

# Renewing your practising certificate for the 2017-18 year

The practising certificate renewal period commences on 20 March and will close on 30 April 2017. Renewals lodged from 1 May 2017 will attract a surcharge.

## INFORMATION FOR LAWYERS

### Delegation of functions

The Victorian Legal Services Board is responsible for assessing and processing practising certificate applications for all Victorian registered solicitors. For Victorian barristers, the Board has delegated this function to the Victorian Bar.

Solicitors with queries about the renewal process or the information required on the renewal form, should contact Practitioner Services (Tel: 03 9679 8111 or email: [online@lsbc.vic.gov.au](mailto:online@lsbc.vic.gov.au)).

Barristers with queries should contact the Victorian Bar (Tel: 03 9225 7111 or email: [pcrenewals@vicbar.com.au](mailto:pcrenewals@vicbar.com.au)).

### Online renewal

Practitioner Services handle all practising certificate administrative matters.

Instructions about how to renew online are provided below. Practitioner Services can also assist you with submitting your renewal application through the online system.

You must submit your renewal by **30 April 2017** to avoid attracting a late application surcharge.

### Renewal by practitioners is mandatory

The Uniform Law mandates annual renewal (s.10). Each year approximately 50 people fail or forget to apply for renewal and continue to practise unlicensed. This is an offence. When eventually granted, the license cannot be backdated. Legal fees received whilst unlicensed must be returned to clients. Please don't let this happen to you. We have found that approximately 85% of practitioners renew their practising certificate before the 30 April each year. This is encouraging statistical evidence that legal practitioners are aware of the importance of timely renewing of their practising certificate.

### *Continuing professional development (CPD)*

Section 52 of the Legal Profession Uniform Law (Victoria) requires all practitioners to comply with the CPD rules for the year ending 31 March of each year. Please note that non-compliance may impact your ability to renew your practising certificate. Please contact the Law Institute of Victoria (or for barristers, the Victorian Bar) for more information about CPD compliance.

### *Supervised legal practice*

If you have previously been subject to supervised legal practice but believe you have now completed the requisite period, you will need to apply to have the supervised legal practice condition removed from your practising certificate. Refer to the Board's website for more information about supervised legal practice.

### *First practising certificate during renewal period*

A lawyer who applies for their first practising certificate to commence *during* the renewal period (i.e. 21 March to 30 June 2017) **is also required to renew that practising certificate for 2017-18 to enable them to continue to practise after 30 June 2017**. Applications for new practising certificates are also submitted through LSB Online.

### *Not renewing*

If you do not intend to renew your practising certificate please indicate this by completing the 'Not renewing form' on LSB Online.

### *Privacy and your information on the public register*

The Board is required to keep a register holding details for each Australian legal practitioner registered in Victoria, including name, date of birth, date of admission and address for service. The Board is required to make the register available for public inspection.

With the exception of date of birth, the Board has approved register information to be provided to the public via the Board's website, telephone and in writing (including via email). Please note: the address you provide as your address for service (a street address allowing for personal service of documents) will be accessible to the public through the above means. Your address for service cannot be a post office box.

#### How to renew online

##### 1. **Access LSB Online**

Go to the Board's website at [www.lsbc.vic.gov.au](http://www.lsbc.vic.gov.au) and click on the green 'LSB Online' button.

##### 2. **Enter your username and password**

Your username is your practitioner number, which can be found in the email sent to you by the Board on 20 March 2017. You can also find your practitioner number on your current practising certificate. Your practitioner number begins with the letter 'P' and is comprised of **seven numbers**. For example: **P0123456**.

##### 3. **Password**

You will be required to login using the details that you used when last logging in to LSB Online. If you have forgotten your password, go to the LSB Online Login page and click on the 'Forgot my password' link.

##### 4. **Renewal steps**

Click on the 'Forms' link located on the 'Welcome' page. From the 'Forms' page, click on the link: 'Start a practising certificate renewal form', which will launch the online renewal form.

The online form pre-populates some of your practitioner information. *Please check all details carefully before submitting your form.*

You can navigate through the online form using the 'Next' button at the bottom of the form. When you are ready to submit your renewal form, simply click on the 'Submit Form' button at the bottom of the page. Any errors will be displayed on the right hand side of the screen.

##### 5. **Payment**

Payment can be made by BPAY or credit card. If paying by BPAY, simply print the invoice on the payment screen and log in to your financial institution to make a payment using the details listed on the invoice. If you wish to pay by credit card, you will be asked to enter your credit card details on the payment screen. A receipt will be emailed to you when your payment has been processed by the Board.

If you submit your renewal after 30 April you are required to pay a surcharge. The Board may grant you an exemption from paying the surcharge under certain circumstances. If your application for surcharge exemption is approved by the Board you will receive a refund of the surcharge amount.

##### 6. **My employer will pay**

You can elect for your employer to pay for your renewal fees. This means your employer will log in to their Legal Entity account in LSB Online and pay your fees. **Please check with your employer first before choosing this option.**

If your employer is paying, please select 'My employer will pay' on the 'Payment' tab. Your employer's payment records will then be updated to indicate that you have submitted your renewal form.

The Board does **not** issue your employer with an invoice for your renewal fees. Your employer must log in to LSB Online to pay. If they do not wish to pay via LSB Online, they may contact Practitioner Services on Tel: 9679 8111 to discuss payment options. Your practising certificate will not issue until your employer has paid for your fees.

##### 7. **Confirmation email**

You will receive a confirmation email from the Board upon submitting your renewal form. Failure to submit your form by **30 April 2017** will attract a late application surcharge.

##### 8. **Emailing your Practising Certificate**

Please go to LSB Online to update your email address. The Board will issue practising certificates electronically. It is vital you check that your email address is current in your renewal application to ensure you receive your practising certificate when it is issued.

#### QUERIES

If you have a query about your renewal application, please contact Practitioner Services (for solicitors) or the Victorian Bar (for barristers) on the details below.

##### **Practitioner Services (for solicitors)**

Tel: 03 9679 8111

Email: [online@lsbc.vic.gov.au](mailto:online@lsbc.vic.gov.au)

##### **Victorian Bar (for barristers)**

Tel: 03 9225 7111

Email: [pcrenewals@vicbar.com.au](mailto:pcrenewals@vicbar.com.au)