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If it be possible it is desirable for you to have the assistance of your own interpreter during the course of evidence in chief and cross-examination. The choice of words used by the interpreter in both English and the language of the witness may be subject to differences of opinion. The adoption of slightly different expressions by the interpreter may lead to different meanings being attributed to the evidence of the witness. In the absence of assistance you will have no cross check as to whether the true sense of the question or answer is being conveyed or, indeed, whether you would be better advised to rephrase your question.

If a witness is to be cross-examined through an interpreter, it is essential that you make appropriate allowance for that in your case preparation.

## ANNUAL LAW SOCIETY DINNER

"THE  
GRANDSTAND"  
FANNIE BAY  
RACECOURSE

SATURDAY 26  
AUGUST  
7PM

TICKETS: \$85

ENTERTAINMENT  
BY:  
*MANGO JANGO*

# TEWLS: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Top End Womens Legal Service is a community based legal service for all women in the Top End. As with most community organisations we rely on volunteers to help us provide services.

TEWLS offers a range of services including free legal advice and community legal education. In addition we conduct specialist projects for Aborginal women in some remote communities and women of non English speaking background.

Our community legal education activities include publication of "Women and Family Law: a practical guide to separation", radio advertisements in a wide range of languages on legal services available in the Top End and providing information on the law to other community groups.

We have two free legal advice sessions each week; one in Palmerston and one at our office in Darwin. The session in Darwin utilises volunteers to provide legal advice with support from one of the staff solicitors at TEWLS. Since TEWLS was established in 1996 we have been lucky to have a stable but small group of dedicated women volunteer solicitors who have helped out at the advice session. Unfortunately

over the last 6 months some of our volunteers have left town and we now desperately need volunteers.

The TEWLS advice session on Wednesday works on an appointment system and we ask volunteers to be at TEWLS by 5:15pm each Wednesday. Generally each volunteer will see two clients per session. Women seek advice from TEWLS on a wide variety of issues including family law, discrimination, work, housing, domestic violence and consumer matters. A TEWLS staff solicitor supervises the advice session. She provides legal support and information about referrals.

TEWLS is also interested in developing a register of women lawyers and their areas of expertise. This will identify women lawyers in Darwin, their area of expertise and whether they are prepared to provide pro bono assistance or initial free advice in their particular area of expertise. This will assist us to make appropriate referrals to women solicitors and promote the status of women lawyers.

For more information about TEWLS and becoming a volunteer please contact Kate Halliday on 8941 9989 or email [kate\\_halliday@fcl.fl](mailto:kate_halliday@fcl.fl)

## TERRITORY HUMAN RIGHTS REGISTER NEGATIVE

The Northern Territory recorded only negative responses on the latest Australian Human Rights Register.

The Register is compiled by the Catholic Commission for Justice after seeking input from non-government organisations on the positive and negative human rights developments in their jurisdictions. In the past two years some positive developments have been recorded in the Territory, but the Register for 2000 scored 27 negatives and no positives. Most of the negative submissions concerned aspects of mandatory sentencing laws.

The Commission's Ms Liz Curran told ABC RadioDarwin that she hopes the Territory Government does not go on the defensive following these results.

"I know its difficult but unless they know how their policies affect people on the ground and at the grass roots level and how they're impacting on people's human rights, we can't improve the system," Ms Curran said.

The Commission has distributed forms to record positive and negative human rights developments on domestic matters for the period 13 May 2000 to 1 May 2001. Contact 03 9926 5710.