

Law Council welcomes Law Society of WA recommendation to adopt Legal Profession Uniform Law

The Law Council of Australia welcomes the recommendation by the Law Society of Western Australia to the Attorney-General for Western Australia that the Legal Profession Uniform Law be adopted as law in the state.

New South Wales and Victoria have enacted legislation for the Legal Profession Uniform Law which is set to commence in early 2015.

President of the Law Council of Australia, Mr Michael Colbran QC, said it is encouraging to see that Western Australia is now also considering participation in the scheme which will provide a number of benefits for consumers of legal services and the community generally.

“The intention of the Legal Profession Uniform Law is to eliminate the regulatory differences between states and territories that are impeding the profession both domestically and internationally.

“The differences that currently exist stand in the way of a seamless, nationally competitive legal profession and also create a barrier to negotiating reciprocal access to international legal services markets,” Mr Colbran said.

“Giving effect in Western Australia to the Legal Profession Uniform Law will help to ensure that lawyers operate under the same rules and professional standards; consumers have access to the same consumer protections; the market for legal services is open to all practitioners regardless of jurisdiction; and the regulatory system supports participation in the international legal services market.

“The Law Council supports the development of a consistent approach to regulation of the legal profession across Australia and is hopeful the work done to-date by the Victorian and New South Wales Governments on the design of the legislation and regulatory framework will be seen by other jurisdictions as a good basis for considering the merits of participating in a consistent and integrated system of regulation,” Mr Colbran concluded.

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