



## AUSTRALIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

### MEDIA RELEASE

*30 September 2015*

## **PNG Government must lift travel ban on Australian lawyers**

The Australian Bar Association is concerned by reports that two Australian lawyers, both of whom have a right of practise in Papua New Guinea, are being denied entry to the country.

The Papua New Guinea Law Society, in a statement issued yesterday, confirmed that Greg Egan and Terence Lambert hold current practising certificates. Both lawyers are representing members of the PNG Police in matters relating to a warrant of arrest for the prime minister of PNG, Peter O'Neill.

'If reports of a travel ban issued by Chief Migration Officer Mataio Rabura are true, then this is a deeply disturbing situation', said the vice-president of the Australian Bar Association, Patrick O'Sullivan QC.

'Every citizen of Papua New Guinea is entitled to legal representation and in particular, is entitled to choose who represents his or her interests', Mr O'Sullivan said.

'Foreign counsel play an important role in the administration of justice in PNG and lawyers must be allowed to practise without intimidation or hindrance. This includes the right of entry into the country. Interfering with the impartial administration of justice will only serve to jeopardise the rule of law in Papua New Guinea. I urge the PNG Government to see what is at stake.

Mr Egan and Mr Lambert should be permitted to enter the country and continue to represent their clients - immediately', Mr O'Sullivan concluded.

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