

In Kind

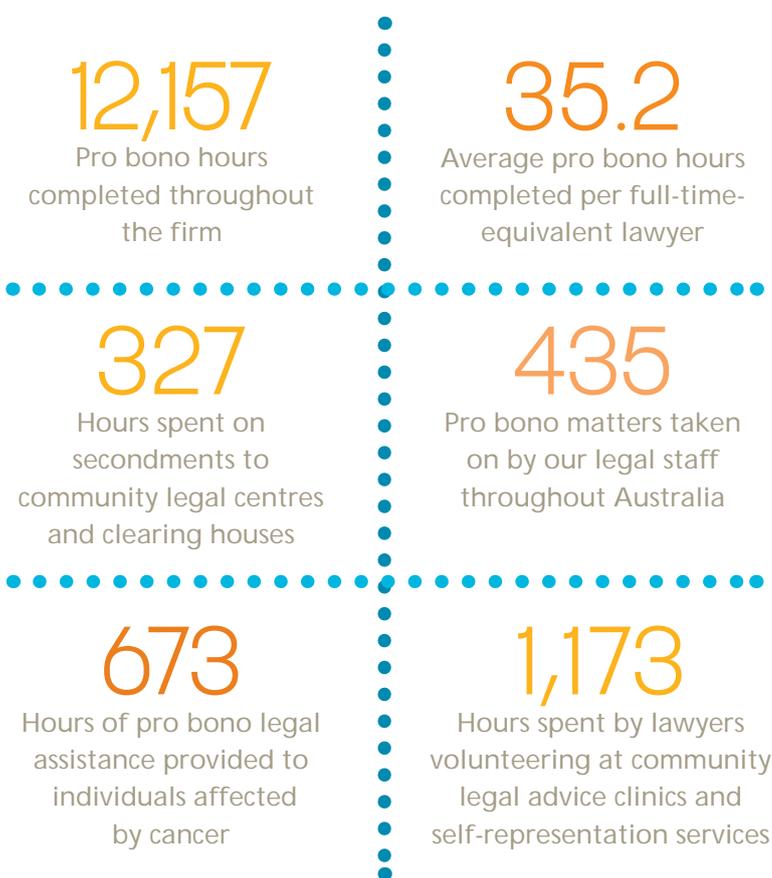
Sparke Helmore's social sustainability report FY2017/18

Our impact

For 14 years we've worked to empower local communities and to advocate for individuals experiencing disadvantage through our Pro Bono practice and Community program. We're particularly proud of the very real outcomes that our people have achieved and we're delighted that we've again met the legal industry target for pro bono hours undertaken by our lawyers.

Our pro bono work

An overview of our achievements from the past year.



"Thank you so much for such a yummy dinner! We appreciate it so much. It's the last thing we think of and to be able to come back to a home-cooked meal is just amazing...and such a bonus not to wash up."

—Our staff's time spent volunteering for the Ronald McDonald Make-a-Meal program is always warmly appreciated by families staying at Ronald McDonald House

In the community

A snapshot of our community activities over the past year.



Hours spent by our staff volunteering for community organisations such as WWF Australia, The Salvation Army and Ronald McDonald House Charities®

\$46,000

Donated to charities by the firm and its staff, including \$10,000 donated to Ronald McDonald House Charities® towards accommodation for families of seriously ill children



18,987

Nappy donations sorted and delivered to local women's refuges and crisis centres through The Nappy Collective



24 Years since the first Sparke Helmore Triathlon. The 2018 event attracted 1,000 competitors, including 34 Sparkies

Highlights from the past year

Key activities from our Pro Bono practice and Community program

Aboriginal Wills Clinics

Aboriginal people have a very low rate of will making, resulting in a high number of burial disputes. To help address this, we hold free community wills clinics, in partnership with local community centres. Our volunteer lawyers have prepared 240 estate documents for 107 clients throughout Australia over the past year.

Thriving Communities Partnership

We are proud to be a founding partner of the Thriving Communities Partnership, whose aim is to ensure access for all to essential services, including utilities, financial services, telecommunications and transport. We have provided free legal assistance to help them achieve charitable status, as well as develop sponsorship and member agreements.

NCARA Partnership

Further strengthening our commitment to Indigenous communities, we have pledged to provide free legal work to the Three Rivers Regional Assembly, part of a collaboration of eight Aboriginal Alliances advocating for local decision-making about services delivered to Indigenous communities.

Cisarua Learning

Cisarua Learning provides a centre for refugee children who are stranded indefinitely in Indonesia. As well as keeping them occupied, it gives them hope through the provision of education and valuable English-language skills. We recently provided them with free legal assistance to establish themselves as a charity.

The Forgotten Victims

A large number of women who are released from prison go on to experience intimate partner violence. In partnership with Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety, we partly funded a new research project to identify areas of unmet need and current barriers for these women, with an aim of exploring potential solutions. You can read the report [here](#).

Usman Khawaja Foundation

Sparke Helmore has provided free legal assistance to establish the Usman Khawaja Foundation, an important initiative that provides educational and sporting opportunities to disadvantaged youth, predominantly refugees and new migrants.

"I've had outstanding feedback on the service you provided to those who attended your Wills Clinic in Bodalla and those you followed up by phone. Thank you so much."

—Jenny Lovric, Head of Legal Aid's Cooperative Legal Service Delivery Program & Regional Outreach Clinic Program

"You guys are amazing. This is a remarkable and memorable day in the life of Cisarua Learning Ltd. On the back of your work and advice over the past year, Cisarua Learning Ltd is set to become a powerful organisation, supporting and inspiring refugees around the world. Thank you so much. I hope we make you proud over the coming decades."

—Jolyon and everyone from Cisarua Learning Limited

For more information about Sparke Helmore's pro bono and community activities, please contact:

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More information is also available at www.sparke.com.au