

Interest Group: Clinical Legal Education

## **Taking Law to the Beach: A Clinical Legal Education Initiative of the University of Newcastle Legal Centre**

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Last summer law students and solicitors of the University of Newcastle Legal Centre (UNLC) worked from the Surf Life Saving Club at Newcastle Beach. The initiative formed part of an outreach program to encourage young people to use UNLC's services. UNLC supports the two year Professional Program the University of Newcastle offers its LLB students. It functions as a teaching facility and community legal practice giving students intensive clinical experience with clients.

Law on the Beach aimed at overcoming some of the barriers preventing young people from obtaining legal advice. Students dealt with wide-ranging legal issues in a setting which lacked the usual formalities and resources associated with a legal office. It provided a relaxed, non-traditional forum in which to actively learn the law and demonstrate professionalism. From an educational and service delivery perspective, the initiative proved to be a worthwhile adjunct to the Professional Program.