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Personal & Professional Legal Service – delivered expeditiously

Blackman Legal operates on values of personal service and reliable and cost effective representation. We are proud to offer sound legal expertise and a dedication to the long-term legal, financial and personal satisfaction of our clients. We aim to deliver value to our clients and to meet their needs with common-sense advice and friendly service. Our relaxed office and handy location in Lindfield makes a visit to us a pleasant experience.

At Blackman Legal we will work with you to obtain optimum results, taking the time to explain legal procedures clearly and frankly. We realise the importance of keeping you well-informed at all stages of the process and understand your need for sensitivity and discretion.

The year is passing so quickly and we have been so busy that this newsletter will combine the months of April and May.

We continue to develop our new business. Two key achievements over the past month have been the building of an office for Alan and the launch of our new website at www.blackmanlegal.com.au.

On a personal note our son Josh competed in the National Age Swimming Championships in Adelaide over Easter. The competition was incredibly tough and he still has a long way to go, but it was great for him to qualify and be involved in competition at the highest level possible for Juniors in Australia. Our daughter Lauren has started her first year at UNSW studying Arts/Law and is loving it!

In this newsletter our article of interest looks at alternative dispute resolution or EDR. There is a move towards trying to resolve disputes between individuals in a more informal manner rather than relying on the court system which is adversarial in nature, stressful and very costly for all involved. And of course there is never any guarantee of success. Therefore, at Blackman Legal we try to assist our clients to attempt a more conciliatory way of resolving their disputes which enables the parties to be personally involved in the process rather than having the lawyers take control via litigation.

We thank you for your continued support and encouragement and look forward to continuing to serve you personally and professionally. As always, please feel free to pop into our new office or to contact us by one of the methods below at any time.

Kind regards,
Amanda and Alan

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ALTERNATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION METHODS

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Amanda Blackman was admitted to practice law in 1987 and has been a Lindfield resident since 1994. Amanda founded Blackman Legal Pty Ltd in 2010 after being a partner at Biddulph & Salenger Lawyers since 2005. Prior to this Amanda ran her own sole practice for ten years whilst raising her family. She has also worked in several large and mid-sized legal firms. Amanda has a common-sense, efficient yet personal approach to the resolution of property, commercial and estate matters and is skilled at demystifying the legal process with advice that is easy to understand. Amanda is also a Notary Public.

Early Dispute Resolution Taskforce: Law Society of New South Wales encourages early consensual resolution of disputes

‘ “EARLY DISPUTE RESOLUTION IS ONE WAY of putting control back in the hands of those involved in disputes”, according to the Report of the Early Dispute Resolution (EDR) Taskforce, which was adopted by the Council of the Law Society of NSW over a decade ago. Quoting sociologist Hugh Mackay on the proliferation of anxiety in society, the Report states as its impetus: “it would appear that one response to alleviate the community’s anxiety about the limitations of the legal system is to create a culture in which the community regains control over the resolution of disputes *and* believes that it has regained control.”

What is early dispute resolution? According to the Taskforce Report, early dispute resolution is the concept and process of intervention in the formal dispute process to resolve that dispute early, effectively and legitimately. In order for early dispute resolution intervention to be effective, there needs to be:

- changes in the attitudes of legal practitioners;
- changes in clients’ attitudes;
- changes in the formal litigation process; and
- an increase in the use of the suite of alternative dispute resolution initiatives such as arbitration, facilitation, conciliation, mediation and early neutral evaluation.

The Report further states that early dispute resolution aims to **prevent unnecessary disputes, reduce** the frequency and severity of disputes and **ensure** that early, effective and legitimate resolution of disputes takes place.

Adoption of a dispute resolution policy: A key element of the Report is the adoption of a dispute resolution policy devised by the Society’s Dispute Resolution Committee in consultation with the EDR Taskforce.

Our Services

We offer a broad range of services across a range of legal disciplines:

- Property Law, Conveyancing and Leasing
- Wills and Administration of Estates
- Powers of Attorney and Appointments of Enduring Guardian
- Commercial Law
- Notary Public Services
- Intellectual Property
- Family Law
- Local Government and Planning

The policy promotes “early, effective and consensual resolution of disputes wherever conflict occurs”.

The policy further states that the Law Society of NSW:

- supports the informed choice by the parties of dispute resolution processes in an effort to enable parties to recognise the needs and interests of all of those involved in the dispute;
- promotes within the legal system and the community generally the consensual resolution of disputes;
- provides ongoing training and guidelines to encourage legal practitioners to effectively resolve disputes;

The objective of EDR is to offer parties to a dispute an alternative to the traditional court process as a way of resolving that dispute in a less adversarial, more conciliatory manner.’

Blackman Legal is a supporter of EDR and strongly encourages clients to explore this path before embarking on litigation.

Source: Law Society Journal October, 1999

DISCLAIMER

This newsletter is for the benefit of clients. The information is of a general nature only. You should not act solely on the basis of material contained in this newsletter.

