

## FACT SHEET

### *Legal Aid Commission Amendment Bill*

The Legal Aid Commission Amendment Bill (the Bill) makes amendments to the *Legal Aid Commission Act 1990* (the Act).

The principal purpose of the Bill is to amend the Act to reduce the membership of the Legal Aid Board from 10 to 5 members. This Bill provides that the Board will now be composed of:

- A Chairperson;
- The Director of the Legal Aid Commission;
- A person with substantial experience and expertise in financial management;
- A person with experience in business or government operations; and
- A Law Society of Tasmania nominee.

Under the Act the Chairperson is required to be a former judge, former magistrate or a legal practitioner of at least 5 years standing.

The Bill also makes other necessary amendments to the Act to reflect the reduction in the size of the Legal Aid Board, as well as providing for savings and transitional arrangements for the membership of the Legal Aid Board.

The Bill amends the Act to remove the need for applications for legal aid to be made in writing.