



Pictured at TAFE are Travis Hansen, Jolene Farrell, DWF Mentor Alicia Janz, Devin Indich, Darren Hart, ALSWA CEO Dennis Eggington, Youth Work student, Artist Peter Farmer, Glen Miller, Karina Riley, Youth Work student, Deborah Jones, Central Lecturer Peter Dooley, Candice Nundle, DWF Mentor Dale Kickett and Jamie-Lee Little. Photo by Jodi Hoffmann, ALSWA

When it comes to legal service history, the writing's on the wall



THE Aboriginal Legal Service of WA (ALSWA) will soon boast a large mural highlighting its history. The ALSWA is host agency for the Solid Futures Mural Project, a joint initiative between Central Institute of Technology and the David Wirrpanda Foundation (DWF).

The not-for-profit project involves DWF Indigenous students working

alongside Noongar artist Peter Farmer, the 2008 NAIDOC Perth Visual Artist of the Year, and DWF Mentors to create a mural depicting events in the history of ALSWA and WA's justice system. DWF students and staff visited ALSWA to discuss the mural project and gain a greater insight into ALSWA's work by meeting with CEO Dennis Eggington, Executive Officer John Bedford, lawyers Monica Collard and Wayne Nannup and Incarcerated

Juvenile Support Worker Tamara Gillespie.

The project started soon after that visit, with students continuing to research ALSWA's history before embarking on creating the 5m-long mural.

Mr Eggington says ALSWA is thrilled to be involved with the DWF in capturing the history of the legal service, covering almost 40 years.

"This mural will create a wonderful

and historical insight into the important work done over many years by ALSWA and the dedicated people who have worked tirelessly in striving for a better future for our people," said Mr Eggington, who recently visited the students at TAFE during their mural class.

The mural, still in its early stages, will be completed over the coming weeks before being unveiled at the ALSWA head office in Perth.

Mayor in call to end grog plan



ONE in three adults on Palm Island faced court on a single day charged with breaching the community's alcohol management plan.

Between 400 and 450 people faced the Palm Island Magistrates Court last Thursday charged with breaching laws that restrict the type of alcohol that may be brought into the Indigenous community, off the north Queensland coast.

Mayor Alf Lacey said the fact almost one-third of the island's adult population had faced court in a single day showed the Queensland Government's alcohol restrictions weren't working.

"It's getting to a point when it's quite clear the alcohol management plan isn't working," Mr Lacey said.

Most of those charged had pleaded not guilty because they believed the alcohol management plan to be invalid,



ALF LACEY

he said. "They are exercising their human rights," Mr Lacey said.

"If I'm in Townsville or Cairns, I don't get issued with an alcohol breach."

A Justice Department spokeswoman

said the matters had been adjourned for the past few years, while a test case involving Palm Island woman Florence Morton made its way through Queensland's court system.

Ms Morton was convicted and fined \$150 in Townsville Magistrates Court in 2008 for possessing a bottle of bourbon, but appealed the matter to the District Court and the Court of Appeal.

Both of those appeals were unsuccessful, but the matter is now being appealed to the High Court.

Mr Lacey called for a review of Palm Island's alcohol management plan to allow pre-mixed spirits.

"We want to be treated like any other shire in Queensland," he said.

The mayor said that while alcohol abuse was a problem in many Aboriginal communities, authorities should be looking more at the issues behind it, such as high unemployment.

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