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## **ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER LAW STUDENT MENTORING PROGRAM**

### **MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The ACT Bar Association has today entered into a partnership that aims to give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) law students greater opportunities to work with the Courts and senior members of the ACT legal profession.

The Bar Association, the Law Society, the ANU College of Law and the School of Law and Justice at the University of Canberra have today signed a memorandum of understanding that will enable ATSI students to be placed at Court, in a solicitor's firm or in barrister chambers to gain exposure to the workings of the justice system. The placements will be facilitated for students who have completed at least two years of their law degree.

"The ACT Bar Association is pleased to be part of this very important program to create opportunities for ATSI law students to work with senior members of the ACT legal profession. The partnership will create exciting opportunities for students to gain exposure to the day to day working of the legal profession. It will also create mentoring opportunities that will assist participants transition into legal careers."

"The ACT Bar's participation in this program reflects the Bar's commitment to promoting diversity in the legal profession," said President of the ACT Bar Association, Mr Ken Archer.

ANU College of Law Sub Dean (Indigenous) A/Professor Wood said "Law plays a very significant part in the current conditions in which many Indigenous people find themselves."

"Having competent Indigenous lawyers who are passionate about these issues will greatly help ameliorate these problems."

### **ENDS**

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