



SOUTH  
AUSTRALIA



Government of  
South Australia

# News Release Deputy Premier John Rau

Attorney-General

Minister for Justice Reform

Minister for Planning

Minister for Housing and Urban Development

Minister for Industrial Relations

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## New regulatory body for lawyers

South Australia's new regulatory body for the legal industry will open its doors today.

Attorney-General John Rau said the Legal Profession Conduct Commissioner will be charged with regulating the legal industry.

"The Government and the community expect a robust regulatory system for legal practitioners in South Australia," Mr Rau said.

"As of today the Legal Profession Conduct Commissioner will replace the Legal Practitioners Conduct Board as the State's regulatory body for lawyers.

"I am confident that the new Commissioner has the appropriate powers to deal with complaints and matters of misconduct fairly and appropriately.

"The public will have a more streamlined complaint process.

"The Commissioner has a range of tough but flexible measures at his disposal to address the misconduct of legal practitioners, while consumers will have enhanced protection measures.

"This includes a new public register of lawyers who have been disciplined by the Commissioner.

"We have put much work into developing a system that is well defined, accountable, transparent and fair for legal professionals and the members of the community who use their services."

The new Legal Profession Conduct Commissioner will:

- provide a process for people to lodge formal complaints, either about conduct or overcharging;
- provide a confidential conciliation service to assist in resolving complaints; and
- investigate complaints, and take disciplinary action in cases of misconduct

Greg May, who was appointed to the role of Legal Profession Conduct Commissioner earlier this year, said his new office will provide a sturdy pathway for complaints against the misconduct of legal professionals.

"This is about making sure that, where required, lawyers are held accountable for their actions, and giving the community confidence that matters of misconduct will be handled fairly and efficiently," the Commissioner said.

“All complaints lodged with my office will be investigated appropriately, and where I think there is sufficient evidence of misconduct then I will deal with that misconduct using the new broad range of powers the new legislation gives me.

“I have been working with the legal industry to communicate to all lawyers what the changes in legislation will mean for them.

“I can assure both the community and the legal industry that all matters referred to my office will be handled fairly and efficiently.”

For more information or advice visit the Legal Profession Conduct Commissioner’s website [www.lpcc.sa.gov.au](http://www.lpcc.sa.gov.au) or call 1800 337 570.