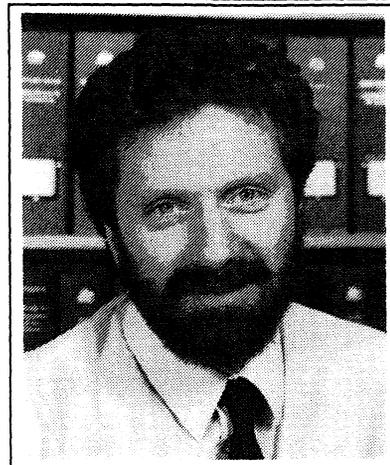


Membership of the Law Society — a Priority



By now you will have received a renewal notice for membership of the Law Society.

The Law Society can only truly claim to represent the views of Northern Territory legal practitioners if all practitioners are members and as members participate in decision making in respect of legal practise in the Territory.

At the official opening of the Society's new premises the Chief Minister, Mr Shane Stone voiced his opinion that all practitioners should be members of the Society and I have taken this to mean that the government will take notice of the views of a united profession.

If you have not already done so, I ask that you complete and return your membership application as a matter of priority.

Attached to the renewal notice

BALANCE

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was a copy of the latest Member Services booklet.

These benefits have been negotiated with many business houses in Alice Springs and Darwin and if used can result in considerable savings.

Unfortunately, unless the services are used the participating businesses may withdraw.

Please consult the booklet before making any substantial purchases of household and personal items.

The Attorney-General has released a discussion paper which deals with a number of significant issues in respect of conveyancing in the Territory.

Specifically the discussion paper canvasses vendor disclosure proposals, a discussion on whether to limit acting for both parties to a conveyancing transaction and the question of the prescription of a standard contract.

I urge practitioners either to respond to the paper directly or to forward responses to the Society so that a coordinated response may be made.

You will be aware that as part of the Federal Budget the Government announced large in-

creases in fees payable in the High Court of Australia.

I advise that on 19 June 1997 the Senate disallowed the Regulations providing for that increase.

The Law Society recently received a rough draft of proposed Criminal Practice Rules which the judges are presently considering. The draft has not been settled by Parliamentary Counsel, and is intended to be read as instructions to Parliamentary Counsel. The Hon Justice Mildren has asked for any suggestions on the rough draft and asks further that ambiguities in it should be drawn to his attention.

As suggestions are required by 18 July, any practitioner interested in seeing and commenting on this document should contact the Society to obtain a copy.



**Have you joined the
Qantas deal?**

**Contact the Law Society for
further details.**