

# Chairman's Report 2010-11

The Honourable John Rau MP  
Attorney-General  
Level 11  
45 Pirie Street  
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Attorney-General

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Legal Services Commission for the year ended 30 June 2011 pursuant to section 33 of the *Legal Services Commission Act 1977*.

The Commission has again had a busy year, reflecting a continuing high demand from the South Australian community for legal education, advice, minor assistance and representation services. The Commission was pleased that you were able to attend its first meeting for the year to hear first hand some aspects of those legal assistance services.

The Commission acknowledges the additional funding provided by the State under the Cabinet decision of May 2010. This, combined with sound financial management, higher than expected trust interest receipts and a slight reduction in the number of grants of aid made in State criminal law matters left the Commission's budget position, in respect of State matters, in a more satisfactory position than at the corresponding time in the previous year.

A significant event for the year was the commencement of the National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance Services between the Commonwealth of Australia and the States and Territories including South Australia.

The Review of the Commission, announced by you in February, includes an examination of the Commission's fee structure, how it provides legal assistance and its operations,

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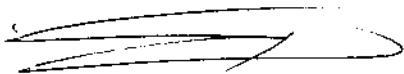
2

including an analysis of criminal matters assigned to in-house Commission lawyers and external lawyers.

The Commission has worked actively with the Review Committee and its consultants. It has provided them with considerable amounts of data and other information as well as a lengthy submission. The Commission looks forward to participating in the consideration of the Review's findings with yourself and the Committee.

The Commission, and the South Australian community, continues to be well served by the generous cooperation of many in the private legal profession in the delivery of legal aid services.

Your continued interest and support, as Attorney-General, shown towards the Commission and the legal assistance services it provides has been a source of encouragement to the Commission and its staff. We look forward to working with you to meet the challenges of 2011-12.



D J ESZENYI  
**Chairman**

03