

## Media Release

29 January 2013

### Chairperson appointed to Legal Services Board

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Today Attorney-General Robert Clark announced the appointment of Ms Fiona Bennett to the role of the Chairperson of the Legal Services Board. “The appointment of Ms Fiona Bennett as Chairperson of the Legal Services Board means consumers and lawyers in Victoria will continue to receive sound, steady and practical regulation of the profession”, stated the Legal Services Commissioner, Michael McGarvie, who is also Chief Executive Officer of the Legal Services Board.

Fiona Bennett has been the presiding member and acting Chairperson of the Board since Colin Neave’s departure from the Board in September 2012 to become Commonwealth Ombudsman. Ms Bennett is a past Deputy President and Board Director of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, and a current non-executive director of Hills Holdings Limited, Beach Energy Limited and Boom Logistics Limited, and the Deputy Chairman of Alfred Health. “Fiona brings to this role exceptional levels of good governance and practical wisdom for regulating the legal profession”, Mr McGarvie said.

“Under the Chairmanship of Fiona Bennett the Legal Services Board can continue to work closely with the Legal Services Commissioner in the fair, timely, and effective regulation of the legal profession in Victoria.”

In Victoria, the Commissioner handles complaints against lawyers and the Board deals with all other aspects of legal regulation including licensing, fraud compensation, funds management, grant-making and intervening in failed law practices.

“Fiona Bennett’s well recognised financial and prudential strengths will greatly contribute to the Legal Services Board’s strong reputation for sound financial management of Victoria’s \$600 million Public Purpose Fund, that fully pays the cost of regulation, contributes to Legal Aid, supports grants for law reform and legal education and meets other legal needs of great importance to the Victorian legal community.”