

# What's New – October 2012

## Practical Guidance

The Practical Guidance Property Law module is now 'truly national', covering all states and territories. The module has been authored by several property law experts and accredited specialists from their respective Law Societies, with approximately 20 firms from all jurisdictions now contributing content.

Practical Guidance will now ensure all the content in the Property Law module remains accurate and up-to-date, including 'fine-tuning' the module by adding additional content such as new checklists and precedents where relevant.

## Specialist

The Specialist Legal team has published an extensive update of the Practice and Procedure guidecard within *Occupational Health and Safety Law New South Wales*, with substantial updates to chapters covering WorkCover compliance and prosecution policy, and summary procedure offences. The new material has been written by respected author and former NSW Chief Industrial Magistrate, George Miller.

In mid-November 2012, Specialist plans to publish a highly significant update to *Mills Workers' Compensation New South Wales*. The update will cover the extensive changes introduced by the (NSW) Workers Compensation Legislation Amendment Act 2012.

## Australian Form and Precedents (AEFP)

In August and September AEFP updated all insolvency-related guidecards, including the following *Corporations* titles:

- Receivers, Managers & Controllers;
- Voluntary Administration & Deeds of Company Arrangement; and
- Winding Up.

AEFP also published a substantial update of the *Employment* guidecard, introducing several new precedents including enterprise agreements and employment policies.

AEFP is also excited to announce the development of another brand new guidecard in the *Corporations* suite covering shareholders agreements. The existing content will be expanded to include related agreements and commentary.

## **Halsbury's Laws of Australia**

In recent months Halsbury's has continued to outshine the competition, publishing substantial updates to several key titles and continually revising the currency of commentary.

In July, Halsbury's published a comprehensive update of the "Trusts" title, authored by general editor and highly regarded author Gino Dal Point. Halsbury's is also pleased to announce several other exciting upcoming updates written by Professor Dal Pont, including a complete re-write of the Legal Practitioners title, as well as a much anticipated update of the "Sale of Goods" title.

In August, Halsbury's published a full update of the "Torts" title written by respected academic David Rolph, as well as a partial update of the "Consumer Protection" title written by highly regarded barrister Justin Carter. In addition to updating the existing material on product safety and information, Mr Carter also added highly valuable content to the title by authoring a new guidecard covering offences, enforcement and remedies.

In September Halsbury's updated the "Corporations" title, with significant changes made to guidecards covering takeovers and securities, futures and options, internal administration and external administration. Material covering listing rules also underwent substantial revision.

Halsbury's is also busy preparing a comprehensive update of the consolidated cases volume. 2000+ pages of updated tables of cases will be published in late September 2012.

## **Criminal and Litigation**

In September, the criminal and litigation team restructured *Carter's Criminal Law of Queensland*.

As part of this service, the "Summary Offences" guidecard was moved from volume 3 to volume 1, enabling volume 1 to be used more effectively as a 'take to court' volume.

This move also enabled the expansion of content in that topic area. In this service we replaced the 1989 Domestic Violence Act with the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012, and two additional Acts were inserted behind the Summary Offences guide card; namely the Invasion of Privacy Act 1971 and the Liquor Act 1992 (extracts). We expect that material behind the "Summary Offences" guide card in volume 1 will continue to be expanded in the future.

## **Corporate**

Issue 18 of the *Butterworths Corporation Law Bulletin*, published on 14 September 2012, featured an extensive case note on the decision of the Supreme Court of Western Australia in *Westpac Banking Corporation v The Bell Group Ltd (In Liq)* [2012] WASCA 157; BC201206001, the latest in a long-running series of litigation surrounding the collapse of the Bell Group of companies in 1991. The judgment spanned over one thousand pages, with significant implications for the law on directors' duties and voidable transactions.

This issue also featured a quarterly commentary piece by the Hon. Justice Arthur Emmett of the Federal Court, who serves as the general editor of the Bulletin, on the legal implications of cross-border insolvency. The piece discusses recent case law considering the application of the UNICTRAL Model Law of Cross-Border Insolvency in Australia.