

Psychological Reports

The President of the Association of Private Practising Psychologists, Ms Maria De Ionno has noted that there is some concern amongst legal practitioners regarding the cost of psychological reports.

In the interests of developing a better understanding between the professions, Ms De Ionno has offered to meet with members of the Law Society to explain the type of tests and other assessments, interpretation and integration of information and procedures involved in preparing psychological reports for court and other purposes.

Members who are interested in taking advantage of this offer are asked to contact the Law Society so a meeting can be arranged.

Federal Costs Advisory Committee

The Secretariat of the Law Council reports an excellent result from the Federal Costs Advisory Committee fourteenth inquiry.

The LCA, represented at the inquiry by Michael Harmer, submitted that federal court scales should be increased by 4.54% – an amount derived from calculation of indices based on the weighting of components adjusted to reflect information on the cost structure of legal firms noted in the Australian Bureau of Statistics report Legal & Accounting Services 1995-1996. The Commonwealth submitted that an increase of only 2.4% was warranted.

The FCAC has concluded that it will recommend to federal courts that they increase the scales of solicitors' by an amount of 4.5% and has sent copies of the report to the Chief Justices of the High Court, family Court and Federal Court for their consideration. A copy of the report is available at the LCA.

VOLUNTEERING IS GREAT!!

Darwin Community Legal Service is looking for solicitors and articled clerks to give legal advice at our advice sessions.

Here's what some of our volunteers have said...

"Before I was a volunteer for DCLS I had no friends and my family wouldn't speak to me — now I am the most popular person in Darwin."

"My breath is fresher and I owe it all to DCLS."

"Volunteering for DCLS has given me such enthusiasm in my life, I've started a degree in nuclear physics."

"My car starts everytime since I started volunteering for DCLS."

DCLS runs three sessions per week. Most of our volunteers attend one session per month at:

DARWIN — THURSDAY FROM, 5.30 - 7.00PM

CASUARINA — SATURDAY FROM 10AM-12.00NOON

PALMERSTON — MONDAY FROM 6.00PM - 8.00PM

If you would like to volunteer please ring Sam on 8941 3394.

Year 2000 Compliance

Standards Australia has produced a new publication to help small to medium firms address Year 2000 computing problems.

The handbook, entitled *HB104: 1997, A guide to year 2000 compliance*, offers a detailed understanding of the problems and a methodical approach to a solution. It provides organisations with step-by-step instructions to overcoming the Year 2000 problem, as well as discussing the relative merits of various solutions.

The publication, which claims to be one of the few in the world that is aimed at small to medium businesses, is available through all Standards Australia offices.

Sales enquiries may be directed to:

Customer services Centre
Standards Australia
tel: 1300 65 46 46

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