

NOTICEBOARD

Amendments to the High Court Rules

The Justices of the High Court of Australia have issued the following amendments to the High Court Rules:

Order 58, rule 4

Order 58, rule 4 of the High Court rules specifies the procedure to be adopted by the registrar for the issue of proceedings. Sub-rule (3) permits the registrar to seek the direction of a justice regarding proceedings which appear to the registrar to be an abuse of the process of the court or frivolous or vexatious. A justice may direct the registrar to issue it or refuse to issue it without the leave of a justice first obtained by the party seeking to issue it.

The amendment to the rule, which is to come into operation on Monday 17 September 2001, clarifies the scope of the operation of the rule to ensure that it covers all forms of initiating process that are presented for filing in the court.

Second Schedule

The Second Schedule to the High Court Rules specifies the amount which solicitors, who are entitled to practise in the High Court, may charge and be allowed on taxation of costs by the taxing officer of the court in respect of proceedings in the court.

The amounts in the schedule were last varied by Statutory Rule No 274 of 2000 made on 29 August 2000 and which came into operation on 5 October 2000.

The Federal Costs Advisory Committee, in its report to the Justices dated 26 June 2001, recommended an increase of 3.9% to the solicitors' costs as set out in the Second Schedule.

The court has agreed to the recommendation of the committee and the increase, which came into operation on Monday 17 September 2001, applies in respect of all work done and services performed by solicitors after Sunday 16 September 2001.

High Court of Australia Sittings

Sittings of the High Court for the transaction of all such businesses as may be brought before it shall be held during the year 2002 at the places and commencing on the following dates:

Canberra	4 February 2002
Canberra	5 March 2002
Canberra	9 April 2002
*Hobart	29 April 2002, 2.15pm
Canberra	21 May 2002
Canberra	18 June 2002
*Brisbane	24 June 2002, 2.15pm
Canberra,	6 August 2002
*Adelaide	12 August 2002, 2.15pm
Canberra	3 September 2002
Canberra	1 October 2002
*Perth	21 October 2002, 2.15pm
Canberra	5 November 2002
Canberra	3 December 2002

* No sittings will be held unless there is sufficient business to warrant the attendance of the court.

Sittings to hear applications for special leave to appeal will also be held on the days hereunder mentioned:

Friday 15 February 2002
Friday 15 March 2002
Friday 19 April 2002
Friday 31 May 2002
Friday 21 June 2002
Friday 9 August 2002
Friday 13 September 2002
Friday 11 October 2002
Friday 15 November 2002
Friday 13 December 2002

Launch of New Risk Management Seminar Series in November 2001

The Law Society is pleased to announce that we are launching a new Risk Management program for Territory practitioners this year, in conjunction with our insurance brokers, Marsh Ltd.

We have spent some time investigating various Risk Management programs over the past twelve months, and with sponsorship support by our Professional Indemnity facility insurer, we have purchased a video workshop series structured to focus on specific risk management areas relating to legal practitioners.

Marsh will facilitate workshops in both Alice Springs and Darwin in November this year, with reference to the specific experience in the Northern Territory.

With the current situation of rising premiums in the insurance market, implementing simple and effective risk management strategies is a way that practitioners and firms can have a positive influence on future premiums for their PI insurance. Working towards reducing the frequency and cost of claims, will in turn help keep our insurance premiums competitive.

The seminars are a great opportunity for practitioners of all levels to attain practical and relevant advice with respect to Risk and Practice Management at a low cost.

Seminars will be held in November, with final times and topics will be advised shortly. Please note the following dates in your diary to make sure you do not miss the launch of the new Risk Management program.

Dates

Alice Springs 20 November 2001
(lunch time / afternoon session at Rydges Plaza Hotel)

Darwin 21 November 2001
(morning session and afternoon sessions at Saville Hotel)

Darwin 22 November 2001
(morning session at Saville Hotel)