

Access To Justice Must Not Be Diminished - LCA President

The Law Council of Australia says the right of all Australians to have access to the justice system must not be gradually diminished and neglected, but instead should be a "funding priority" for the government.

Speaking during Law Week 1997, President of the Law Council, Mr Peter Short says a gradual reduction in legal aid funding - and increases in filing fees for the courts - means the justice system is becoming less and less accessible to many Australians.

"Access to justice is a central right in any democratic society. All Australians must be able to use the justice system," said Mr Short.

"The legal system should mirror the medical system in this respect. A hospital doesn't turn you away if you don't have enough money to pay for treatment - similarly, the justice system shouldn't

be an exclusive haven for the wealthy - it should be accessible to all citizens."

Access to justice has suffered, for many years, from budget cuts to legal aid and rises in court fees. The recent rise in High Court fees - in some areas as high as 700% - means that less people will be able to access that court."

"While the legal profession can see that the government, in introducing these fee rises, is wanting to partially recoup its funding of Australia's justice system, the Law Council says there are some government institutions - including the courts - which are simply not suited to a fair application of a user pays principle."

Mr Short went on to suggest that Law Week was an appropriate time for the government to reconsider the crucial right of access to justice, and to realise the importance of the preservation of that right in a democracy.

To Let

Elevated flat in good position, Fannie Bay.

11 Rooms, fully air-conditioned and unfurnished. Includes:

- 2 entrances
- 2 kitchens
- 2 bathrooms
- 2 toilets
- huge tiled covered balcony with harbour views.

Suitable for combined residential and business.

Phone Di :8984 3873

SUCCESS

IN THE 90'S
EQUALS
CASH FLOW
AND
PROFITS

Seek expert taxation advice to increase your after tax income

With the end of the financial year approaching, have you and your clients considered:

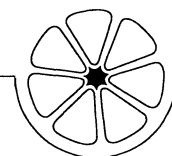
- TAX DEDUCTIBILITY OF BAD DEBTS
- SUPERANNUATION CONTRIBUTIONS
- RESTRUCTURING OF AFFAIRS
- PREPAYMENT OF EXPENSES

These and other issues need to be considered NOW to legally minimise income tax.

*For expert end of year Tax Planning Advice contact
Denys Stedman (B.Bus ACA) - phone 8981 8255 or fax 8941 1007.*

Garraways • Chartered Accountants

18 SMITH STREET, GPO BOX 1999, DARWIN, NORTHERN TERRITORY 0801



ROKA