

newsletter COURT NETWORK

Support, information and referral service for court users

AUTUMN 2011 NEWSLETTER: ISSUE 4

State Manager Update

To say that this year has started off much differently than anticipated or planned would be an over simplification to say the least.

Volunteers and staff continue to be affected across the State by the floods and cyclonic weather with some losing their homes, businesses, investments or being left with a hefty clean up. Others experienced worrying times during these events along with the New Zealand earthquake, waiting for the news of loved ones.

The commitment to the organisation and one's neighbour has been inspirational and I have witnessed volunteers, staff and the Queensland community stepping up to fill in where there are gaps and provide support. During the floods and cyclones volunteers and staff were opening their homes to each other and offering manual labour support along with supplies and household goods.

In true Queensland form our State is moving from adversity to strength however I urge one-and-all to be aware of their 'neighbours' and if you observe that someone is not "bouncing back" after these events please encourage them to contact 13HEALTH.

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Board President Update

In December 2010 I was elected President of Court Network Inc. I very much appreciate the honour of serving Court Network and the public for the next three years. I pay tribute to the distinguished line of my predecessors, commencing with Carmel Benjamin A.M., Court Network's first President in 1980, and continuing to my immediate predecessor, Barbara Rozenes. Barbara has served Court Network with distinction and we are in her debt.



In January 2011 Acting Executive Director Pauline McNeill, (the Executive Director, Deborah Di Natale having taken a years' maternity leave from early January 2011) and I attended the Brisbane office of Court Network and met with our Patron, Chief Judge Wolfe and the Queensland State Manager Nicole Little and staff. From the 4th April Pauline and I visited the offices in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns over the week and spent valuable time with staff and Networkers. We also attended upon senior members of the judiciary, including Chief Justice de Jersey A.C., Justice Stanley Jones A.O., Chief Judge Wolfe, Chief Magistrate Butler and Magistrate Osborne, and senior members of court administration. I express our thanks to them for their courtesy and support of Court Network. The meetings were most beneficial. I also record my admiration for Court Network staff in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns including State Manager Nicole Little, Townsville Manager Sarah Parker and Cairns Manager Tanya Brooks-Cooper. I propose to visit Queensland twice further in 2011 and look forward to doing so.

It is of particular importance to obtain the benefit of a Queensland representative on the Court Network Board. I am pursuing this and shall inform you of the result in the next Newsletter.

In the first quarter of 2011 the Board has been especially active. An Executive Committee has been formed to progress work between monthly meetings and to provide appropriate support for the Acting Executive Director and the State Manager Nicole Little. The Strategic Plan, comprehending Commonwealth, Victorian and Queensland courts and tribunals is being finalised and will then be distributed. The Court Network Rules were the subject of a General Meeting in Melbourne on 21 March 2011 which passed all the resolutions moved by the Board modernising and clarifying the Rules. They also will be distributed. Planning for the balance of 2011 is well advanced.

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I was a judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria for just on 22 years and was its Senior Trial Judge and President of the Criminal Division. I retired from office in November 2009.

Throughout my judicial service I saw first-hand the invaluable service of Court Network staff and volunteers, fulfilling its charter of support, information and referral, and doing so consonantly with its criteria of being non-judgemental, non-partisan and non-legal. I resolved that upon my judicial retirement I would seek to put something back in honour of the work I daily saw Court Network perform. I am especially committed to securing and advancing the important work of Court Network in Queensland.

The Hon. P.D. Cummins
Board President

In December Court Network was pleased to confirm the election of His Honour Philip Cummins to the position of Board President and we're thrilled he was able to attend Brisbane, Cairns and Townsville earlier last month for information sessions and various stakeholder meetings/forums.

As you may recall our search for a Queensland representative for the Court Network board has been very much a priority both here and Melbourne. I am very pleased to announce that Julie Steel, Director of Courts, Supreme & District Courts will be taking up this position and we are very excited to have her on board (pardon the pun).

I welcome warmly the 40 trainees who have commenced their probationary and mentored period in Brisbane and look forward to the increased presence and provision of support on the court floors which will follow. Thank you to the stakeholders who provided components of education at our March training, your contribution is truly valued.

My focus continues to be keenly set on ensuring the continuation of funding across both State and Federal and will keep you posted as to the outcomes of this endeavour as they are to hand.

As always I thank you for your continued support of Court Network and value your feedback.

Nicole Little
State Manager
E: nicole@courtnetwork.com.au
T: 07 3836 0580

Brisbane Trainees

This year saw the largest group of potential Volunteers attend the intake in Brisbane. For the second year the sessions were separated into two groups and run over two days - due to the sheer size of the group. In March the potential Volunteers took part in training and have since completed orientation with the Brisbane Program Manager, Tui. The 40 Trainees have now joined the Networkers on the rosters at the Commonwealth Law Court, Magistrates Court, Supreme and District Courts, QCAT and the Information Kiosk. Welcome Trainees to the Court Network Team!



Cairns Program Manager



In the Summer 2010 Newsletter we introduced you to our new Program Manager in Cairns, Tanya Brooks-Cooper.

Tanya has returned from maternity leave after her family welcomed Blake in early January. Welcome back Tanya, we have missed you.

Tanya has worked across the community sector in Cairns, Brisbane and the Fraser Coast. Some of her career highlights include working at the Starlight Children's Foundation, the RSPCA and the Cairns Regional Council.

Tanya's strengths are in the creation of programs and managing and building networks that bridge the gaps in communities.

Tanya Brooks-Cooper
Program Manager: Cairns
E: cairns@courtnetwork.com.au
T/F: 07 4048 1422
M: 0427 812 605

Acting Executive Director

The New Year has proved to be a very challenging time for Queensland and Victoria. The Queensland floods proved that when natural disasters occur, the Australian community responds with great effort and passion. Our Court Network volunteers and staff are no different.

Court Network Volunteers and staff were not immune to the damage done by the recent terrible events, and we hope that those who were affected are managing to rebuild and are recovering well.

The Honorable Philip Cummins, President of Court Network and I flew to Brisbane a week after the floods to offer support and practical assistance where possible. It was evident that Networkers and the staff team had worked together to support each other. Congratulations to all of you what a wonderful team.

Our services in Cairns and Townsville continue to grow and work well in the court environment in these two cities.

Court Network is working on finalizing the Strategic Plan that was in development phase much of the later part of 2010. We are confident that the plan recognises and accommodates both Queensland and Victoria and celebrates the unique needs of each state. During the month of May the Queensland and Victorian State Managers will meet with me to develop a Business Plan for the next three years. We will be encouraging our staff and Networkers to become involved during the Business Planning process.

The Court Network President and I travelled to Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns in early April to meet with heads of Jurisdiction and Key Stakeholders.

Pauline McNeil
Acting Executive Director



Meet Sheree



Sheree is assisting with the office administration until

Teresa Snow (Program Manager) returns from leave after the Brisbane floods.

Hello to you all, my name is Sheree Saldanha. I have recently joined the amazing team at Court Network to help out with the office administration.

I have eight years office administration experience and about two years experience in a women's legal service. I am excited to be working with the Court Network team and through reading the book "Friends at Court from dream to reality" have a much greater understanding and respect for the service and can't wait to see what the future holds for Court Network and its service users.

News

Cairns received their very first Referral on Wed, 20 April 2011.

Volunteer Week

This week is a great opportunity to thank the Court Network Volunteers for their continued support of the service and to thank them for always going above and beyond to assist court users in Brisbane, Cairns and Townsville. Thank You!



Volunteer Intake

Brisbane was the first region in Queensland to conduct the intake for new volunteers in 2011. Cairns held their intake on Thursday, 7th April and Townsville will hold theirs on Thursday, 9th June.

It has been a good start the year with 40 volunteers completing their training and have since joined the roster with fellow Networkers in the Brisbane courts and a further 9 Volunteers have recently commenced their training in Cairns.

Townsville

Volunteer Intake: Thursday, 9 June

To register phone 1800 267 671 or email brisbane@courtnetwork.com.au

Cairns Volunteer Intake

On Thursday, 7th April, we held the Information and Selection Session for new volunteers in Cairns. This is the second intake for Cairns, after the service first launched in August 2010. The potential Volunteers have recently commenced training and will then join the Cairns Networkers in June.



Meet the Board

The new Board President, Hon. Phillip Cummins recently visited Queensland to meet the staff and Networkers in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns. The Meet the Board Forum was an opportunity for Networkers and staff to meet Phillip who was accompanied by the Acting Executive Director Pauline McNeil and State Manager Nicole Little. In Cairns, the Networkers welcomed back their Program Manager Tanya Brooks-Cooper from maternity leave.

Cairns: Ann, Nicole, Eve, Phil, Dianne, Phillip, Tanya



Volunteers Recognised 2010

As part of 2010 International Volunteer Day on the 5th December, the Townsville Court recognised all volunteers who generously give up their time to support the community within the court. The Townsville Networkers were each presented with Certificates of Appreciation. Congratulations.

Townsville: Peter, Prashant, Jeanette, Simon, Jacqui, Neville, Toniey, Mandy



Referral Profile:

Family Law Pathways Network

Create a stronger working relationships across the family law system.

The Family Law Pathways Network is funded by the Australian Government.

The Network is a National program comprising professionals within the family law system with a focus on information-sharing and networking opportunities in a local area.

The Network is made up of memberships from (but is not limited to):

- ◆ Family Court
- ◆ Federal Magistrates Court
- ◆ Legal Aid Commissions
- ◆ Community Legal Centres
- ◆ Family Violence Prevention Legal Services
- ◆ Family Relationship Services
- ◆ Family Relationship Advice Line
- ◆ Family law lawyers
- ◆ Child Support Agency
- ◆ Centrelink

Family Law Pathways Network:

W: www.familyrelationships.gov.au

Family Law Pathways Networks in Queensland:

- ◆ Bundaberg
- ◆ **Cairns**
- ◆ Central Qld, Rockhampton
- ◆ Gold Coast
- ◆ **Greater Brisbane**
- ◆ Sunshine Coast
- ◆ Toowoomba and South West
- ◆ **Townsville**



Law Week

Law Week is open to everyone wanting to know more about the Queensland legal and justice system. Court Network is happy to be involved and you to have the opportunity to be part of the activities.

QPILCH Walk for Justice Monday, 16th May

Brisbane: starts at 7am at the Law Courts Complex and will finish with breakfast at Reddacliff Place, top of the Queen Street Mall, 266 George Street, Brisbane. Cost: \$20 per person.



Townsville: starts at 7am at Burke Street Headland area (beside the Picnic Bay Life Saving club) and will finish at 9am at Anzac Park fountain. Townsville is proudly supported by the Townsville District Law Association Inc (TDLA). Cost: gold coin donation.

W: www.qpilch.org.au

Magistrates Court Open Day Saturday, 21st May 10am to 2:30pm

The Brisbane Magistrates Court will open its doors with mock trials, guided tours, free sausage sizzle, face painting, balloons and creative workshops for kids.

W: www.lawweek.qld.gov.au

1800 267 671 Court Network Referral Service

Support, information and referral service for court users

Referral for a Volunteer

People attending court can book a Court Network Volunteer to provide them with support, information and referral services on their day in court.

A Court Network Volunteer can be booked prior to the court date, ensuring the court user that a Volunteer will be reserved for them on the day.

To reserve a Volunteer contact Court Network on 1800 267 671 or complete our Court Referral Sheet and return (sample of the form below).

If you would like a copy of our Referral Sheet please the Brisbane office:

T: 1800 267 671

T: 07 3227 7625

E: brisbane@courtnetwork.com.au

 Court Network		T: 1800 267 671 F: (07) 3211 2278 E: brisbane@courtnetwork.com.au W: www.courtnetwork.com.au	
COURT REFERRAL SHEET			
(CONFIDENTIAL)			
DATE RECEIVED			
REGION	<input type="radio"/> BRISBANE <input type="radio"/> CAIRNS <input type="radio"/> TOWNSVILLE		
COURT	<input type="radio"/> CLC (incl. Fed Mag) <input type="radio"/> MAG <input type="radio"/> S&D <input type="radio"/> QCAT <input type="radio"/> CHILDREN		
COURT DATE			
Service User Name			
Telephone		Telephone Other	
Cultural Background		Preferred Language	
Organisation			
Referred By (Name)		Telephone	
Consent Obtained (Yes / No)		Telephone	
MATTER			
<input type="checkbox"/> Children's Matters <input type="checkbox"/> Civil <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Matters <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce			
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Law <input type="checkbox"/> Property <input type="checkbox"/> PMHS <input type="checkbox"/> Other			
Name of victim/witness			
Name of Defendant/Respondent			
Name of Applicant MUST HAVE			
Name of Support Person			
Major Issues			
Action Required			
Is Person Represented? (Yes / No)		If Yes, By Whom	
OFFICE USE ONLY Message Left to Call Back _____ Date/Time _____ Referral Complete _____ Date _____		PMHS Released Date/Time _____ Advised Date/Time _____ Not Released _____ Advised Date/Time _____	
Created V3 Mar11			

1800 267 671 Court Network Referral Service

Support, information and referral service for court users

Qld Court Users Assisted FY 2010/11

Court Network has assisted over **27,000** court users in Queensland (FY 2010/11).

Brisbane: Commonwealth Law Courts, Magistrates Court, Supreme and District Courts, QCAT, Information Kiosk

Cairns: Supreme and District Courts, Magistrates Court

Townsville: Supreme and District Courts, Magistrates Court

Queensland Program Managers Contact

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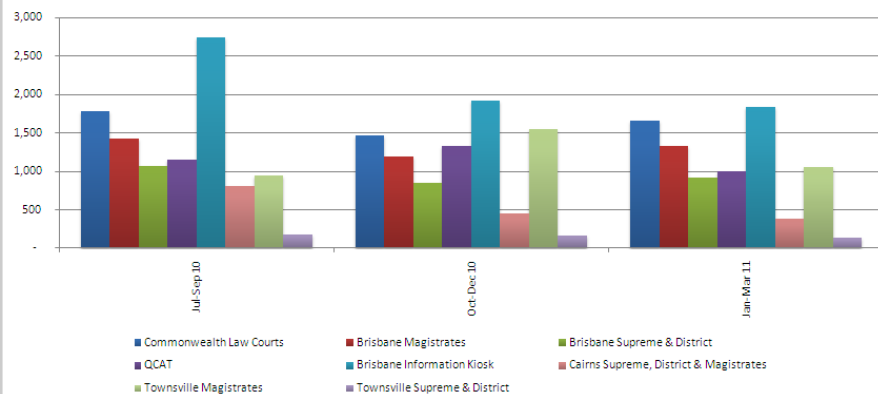
Sarah Parker Townsville

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M: 0407 545 276
E: townsville@courtnetwork.com.au

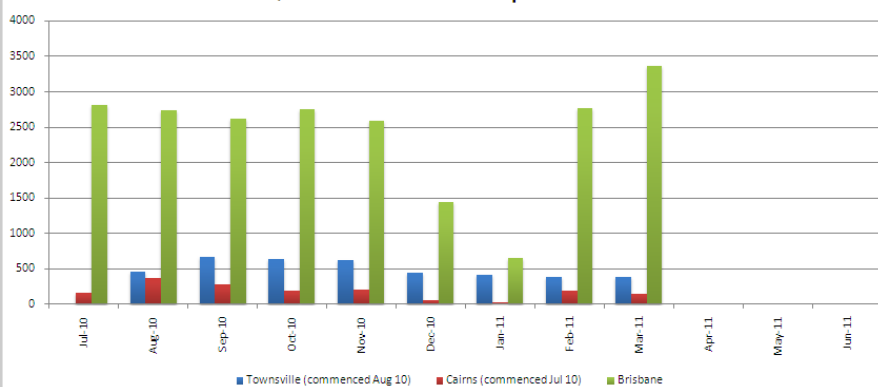
Tanya Brooks-Cooper Cairns

T/F: 07 4048 1422
M: 0427 812 605
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QLD: Court Users Assisted per COURT

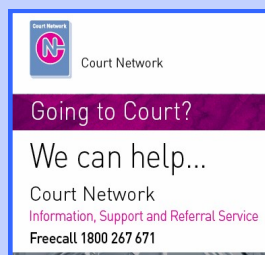


QLD: Court Users Assisted per MONTH



Publications Brochure and Poster

If you would like copies of the Court Network brochure or poster please contact Lisa on email: lisa@courtnetwork.com.au or telephone: 07 3227 7625.



Court Network

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