

In Kind

Sparke Helmore's social sustainability report FY2022/23

Our impact

Through our Pro Bono practice, we strive to strengthen the communities in which we operate by providing free legal assistance to individuals experiencing disadvantage, as well as eligible not-for-profit and charitable organisations.

A key goal of our Pro Bono practice has been to strengthen our relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. We were particularly excited to resume our Wills Workshop program this financial year, after it was put on hold by the COVID-19 pandemic. We held four Wills Workshops in partnership with local community centres and local First Nations organisations in New South Wales (Dubbo and Toronto) and Western Australia (Kalgoorlie and Perth).

We encourage all partners and staff to participate in our pro bono and community activities. We had a record-breaking year for pro bono participation rate at the firm. We achieved 66% pro bono participation this financial year, with strong participation and engagement by both partners and non-partners.

Our pro bono work

An overview of our achievements.

16,427

pro bono hours completed



39.9

average pro bono hours for full-time equivalent lawyer

1,942

Hours spent on secondments to community legal centres and pro bono clearing houses



2,094

Hours spent by lawyers volunteering at community advice clinics and self-representation services

68%

hours worked for individuals experiencing disadvantage

32%

hours worked for eligible charities and not-for-profit organisations

66%

of our lawyers participated in pro bono work

In the community

A snapshot of our community activities.

\$10,000

given to Foodbank Australia for the firm's Christmas donation



Our staff donated items such as food, clothing, and toys for a number of organisations, including Dress for Success, Foodbank, the Father Bob Maguire Foundation, St Kilda Mums and Soul Café, Newcastle

Our staff raised funds for a number of charitable organisations, including Cancer Council, HeartKids, and Doin it for Rural Aussie Kids



Our staff cooked and shared 'Meals from the Heart' with families & staff at our local Ronald McDonald House chapters

76 staff took part in the four-week challenge, **September**, by walking 10,000 steps per day or moving in any activity they could to raise awareness and funds for Cerebral Palsy Alliance



A further \$14,525

given to local charities through our Community Program



Our Pro Bono Practice was recognised as a **finalist in the Pro Bono Program of the Year category** at the Lawyers Weekly 2023 Australian Law Awards

For more information about Sparke Helmore's pro bono and community activities, please contact Morgan Long via morgan.long@sparke.com.au or +61 2 9260 2573. More information is also available at www.sparke.com.au

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