



## PRACTISING IN NSW UNDER THE UNIFORM LAW

# REVISED NSW TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS – CORPORATE AND GOVERNMENT LAWYERS

*The Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Regulation 2015 (NSW) includes the following transitional arrangements for government and corporate lawyers under the Uniform Law:*

### Government lawyers - not admitted

Any person employed as a government lawyer in the 12 months before 1 July 2015, and who was not admitted to the Australian legal profession on 1 July 2015, is permanently exempt from the requirement to be admitted and to hold a practising certificate while they continue to be employed as a government lawyer.

In addition, for anyone who commenced work as a government lawyer after 1 July 2015, and who was not admitted to the Australian legal profession at that time, there is a three year transitional exemption from the requirement to be admitted and hold a practising certificate with respect to their functions as a government lawyer until 30 June 2018.

Any government lawyer practising pursuant to this transitional exemption must notify the Legal Profession Admission Board, within one year of engaging in practice pursuant to this exemption.

### Corporate lawyers - not admitted

Corporate lawyers who were not admitted to the Australian legal profession on 1 July 2015 and who were employed as a corporate lawyer within the period of 12 months before 1 July 2015 will be exempt from the requirement to hold a practising certificate with respect to their functions as a corporate lawyer until 30 June 2018.

The exemption to 30 June 2018 also applies to any person who was not an Australian lawyer when he or she became a corporate lawyer and became a corporate lawyer after 1 July 2015.

Any corporate lawyer practising pursuant to this transitional exemption must notify the Legal Profession Admission Board, within one year of engaging in practice pursuant to this exemption.

### Government and corporate lawyers - admitted

Government and corporate lawyers who were admitted to the Australian legal profession on 1 July 2015 or who otherwise do not satisfy the criteria previously listed, can no longer rely on the exemption and must hold a practising certificate to work as a government or corporate lawyer. The exemption for such lawyers expired on 1 July 2017.

### Supervised legal practice

Any period of legal practice engaged in by a government or corporate lawyer prior to 1 July 2015 or pursuant to a transitional exemption, and whether holding a practising certificate or not, is an exempt period of practice.

An exempt period of practice will be subtracted from the period of supervised legal practice required under section 49 of the Uniform Law.

If you wish to claim an exempt period of practice towards a period of supervised legal practice, please contact the Law Society Registry Department on (02) 9926 0156

### Further information

For further assistance or information please contact:  
Professional Standards Department  
The Law Society of New South Wales  
Call: (02) 9926 0390  
Email: [psd@lawsociety.com.au](mailto:psd@lawsociety.com.au)