

## **SCAG, COLS and the rest**

It is an interesting time to be settling into the job and a busy time is ahead.

As indicated in *The Practitioner* the Executive and staff will be following up options for Professional Indemnity Insurance as a matter of urgency, with a discussion paper due out for the profession in April 2003.

(For the uninitiated, *The Practitioner* is a new weekly one-page email newsletter to all LSNT members. It's designed to enhance communication between the Secretariat and the profession by keeping members in touch with various "housekeeping" issues.)

The Standing Committee of Attorneys-General (SCAG) is due to meet in Melbourne on 11 April 2003.

It will be considering the Professional Standards and Proportionate Liability issue.

It is in the interests of all, including the clients of professionals that affordable liability insurance is available.

There is some suggestion that the failure of the Commonwealth in particular to address these issues is causing alarm with international reinsurers.

SCAG is also considering the related issue of National Model Laws for the Legal Profession project.

Again, it is not possible at this stage to say when the process will be finalised, however we are monitoring developments.

Following on from the LSNT's strategic planning process plans are well underway to further advance the committee process.

Some committees are meeting on a regular basis – for example, the Public Issues Committee looking at Tort Law Reform. It is proposed that most other LSNT committees meet during April 2003, with a view to reports being prepared by July 2003.

The committees are dealing with a wide range of issues, ranging from the complaints by-laws to pre-admission

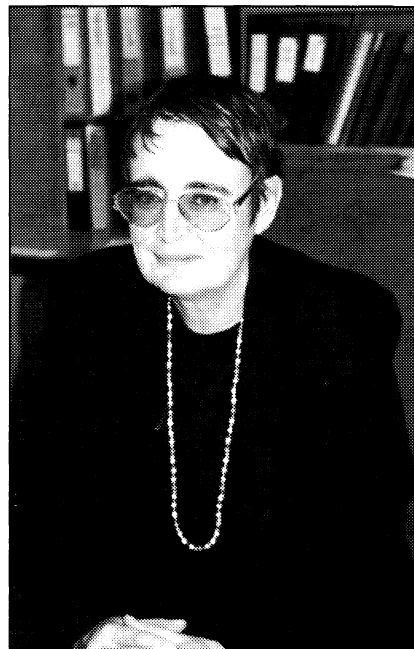
training for articled clerks, the Fidelity Fund and brochures.

We are currently looking at membership of some committees. In particular we are looking to re-activate the Commercial Committee.

The Northern Territory Government is putting forward a number of initiatives in this area, including the Associations Bill discussion draft and Retail Tenancies discussion bill which have previously been mentioned in *The Practitioner*.

Property law professionals are also concerned about the new Swimming Pool Act and in particular the Registrar-General's requirements on settlement.

Meanwhile, I am looking forward to attending my first COLS (Council of Law Societies) Meeting in April 2003 and meeting my interstate colleagues.



*Barbara Bradshaw, Chief Executive Officer, LSNT*

The Commonwealth Law Conference should also be interesting and hopefully not overshadowed by the war in Iraq. ①

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