

# Law Week 2013

13 ~ 19 May



## Week of justice

PEOPLE will have a chance to access free legal information next week as the state's key legal bodies come together to highlight legal options and support services available to the public for National Law Week.

Law Week begins on Monday and continues until May 19.

Events, seminars and workshops will be held throughout NSW, offering free legal information in line with this year's theme, "Law and Justice in Your Community".

President of the Law Society of NSW, John Dobson, said Law Week is a great opportunity to educate the public about the legal system and help them find answers to common questions about the law.

"Navigating the legal system or accessing legal information about what to do when faced with a legal issue can be overwhelming for many people," he said.

"Law Week is an opportunity to provide information directly to the public in their local communities by help-



ing to ensure that people have a greater understanding of the legal system."

Mr Dobson said Law Week seeks to cater for the whole community, from school students learning how the courts work to those seeking information on a range of topics including making a will, accessing pro bono legal services, family law and immigration law.

"I encourage members of the public to take advantage of activities being held in their local areas," he said.

For Law Week 2013, the Law Society of NSW will be working in partnership with

state agencies including the Department of Attorney General and Justice, the Bar Association, Legal Aid NSW, the NSW Police Force, the Department of Education and Training and the Legal Information Access Centre.

More than 130 free events are planned throughout the state between May 13-19.

These include mock trial events for school-aged students, educating them about the law and issues relevant to young people.

Further information about Law Week events can be found at [www.lawweek.com.au](http://www.lawweek.com.au).



The team at David Griffiths Lawyers includes (from left) David Griffiths, Anna O'Connell and Kristy McBain.

## Changes for pool owners

DAVID Griffiths Lawyers reminds everyone about the Amendment of Swimming Pools Act.

As of April 20, 2013, all swimming pool owners are now required to register their pools online at [\[poolregister.nsw.gov.au\]\(http://www.poolregister.nsw.gov.au\) and will have to self-assess and state, to the best of their knowledge, that their pool complies with Australian standards.](http://www.swim-</a></p>
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Registrations must be complete by October 28, 2013 and penalties of up to \$220 apply for failure to register.

Additionally, on October 29, 2013, the second part of the Bill will come into effect when a Certificate of Pool Compliance will be required in all contracts for sale.

If you are a pool owner, please be aware of your additional responsibilities.

## A front for reduced benefits

THE Law Society of NSW says legislation to be introduced into Parliament this week by the State Government will see injured motorists in NSW relying on welfare after a few years.

President of the Law Society of NSW John Dobson said the government's proposal for an untested no-fault system is a gimmick and a front for cutting off benefits.

"The government's new 'no-fault' scheme will generate more claims, cost more to administer and pay out less to injured motorists," Mr Dobson said.

Mr Dobson said he is concerned that by the time the public realises the motor accidents safety net has been ripped away, it will be too late.

"The vast majority of accident victims will see reduced benefits drip-fed by



THE LAW SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

insurance companies with no access to significant lump sum payments," he said.

"These benefits will be cut off after a few years, regardless of whether the person is able to return to work.

"The knock on effects will be particularly severe for those who had a long working life ahead of them before the accident."

Mr Dobson said the government has ignored an alternate proposal from the

legal profession that could have delivered a \$50 reduction in premiums without cutting off benefits.

"The legal profession's proposal has been independently costed and could be up and running much sooner than the government's new scheme," he said.

"If the government wants to deliver political sugar to marginal seats in the form of lower green slip prices, it should not be innocent victims of motor accidents who pay the price."



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## Time to celebrate

NATIONAL Law Week begins on Monday and continues until May 19 with the theme "Law and Justice in Your Community".

NSW Fair Trading and the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal (CTTT) are celebrating the week with a range of community events.

Fair Trading Commissioner Rod Stowe and CTTT chairman Stuart Westgarth encourages the public to get involved.

For more information about all events across NSW, visit the National Law Week website, [www.lawweek.com.au](http://www.lawweek.com.au).

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