

## **EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

### **LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT 1970**

#### **INSTRUMENT OF APPOINTMENT**

#### **INSTRUMENT NO. 278 of 1999**

The *Legal Practitioners Act 1970* provides for the establishment of the Professional Conduct Board which consists of seven members: five legal practitioners appointed by the Council of the Law Society and two non-legally qualified (lay) persons appointed by the Attorney General after consultation with the Law Society.

The function of the Board is to hear complaints concerning the professional behaviour of a solicitor which are referred to it by the Council of the Law Society. It does not hear complaints involving a person who practises solely as a barrister.

The terms of lay persons Ms Gail Freeman and Ms Helen Szuty expired and both subsequently proved to be unavailable for reappointment.

Ms Louise Littlewood and Mr Philip Mulcare were appointed to the Board on 14 December for a period of three years.

Pursuant to section 4 of the *Statutory Appointments Act 1994* The ACT Legislative Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety has been consulted concerning the appointments. The Committee has advised that it has no objection to the appointment.