



## STATEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

The effective administration of justice in Australia depends upon barristers acting in accordance with the highest ethical and professional standards.

Every barrister practising as a member of an independent Bar in Australia has the responsibility to:

- act ethically, at all times, as an officer of the court;
- have, at all times, the duties of an officer of the Court at the forefront of his or her mind;
- be learned in the law, and, in particular, fully familiar with the laws of evidence;
- be skilful in drafting pleadings, affidavits, submissions and documents for use in Court proceedings;
- be skilful in analysing and marshalling relevant, factual material;
- be skilful in advising and assisting clients to resolve disputes;
- be skilful in interviewing witnesses and properly and ethically preparing witnesses to give evidence;
- be skilful in leading evidence in chief, cross-examining and re-examining witnesses;
- be skilful in addressing the Court on the facts and law relevant to a case.

The ABA supports its constituent bodies in encouraging and enabling barristers across Australia to reach and maintain standards of excellence in each of these facets of practice.

The ABA endorses the current programmes for the education of barristers commencing practice at the independent Bar that are conducted by the Bar Associations of Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia.

Adopted by the Australian Bar Council 4 December 2005