



Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices

RVAHJ e-news

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2019 membership fees – save!

HJO information on the Oaths & Affirmations Act 2018

Information from the HJO about the Oaths & Affirmations Act 2018, which takes effect from 1 March 2019 is attached.

Members are encouraged to circulate this information to other Honorary Justices who may not have access to this E-news.

2019 membership fees – save!

Members are also reminded that 2019 membership fees are due and payable 1 January 2019. The payment notice will be enclosed with the next edition of Custodes which will be out soon. (Individual invoices are not posted, in order to reduce postage and administrative costs).

Despite rising costs, the Board has chosen not to raise the fee for 2019 and it remains at \$62.00. In fact, if you would also like to pre-pay your fee for 2020 in the same transaction, you can save \$2.00. Just pay \$122.00 and you lock in that saving.

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Office holiday closures

Members please note, that the office will be closed from Friday, 14 December 2018 to Tuesday, 15 January 2019 inclusive.

RVAHJ Facebook page

Just a reminder that the Association's Facebook pages are up and running. Why not join the conversation? Simply search for RVAHJ or @honoraryjustices on your Facebook.

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

Oaths and Affirmations Act 2018

The Oaths and Affirmations Act 2018 (the Act) will commence on 1 March 2019. The Act provides a centralised focus on the roles of authorised witnesses in Victoria. This will ensure that authorised witnesses have up to date information to certify copies, witness documents such as statutory declarations and take affidavits. Honorary justices are authorised witnesses under the Act.

The Act is designed to ensure greater access to the services of authorised witnesses in Victoria, and to ensure that flexible options can be provided for people with physical or cognitive disabilities and those with low literacy.

The list of people able to witness statutory declarations in Victoria has been expanded to include current Commonwealth statutory declaration witnesses, including certain Australia Post staff and agents, nurses, full-time teachers and more Commonwealth and local government public servants.

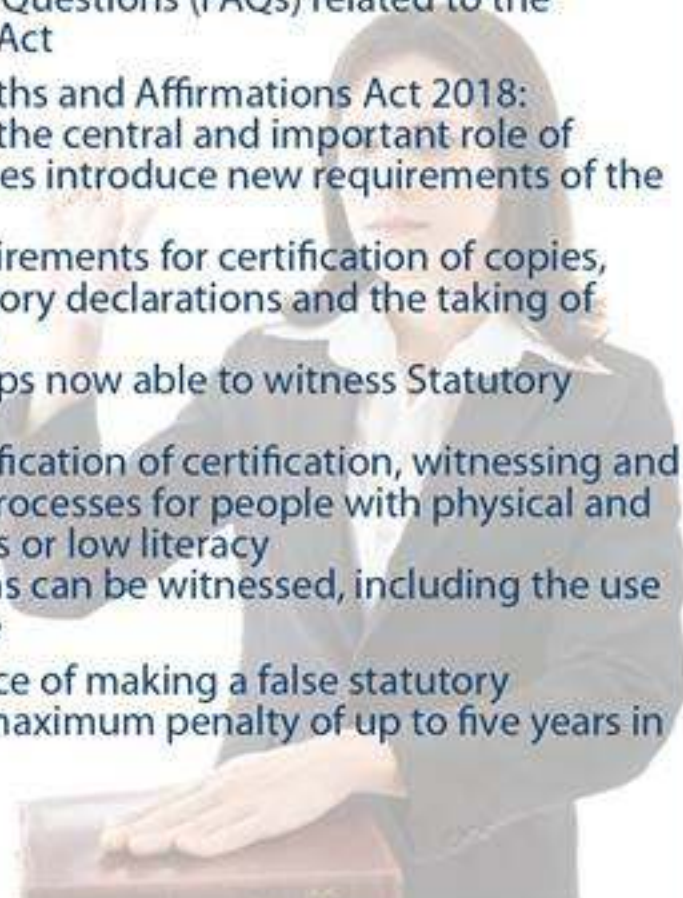
The Honorary Justice Office will be providing information updates over the next few months, to ensure all current Victorian JPs are informed as any changes to certification, witnessing of statutory declarations and the taking of affidavits.

These information updates will include:

- o Fact Sheets on certification, witnessing statutory declarations and taking affidavits
- o Updated list of Victorian authorised witnesses which will take effect from 1 March 2019
- o Links to a dedicated public website which will include updated forms, guidelines, and other information tools
- o Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) related to the introduction of the Act

In summary, the Oaths and Affirmations Act 2018:

- o Does not change the central and important role of Victorian JPs but does introduce new requirements of the role
- o Provides the requirements for certification of copies, witnessing of statutory declarations and the taking of affidavits in Victoria
- o Expands the groups now able to witness Statutory Declarations
- o Provides for modification of certification, witnessing and taking of affidavit processes for people with physical and cognitive disabilities or low literacy
- o Clarifies how forms can be witnessed, including the use of simpler language
- o Adds a new offence of making a false statutory declaration with a maximum penalty of up to five years in jail



Our thanks to the team at the HJO for their ongoing support to contact HJO email JP@justice.vic.gov.au