

RPA News

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

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Practising Certificate Renewals: Signing of declarations, and LSB Online upgrades

Since its introduction in 2014, LSB Online has simplified the process of renewing a practising certificate. It has been so successful that in 2018, almost 95% of lawyers applied to renew their practising certificate by 30 June, with 88% applying in the first six weeks of the renewal period.

Despite making it easier and faster for lawyers to renew their practising certificate, some lawyers are looking for shortcuts by getting others to complete their renewal on their behalf.

Lawyers must complete the declaration themselves

Renewing a practising certificate requires the applicant lawyer to sign a personal declaration. This makes it clear that the application has been completed and signed by the applicant him or herself, declaring that all of the information in the application is true and correct. The fact that it is now an online process *does not alter* the requirement associated with making the personal declaration.

Only the lawyer who is applying for the practising certificate is permitted to complete and submit the renewal application. Renewals must not be completed by an office secretary, HR representative, personal assistant or other person on an applicant's behalf. Any departure from this may result in the applicant lawyer being subject to a suitability assessment.

LSB Online enhancements

To further improve LSB Online and make it easier for lawyers to use, the system will soon undergo a series of upgrades designed to improve accessibility. From December this year, lawyers will be able to access LSB Online via a mobile phone or tablet device, enabling greater flexibility when applying to renew a practising certificate or amend registration details. LSB Online will also become compatible with a greater range of web browsers, and practising certificates will be made available to download directly from the system, rather than being emailed to lawyers once granted.

These enhancements will make LSB Online even more user friendly, making it easier for lawyers to manage their registration.

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