



THE LAW SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

LEGAL PROFESSION UNIFORM LAW

The initial roll-out of the uniform scheme will create a common legal services market across New South Wales and Victoria, encompassing almost three quarters of Australia's lawyers. The scheme aims to harmonise regulatory obligations while retaining local performance of regulatory functions.

Benefits for corporate and government lawyers include the following:

1. Role of the legal profession in regulation

- In NSW, the Law Society will continue to carry out existing regulatory functions, issue practising certificates and work with the Office of the Legal Services Commissioner in relation to complaints handling.

2. Mobility between jurisdictions

- It will be easier for practitioners to move from one jurisdiction to another, not only due to common admission and practising certificate requirements, but also because those who move will not be required to learn the obligations and regulatory requirements of the new jurisdiction.

3. Volunteer practising certificates

- A new volunteer category of practising certificate has been introduced. It has been made clear that all practitioners (including corporate and government) will be authorised to engage in voluntary legal services or otherwise on a pro bono basis, subject to appropriate professional indemnity insurance coverage.

4. Fidelity fund contributions

- Government and corporate lawyers will not be required to make fidelity fund contributions, recognising that they do not handle trust money.

5. Insurance requirements

- It is anticipated that under the Uniform Rules, government and corporate lawyers will be exempted from the requirement to take out professional indemnity insurance (unless it is needed to cover volunteer work at a community legal service or other pro bono work).

6. Related entities

- The scheme clarifies that corporate legal practitioners may provide advice to related entities of their employer company.

7. Practising certificates

- There is greater clarity about eligibility for practising certificates, making it easier to transfer between the private and public sectors.

THE LAW SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

170 Phillip Street, Sydney NSW 2000, DX 362 Sydney
ACN 000 000 699 ABN 98 696 304 966

T +61 2 9926 0333 F +61 2 9231 5809
www.lawsociety.com.au