

# LANDMARK AGREEMENT

creates 24/7 library for Victorian lawyers

**W**ith more and more users requiring access to the collection outside of normal hours, the Law Library of Victoria can now provide around-the-clock access to its electronic database.

The [Law Library of Victoria](#) and the Victorian Bar have reached a landmark agreement that represents a scalable sustainable growth model for libraries throughout Australia. The Richard Griffith Library (Level 1, Owen Dixon Chambers, 205 William Street, Melbourne) has formally become part of the Law Library of Victoria from 1 July 2018, giving Victorian Bar members around-the-clock access to the same electronic research databases available in the Supreme Court Library and to the judiciary – more information than would ever be achievable in a personal library. This creation of a new branch within the Victorian Bar's existing library has significantly improved access to subscriber-only online legal resources and library services, without the cost of the Law Library buying or renting new premises.

Director of the Law Library of Victoria, Ms Laurie Atkinson, said long-term planning of licence agreements had been necessary to achieve this positive outcome. 'It was a long process but we got there in the end and the result is a gamechanger,' she said. 'This focuses staff and clients on our digital collections and services, which meet the expectations of users.'

This is a very exciting development for all barristers, but particularly junior barristers and barristers on lower incomes. It will be a significant factor for people when they are deciding whether to come to the Bar – they will know they don't have to give up the level of research support they had at university or their former employer, and they will have access to more information than would ever be possible from a personal library.

*Dr Matt Collins QC, Victorian Bar President*



(L-R) Mr Ian Upjohn CSC QC, Dr Matt Collins QC President of the Victorian Bar, Ms Laurie Atkinson Director Law Library of Victoria, and the Hon. Justice Cameron Macaulay Chair Law Library of Victoria Committee. Photo by Noah Chrapot

The initiative enables barristers to access top-quality information that previously they could only access during opening hours at the Supreme Court Library, a significant barrier when preparing a case. Further benefits include a qualified librarian available at the Richard Griffith Library during set times to help with research enquiries.

Law Library at the Bar helps realise the Law Library of Victoria's vision to widen the reach of its services to the legal profession and provide a more contemporary, fresh and helpful library service. It increases access to justice by enabling more members of the legal profession to access the critical legal resources they need, when they need them.

Members of the Bar, the judiciary, and the Law Library of Victoria team attended the recent launch of the Law Library at the Bar at Richard Griffith Library on 20 August 2018. In his launch speech, Dr Matt Collins QC, President of the Victorian Bar, thanked all those involved in the project and emphasised the benefits that increased access to digital resources will provide to barristers. Guests present at the launch were impressed by the range of value-added services that will now be provided. 🌟