

Client/ Lawyer Costs Agreement launched by Law Society

The Law Society has produced a series of brochures, including *Information for Civil Litigants*, *Understanding the Legal Process* and *Common Legal Terms* to accompany the Client/ Lawyer Costs Agreement for clients of solicitors.

"With the Costs Agreement people will know exactly the basis on which their lawyer will charge for the legal services they require," Law Society Vice President Mr Ian Morris said.

The Law Society often hears complaints from clients arising from a lack of understanding of the costs and steps involved in the legal process.

"The successful resolution of a matter depends in part on a good relationship between a client and his or her solicitor," said Mr Morris.

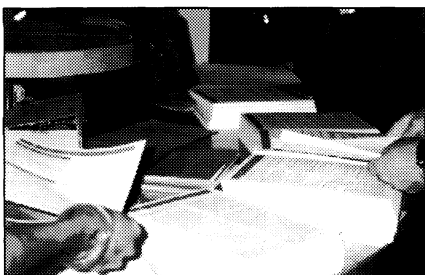
"These brochures have been developed to assist that relationship by helping litigants understand the civil litigation process."

The Society hopes the information pack will be widely adopted by practitioners.

"If everyone uses the same guide, the terms will become better known and if any disputes arise they can be resolved quickly," Mr Morris said.

The Society has forwarded copies of these brochures to all firms and sole practitioners in the Northern Territory.

If additional copies of the Agreement or associated brochures are required please contact the Society by phoning: 8981 5104.



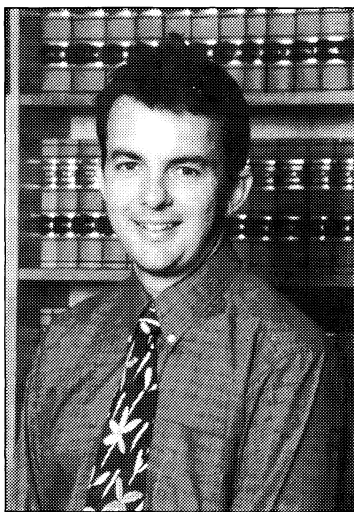
The brochures were launched at the Opening of the Legal Year luncheons in Darwin and Alice Springs

AROUND THE NT BAR

Ben O'Loughlin

Ben O'Loughlin is a barrister at William Forster chambers in Darwin, Northern Territory.

Ben was admitted as a solicitor and barrister in South Australia in 1990 after obtaining degrees in both Law and Economics.



Ben first worked as a solicitor/clerk in London. He then moved to Darwin in 1993 and commenced work as a Police Prosecutor, appearing in a large number of cases and gaining experience in evidence and crime.

In 1995 Ben was employed as a solicitor at Cridlands where he practised in commercial and general litigation together with some criminal matters.

Ben joined William Forster Chambers in February 1998. He is the Secretary/ Treasurer of the Northern Territory Bar Association, Chairperson of Darwin Community Legal Service and Commissioner for the NT Football League.

Ben's areas of law include: personal injury, commercial disputes including the pastoral industry and building and construction, crime and employment law, land claims and native title.

He has a special interest in the quantum aspects of large and complicated matters.

Janet Whitbread

Janet Whitbread is a barrister with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in Darwin, Northern Territory.

Janet was first admitted as a solicitor in London, England, in 1984. She completed her articles at the Greater London Council, before taking up a post as a solicitor with Jacques & Lewis.

From 1986 to 1991 Janet worked in the Sultanate of Oman. She was employed by Petroleum Development Oman to draft and negotiate commercial agreements and advise and represent the company in commercial disputes. From May 1988 she was employed by Trowers & Hamlin as a senior solicitor in the firm's Oman office.

Janet moved to the Northern Territory in 1991 to take up employment with Philip and Mitaros (now Clayton Utz). She worked with the firm as an associate partner in litigation until 1994.

Janet is currently a Crown Prosecutor with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in Darwin. Her duties include appearing as counsel in Supreme Court trials, justice appeals and pleas, as well as both summary hearings and oral committals in the Court of Summary Jurisdiction. She is the Crown Prosecutor with responsibility for the conduct of Crimes (Forfeiture of Proceeds) Act matters.

Janet was a member of the Council of the Law Society Northern Territory from 1993-96 and Member of the Women's Advisory Council to the Chief Minister 1996-97.

Janet works in criminal law.

