Billing Practices - Some Key Principles
E-Newsletter Issue 9

Dear Colleague

You will recall that the Commission published a consultation draft last year of a proposed new Regulatory Guide to some of the key principles that apply to lawyers' billing practices.

We have done a lot of work since to revise that document having regard not only to the submissions we received but also advice we sought out from experts in the field.

We have now published the revised document on the Regulatory Guides page of our website under the title:
- Regulatory Guide 8: Billing Practices – Some Key Principles

We hope the guide will help lawyers and users of legal services alike better understand how these key principles apply in grey areas where their application can be uncertain and the factors we take into account in dealing with related complaints.

We have taken the opportunity also to publish revised versions of an earlier guide and a document which overviews what we are trying to achieve by publishing regulatory guides and their status:
- Regulatory Guide 7: The Application of the Australian Consumer Law to Lawyers (v.3)
- Regulatory Guides: An Overview (v.4)

I expect that we will soon finalise the guide to Lump Sum Costs Agreements that we published in draft form some time ago now and similarly consultation drafts of a number of other guides which will address some specific billing practices we see in complaints and that cause us concern.

Thank you for your interest.

Regards,

John Briton
Legal Services Commissioner