

Shannon Spriggs Murdoch issues challenge to community lawyers

Dr Shannon Spriggs Murdoch, Director of the 'Mentors in Violence Prevent' program at Griffith University will challenge community lawyers to have a better understanding about the issue of violence and their personal role in creating change. She will do this at the conference dinner of the at the Queensland Association for Independent Legal Services conference which is taking place this week at the Park Regis Hotel, Brisbane.

Shannon commented, 'The legal sector and I are both working to assist people in leading better, safer, healthier lives. I have facilitated training with staff at community legal centers and they have found it helpful to have a better understanding of the issues.'

'I think it is critically important to help people think about their personal responsibility and the opportunities we all have to create change. The Mentors in Violence Prevention program is a leadership program focused on education and the prevention of gender based violence. It seeks to enlist all people as a part of the solution.'

QAILS is holding their annual conference from Monday 25 May to Wednesday 27 May. This premier event will give delegates the opportunity to meet a diverse range of people, where they can develop and strengthen their skill and network with people in the field. With a pro-bono breakfast, conference dinner, new practitioner's drinks and three days of training and information sharing, the conference will be a great event for legal professionals and community legal centre staff alike.

James Farrell, Director of QAILS commented, 'This is not only a very exciting event for QAILS but for community legal centres all around Queensland. It gives us a chance to touch base with colleagues and find out about the great work everyone has done over the past year. We can exchange ideas and discuss issues and ways to progress with our community work. One guest speaker I'm particularly looking forward too is Shannon Spriggs Murdoch, who is speaking at the conference dinner.'

Other speakers at the QAILS conference include the Hon. Justice Margaret McMurdo AC of the Queensland Court of Appeal; Dr Warren Mundy from the Productivity Commission; Ombudsman Phil Clarke with Energy and Water Ombudsman Forbes Smith and representatives of the Crime and Corruption Commission and Department of Justice; John Peacock from the Associations Forum; Alastair Smith from Ashurst; Jacqueline Cameron from Global Philanthropic; and a number of community legal centres showcasing their important work.

Mr Farrell went onto say, 'It's important that we learn from one another, and also from people like Shannon who work outside the community legal service sector. Shannon's knowledge and experience is invaluable to help us help others.'

QAILS is the state based peak body representing 33 funded and unfunded community legal centres operating throughout Queensland. QAILS's works for a fair and just Queensland and an important part of this mission is to promote community legal centres to people in need. For further information about our work visit:

www.qails.org.au.

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Catherine Baker

QAILS Communication and Information Officer

Email: Communications@qails.org.au

Phone: (07) 3392 0092 / 0432 105 415