

Julian Assange

The following statement can be attributed to Mr Glenn Ferguson, President, Law Council of Australia.

- The Law Council will be closely monitoring the progress of the matter relating to Julian Assange given the particular interest of the Australian legal profession in ensuring the rule of law and human rights are upheld for all persons no matter what they are accused of or where they may be detained.
- The Law Council considers that any person accused of a crime is entitled to the presumption of innocence and a fair trial in relation to the matters for which he or she is brought before a court, irrespective of whether that is within Australia or overseas.
- In relation to the specific case of the founder of WikiLeaks, Mr Julian Assange - the Law Council of Australia urges the continuance of Australian consular assistance, which was provided at the time of his recent arrest and first court appearance in London, in relation to matters apparently unrelated to the WikiLeaks issues.
- Such assistance should continue to be provided by the Australian Government for the duration of legal proceedings, as it would for any Australian citizen detained outside Australia.
- In relation to the possibility that Mr Assange may be charged with offences relating to leaked cables, rule of law principles require that Mr Assange be dealt with by due process and the Law Council considers it to be inappropriate that public comments are made about his guilt or innocence.
- The legal process should be allowed to take its course without interference to ensure that justice is served.

Vanessa Kleinschmidt, Director Communications & Stakeholder Relations

P. 02 6246 3716 // M. 0408 014 110

E. vanessa.kleinschmidt@lawcouncil.asn.au // www.lawcouncil.asn.au