

Removal of dual regulation for migration lawyers applauded

The Law Council of Australia has congratulated the Government on its endorsement of the “Kendall Report”, which was released today by the Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, Senator the Hon. Michaelia Cash.

The comprehensive Report, by the Independent Reviewer of the Office of Migration Agents Registrations Authority (OMARA), Dr Christopher Kendall, made 24 recommendations, including the immediate cessation of dual regulation for migration lawyers, a reform which is long-overdue.

President of the Law Council Mr Duncan McConnel said the Government’s endorsement of the Kendall Report’s recommendations is a progressive step for the migration industry and legal profession, and resolves issues that have been under consideration for over 20 years.

“We are extremely pleased the Government has concluded that dual regulation of migration lawyers is unnecessary, inefficient and counter-productive,” said Mr McConnel. “The Australian legal profession operates in the most strictly regulated environment in the country. The Law Council has always maintained that dual regulation of migration lawyers is an avoidable burden to governments, the community and the profession.”

“Migration services are important from an economic and humanitarian perspective, and under an existing robust regulatory environment for legal professionals, lawyers providing migration advice play a key role in ensuring an ethical and strong migration practice in Australia.

“The removal of dual regulation not only means a significant reduction in red tape, it will also contribute to better consumer protection and a stronger, united legal profession.

“The Law Council of Australia looks forward to continuing its constructive engagement with the Government and other stakeholders, to ensure the seamless implementation of this important reform,” Mr McConnel concluded.

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