

20 June 2011

Dear Colleague

The New South Wales Bar Association is the proud co-host of the 6<sup>th</sup> National Indigenous Legal Conference to be held in Sydney on 12 and 13 August 2011. The other host is Ngalaya, the NSW Indigenous Lawyers and Law students Association.

This Conference was an initiative of the Association in 2005 and is now the premier Indigenous legal conference in Australia. The sessions will be conveniently held at Dockside, Cockle Bay and the dinner at The Ivy Room on Friday 12 August. For the full program, please go to:

<http://www.nswbar.asn.au/circulars/2011/jun/nilc.pdf>.

The main themes of the Conference are Indigenous Identity, Indigenous Rights and Indigenous Governance with other sessions on the Northern Territory Intervention, Protecting Culture and Sentencing Indigenous Offenders.

There are two important ways that the New South Wales Bar can contribute to the success of the Conference. One is for members to attend some or all of the sessions and the dinner.

The second way is to make a donation to the Indigenous Barristers' Trust, The Mum Shirl Fund, to enable an Indigenous law student to attend. A key objective of the Conference is to help build a national network of Indigenous lawyers and this forum enables law students to meet other students and graduates, discover possible career paths and identify mentors. There is a session specifically designed to provide advice and assistance to students and also to recent graduates.

There are three levels of contribution to increase the amount of students able to attend by providing funds for:

- (1) one or more Sydney based Indigenous law students by paying the registration fee of \$150 per student,
- (2) one or more NSW regional based students from other universities at Newcastle, Wollongong or Lismore for \$1,000 per student to cover registration, travel and accommodation costs,
- (3) one or more students from other parts of Australia, where distance and the cost of transport can inhibit their opportunities to participate for \$2,000 per student to cover registration, travel and accommodation costs.

Any level of contribution is appreciated and will be publicly acknowledged unless you want it to remain confidential. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

A donation form may be obtained at:

<http://www.nswbar.asn.au/circulars/2011/jun/nilcform.pdf>

I encourage you to make a donation to the Trust to assist with this worthy endeavour to enhance the prospects for Indigenous law students and provide opportunities for increasing their future career prospects, which I am sure will eventually increase the number of Indigenous barristers at the NSW Bar.

Yours sincerely

Bernard Coles QC  
President