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Mr Dale Boucher
CEO Legal Services Council and
Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation
Level 11
170 Phillip Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Mr Boucher

Thank you for your correspondence of 2 December 2014 inviting NSW Fair Trading to provide a submission on the consultation drafts of the proposed Uniform Rules to be made under the Legal Profession Uniform Law.

NSW Fair Trading does not intend to provide a detailed submission on the consultation drafts. However I would like to make the following observation.

As you will likely be aware, the Australian Consumer Law (ACL) provides for general protections of the rights of consumers, including guarantees for consumers that apply to the provision of services. Under the ACL, services must be provided with due care and skill and within a reasonable time, and must be fit for purpose. The consumer guarantees provided by the ACL apply to services provided by legal practitioners.

NSW Fair Trading therefore considers that while the rights of consumers of legal services are already protected under the ACL in general terms, the Uniform Rules may provide for additional and complementary protection specific to the services provided by legal practitioners.

Thank you for affording NSW Fair Trading the opportunity to comment on the consultation drafts.

Yours sincerely

Rod Stowe
Commissioner

21/1/15.