



# REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2000

Northern Territory Attorney-General's Department

Office of the Registrar-General: Land Titles Office - Titles Production - Births, Deaths and Marriages - General Registry

*This newsletter provides general information for clients of the Registrar-General's Office in respect of services provided by the staff, and developments in legislation administered by the Office.*

***The purpose of this newsletter is to give you a brief update on the current timetable for the forthcoming legislative amendments and other recent developments in the Office.***

## **COMMENCEMENT OF LAND TITLE ACT 2000 AND LAW OF PROPERTY ACT**

On current indications, these Acts are now likely to commence in September 2000 and not July as originally forecast. There are a number of consequential amendment bills that are scheduled to be debated in the August Sittings of the Legislative Assembly. Staff in the Office continue to work in preparation for the changes.

## **COMPULSORY USE OF NEW PANEL FORMS**

The current practice of the LTO is to accept instruments such as leases that are not in the prescribed form (or any adaptation thereof) with the only consequence being the imposition of an additional lodgement fee. This has proven to be unwieldy and time-consuming as LTO staff are required to search through often complex documents to find the information that is required for registration. Panel forms are designed so that this information is readily available. Under the new legislation it will be compulsory to use approved panel forms where they exist. To accommodate this and other issues relating to the changeover, the intention is to continue to accept the old forms for a period of at least 3 months after the commencement of the new legislation.

## **AVAILABILITY OF NEW PANEL FORMS**

To assist in the transition to the *Land Title Act 2000* the new panel forms for use under the Act will be made available in electronic format. At the moment approximately 50% of the new forms have been completed and you will be advised when they are available.

## **TRAINING SESSIONS FOR NEW ACT**

The Office will conduct training sessions for various industry groups in August. The training will be tailored in conjunction with individual industry bodies to meet industry needs. Keep an eye out for further information in the coming month.

## **RENOVATIONS**

There will be disruptions to services in the Darwin Office over the next 6 to 8 weeks as the Public Trustee's Office is relocating to Nichols Place. Renovations have commenced and will be done in stages, with Births, Deaths and Marriages and the Cashier's Office being the first areas to be affected. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. It is anticipated that the relocation will provide a more suitable environment for Public Trustee clients.

## **GST – THE NEW TAX SYSTEM**

The Australian Business Number for the NT Government is 84 085 734 992. The Registrar-General's Office will be GST compliant by 1 July 2000. As such, the Office will provide compliant tax invoices from 1 July where required, and will charge GST inclusive prices for taxable supplies in accordance with the taxation legislation.

At this stage only certain service fees in the Births, Deaths and Marriages and Public Trustee's Offices are taxable. It is anticipated that all Land Titles Office fees will be exempt by determination. For a more detailed summary of the changes to fees please contact Wendy Endenburg on 8999 5318.

## **CLIENT SURVEY**

It is that time of year again when we ask our clients to complete a client survey. The purpose of the survey is to seek feedback from customers about the quality of services and advice provided by the Office of the Registrar-General.

The surveys are currently being distributed and we would appreciate if they could be completed and returned by Friday 30/6/2000.

