

YOUTH CHALLENGE HUMAN RIGHTS

In partnership with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, the Education Department and the Office of Youth Affairs, the Anti-Discrimination Commission held 2 Youth Challenges during National Youth Week in April.

The first one took place in Alice Springs for all High Schools involving over 80 students from Years 10, 11 and 12.

In Darwin over 90 students, including students from rural areas such as Batchelor and Taminmin, attended the Challenges.

The day long seminars encouraged students to examine the links between human rights and responsibilities and to discover how democratic processes can solve human rights infringements.

Students joined local community representatives to identify discrimination in a work and school environment and grappled with solutions which best satisfy human rights principles and the law.

Commissioner Tom Stodulka said: "Young people represent the future and it is important that they participate in the community debate about what kind of Australia we want to live in."

The Youth Challenges were presented in an entertaining, interactive and provocative way that encouraged the students to think for themselves about the key issues likely to confront them.

The Challenges provided the Anti Discrimination Commission with the first

opportunity to welcome to the Northern Territory Dr Sev Ozdowski, the new Federal Human Rights Commissioner and Acting Disability Discrimination Commissioner.

Dr Ozdowski said: "The Challenges gave young people an opportunity to explore real life issues such as race, sex and disability discrimination".

Also included was a segment on International Humanitarian Law, presented by Alexis Fraser in Darwin and Britt Lardelli in Alice Springs. This gave the schools a link for future education opportunities to explore international human rights obligations related to the Geneva Conventions and the Laws of Armed Conflict.



One of the groups preparing their workshop reports at the Darwin Youth Challenge held on 5 April 2001



Alexis Fraser (DPP), Tom Stodulka and Sue Kasperek (Anti Discrimination Commission), Liz Reid (Post Secondary & Tertiary Disability Services) and Margi Cook (HREOC)

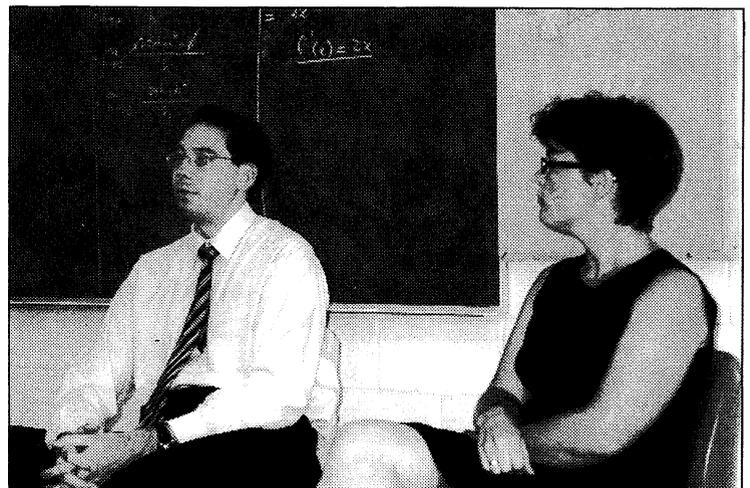
STUDENTS MEET NT YOUNG LAWYERS

To celebrate National Youth Week members of the NT Young Lawyers Committee visited high schools around Darwin and spoke to legal studies students.

Youth Week was held during the week of 1 - 8 April 2001 and involved a number of activities around Australia and the Territory.

NT Young Lawyers President Reinis Dancis and other members of his committee visited St Johns, Darwin High and Nightcliff High School to talk to students about becoming lawyers.

Common questions included: how hard is it to get into law? How hard do you have to work when you are a lawyer? And the



NT Young Lawyers President Reinis Dancis with Sarah Hills at St Johns College where they spoke to a group of Year 11 and Year 12 high school students.