



Lawasia now Officially in Darwin

On 1 March 1996 I was pleased to attend the opening ceremony of Lawasia at its new headquarters in Darwin.

The establishment of Lawasia in the Territory was the culmination of the efforts of Presidents and members of Council of the Law Society over a number of years ably assisted by the Executive Officer Jim Campbell.

I congratulate Roslyn West on her appointment as Secretary-General of Lawasia and wish her all the best for the future.

The President of the Law Council of Australia Mr Michael Phelps and the Secretary-General Mr Peter Levy attended Darwin for the opening of Lawasia and whilst here, took the opportunity to meet with councillors of the Society to discuss problems currently facing the profession.

The Federal Bureau of Consumer Affairs recently forwarded to me for comment, a consultation paper titled "Guidelines for the Advertising of Legal Services".

I have received notice from the Law Council that it proposes to lodge a submission on behalf of constituent bodies.

It is an interesting twist of fate that the legal profession, some of whose members are called upon on a daily basis to advise clients on matters subject to the provisions of the Trade Practices Act, should be the first profession to be handed guidelines on appropriate and acceptable advertising.

On 26 February 1996, the Chief

Justice wrote to the Society confirming that he had approved an amendment to the Professional Conduct Rules by the addition of sub-clause 4 to clause 3 of the Rules.

Sub-clause 4 states:-

"A Practitioner may advertise in connection with that practitioner's practice that the practitioner is an accredited specialist in a particular field of practice provided that the practitioner so described has passed an accredited specialist accreditation course approved and authorised by Council from time to time and that the practitioner has maintained such accreditation as required by the appropriate body."

The Chief Justice approved the amendment based on advice that Council of the Society had resolved to approve specialist accreditation courses conducted by the Law Societies of New South Wales and Queensland and the Law Institute of Victoria, provided such courses are certified by those organisations to be national in training content.

It is pleasing to note that several members of the Society will shortly be undertaking a Family Law specialist accreditation course.

In my column in the February edition of "Balance" I sought the views of members on court dress.

I thank those who have responded but note regrettably the responses were few.

As I pointed out in my column, the information is required for the Law Council of Australia to complete a

national survey.

Please assist by faxing you views to the Society on 411623 and if you wish, use the following options:-

• **Option 1**

Both judge and counsel, wig/bands and gown, only in witness actions (whether civil or criminal).

• **Option 2**

Both judge and counsel, wig/bands and gown, only in criminal jury trials.

• **Option 3**

Both judge and counsel, gowns only, in all proceedings.

• **Option 4**

Judge in gown, counsel in neat dress (no wig/bands or gown), in all proceedings.

• **Option 5**

Both judge and counsel, neat dress (no wig/bands or gown), in all proceedings.

I am pleased to publish below a letter from His Honour, the Administrator in respect of the opening of the legal year:-

"Please extend my thanks to the Law Society for inviting me to lunch for the opening of the Legal Year.

As always it was a most enjoyable occasion and I particularly appreciated the address of Mark Woods. I was also very pleased to note the excellent attendance at the Church service and at the luncheon.

I send my very best wishes for the continuing success of the Law Society in 1996."