

Legal insurance scheme the result of hard work in SA

The Law Society of South Australia has assisted with one of Australia's first legal insurance schemes.

The Society's President-elect, Neville Morcombe, has been working on a committee for the last three years bringing together South Australia's largest union, the Public Service Association (PSA), and insurance brokers Jardines.

The resultant scheme, introduced on July 1 this year, has favourable implications for cost of justice issues because a significant proportion of middle South Australia is now covered by legal insurance.

To kick-start the scheme the Law Society made a seeding grant of \$230,000 from its Guarantee Fund. The PSA and Jardines agreed that the PSA would pay \$10 per annum per

member for the insurance, and that members would be indemnified for up to \$100,000 per claim.

PSA members are at liberty to make a personal contribution of \$15 per annum to extend cover to immediate family.

The indemnity extends to motor vehicle, personal and consumer matters, some criminal offences and limited cover for matrimonial actions. The scheme is meritorious whereby a committee considers each case before deciding whether the insurance pool will fund the action.

The most significant factor about the scheme is that it helps bridge the gap between those who can afford to fund

a legal action and those who qualify for legal aid.

The scheme is a pilot programme only and will be assessed after a year of operation.

If it has not been successful it will probably be scrapped because the Law Society has made it clear that its contribution was a one-off grant to get the scheme underway.

If it has been a success it will continue without further financial assistance from the Law Society.

In the event of success both Jardines and the Law Society hope that other unions and individuals will take out legal insurance.

The South Australian insurance scheme represents the first time in Australia that such a large number of people have been covered by a single legal expenses policy.

POSITION VACANT

A love job exists for any practitioner who would like to write case material for the 1992 Inter-School Mock Trial Competition. Stress factor 100+ (doubting toms are invited to contact Sally Kift for verification). There is some small compensation in the form of an hourly rate of payment. This would be ideal for anyone who has been a coach or a judge in the competition previously. Masochists should contact Robyn at the Society on 815104.

Wanted: practitioners for legal & cultural exchange

Dear Ed,

I am an attorney practising law in San Francisco, California. I am interested in arranging tours for lawyers from the United States to visit Australia for the purpose of studying your legal system and legal philosophy.

I would like to arrange lectures by members of your legal community (including attorneys, law professors, law instructors and judges), and meetings between the visiting lawyers and local scholars and practitioners for the purpose of discussing our respective legal systems.

If you believe that any of the members of your legal community might be interested in lecturing to these visiting lawyers, and/or might be interested in meeting, either in formal or informal sessions, with them, please ask them

to contact me at the address below.

I hope to find local practitioners and scholars in Australia who would be interested in speaking or having meetings on the following legal topics: torts, property, contracts, civil procedure, criminal procedure, criminal law, environmental law, constitutional law (as applicable), legal thought and social policy, and any other areas that may be appropriate to gain a better understanding of Australia's legal system and philosophy. I would also appreciate recommendations you may have as to literature and other educational materials to study before arrival in Australia.

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USA