



## Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices

# RVAHJ e-news

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### **Powers of Attorney Act 2014**

Changes to the law in relation to Powers of Attorney will come into effect on 1 September 2015.

The Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) is the responsible body and we are liaising with them in order to develop appropriate training for witnesses to the new documentation. We will keep members informed when further information is available.

In the meantime, a Fact Sheet about the changes is attached as well as a copy of the newly-released regulations.

In brief, it is important to note the following:

- 1) Powers of Attorney made before 1 September 2015 will remain valid;
- 2) The Enduring Power of Attorney (Medical Treatment) form will remain unchanged;
- 3) The Enduring Power of Attorney (Financial) and Enduring Power of Guardianship forms will be combined.

The Office of the Public Advocate is also offering information sessions which members may be interested in attending. Further information is available on their website -

<http://www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au/our-services/community-education>

### **Assistance with new Status Confirmation requirements**

It has become clear that a number of our members are concerned about their ability to comply with the new status confirmation requirements, in particular, because they do not have access to, or familiarity with, the necessary technology.

**If you are thinking of resigning your appointment** for this reason (or you know someone who is), we urge you/them to contact the office to discuss the matter, before taking any irrevocable action. The RVAHJ is concerned that honorary justices, who would otherwise wish to continue, are feeling forced out. This is not the intention of the new requirements and the RVAHJ will do everything it can to assist those members to retain their appointment.

### **Annual Dinner 2015**

The Annual Dinner for 2015 is now booked out. If you have submitted a booking, but have not yet received your entrance ticket, please contact the office to check confirmation.

**Bookings are not confirmed until an entrance ticket is issued.**

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