established that clinic in 2018, in collaboration with Candice Hughes. Candice is Kamilaroi and the Principal Lawyer at YFS Legal.

Reflections from clinical legal education students this semester were extremely positive, as always. Students often say that their placement has made them want to be community lawyers, or that they are now committed to doing pro bono work as early career practitioners. They value the chance to put theory into practise. One student put it well, saying: 'It felt like my university knowledge was coming alive in front of me!' Other comments included the following:

'I was placed at Prisoners' Legal Service, and I would 100% recommend this CLC (and this subject in general) to every law student!I was able to sit in on client interviews, write submissions to the Parole Board and to the Human Rights Commission, and even attend court. Clinic enabled me to use the skills I'd learnt in class and apply them in a practical way. Clinic was not only beneficial for my future legal career, but a deeply rewarding experience too, knowing you're using your knowledge to do something good for your community.'

'It was surprising to understand the value my peers and I could provide to clients, even as students...it has inspired me to continue pursuing pro bono endeavours'.

'I was constantly challenged to do new tasks and complete legal research that is not related to what I have learned in my law school education. However, I also found the experience fulfilling because I could see the positive and meaningful impact of law on vulnerable people in society.'



Pro Bono Legal Work

Overview: Applicants and Projects

There are now more than 900 students registered on the Pro Bono Roster.

The Pro Bono Centre facilitates opportunities for 200 to 250 students each year to undertake pro bono work, across approximately 50 projects. We have enduring relationships with more than 20 organisations and entities who engage with our students in a diverse range of pro bono activities including:

- case law databases, e.g. Human Rights Case Law Project and Elder Abuse Case Law Database with Caxton Legal Centre.
- volunteer support at community legal centres, e.g. My Community Legal, EDO and Basic Rights Queensland.
- research tasks, e.g. Queensland Law Reform Commission and Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council projects.
- community legal education, e.g. Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Education Project; Youth Justice Legal Education Outreach Project.

We know that more students are keen to contribute than we can currently place in projects. As we move into 2025, we will work to develop additional opportunities through new and existing partnerships. We are currently surveying our students to work out 'what works' in the Centre, and what new types of projects students would be interested in pursuing.



Student Leader program

Our Student Leaders have continued to do us proud, with some managing and supporting as many as 10 other students in group projects. Student Leaders are responsible for making sure that our outputs are of a professional standard. They work so hard, and the Centre would not function without them.

Student Leaders for Semester 2, 2024 were: Stella Dziov, Grace Hancock, Alithia Khor, Liisa Kuru, Ella-Rose Lawrence, Laura Rowswell, Maconachy Smith and Ruby Traucnieks. We offer our heartfelt thanks and congratulations to the students who are graduating this year. We look forward to welcoming you back as alumni!





Key projects: Snapshots

Queensland Law Reform Commission

Our partnership with the Queensland Law Reform Commission (QLRC) provides students with an opportunity to undertake research projects related to active QLRC reviews. This year 19 students participated across two semesters. Students spend three hours per week during semester working through law reform questions from a human rights perspective, and they produce high quality research reports to assist the QLRC.

The semester 2, 2024 cohort involved two groups, one looking at Indigenous cultural factors in criminal sentencing, and the other researching public interest, Indigenous and community considerations in resource production approvals.

Both groups presented their findings to President Kingham and members of the QLRC secretariat on 17 October 2024.

This project will continue in 2025.

'Working with the QLRC has been a truly unique and insightful experience. Prior to this, I had no exposure to environmental law whatsoever. This opportunity provided a platform for me to learn and develop knowledge in an area of law that is typically not covered in law school.'

'However, this learning opportunity also came with its challenges. As I researched further into the project, at times I found that I was unable to find answers or information on certain things. As much as this irritates me, it highlights the purpose of a law reform project: to identify gaps and propose changes. This realisation has made me more appreciative of the work I am doing, as it means I am contributing (as little as it may be) to improving a piece of law. I believe this experience is particularly valuable for law students and would recommend it to anyone interested in broadening their understanding of the legal field.'



Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council Research

In Semester 2, 2024, a team of seven students undertook research for the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council, looking at trends in sentencing for offences involving choking, suffocation, and strangulation. The students volunteered one morning per week throughout the semester and are currently finalising a research report on this topic. The report will be presented to QSAC on 22 November 2024.

The students in this group valued the highly connected nature of this research project, as well as the opportunity to work collaboratively in the public interest.

'Participating in this pro bono project with QSAC has been an incredibly rewarding experience, providing me with valuable insight into the complexities of sentencing for domestic violence offences. This opportunity has not only enhanced my legal research skills but also deepened my commitment to contributing to meaningful policy development. I am truly grateful to be part of a positive change.'



Volunteer Support

We regularly assist community legal centres and similar organisations to recruit students to volunteer directly within those organisations. Each year around 30 to 40 of our students are placed into these popular opportunities.

This semester we recruited 17 volunteers for:

- Basic Rights Queensland (2 students)
- Bayside Community Legal Service (2 students)
- Environmental Defenders Office (2 students)
- Caxton Legal Centre (3 students)
- HUB Community Legal (1 student)
- Knowmore (1 student)
- Queensland Council for Civil Liberties (1 student)
- My Community Legal (5 students)

Snapshot: Basic Rights Queensland | Outreach Clinic Volunteers

UQ students support social security lawyers during outreach visits to homelessness hubs in Brisbane like 3rd Space, a daytime drop-in centre. Students help with intake and note taking, post-advice administration, task-based follow up, and occasionally help in other programs, such as the BRQ Mental Health Legal Hub.

'As a homelessness outreach volunteer at Basic Rights Queensland, I've experienced an area of law that doesn't often get talked about among law students. Not only is social security law often overlooked, but sadly, the experiences of the vulnerable individuals it affects are too. Volunteering with BRQ has been tremendously rewarding because it has both developed my skills in liaising with vulnerable clients and exposed me to some sobering realities which have strengthened my belief in justice and equal access to the law. I am very grateful to the UQ Pro Bono Centre for providing me with this opportunity.'

Law Firm Pro Bono Placement Program

The Law Firm Pro Bono Placement Program was a partnership initiated with MinterEllison earlier this year. This semester Clayton Utz joined as a second partner. This program provides law students entering third year with the opportunity to gain first-hand real-world experience within a private law firm's pro bono practice. In semester 2, 2024, we sent one student to MinterEllison and two students to Clayton Utz.

'[At Clayton Utz], students worked on a range of impactful legal matters, including supporting survivors of domestic and sexual violence to apply for victims compensation, advocating for migrant and refugee workers who have been exploited in the workplace, and assisting vulnerable individuals who have experienced financial abuse. The program not only allowed students to apply their legal knowledge in a real-world setting, but also offered exposure to a variety of legal areas and fostered a deeper understanding of the vital role pro bono work plays in ensuring access to justice for underserved communities.'



Case Law Databases

The Centre runs four case law database teams. Students meet weekly to search for cases and write case notes on specific areas of law. Each of these projects has a CLC partner to provide guidance and suggestions, and to review case notes before publication. Each year 35 to 45 students volunteer in the case law database projects.

Human Rights Case Law Project | Caxton Legal Centre

A group of 12 students work together to deliver high-quality case notes on the *Human Rights Act 2019* (Qld). The case notes are available to the public [online](#).

The aim of this project is to ensure that practitioners, researchers, students and members of the public have easy access to all published cases that refer to the Act. As a tracking tool, a key milestone for this project was the 2024 review of the *Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)*. We understand that the database was useful to practitioners who made submissions to that review.



NDIS Appeals Database | QAI

A team of 10 students has been working with Queensland Advocacy for Inclusion to build a database of NDIS Appeals and are now working with a computer science student/graduate to create an online searchable database that will be accessible to the public.

The database provides a breakdown of information about NDIS appeals heard in the AAT/ART. Currently, the database supports the legal team at QAI. The next objective is to make the information is available to people with a disability, their supports, advocates and lawyers so they can better understand the decision-making framework of the NDIS and manage their own appeals.



Elder Abuse Database | Caxton Legal Centre

The Elder Law Case Database project has been adjusted to a 'Periodical' this semester to produce a curated, rather than comprehensive, selection of case notes. The change reflects challenges in securing IT support for larger database projects, but also offers practitioners an easier and more useful package of materials to read and consider. Students on this project are working closely with UQ law school academic Dr Andrew Fell, and our Practitioner-in-Residence, Rosalind Williams, to produce a twice-yearly compendium of case summaries of key cases related to elder abuse. This project has also gained a partner project this semester, with a separate group of students working to develop community legal education resources to share key points with the broader community.

Deaths in Care Database | Caxton Legal Centre

This team of students meets weekly to examine all coronial inquests across Australia that involve a death in care, including in child protection, aged care, disability care, and mental health care settings. We are currently seeking IT support from within UQ to translate the team's detailed spreadsheet into a searchable online database, similar to the [Deaths in Custody Database](#).

Another student has been working with the Director to draft an academic article on deaths in disability care, drawing on data from the Deaths in Care database. We are hoping to complete this paper in semester 1, 2025.



UQ Law School Staff and PhD Candidates' Pro Bono Involvement

Most Centre projects are supervised and coordinated by Centre staff, with the help of our Student Leaders. In addition to this, UQ Law academics and PhD students provide academic supervision across some projects.

Academic supervisors undertake a range of tasks, including advising on subject matter, reviewing and editing draft content, proofing case law database entries, and providing overall project management and supervision. We operate an opt-in Staff Pro Bono Roster to identify suitable academic supervisors for upcoming and existing projects.

Current projects that are supported by academics and PhD students include:

- Sruthi Balaji (PhD Candidate)
 - Inauthentic First Nations Branding
- Dr Andrew Fell
 - Elder Abuse Project
- Dr Hamish MacDonald
 - Inauthentic First Nations Branding
- Dr Thea Voogt
 - Police interaction factsheets/videos for young adults with autism
- Dr Rebecca Wallis
 - Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Education Project
- Dr Caitlin Goss
 - Protect All Children Today Report
- Dr Ruthie Jenneret
 - Talking to Elders about wills and EPOAs
- Prof Jennifer Corrin
 - Papua New Guinea Colonial Powers Research
 - Solomon Islands Customary Land Dispute Resolution



Law Education and Outreach (LEO)

Our Law Education and Outreach (LEO) program involves law students researching, writing and delivering lessons and seminars to members of the community.

The aim of our LEOs is to present legal material in a way that makes the law accessible to non-lawyers, including young people. Our LEO program is flexible and evolves over time to respond to requests from the community and address emerging issues of public concern. Each year 20 to 30 students participate in LEO projects.

Currently the program comprises two LEOs: the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (DFS), and the new Youth Justice (YJ) program.

Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Education Project

UQ criminal law academic, Dr Rebecca Wallis, has been working with a team of students to create educational resources on the laws relating to domestic, family and sexual violence.

This is currently our largest project with 23 students involved. Over the initial months, the student group engaged with stakeholders within and outside of the university to build a depth of knowledge about the law and social context for people experiencing domestic, family, and sexual violence. The development of this knowledge is a key outcome of this project, independent of the other activities.

The group are now developing training materials. Currently students are focused on developing materials about coercive control and are working to make these particularly relevant to people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and for older people and those who care for them. They are booked to deliver their first training sessions in November 2024.

Youth Justice Project

The YJ LEO is a new program, created in response to requests for community legal education relating to young people and the law. A team of five students developed an educational presentation with role-plays to present to high school students. They debuted their presentation to 120 grade 10 Mansfield High School students in October 2024. The pop quiz on alcohol and rights developed by students Tarryn and Andrea was a particular hit.





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