



**ATTORNEY-GENERAL  
HON ROBERT McCLELLAND MP**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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Friday, 9 December 2010

**COMMONWEALTH TO FUND START-UP OF NATIONAL LEGAL  
PROFESSION REFORMS**

Attorney-General Robert McClelland today announced the Commonwealth Government will provide nearly \$1.7 million to establish two legal regulators as part of national reforms to the legal profession.

These funds will cover the start-up costs for the new National Legal Services Board and the National Legal Services Commissioner.

These national bodies are a cornerstone of the new national regulatory framework and will play an important role in developing uniform national standards and ensuring consistency in complaints handling.

The new legal profession framework will be a key topic for discussion at today's Standing Committee of Attorneys-General in Canberra.

Mr McClelland said the contribution demonstrates the Commonwealth's commitment to the implementation of a truly national regulatory system for the legal profession.

"These reforms will be of enormous benefit to the legal profession and to the broader Australian community," he said.

"This Commonwealth contribution represents an investment in Australia's progress towards a seamless national economy."

"The reforms will improve consumer protections and enhance the competitiveness of our legal services profession internationally – by reducing red tape and standardising regulations."

"These reforms will increase productivity in the legal services market, providing further opportunities for the legal profession to contribute to Australia's future prosperity."

"Today's funding commitment is a major step forward. With this funding confirmed, the Australian Government urges all States and Territories to work together to finalise this reform in the interests of the nation."

The taskforce is on track to deliver its proposed reform package, including the national law, to the Council of Australian Government within 12 months.

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