

# APLA in the news

## Lawyers move on green slips

Lawyer opposition to State Government plans to cut green slip prices by at least \$100 began to crack yesterday when one group reported progress in talks with the scheme's architect, the Special Minister of State, Mr Della Bosca.

A key issue in talks is the 10 per cent threshold on whole-of-body permanent impairment Mr Della Bosca wants to impose before car crash victims qualify for pain and suffering damages.

The threshold represented a "double whammy" for crash victims because it would exclude many from compensation for non-economic loss and would exclude psychological costs on patients, said Ms Catherine Henry, the NSW president of the Australian Plaintiff Lawyers Association.

Her group was "moving forward in collaborative fashion" with Mr Della Bosca, "who has indicated he is willing to look at reinstatement of psychological injury so long as there is clarity in definition".

The NSW Bar Association president, Mr Ian Barker, QC, said the 10 per cent threshold would exclude from non-economic damages, for instance, a woman who lost both breasts due to road accident injuries.

**David Humphries**

Sydney Morning Herald 8/6 1999.

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## Elections

Jane Staley, APLA Executive Officer

*In line with the change of APLA's status to a Company Limited by Guarantee, fresh elections were held at both a National and Branch level in May.*

As no position was contested, all positions were declared elected unopposed. The results are as follows:

### National Office-Bearers

**President:** Peter Cashman  
**Vice President:** Rob Davis  
**Secretary:** Bill Madden  
**Treasurer:** Ron Pearce

### Queensland

**President:** Ian Brown  
**Vice President:** Stephen Roche  
**Secretary:** Glenn Ferguson  
**Treasurer:** Richard Carew

### Committee members:

John Griffin QC Tim Crouch  
Kerry Splatt Darren Moore  
Dylan Mckimmie Geoff Horne  
Michael Horvath David O'Brien  
Simon Morrison Byron Cannon  
Christopher Newton

### ACT

**President:** Richard Faulks  
**Secretary:** John Little  
**Treasurer:** John Nichol

### Committee members:

Bill Redpath Sarah Todd  
Pat Worthy

### South Australia

**President:** Angela Bentley  
**Secretary/Treasurer:** John Dempster

### Committee members:

Ruth Carter Michael Saies

### Northern Territory

**President:** John Neill  
**Secretary:** Catherine Spurr  
**Treasurer:** Jodie Gerritsen

### Committee members:

Geoff James Caroline Scicluna  
Garry Schneider

### Victoria

**President:** Audrey Jamieson  
**Secretary:** Geoff Coates  
**Treasurer:** Geraldine Collins

### Committee members:

Simon Garnett John McPherson  
Gad Kolsky Peter Burt  
Anthony Kenyon Andrea Wallace  
John Richards Gary Mann  
Paul Henderson Patsy Toop

### Western Australia

**President:** Sukhwant Singh  
**Vice President/Treasurer:** Matthew Glossop

### Committee members:

Michael Seaman Tiffany Laslett  
Tony Aristei Barry Spinks  
Donna Percy Guy Stubbs  
Andrew Dimsey

**NSW** The NSW poll has not yet been declared.

**Tasmania** Results for Tasmania were not available at time of press.

## Risks in court action

WIN or lose, negligent or not negligent, defamed or not defamed, it is the role of our courts to make these decisions when individuals have the right to access them. But not all have equal access to the courts.

When you exercise that common law right to seek compensation for your damage, you also take on a risk that the courts may not find in your favor.

Mr Kennett might now appreciate that when workers had the right to sue negligent employers, they didn't always win.

They were not all walking away with bags of cash as the State Government would have us believe when it took away the right of injured workers to sue.

Win or lose — at least Mr Kennett, you still have that right to have your day in court.

**Audrey Jamieson,**  
Victoria president, Australian  
Plaintiff Lawyers Association

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