

Memorandum



To: CEOs - Constituent Bodies
Presidents - Constituent Bodies
Directors
Section Chairs

From: Jonathan Smithers, Chief Executive Officer

Date: 19 December 2019

Crowdfunding Guidance for the Australian Legal Profession

Action Request

Constituent Bodies are asked to publish the Crowdfunding Guidance for the Australian Legal Profession (**Guidance Note**) on, and not before, **Friday 20 December 2019**.

The Guidance Note is **attached** to this memorandum.

Background

The crowdfunding of legal costs is an emerging issue arising from contemporary developments in technology and internet platforms, for which the legal profession does not have any settled policy positions. In response to this issue, the Executive approved the establishment of the Crowdfunding Working Group out-of-session on 29 July 2019.

The Working Group was tasked with devising policy options the Law Council might adopt and promote in response to the ethical and professional implications arising from this issue. It has developed a Guidance Note for the profession, which was considered by Directors at the meeting on 30 November 2019 and circulated to Constituent Bodies for comment by 13 December 2019.

The Guidance Note has now been settled by the Executive for publication. It is envisaged that this Guidance Note will assist the legal profession by raising of awareness of the risks, and the professional and ethical issues that practitioners ought to consider when navigating this complex issue with clients.

Contact

Should you have any queries, please contact Tarryn Gaffney on 02 6246 3752 or Tarryn.Gaffney@lawcouncil.asn.au.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Smithers", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jonathan Smithers
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER