

The Executive Director
Australian Law Reform Commission
GPO Box 3708
Sydney NSW 2001

24 January 2011

Dear Ms Wynn,

Inquiry into Discovery of Documents in Federal Courts

The Public Interest Law Clearing House (Vic) Inc (**PILCH**) is pleased to endorse the submission of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (**PIAC**) to the Australian Law Reform Commission on the Inquiry into Discovery of Documents in Federal Courts (the **ALRC Inquiry**).

As public interest advocates and having been involved in public interest litigation, PILCH encourages the work of the ALRC in reforming discovery processes in the Federal Court. Public interest litigation has an important role to play in providing access to justice, advancing the rule of law, and addressing issues of systemic and public importance. Yet the high cost of litigation, compounded by the disproportionate cost of discovery, stymies legitimate and meritorious public interest litigation.

We are therefore pleased to endorse, in its entirety, PIAC's submission to the ALRC Inquiry, including each of the recommendations made therein. In particular, we are enthused by PIAC's call for increased funding for legal service providers to ensure disadvantaged or self-represented litigants are able to comply with pre-discovery conferences and the recommendation for a new public interest protective costs orders regime.

PILCH is a leading Victorian, not-for-profit organisation. It is committed to furthering the public interest, improving access to justice and protecting human rights by facilitating the provision of pro bono legal services and undertaking law reform, policy work and legal education. In carrying out its mission, PILCH seeks to:

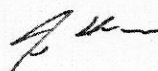
- ▶ address disadvantage and marginalisation in the community;
- ▶ effect structural change to address injustice; and
- ▶ foster a strong pro bono culture in Victoria; and, increase the pro bono capacity of the legal profession.

Should you have any questions regarding PILCH's endorsement, please feel free to contact Gregor Husper on 8636 4414 or gregor.husper@pilch.org.au.

Yours faithfully



Fiona McLeay
Executive Director
Tel: (03) 8636 4405
fiona.mcleay@pilch.org.au



Gregor Husper
Manager PILCH Members' Scheme
Tel: (03) 8636 4414
gregor.husper@pilch.org.au