



NEW SOUTH WALES
BAR ASSOCIATION

THE NEW SOUTH WALES BAR ASSOCIATION
BAR COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 12 February 2015
in the Boardroom of the New South Wales Bar Association
at 4.30 pm

PRESENT:

Needham SC; Hutley SC; Moses SC; Hogan-Doran; Doyle Gray; Bennett AC QC; Menzies QC; Sullivan QC; Phillips SC; Game SC; Cunneen SC; Traill; Walker; Khandhar; Toomey; Wood (by phone); Stitt; Callan; Hyde Page; Antipas; Sethi

IN ATTENDANCE:

Executive Director; Deputy Executive Director; Director, Professional Conduct (for professional conduct matters)

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 11 December 2014 were confirmed.

The minutes of the Executive meeting held on 23 January 2015 were noted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President spoke briefly to her tabled report.

FINANCE

The Treasurer spoke to the financial statements for November and December 2014, which the Council then noted.

MEMBERSHIP

The following were admitted as Class A – Local Practising Barrister – unless otherwise shown:

Matthew Baird – B	Sydney, NSW
Matthew Doyle – B	Level 27 Chambers (Brisbane)
Llewellyn Judd – B	Alfred Lutwyche Chambers (Brisbane)
Sigrid Neumueller – B	North Sydney
Gerard O’Shea – B	Owen Dixon Chambers (Melbourne)
Christopher Parkin	8 Selborne Chambers

FOR CONSIDERATION

Letter to the Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director dated 15 January 2015 from Bar Cover – Amended product disclosure statement (schedule to the Trust Deed)

RESOLVED that Bar Cover be requested to provide further detail as to the rationale for the proposed changes to the disclosure statement and the role of the Bar Council in approving the changes. In particular, Bar Cover should be asked to advise whether the proposed changes reflect the objects of the Fund. It was agreed that, once a response from Bar Cover was received, that the issue be settled by the Executive.

Memorandum to the Bar Council dated 29 January 2015 from the Finance Manager – Insurance Disclosures

Noted.

Memorandum to the Bar Council dated 4 February 2015 from the President – The Association’s response to the Lindt Café siege

Noted.

The Bar Council expressed its thanks to the staff of the Association for their professional response to the difficult circumstances surrounding the Lindt Siege and its immediate aftermath.

Memorandum to the Bar Council dated 4 February 2015 from the President – The Legal Profession Uniform Law

Noted. It was agreed that Mary Walker would discuss her concerns in relation to this issue and other corporate governance matters with the President with a view to settling a possible paper for the consideration of Bar Council.

The Bar Council expressed its appreciation to Boulten SC for his continued involvement in the development of the National Rules and to the President and Executive Director for the comprehensive report on the history of the legal profession uniform law.

Memorandum to the Bar Council dated 9 December 2014 from Alan Sullivan QC – Adoption of a policy in favour of QC/SC choice

Memorandum to the Bar Council dated 2 February 2015 from the Senior and Junior Vice-Presidents – Proposed adoption of a policy in favour of QC/SC choice

The Bar Council agreed to defer further consideration of this issue until a Bar Council meeting in May 2015.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- (a) Strategic Planning Day – The President advised that she had met David Shortland, the facilitator for the upcoming Bar Council Strategy Day in May, and noted that he would be approaching Bar Councillors individually to seek their input on agenda items for the day.
- (b) Maternity Leave Proposal - Ishita Sethi advised that the Equal Opportunity Committee was in the process of settling a memorandum to Bar Council concerning David Bennett QC's maternity leave proposal.
- (c) Bench and Bar Dinner –The President advised that the Guest of Honour at this year's Bench & Bar Dinner was the President of the Court of Appeal, Beazley P. Ms Senior was Julia Lonergan SC and Mr Junior Warwick Hunt.

FOR INFORMATION

Report to the Bar Council on activities of the Practice Development Committee – 1 July to 31 December 2014

Noted.

Report to the Bar Council on activities of the Common Law Committee – 1 July to 31 December 2014

Noted.

The following papers were circulated via e-mail prior to the Council meeting.

- Email to the Bar Council dated 16 December 2014 from the Deputy Executive Director – Media release

- Email to the Bar Council dated 19 December 2014 from the Deputy Executive Director – NSW Bar Association
- Email to the Bar Council dated 19 December 2014 from the Deputy Executive Director – President on AM this morning
- Email to the Bar Council dated 20 December 2014 from the Deputy Executive Director – Transcript – ABC, ABC News, Friday, 19 December 2014
- Email to the Bar Council dated 23 December 2014 from the Deputy Executive Director – Transcript – Radio National, Breakfast (Early), Tuesday, 23 December 2014
- Email to the Bar Council dated 23 December 2014 from the Deputy Executive Director – Law Committee suggests drug control needs radical rethink
- Email to the Bar Council dated 23 December 2014 from the Deputy Executive Director – Transcripts
- Email to the Bar Council dated 13 January 2015 from the Deputy Executive Director – SMH editorial
- Email to the Bar Council dated 16 January 2015 from the Executive Director – ABA: Respect for Courts and Commissions required
- Email to the Bar Council dated 21 January 2015 from the Deputy Executive Director – Australian Government Legal Services Expenditure Report 2013-14

The meeting closed at 6:30pm.

Confirmed as a correct record:

Jane Needham SC
President

Date: