

'Sister Act' in Alice Springs

It was a "sister act" of a different kind when female lawyers in Alice Springs got together to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8.

They provided free advice at the Women's Information Centre and joined other women's groups in a Women's Day stall. Spokesperson Jodeen Carney, of Poveys, said the women were well supported in their efforts by Jennifer Moore of the Women's Information Centre. Ms Carney said some interesting statistics on women lawyers included:

- * The first woman to be admitted in the Northern Territory was Merna Bede Malony on July 5, 1897.

- * The first female partner/principal of a law firm in the NT was Nerolie Withnall, who began on July 5, 1967.

- * The first female Magistrate in the NT was Sally Thomas, who was appointed in 1979. She was appointed as the first female Justice of the NT Supreme Court on July 30, 1992.

- * The second female Magistrate in the Territory is Cathy Deland of Alice Springs, who was appointed on August 19, 1991.

- * The first woman to open her own practice in Alice Springs was Pam Ditton.

- * The longest serving practitioner in the NT is Mary Ridsdale, who practises with Morgan Buckley in Alice Springs. She began her Articles of Clerkship in Victoria on February 10, 1942.

- * The first person in the NT to graduate from the Northern Territory University and be admitted in Alice Springs was Christine Osborne.

- * Around 35 per cent of Alice Springs practitioners are women.

- * Around 30 per cent of the NT's total practitioners are women.



The large group of Alice Springs women lawyers assemble on the steps of Alice Springs Courthouse for International Women's Day. Top row (from left): Anabelle Cartwright, Mary Ridsdale, Cathy Deland (with baby Campbell), Alexis Fraser, Mandy Glaister, Joelle Hervic. Second row (from left): Caroline Scicluna, Katrina Budrikas, Pam Ditton, Therese Austin, Lorraine Liddle and Sophie Deleflie. Third row (from left): Annie Keely, Ruth Morley, Heather Douglas, Anna Cody, Jodeen Carney, Penny Johnston and Chris Osborne. (Jane Hartwig and Nanette Rogers are missing from the photograph.)

CONFERENCES

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29TH AUSTRALIAN LEGAL CONVENTION

24-28 September 1995

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

Contact: Susan Hando

Law Council of Australia

Telephone: (07) 3690477

LEGAL ISSUES FOR THE CHRONOLOGICALLY CHALLENGED ATHLETE: AUSTRALIAN MASTERS GAMES CONFERENCE

4 October 1995

Melbourne

Contact: VicHealth

Telephone: (03) 6664214

1ST INTERNATIONAL ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION AND THE LAW CONFERENCE

16-19 October 1995

Gold Coast

Contact:

AIRIL '95 Secretariat

Telephone: (07) 8641538

Policy change for cheque deposits

ANZ has introduced a new policy to help protect its customers and itself from claims of wrongful conversion.

With the Banking Industry Ombudsman criticising current bank practices, ANZ's new policy requires any third party cheque to be accompanied by proof of ownership.

The proof of ownership will be in the form of a Letter of Authority, giving instructions to ANZ from the payee approving the deposit into a specific bank account. This letter must contain the name, address, phone number of the payee and must specify the details of the cheque and the account to which it is to be deposited.

With the Letter of Authority you may be required to produce:

- * a copy of the Certificate of Registration of Business Name if any cheque is payable by unknown trading name; or

- * a current licence, registration or practising certificate if depositing to your Statutory Trust Account.