WOLLERMAN SHACKLOCK
Lawyers

Your voice through our values of equality, respect and integrity

NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 82
JUNE 2026

Limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

TENANTS IN COMMON OR JOINT PROPRIETORS - HOW THE MANNER OF PROPERTY HOLDING AFFECTS YOUR WILL

Click the image above to learn more!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

A very happy birthday to our accounts and office manager Linda! Thank you for your ongoing contribution to the team—wishing you a wonderful day and a great year ahead!

Greetings from the Wollerman Shacklock Team!

As we welcome June, we provide a brief overview of key issues relating to property in deceased estates. Understanding how property is dealt with after a person’s passing can help executors and beneficiaries navigate the process more confidently and ensure the estate is administered smoothly.

VACANT RESIDENTIAL LAND TAX ON DECEASED ESTATES

If someone dies and they owned residential land, careful consideration must be given to Vacant Residentail Land Tax.

CLICK HERE

IMPORTANT UPCOMING CHANGES AS OF 1 JULY 2026

From 1 July 2026, Australia is expanding its anti-money laundering and counter terrorism financing laws, and some legal services will be affected. These reforms are intended to strengthen safeguards against money laundering, terrorism financing and other serious financial crime.

This means that clients may notice more identification and verification steps when starting a matter or completing certain transactions.

For clients this may mean that in some matters, we will be required to collect additional information and documents before work can proceed or before funds can be received or disbursed. This may include:

- proof of identity
- information about companies, trusts or other entities involved in a transaction
- details of beneficial owners or persons controlling an entity
- information about the source of funds or course of wealth in some circumstances

Stay tuned to learn more!

A GUIDE FOR CLIENTS

LAW INSTITUTE VICTORIA

New Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Laws

What you need to know

New laws have been introduced by the Federal Government to help detect and disrupt money laundering and the funding of terrorism. These are the new anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing laws (AML/CTF). The changes are contained in the *Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorism Financing Act 2024 (C'th).*

These laws oblige lawyers to obtain information from clients about their identity and source of wealth when acting for them. These obligations apply to all lawyers in Australia and they may impact how we handle your matter.

What we will need to know from you

We will need to ask you:

- To verify your identity
- To provide us with information about your source of wealth and of any funds that are used in the matter about which we are advising you
- Whether you are a politically exposed person (PEP) or family member of a PEP. A PEP is someone who holds a prominent public position such as in government, the courts or military.

We may also need to:

- Seek information about you from third party data suppliers – for example, obtain a company search and identification details of directors and shareholders where a company is involved.
- Obtain information about the ultimate beneficial owner or owners – such as any individual who controls a company, trust or partnership, where we are asked to act for the company, trust or partnership or where such company, trust, or partnership owns the corporate client.
- We will give you full details of the information you need to provide us during our onboarding process.

LAW INSTITUTE VICTORIA

What happens to the information that you provide?

Any information provided to us for this purpose will only be used for that purpose. It will be kept by us in accordance with the AML/CTF laws, the *Privacy Act 1988 (C'th)* and other applicable laws.

We must keep any records we obtain for AML/CTF law purposes for seven years and also complete an annual report to the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC). The annual report includes details about how we have met our AML/CTF obligations.

You should be aware that the AML/CTF law requires us to report certain matters, such as any suspected money-laundering, to AUSTRAC and the law also prohibits us from informing you that we have done so.

All lawyers in Australia who provide services caught by the AML/CTF laws are under the same obligations.

Would I need to provide additional information?

You may need to provide further information. We are required by the AML/CTF law to monitor certain client transactions on an ongoing basis to ensure we have up-to-date information about our clients.

We will inform you if and when we would require further information.

Do I need to pay?

You will need to pay for the necessary due diligence required to be undertaken by us in accordance with the AML/CTF laws. For example, a fee may be payable:

- To any third party that we engage to undertake a verification of your identity.
- To obtain company searches of any corporate clients.

What happens if I cannot provide the information?

If we do not receive or are unable to verify the information we are required to obtain about you in order to comply with our AML/CTF obligations, we may be unable to act for you.

We may also have to cease acting for you if by continuing to act we breach our ethical obligations.

Would you like more information?

Please contact our office if you have any questions. All our lawyers and other relevant staff are provided with ongoing training on their AML/CTF law compliance obligations. We have appointed a compliance officer and senior manager to oversee our AML/CTF law programs and compliance.

You can find more information on the Austrac website here: **www.austrac.gov.au/individuals**

WOLLERMAN SHACKLOCK
Lawyers

Our Services

- Property Law & Conveyancing
- Wills, Powers of Attorney & Deceased Estates
- Commercial Law & Business Law

Property Law & Conveyancing

- Adverse Possessions, Easements & Covenants
- Lease Agreements, Renewals, Disputes & Variations
- SMSF Sale & Purchases
- Property Sale, Purchase and Transfers
- Subdivisions & Consolidations
- Loan Agreements & Mortgages

Wills, Powers of Attorney & Estates

- Will Disputes
- Probate & Letters of Administration
- Estate Planning
- Applications by Personal Representative & Surviving Proprietor
- Wills, Powers of Attorney

Commercial & Business

- Business Sale & Purchases
- Franchise, Shareholders & Partnership Agreements
- Advice on business structures for your needs (e.g. joint ventures)
- Companies & Trusts
- Business Disputes
- Bank Guarantees/Solicitors Certificates

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