



Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices

RVAHJ e-news

October 2009 Edition No. 26

Please circulate this e-news to any member who may not use email.

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- **RVAHJ Past President, Fred Kent JP, a senior achiever!**

Justice of the Peace review

Recently, you will have received a circular (Circular No. 2/2009) from the Department of Justice advising of the review of Justices of the Peace in Victoria Consultation Paper and inviting your comments. The President and members of the Board are currently preparing a submission on behalf of the Association, however, members are strongly encouraged to send individual submissions to the Department of Justice.

The review includes:

- whether JP's are to have a continuing role in witnessing documentation;
- whether the 'title' of JP should remain;
- age and gender balance;
- term of appointment;
- appointment criteria;
- eligibility to hold appointment;
- JP code of conduct; and
- training.

The result of this review will affect us all.

The office is currently preparing a mail out to all members which will contain a hard-copy of the submission document. A copy also follows on the next page and online submissions may be made on the Department of Justice website. If you choose to make a submission, it would be appreciated if you would forward a copy to the President at our Elwood office. Any received by Friday, 23 October 2009, may be considered for incorporation in the RVAHJ's submission.

If you prefer not to make an individual submission, but have comments or information that you believe may be helpful in preparing the RVAHJ's submission, it would be appreciated if you would forward these to the President at our Elwood office by Friday, 23 October 2009.

Please give careful thought to this most important opportunity.

RVAHJ Past President, Fred Kent JP, a senior achiever!

We are extremely pleased to report that our past president, Fred Kent JP, was today (2 October 2009) the recipient of a Victorian Senior Achievers Award for 2009.

In a presentation ceremony at Government House, Fred was one of 9 recipients (out of 150 nominations) whose extraordinary service to the community was acknowledged. Fred has been a Justice of the Peace and RVAHJ member since 1973. He has also served as an Independent Person and a Bail Justice (until his statutory retirement). Beyond his Honorary Justice roles, Fred also serves as an Independent Third Person and Community Visitor through the Office of the Public Advocate. We congratulate him on this well-deserved award.

Contact the office by phone: (03) 9525 7099, by fax: (03) 9525 7765 or by email: admin@rvahj.org.au

**RVAHJ e-news is produced as a member service by the
Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices**

REVIEW OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE IN VICTORIA
CONSULTATION PAPER SEPTEMBER 2009

WRITTEN SUBMISSION

Author's details

Name:

Organisation:

Phone:

Email@.....

Can you please indicate whether you are a:

Justice of the Peace Bail Justice Both N/A

Do you wish your submission to remain confidential?

YES NO

(The questions presented in the consultation paper are outlined below in WORD format, allowing you to move and write your answers where appropriate. You are not expected to answer every question, only those questions that you are interested in and wish to comment on. If you have something to say about JPs that is not raised in the consultation paper, please include this information under the heading, 'Other Information').

Questions:

1. Is there a continuing need for the role of the Victorian JP in witnessing statutory declarations and affidavits? Please explain your reasoning.

2. If the office of Victorian JP's (as currently defined) is to remain, should the office be re-named to better reflect the role? For example, should the name of the office be changed to 'Commissioners for Declarations'?

 3. Is there a need to broaden the representation of the age and gender balance of JPs? If so, what could be done?

 4. Is there a need to limit the term of a Victorian JP? If so, should this be by a compulsory age related retirement, appointment for a fixed term, a combination of both or some other method?

 5. Should the appointment criteria for Victorian JPs be amended or expanded, for example by requiring a demonstrated knowledge of the role, establishing a geographical need or requiring nomination by specific members of our community?

 6. Should people occupying certain professions be prevented from holding the office of Victorian JP? If yes, why do you think this is necessary and what professions do you consider this should apply to?

 7. Should the code of conduct for JPs be included in legislation or regulations?

 8. What training should Victorian JPs receive?
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Other Information: