

MEDIA RELEASE

6 February 2014



NEW SOUTH WALES
BAR ASSOCIATION

NSW Bar President supports office of Senior Counsel

The President of the New South Wales Bar Association, Phillip Boulten SC, today expressed his strong support for the existing system of Senior Counsel in NSW. His comments come in the wake of the news that the Victorian Government will grant Senior Counsel the option of applying to the Governor for the use of the term “Queen’s Counsel”.

In Queensland the office of Queen’s Counsel was reinstated last year.

“Given that large numbers of Senior Counsel in those States are likely to assume the title of Queen’s Counsel, the New South Wales Bar Council will need to give further consideration to this issue. The NSW system involving the appointment of Senior Counsel is generally well understood and well regarded. Its strength lies in the fact that there is no need for Government approval of any appointments” Mr Boulten said.

Under the NSW system, a New South Wales Bar selection committee comprising barristers and independent representatives assesses applications and appoints senior counsel in accordance with the terms of the Bar Council’s Senior Counsel Protocol.

The NSW Government has had no involvement in appointing of senior counsel since the system for the appointment of Queen’s Counsel was abolished in this State in 1993.

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