

Media Release

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UNIFORM RULES FOR A COMMON LEGAL SERVICES MARKET

The Legal Services Council today issued the Legal Profession Uniform Rules which will apply to the common legal services market in NSW and Victoria from 1 July 2015.

“This is an important milestone on the way to a national legal profession. Having one uniform law and a single set of rules means lawyers can practice seamlessly across state boundaries. It paves the way for a more efficient system for the regulation of legal services across Australia” said the Chair of the Legal Services Council, The Hon Michael Black QC AC.

The General Rules developed by the Legal Services Council will provide the operating framework for the Legal Profession Uniform Law scheme when it begins on 1 July 2015.

The Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation, Dale Boucher, said while NSW and Victorian practitioners should familiarise themselves with the uniform law and rules, most of their obligations are fundamentally unchanged.

“However, there are some changes” he said. “For example, new costs disclosure forms will make it easier for legal practitioners to meet costs disclosure obligations for minor matters while providing good information to the client.”

This will strengthen client relationships, improve the client’s experience and reduce disputes, said Mr Boucher.

Included are rules covering the legal profession conduct, practice and continuing professional development which were developed by the Law Council of Australia and the Australian Bar Association. A specialist Admissions Committee prepared the common rules for admission to the legal profession in New South Wales and Victoria.

The rules and new costs disclosure forms are available at www.legalservicescouncil.org.au.

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