



Media Release

AUSTRALIAN BAR ASSOCIATION EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR A NATIONAL LEGAL PROFESSION

The President of the Australian Bar Association, Mr Peter Riordan S.C., said today:

“The Australian Bar Association (“the ABA”) supports the general thrust of reform in the direction of uniform legal professional structures in all States and Territories.” He said that the major objectives of National Legal Profession Reform are commendable – simplified uniform legislation and regulation, national standards policies and practices where practicable, freedom of movement between jurisdictions to foster a truly national profession, and clear and accessible consumer protection.”

Mr Riordan said that the ABA’s submission to the National Legal Profession Reform Taskforce supported a National Profession and stressed the important role played by an independent legal profession and its value both to the independence of the judiciary and, more generally, to the rule of law.

“The ABA believes that there is an overwhelming need for a national regulatory regime but at the same time it is necessary to ensure that a careful balance is achieved between self regulation of the legal profession and Government intervention.” Mr Riordan said.

Mr Riordan said that the ABA was committed to working with Government to find the best way to ensure that the objectives of independence and accountability can be achieved.

-END-

For further information, please contact Peter Riordan S.C. on (03) 9225 7162 or 0412570625.

Thursday 3 February, 2011