

# RPA News

***News update for all practitioners from the Victorian Legal Services Board + Commissioner***

**#15, December 2014**

## Uniform Legal Profession Regulation

Since September, momentum has continued to build towards commencement of the Legal Profession Uniform Law. The Legal Services Council and its Admissions Committee have been established and have held their first meetings.

On 28 November 2014, draft Legal Profession Uniform Rules were released for public consultation. The draft Rules are divided into several categories:

- General Rules (developed by the Legal Services Council);
- Admission Rules and an accompanying explanatory paper (developed by the Admissions Committee);
- Legal Profession Conduct Rules – for barristers (developed by the Australian Bar Association);
- Continuing Professional Development Rules – for barristers (developed by the Australian Bar Association);
- Legal Profession Conduct Rules – for solicitors (developed by the Law Council of Australia);
- Legal Practice Rules – for solicitors (developed by the Law Council of Australia);
- Continuing Professional Development Rules – for solicitors (developed by the Law Council of Australia).

Links to the draft Rules can be found on the Victorian Legal Services Board and Commissioner's [Uniform Law page](#). The public consultation period is open until **16 January 2015**. Information on how to make a submission is available on the Legal Services Council's [website](#).

The draft General Rules attempt to give effect to the Uniform Law and largely synthesise the existing legal profession regulations in Victoria and New South Wales. There are, however, a number of draft Rules which depart from existing regulations and on which the Legal Services Council particularly seeks comment:

- the definition of 'qualified entity';
- exemptions from the managed investment scheme prohibition;
- exemptions from the professional indemnity insurance requirement;
- consequences of not participating in a costs assessment process;
- exceptions to the unqualified practice prohibition; and
- a standard costs disclosure form.

More information is available on the Legal Services Council's [website](#). I encourage you to get involved in this consultation. When made, the Uniform Rules will have significant implications for barristers, solicitors and consumers.

### **Michael McGarvie**

CEO Legal Services Board  
Legal Services Commissioner

### **Contact Us**

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