



Ending the isolation.

Friday 5th October 2007

Senses Foundation's supporters appear in court

Prominent criminal lawyer Tom Percy QC, ably assisted by Shaun Temby, of Deacons, laid charges against and passed sentence on two sponsors of Senses Foundation in a mock trial, supported by a jury consisting of other faithful supporters of Senses Foundation.

Senses Foundation hosted a special court hearing at the Old Courthouse in Beaufort Street on Wednesday 26th September, to recognise the contribution of all supporters. Two corporate supporters were selected for "sentencing".

Russell Garvey, from BDO Kendalls, was charged with "becoming a first offender" and "wilfully providing sponsorship support to Senses Foundation".

Michelle Peters, from AHG was charged with "conspiring with other senior members of the AHG group, to provide support for over a decade, raising more than \$500,000 for Senses Foundation".

The judge directed the jury to return a guilty verdict, the crime "being so heinous that evidence was not considered." The jury agreed by raising their wine glasses and shouting "guilty!"

Both parties were therefore found guilty and sentenced to receive a good behaviour bond from the CEO of Senses Foundation, Debbie Karasinski.

As a token of thanks to all faithful supporters of Senses Foundation over many years, all present were treated to a viewing of the Egyptian Antiquities exhibition at the Art Gallery just alongside the Old Courtroom.

Senses Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation that has its origins 110 years ago, as the Royal WA Institute for the Blind.

It amalgamated with the WA Deafblind Association in 2001 and the Senses Foundation was created. It moved to its new premises in Burswood in March 2007.

Results of a recent study commissioned by Senses Foundation, and published in the “Unseen & Unheard” report show that there are almost 40,000 persons in Western Australia who are blind with additional disabilities, or deafblind.

Debbie Karasinski, CEO of Senses Foundation said “A very large number of potential clients are not yet receiving assistance, and the task ahead is an extraordinary challenge. We cannot do it without support from our sponsors”.

James Thom President of Senses Foundation thanked those present at the Old Courthouse, and emphasised the importance of the sponsorships received to the ongoing delivery of much needed services to clients in Western Australia.

ENDS

For more information contact Senses Media Liaison Officer Kerry Faulkner on 0432098878.

Pictures



CEO of Senses Foundation, Debbie Karasinski (left) with Michelle Peters, Marketing Manager AHG, and the AHG Certificate of appreciation.



Russell Garvey, from BDO Kendalls, in the dock.



Russell Garvey and the BDO Kendalls' certificate of appreciation under close guard.



Michelle Peters (AHG) in the dock, with a jury of her peers, other Senses Foundation supporters.