

# Features and Benefits of the Uniform Law Scheme

## A COMMON FRAMEWORK FOR REGULATION OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION

- The Uniform Law contemplates a national Australian legal profession with benefits for government, lawyers and consumers provided on a nationally consistent basis
- Currently, 68% of all legal practitioners Australia-wide are covered by the Uniform Law framework. When Western Australia joins the scheme, this figure will increase to 75%
- Harmonisation of the regulation of the legal profession creates a seamless national legal market. Law practices can benefit from a common regulatory framework

## REGULATORY AUTONOMY REMAINS FOR STATES AND TERRITORIES

- States and territories can retain their existing local regulatory arrangements under the Uniform Law
- The Application Acts may provide for the retention of unique regulatory arrangements
- Supreme Court admissions and supervisory roles remain unchanged
- The Council is a high-level policy and rule-making body and is not involved in individual cases

## A LOW COST SCHEME

- The notional cost of the Uniform Law scheme is under \$30 annually per legal practitioner
- The source of each participating jurisdiction's contribution is a matter for them to determine

## A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

- The Uniform Law framework encourages collaboration between local regulatory authorities to identify and promote agreed best practice
- The Council and Commissioner hold regular liaison meetings with local regulatory authorities and an annual Uniform Law Summit to bring regulators together to discuss issues and initiatives

## INPUT INTO THE UNIFORM LAW SCHEME

- All participating Attorneys General are members of the Standing Committee of Attorneys General that oversees the Council and approves changes to the Uniform Law
- The Council and Admissions Committee can be expanded to accommodate new participating jurisdictions
- An Intergovernmental Agreement provides for arrangements between participating jurisdictions and requires consultation on Uniform Law changes
- There is a mandated minimum of 30 days consultation for rule changes