

# Recent achievements

By Eva Scheerlinck



As the financial year comes to a close, I have cause to reflect on the past 12 months and what the organisation has achieved.

This journal, *Precedent*, has undergone some changes with the introduction of new regular columns on costs, medicine and technology, and with new columns on criminal and immigration law, as well as a practical research tips, soon to be introduced. The quality of articles and variety of issues covered continue to be of a high standard and I take this opportunity to thank all of our contributors and our dedicated editorial committee for their outstanding work.

Meanwhile, Australian Lawyers Alliance News, affectionately known as ALAN, has changed considerably. Now in html format with a useful index and hot links, this weekly email newsletter has become an indispensable member service. Back issues of ALAN are also available on our website and can be searched by key word. ALAN continues to provide up-to-date information for members on areas of interest to them, including our ever-growing calendar of events.

Over the past year, the Alliance has run eight highly successful conferences, with programs running in the ACT and South Australia for the first time. Attendance at this year's Queensland branch conference was our best ever, with over 280 people attending the

two-day event on the Gold Coast. Other CLE/CPD programs have also received wide support around the country from members and non-members alike.

The Alliance has launched the Alliance Rewards Club, giving members access to reduced-rate services and products with some of Australia's leading brands. Savings on car hire, Qantas Club membership, Sony Style products and quality McLaren Vale wines are just some of the great deals we have negotiated for our members.

The Lawyers Alliance website has also been upgraded. Our members-only section now allows members to search our expert database, back issues of ALAN and, soon, back-issues of *Precedent*. Our website continues to provide information on all our policy initiatives and our events, and even features a photo gallery of recent conferences.

We continue to update our expert database and hope to bring members a state-of-the-art search facility through our website in the next 12 months.

We have added new special interest groups in the areas of criminal and immigration law and have re-invigorated our industrial law group to facilitate discussion and networking among like-minded members. Criminal and immigration law CLE/CPD events are planned for the next few months.

We have stepped up our policy initiatives around the criminal and

human rights law areas, contributing to debate in the areas of anti-terror laws, the bill of rights issue and the assault on the right to silence.

We have made significant in-roads with some statutory bodies around process and costs concerns, leading to improved efficiencies and greater access to the justice system.

Soon we will be giving all members the opportunity to have their say on how the organisation has been performing and asking for their feedback on our member services. The past 12 months have been a busy time for the organisation. I doubt the next 12 will be any less so! ■

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