

RPA News

Regulation. Prosecution. Action.

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

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Legal Profession Uniform Law update

With the new Legal Profession Uniform Law commencing on 1 July 2015, this bulletin updates you on some new resources, and answers some common questions raised with my office by lawyers and law firms.

Proclamation

The *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014* was proclaimed on Tuesday 16 June 2015, fixing 1 July 2015 as the day on which the remaining provisions of the Act come into operation. The scheme commences for NSW and Victoria next Wednesday, 1 July 2015

Solicitors' stamps

The Victorian Legal Services Board and the Law Institute of Victoria recommend if you are arranging for a new stamp for certifying documents, the new wording should include your name and address, followed by the phrase:

'An Australian legal practitioner within the meaning of the Legal Profession Uniform Law (Victoria)'

If your new stamp is not ready by 1 July, you can cross out the reference to the *Legal Profession Act 2004* and write 'Legal Profession Uniform Law (Victoria)' on any document generated on and from 1 July that requires your stamp. You should also initial the alteration.

Costs precedents available

The Law Institute has released a series of Uniform Law costs precedents to assist lawyers and law practices with the transition to the Uniform Law requirements.

The precedents include the following:

- disclosure statement;
- barrister's disclosure statement;
- costs agreement;
- conditional costs agreement;
- combined disclosure statement and costs agreement;
- combined disclosure statement and conditional costs agreement; and
- notification of rights.

They can be downloaded now from the [LIV website](#).

These precedents will be available to non-members until 30 June 2015, after which they will only be available to members. I would like to thank the Law Institute for making these precedents available at this important time.

Government lawyers

To allow extra time for processing of government lawyer practising certificates, government lawyers who do not carry a practising certificate have been granted an exemption from the effects of the unqualified legal practice and supervised legal practice provisions until 30 September 2015. To allow adequate time for processing government lawyers should lodge an application for a practising certificate by **31 August 2015**.

The method for lodging is via the Board's [LSB online](#) service. The Board recommends government lawyers apply for their practising certificates without delay. Please contact the LSB Online Support team (Tel 03 9679 8111) with any queries.

Michael McGarvie

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