



Media Release

Silks appointments process settled for 2012

5 June 2012

Following an extensive consultation process with the profession and other stakeholders, the process for appointment of barristers as Senior Counsel in and for the State of Victoria has been settled for 2012.

The new process, which has been endorsed by the Chief Justice, the Hon Marilyn Warren AC and the Council of Judges of the Supreme Court of Victoria, will largely follow the model outlined in the Victorian Bar discussion paper, released in December 2011.

The new model will be implemented on a one year pilot basis for 2012 and then a review will be conducted at the end of the process.

“The Victorian Bar Council is pleased that the Chief Justice and the Council of Judges of the Supreme Court have agreed to pilot the new model,” said Victorian Bar Chairman Melanie Sloss SC.

“This model was the result of extensive consultation with the profession, including our members individually and through our committee structures, the courts and our colleagues who practise as solicitors,” she said.

“The model which will now be implemented for 2012 is the strong preference of the successive Bar Councils in 2011 and 2012 and it has received widespread support. A court-based system, with the Chief Justice centrally involved as the appointor, provides independence and impartiality from the practising profession, confidentiality and candour in the consultation process, and appropriate recognition of the importance of the office of Senior Counsel.”

“It is envisaged that the introduction of a preliminary evaluation committee comprised of members of the profession, to be appointed by the Chief Justice, will add strength to, and continue, the process of appointing Senior Counsel and will support the Chief Justice with the heavy workload associated with the appointment of Senior Counsel,” Ms Sloss said.

The model was developed by a working group of the 2010-2011 Bar Council comprising Mark Moshinsky SC, Melanie Sloss SC, Fiona McLeod SC, Phillip Priest QC, Jonathan Beach QC and Tim Tobin SC. It was endorsed by the elected Bar Councils of last year and this year.

Key dates for the 2012 Senior Counsel application process are:

- Information session – 13 June
- Invitation for applications – late June
- Applications close – 27 July
- Announcement of appointments – late November / early December (as in previous years).

[Click here](#) to view details of the model for 2012.

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