

BY PRESIDENT  
NEVILLE HENWOOD

# OFF BALANCE

## Money matters

As promised in my last column, I report on the bi-annual meeting of the Law Council and the bi-annual Conference of Law Societies held in Canberra late in March.

A number of issues were discussed, but of particular interest were:

1. South Australia has now implemented a fees uplift scheme by which practitioners are entitled to charge a percentage over and above scale in return for "punting" their fees in a matter; and

2. The Law Society of New South Wales will be the licensing authority in that state for conveyancing agents.

A matter of considerable financial concern to the Northern Territory was a new scale of capitation fees.

Under the

new scale, capitation fees will be graduated.

At present, every constituent body pays \$68 per head.

The new scale provides an "entry fee" of \$3,000 per constituent body with a graduated fee after that.

What it means is that the NT will be paying in the vicinity of \$82 per head whilst the larger states will pay something in the order of \$50 per head.

The Law Society must now consider two things:

(1) whether we can survive on a membership fee of \$100 from which \$82 goes direct to the Law Council; and

(2) whether we wish to remain a constituent body of the Law Council.

I will provide more details in due course and we will be seeking the views of the profession on this issue.

As you are no doubt aware, Law Week is upon us and coincides with the 25th anniversary of the Law Society.

For the first time, Law Week will reach all of the Northern Territory (and three other states of Australia) by way of television advertising in relation to the Lawline on NTD 8 and Imparja.

Each of these stations has supported the Society by offering a one-for-one deal on advertising which effectively means we get two commercials for the price of one.

I urge practitioners to support the Society in its call for volunteers on the Lawline and on radio.

I take this opportunity to thank sponsors of Law Week, namely Imparja, NTD 8, HOT-100, ABC Regional Radio and 8DDD-FM.

And finally, Brennan J of the High Court will be visiting the NT in July. We are planning functions in Darwin and Alice. Details soon.



For

**Assessments  
Court Reports  
Opinions  
Counselling  
Psychotherapy**

**Anthony P Franklin  
Psychologist**

Phone 089 279600  
Fax 089 452600

**DMS** Darwin  
Mediation  
Service

**Think of  
the number  
of disputes  
you handle  
that would be  
better  
resolved  
through  
mediation**

For information about  
mediation and other  
services we provide  
please call

**Maria De Ionno  
Psychologist  
Mediator**

Phone 089 279600  
Fax 089 452600