Law Society of New South Wales

Membership Statistics

March 2003

The following data about practising solicitors was drawn from the Law Society's membership database on 3 March 2003.

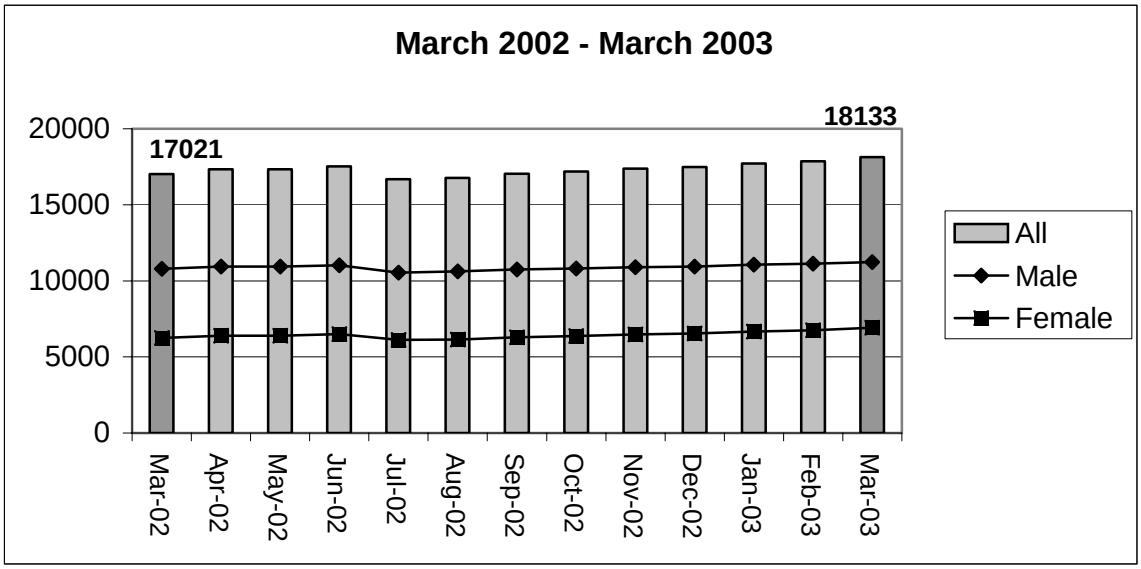
Table 1: Practising Solicitors	**March 2003**	
	No	**%**
All Solicitors	18,133	
Male solicitors	11,221	61.9
Female solicitors	6,912	38.1
City solicitors	9,965	55.0
Suburban solicitors	4,883	26.9
Country solicitors	2,417	13.3
Interstate solicitors	495	2.7
Overseas solicitors	370	2.0
Unknown	3	0.0
Type of practitioner		
Private practice	13,430	74.1
Government	1,829	10.1
Corporate	2,361	13.0
Other [1]	513	2.8

Table 2: Years since admission	**<1 year**	**2 - 3 years**	**4 - 7 years**	**8 - 14 years**	**15+ years**	**Total**
All	16.8	12.0	14.3	17.5	39.3	100.0
Male	11.6	9.1	11.7	17.0	50.5	100.0
Female	26.8	17.7	19.4	18.6	17.4	100.0
Table 3: Age [2]	**< 29 years**	**30 - 39 years**	**40 - 49 years**	**50+ years**		
All	19.4	29.9	27.5	23.1		100.0
Male	13.1	25.5	30.1	31.4		100.0
Female	29.9	37.2	23.3	9.6		100.0

Table 4: Profile of Private Practice	**Firms**		**Solicitors working in firms**	
Firms [3]	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
Sole practitioner	3,020	81.1	4,454	33.2
2 - 4 partners	597	16.0	2,804	20.9
5 - 10 partners	68	1.9	1,056	7.9
11 - 20 partners	14	0.3	579	4.3
21+ partners	23	0.6	4,537	33.8
Total	3,722	100.0	13,430	100.0

Table 5: Profile: Individual Solicitors in Private Practice						
	Female		Male		All	
	No	%	No.	%	No.	%
Principal	461	10.3	2,893	32.3	3,354	25.0
Sole principal	529	11.8	2,372	26.5	2,901	21.6
Employee	3,449	76.9	3,503	39.2	6,952	51.8
Other	45	1.0	178	2.0	223	1.7
Total	4,484	100.0	8,946	100.0	13,430	100.0

Table 6	Female				Male				All			
	Principal		Employee		Principal		Employee		Principal		Employee	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Sole Principal	533	53.8	586	17.0	2,398	45.5	769	22.0	2,931	46.9	1,355	19.5
2 - 4 Partners	168	17.0	572	16.6	1,288	24.5	742	21.2	1,456	23.3	1,314	18.9
5 - 10 Partners	54	5.5	301	8.7	390	7.4	304	8.7	444	7.1	605	8.7
11 - 20 Partners	20	2.0	172	5.0	168	3.2	217	6.2	188	3.0	389	5.6
21+ Partners	215	21.7	1,818	52.7	1,021	19.4	1,471	42.0	1,236	19.8	3,289	47.3
Total	990	100.0	3,449	100.0	5,265	100.0	3,503	100.0	6,255	100.0	6,952	100.0



1. Other includes: Solicitor Corporations, Foreign Firms, Quasi Firms and Interstate Firms
2. Age: percentages have been calculated without including unknowns
3. Firm size is measured by the number of partners.
4. The totals for the number of solicitors in Table 4 differ from the totals in Tables 5 and 6, because Table 4 records those solicitors who work in more than one legal practice (that is, several solicitors are counted more than once).

For an extended description of the solicitors of New South Wales see the 2002 Profile of the Solicitors of NSW published on the Law Society's web site at http://www.lawsociety.com.au/page.asp?PartID=935

The information in this profile is only a summary of the information captured by the Law Society's membership database. If you have different information requirements please contact:

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