

Law Council welcomes reform funding announcement

The Law Council has welcomed the announcement by the Commonwealth Attorney-General today regarding the start up funding for regulatory components of the national legal profession reforms.

Law Council President Glenn Ferguson said the announcement was a great step forward in the reform process.

“Today’s commitment by the Attorney-General sends a clear message to the legal profession that the Government is committed to delivering the national reform agenda.”

The legal profession’s support for the COAG Reform proposal has been strong and unwavering since COAG announced its decision to include this issue on its micro-economic reform agenda.

However, Mr Ferguson said this support is predicated on an effective reform regime that will truly deliver to the profession the ability to conduct legal practice on a national basis and a simplified regulatory regime.

“While we are encouraged by today’s announcement, there are still a number of outstanding issues relating to funding of the new national regulatory system which the Law Council will continue to work with the Government to address.”

The Law Council considers it essential that any new regulatory scheme for the legal profession should be supported by all states and territories and the Council has been consulting with its constituent bodies to ensure the reforms effectively address the requirements of the profession.

“Over the coming months as the reform process commences finalisation, the Law Council will ensure the profession continues to work effectively together so as to achieve positive outcomes and a truly seamless and national profession,” Mr Ferguson said.

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