



Brad Hazzard MP

Attorney General Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW LAW FOR LAWYERS

The NSW Liberals and Nationals Government is transforming the delivery of legal services for the profession and consumers, Attorney General Brad Hazzard said.

“The NSW-Victoria common legal services market is one step closer, with the NSW Parliament last night passing the Legal Profession Uniform Law,” Mr Hazzard said.

“This is a major step forward – the law will benefit consumers and lawyers alike as the shorter, less complex and uniform legislation creates economic benefits for both sides.

“Consumers will have the same protections, rights and remedies in both States.”

The law covers about 70 per cent of Australia’s lawyers and their clients.

The new law will:

- regulate the legal profession across the two States, including admission to the legal profession and professional discipline issues
- reduce regulatory and compliance costs and provide new, low cost ways to resolve service complaints and costs disputes with law firms quickly and informally.

“The NSW and Victorian Governments are delivering a system suitable for the 21st Century. Hopefully it will inspire other states to join the scheme,” Mr Hazzard said.

The Legal Profession Uniform Law has been passed by the Victorian Parliament. The uniform legal profession reforms began as a Council of Australian Governments initiative in 2009.

The Legal Services Council and new Commissioner are expected to be appointed in July, with the new scheme due to start in early 2015.

“I would like to thank the Law Society of NSW, which has very generously offered a financial contribution to the costs of the new scheme, as well as the NSW Bar Association for their support in driving this reform,” Mr Hazzard said.

“I would also like to thank the Chief Justice and other members of the judiciary as well as the Office of the Legal Services Commission and my Victorian counterpart Attorney General Robert Clark.”