



## Hon Jill Hennessy MP

Attorney-General

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Mr Sam Pandya  
President  
Law Institute of Victoria

By email: [president@liv.asn.au](mailto:president@liv.asn.au)

Dear Mr Pandya

Thank you for your letter of 29 September 2020 regarding the Roadmap to Recovery and the Victorian Legal System.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you, Adam Awty and the Law Institute of Victoria (LIV) team for the incredible work you have all undertaken over the past eight months in advocating for the legal profession and engaging with my department on the process to support the profession.

I understand the impact that the current roadmap and settings is having on the profession and the significant challenges created by the response to COVID-19. I also appreciate that many of the LIV's members are concerned about the impact that working from home is having on their ability to adequately advise vulnerable clients on personal, sensitive and confidential matters. I am aware that the LIV has been working closely with the Department of Justice and Community Safety (DJCS) on the roadmap for re-opening in order to develop a workable solution which balances the needs of the profession with public health concerns.

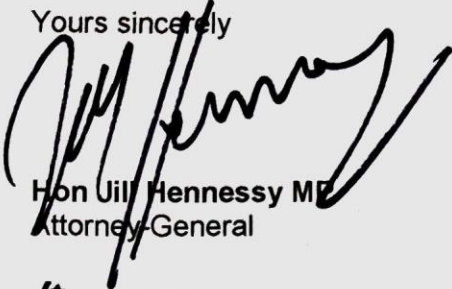
As you would be aware, metropolitan Melbourne is currently in the Second Step of our state's Roadmap to Recovery, and regional Victoria is in the Third Step. Metropolitan Melbourne is currently on track to join regional Victoria in the Third Step in a matter of weeks, subject to meeting the threshold of an average of less than five daily cases state wide in the past 14 days, and less than five cases in the past 14 days with an unknown source. Under the Third Step, offices and professional services in metropolitan Melbourne will be classified as "restricted", which means that staff should work from home wherever possible. Under the Third Step, industries will no longer be classified as 'essential', as persons will be able to leave their homes without limitation. Further information will be published about what this will mean for each industry and many sub-industries.

I encourage the LIV to continue liaising closely with DJCS in the lead-up to these announcements, to ensure that the needs of the legal profession are known.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further please contact Ms Anna Faithfull, Deputy Secretary, Justice Policy and Data Reform at the Department on (03) 9915 3782 or at [Anna.Faithfull@justice.vic.gov.au](mailto:Anna.Faithfull@justice.vic.gov.au).

Thank you for again for all the work you have been undertaking to support your members during this challenging year.

Yours sincerely



Hon Jill Hennessy MP  
Attorney-General

10 / 10 2020