

South Africa

Recognition of Foreign Legal Qualifications

De Rebus (the South African law journal) of November 1997 advises that President Nelson Mandela has approved a final extension of the period of operation of the recognition of *Foreign Legal Qualifications and Practice Act* 114 of 1993.

The Act allows that the Minister of Justice "may, on the recommendation of a panel of experts, recognise certain foreign legal qualifications for the purposes of admission to practise as an advocate or attorney in South Africa".

The extension of six months from 1 October 1997 gives a final deadline of 31 March 1998 and in a press release the Department of Justice advises applicants to hand in their applicants well before the deadline of 31 March 1997.

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De Rebus on the Internet

Mr Philip Van Der Merwe, editor of *De Rebus* has requested that the following information be passed on to NT practitioners:

"The South African law journal *De Rebus* will be published in its entirety on the Internet from February. Internet browsers will be able to obtain extensive information on South African law free of charge at www.derebus.org.za. *De Rebus*, now in its thirtieth year of existence, is the official law journal of the Association of Law Societies of South Africa. It provides the most complete coverage of what is happening in the South African legal profession and legal developments in general. In addition to feature topical articles, the journal also carries news and discussions on recent court cases and new legislation."

Director of Public Prosecutions and Summary Prosecutions

On 11 February 1998 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Commissioner of Police, Brian C Bates, and the Director of Public Prosecutions, Rex Wild QC. This acknowledged that *the responsibility for the care and prosecution of all offences rests with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions*.

What formerly operated under the title of *Police Prosecutions Unit* is now to be formally known as *The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions - Summary Prosecutions*.

It is recognised that the Northern Territory Police Force will continue to have a key role in the care and conduct of prosecution of all summary offences but the ODPP will maintain overall responsibility for all prosecution matters. It is intended that all police prosecutors throughout the Northern Territory will have equal access to advice from the ODPP and they will perform their duties

in accordance with the guidelines of the ODPP.

Summary Prosecutions will continue to operate with a strong police presence.

The functions of the ODPP will include not only the assumption of ultimate responsibility for summary prosecutions but also the management of the police and civilian staff employed therein.

Correspondence may be directed to the relevant officer from time to time holding the position of:

Officer-in-Charge
Summary Prosecutions
Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

Level 2, Tourism House
43 Mitchell St
DARWIN NT 0800.

The telephone number (8999 7900) and fax number (8999 7525) for Darwin remain the same. The respective numbers in Alice Springs are tel: 8951 5797 and fax: 8951 5799

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