

# Advocacy Skills Workshop

by *The Hon. Justice Riley*

The Australian Advocacy Institute will be conducting a general skills workshop at the Supreme Court in Darwin on 17, 18 and 19 September 1999. The Institute has been conducting advocacy workshops throughout Australia (including the Territory) for many years and these have always been popular, productive and much appreciated by participants.

It has been the experience of the Institute through the years that advocacy skills can be taught at both the basic and advanced levels by the workshop method which is, essentially, a "learning by doing" approach. The success of the approach can be seen in the acceptance of it in other jurisdictions. The Institute has conducted workshops for English, Scottish and Singapore advocates.

The workshop teaching method consists of instruction, performance and review. The workshop will involve:

- (1) An introductory session presented, on this occasion, by Justice Hampel.
- (2) The performance of specific tasks by each advocate. This occurs in small groups and in a courtroom setting involving realistic and interesting material.

(3) A review of the performance of each advocate conducted by an experienced instructor. The review will deal with matters of substance and will take place in the group so that each participant can learn from the performances of others. You can expect that the instructor will provide demonstrations to assist you.

(4) A video review that relates to matters of style and mannerisms and occurs in a one to one situation separate from the group.

The workshop is designed to ensure the maximum involvement of all participants. It is directed towards practitioners of all levels who wish to improve their competency in advocacy. The groups will be determined according to experience and the development of skills and techniques will be tailored, in a supportive and learning environment, to individual demands.

On this occasion practitioners are extremely fortunate that the moderator will be the Honourable Justice Hampel who has been a driving force within the Institute from its commencement. He is an authority in this area and has taught



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in Australia, USA, England, Scotland, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong and New Zealand. He will be supported by other very experienced instructors including Felicity Hampel QC from Victoria, John Reeves QC and Sally Gearin from our local Bar.

The Institute employs very effective teaching methods and it is always a pleasure to see the difference between the performances conducted at the commencement of the workshop and those at the conclusion, and to note the significant improvement.

I strongly commend the Advocacy Skills Workshop to practitioners at all levels.

## 300 rally for Aboriginal Interpreter Service

The forecourt of Parliament House came alive in Darwin on August 17, when over 300 people rallied to call for the immediate introduction of an Aboriginal Interpreter Service.

The rally concluded with the presentation of 1400 signatures urging Chief Minister Denis Burke to address the desperate need for the Service.

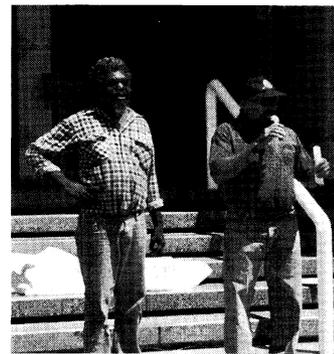
Speakers at the rally included Pat Anderson, Director of the Danila Dilba Health Services, David Curtis, ATSIC Commissioner, Jacki Vincent, President of the Katherine Regional Aboriginal Legal Aid Commission, Opposition Leader Claire Martin, and the President of the Criminal Lawyers Association, Jon Tippett.



*The crowd wore black scarves over their mouths in a symbolic gesture.*



*Cassandra Goldie, Darwin Community Legal Service, ties her black scarf.*



*Jacki Vincent spoke in Creole and used an interpreter to explain the difficulties faced by Aboriginal people due to the lack of an Aboriginal Interpreter Service.*