

MR0509

4 February 2009

Prime Minister Clears Path for a Truly National Profession

The Law Council has today welcomed the Prime Minister's announcement that legal profession reform is now part of the Government's ongoing micro-economic reform agenda.

Law Council President John Corcoran said, "Given the enormous contribution legal professional services make to Australia's economy in both a national and international sense, it is simply unacceptable that we do not yet have a single piece of legislation which allows lawyers to operate efficiently on a national scale."

"Despite the very good attempts in recent years to harmonise laws which govern the regulation of the legal profession, there's still a need to simplify that legislation and the regulatory structures," he said.

"Our legal profession is currently the most over-regulated profession in Australia. Lawyers have to work their way through a myriad of rules, some of which are inconsistent especially across jurisdictions."

Mr Corcoran said this had benefits not just in reducing compliance costs for the profession but in providing a consistent, transparent approach for consumers of legal services.

"Australia's international competitiveness also stands to gain from this type of reform," he said.

"The Law Council looks forward to working with the Council of Australian Governments and Standing Committee of Attorneys-General to assist with the speedy implementation of these reforms," Mr Corcoran concluded.

Media Contact:

Elenore Eriksson, Director Public Affairs
P. 02 6246 3716 || M. 0419 269 855

www.lawcouncil.asn.au

The Law Council of Australia exists to represent the legal profession at the national level, to speak on behalf of its constituent bodies on national issues, and to promote the administration of justice, access to justice and general improvement of the law.