

**Senior Practitioners List Policy**  
**Effective: 1 March 2017**  
**Approved by Council: 22 December 2016**

The Senior Practitioners List (SPL), established and administered by the Law Society of Tasmania, consists of a panel of appointed senior practitioners (which may include recently retired practitioners) who are willing and able to provide on a voluntary basis *confidential consultations* to members of the profession about ethical or practice matters.

The List has benefited the profession through the volunteer services of senior practitioners for many years. This policy is the result of Council's 2016 SPL review and its purpose is to formalise the process of appointment to ensure the List is at all times current and that it provides an adequate cross-section of senior practitioners who are available to assist members of the Tasmanian profession, according to 'area of practice' and 'location of practice' in particular.

### **Appointment**

A sub-committee of Council (SPL Selection Panel) will be convened on a biennial basis (commencement date 1 March 2017) to review and refresh the List as required.

An invitation for Expressions of Interest shall be published in the Law Society's e-newsletter (or sent by way of email) no less than 30 days prior to the biennial review / Panel selection.

### **SPL Composition – Selection Process**

The SPL will be capped at 15 members. The SPL Selection Panel must ensure so far as possible adequate provision within the list for the needs of the Tasmanian legal profession, bearing in mind its specific demographics. This will include giving consideration to:

- Years of experience
- Relevant expertise
- Areas of practice
- Gender
- Location
- Likely accessibility / availability
- Currency in practice
- Desirability (or otherwise) of SPL member rotation from time to time

Those senior practitioners or recently retired practitioners who have submitted an expression of interest but who are not selected will be entered on a SPL vacancy register. They will also be resubmitted for the subsequent biennial review where the Society has received that practitioner's consent.

All Expressions of Interest will be treated confidentially by the Society.

Role of practitioners on the SPL (members expressing interest in appointment will be taken to have agreed to the role and obligations stated hereunder):

- Provide confidential consultations to members of the profession about ethical or practice matters as required from time to time.

- Return any missed call identified as a SPL call within 24 hours. Ensure a referral is provided to the individual where the practitioner is unable to take the call or unlikely to be available to assist within the time required by the individual.
- Within 24 hours of the initial substantive communication (or as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter) provide **de-identified** details of the enquiry to the Law Society. This information is collected for statistical purposes only.
- De-identified details include the date of contact, region of individual's practice and nature of enquiry / assistance sought and may be submitted by way of report (using the Society's report template) or (preferably) by completing details at: [SPL secure report online](#) [link removed].
- SPL members may consult in confidence with other SPL members as required but must not disclose the identity of the enquiring individual unless he or she has received the individual's prior written consent.

This policy will be made available via the Law Society website (member login area) and to any members or SPL participants or applicants upon request to the Law Society.