Vendor Disclosure discussion paper

Attorney-General and Justice Minister Dr Peter Toyne has released the Vendor Disclosure Legislation Discussion Paper and called for submissions on the issue.

"The government is examining the pros and cons of Vendor Disclosure Legislation which would be basically aimed at improving the efficiency and fairness of the conveyancing system in the NT," Dr Toyne said.

Among the issues the discussion paper examines are:

- whether vendor disclosure statements should be mandatory and if so, what they should include;

- whether vendor disclosure statements should only apply to residential property sales, or whether they should apply to all property sales;

- whether there should be a mandatory cooling off period for buyers;

- whether a draft contract of sale be available at the time of listing the property for sale;

- whether a prescribed contract of sale should be used in the NT.

"I strongly encourage individuals as well as industry groups and other interested parties to make submissions on the discussion paper," the Minister said.

The closing date for submissions is 28 April 2006. The discussion paper can be found at www.nt.gov.au/justice or contact the Legal Policy Division of the Department of Justice on 89357665.

Putting Legal IT to work cont...

be automated, saving time for both fee earners and support staff. This enables documents to be produced significantly more quickly and cheaply.

Minter Ellison SA/NT's experience with its CMS also suggests that when attempting to win new work, it can make a big difference to already have process management system records for that type of work which can be analysed. This provides a better guide of what handling the work involves, where the assessed client 'value' can be enhanced or improved, how operational efficiencies can be obtained, etc. So it provides a useful management tool.

Does it work? Within the last year, a major corporate client's legal costs have very substantially reduced, average timescales for dispute resolution are significantly down, and early indicators are that results obtained compare favourably with those expected. The average costs per file are also in line with those predicted from existing CMS records - a satisfying result.

Minter Ellison SA/NT is at the forefront of Case, Practice, and Document management systems. Its local centre of excellence in these areas, combined with its national standards, enable it to deliver systems which provide significant benefits for both the firm and its client. Minter Ellison SA/NT looks forward to its integrated systems extending the range of types of work where such 'value focused' service delivery models are appropriate.

Online CPD: Useful tool or false grail? cont...

evidence that greater learning will occur by viewing the video. In fact there is some research which suggests that reading the article would be the better choice at least 60 percent of the time (and that's research on 'live' lectures).

Multi-faceted websites and interactive virtual lectures are exciting (and fun) tools which do promise new learning opportunities in CPD for lawyers, including those in small and remote jurisdictions. What online learning is not, however, is a cheap 'cop-out' solution or a 'quick fix' for cash and time poor CPD providers. Using ICT tools to deliver CPD offers many exciting possibilities but it requires more time and probably more money than conventional seminar style delivery. The pay-off is that material once developed is re-useable and quality is likely to be enhanced. Those developing

CPD need to give serious consideration to proper use of online options as one method of collecting those soon to be important points. More important however is serious consideration to what we do and do not define as CPD.

LINKS:

Law Institute Victoria: http://www.liv.asn.au/
Jurist: "Teaching with the Web": http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/lessons/lesjul98.htm
Lander: "Online Learning": http://ultibase.rmit.edu.au/Articles/may99/lander2.htm
Australasian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education: http://www.ascilite.org.au
WebCT: http://www.webct.com/
Blackboard: http://www.blackboard.com/us/index.aspx
Moodle: http://moodle.org/