



Hon Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

19 October 2011

NSW TO BE HOME FOR NATIONAL LEGAL BOARD

The Attorney General, Greg Smith SC, has welcomed the announcement that NSW will be the home for the new National Legal Services Board and National Legal Services Commissioner.

NSW won a ballot to host the new national regulators, that will play the key role in reforms to the legal profession – a sector which generates around \$13 billion of income a year.

“NSW will ensure that the Board is established on time, within budget and in premises that befits its role as the peak national regulator and the face of the Australian profession internationally,” Mr Smith said.

NSW, Queensland, Victoria and the Northern Territory – are taking part in the reforms, covering around 85 per cent of Australia’s practising lawyers.

There will be the same practice rules – and entry requirements – for all lawyers and a new complaint-handling process that will benefit consumers. This system will be overseen by the new national regulators, with the Board also developing the uniform national rules.

Mr Smith said NSW had a wealth of experience in regulating Australia’s largest and most diverse legal services sector, which comprises more than 40 per cent of Australian legal practitioners.

“NSW has been a driving force behind national reforms to the legal profession over the past decade, but there has been a lot of collaboration with other states – and in particular Victoria,” Mr Smith said.

“We hope to provide sound leadership and an inclusive approach that will benefit all the nation’s lawyers – and legal consumers.”