

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ORDINANCE 1969

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

No. 2 of 1969

This Ordinance provides for the admission to professional practice in the Territory of legally qualified persons and for the control of those persons in their professional practice in a way similar to that governing the legal profession in the States.

In particular the Ordinance provides for –

- (a) Admission to practice in the various categories existing in the States, that is, barrister, barrister and solicitor, and solicitor;
- (b) The discipline of members of the profession who hold solicitors practising certificates;
- (c) The keeping by solicitors of records and trust accounts, and for the annual auditing of trust accounts as a condition precedent to the issue of a practising certificate;
- (d) A portion of the funds in a solicitors trust account to be deposited with the Law Society, which is to invest the money on bank interest bearing deposits and use the interest –
  - to supplement the Solicitors Fidelity Fund;
  - for legal aid;
  - for post-graduate education and legal research.
- (e) A Solicitors Fidelity Fund for the purpose of compensating people who suffer pecuniary loss as a result of defalcations by solicitors;
- (f) The incorporation of the Law Society of the Australian Capital Territory.