



REVISED NSW TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS – CORPORATE AND GOVERNMENT LAWYERS

The Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Regulation 2015 (NSW) includes the following transitional arrangements for government and corporate lawyers under the Uniform Law:

Government lawyers - not admitted

Any person employed as a government lawyer in the 12 months prior to commencement, and who is not currently admitted to the legal profession, will be permanently exempt from the requirement to be admitted and to hold a practising certificate while they continue to be employed as a government lawyer.

In addition, for anyone who commences work as a government lawyer after 1 July 2015, and who is not admitted, there will be a three year transitional exemption from the requirement to be admitted and hold a practising certificate (i.e. until 30 June 2018).

Any government lawyer practising pursuant to this transitional exemption will need to notify the Legal Profession Admission Board, within one year of engaging in practice pursuant to this exemption.

Corporate lawyers - not admitted

Corporate lawyers who are not admitted to the legal profession will be required to be admitted and hold a practising certificate. However, there will be a three year transitional exemption from these requirements (i.e. until 30 June 2018).

In addition to covering any person currently employed as a corporate lawyer, the exemption will also apply to anyone who commences work as a corporate lawyer during the three year transitional period.

Any corporate lawyer practising pursuant to this transitional exemption will need to notify the Legal Profession Admission Board, within one year of engaging in practice pursuant to this exemption.

Government and corporate lawyers - admitted

Government and corporate lawyers who have been admitted will be exempt from the requirement to hold a practising certificate for two years (i.e. until 30 June 2017).

This transitional provision will also apply to any person who commences work as a government or corporate lawyer during the two year period.

Any government or corporate lawyer practising pursuant to this exemption will need to notify the Law Society within six months of engaging in practice pursuant to this exemption.

Government and corporate lawyers (admitted) notice of practice pursuant to transitional exemption

In the case of a government or corporate lawyer who has been relying on the exemption since 1 July 2015, this notice must be given before 1 January 2016.

Download and complete the notice form which can be accessed from the link below and return to the Law Society Registry Department: www.lawsociety.com.au/ForSolicitors/practisinglawinnsw/formsdirectory/index.htm

Supervised legal practice

Any period of legal practice engaged in by a government or corporate lawyer prior to 1 July 2015 or pursuant to a transitional exemption, and whether holding a practising certificate or not, is an exempt period of practice.

An exempt period of practice will be subtracted from the period of supervised legal practice required under section 49 of the Uniform Law.

Further information

For further assistance or information please contact:

Professional Standards Department
The Law Society of New South Wales

Call: (02) 9926 0390

Email: psd@lawsociety.com.au