

South Australian Report

Nick Xenophou, Xenophou & Co., SA

The South Australian Branch of APLA was formed at the breakfast meeting at the Hyatt Hotel on the 20th May 1994.

Practically the entire State membership attended, and there was a broad discussion as to APLA's proposed role in South Australia, particularly with issues involving the State Government Insurance Commission (the State's compulsory third party insurer), Workcover Corporation and access to justice broadly.

A seven person steering committee was formed and members are Angela Bentley, Michael Doyle, Neville Jordan, Adrian Meegan, Andrew Nicholson, Julia Palios and Nick Xenophou.

A second general meeting was held on the 22nd July 1994, which was also well attended. There was a particular emphasis on Workcover issues in light of mooted changes to the Workcover scheme.

The South Australian branch's next general meeting will be held at Savas House, 72 Flinders Street, Adelaide, on Friday, 2nd September 1994, at 7.30am.

Mrs Pat Dean, Registered Nurse, who has completed a Masters Thesis on the health care system, will be talking on the topic "Medical Negligence Claims - What Plaintiff's Lawyers Miss". Pat has previously worked in the claims risk management field in relation to the South Australian Health Commission medical negligence claims and has a wealth of experience in dealing with medical negligence claims.

Psychiatric Injury not compensable

Following amendments passed by the previous State Government in December 1992, there has been considerable conjecture in South Australia as to whether lump sum payments can be made under the State's Workcover scheme for psychiatric injury.

The Full Supreme Court of South Australia, in a decision handed down on the 28th July 1994,

interpreted the legislative amendments as precluding any lump sum payment for psychiatric injury. The decision in the case of Hann has been criticised by the SA Branch of APLA and APLA's message as to the discriminatory nature of the legislation was widely disseminated in the local media.

Notice Board

APLA Notice Board is a new service for members. If you need information from fellow members you can fax or phone in requests to the APLA Office. For example, you may need precedents, information on a product/chemical or an expert not currently on our Database.

The following requests for experts came from a number of members and are required **urgently**.

- ☞ Surgeon - Expert in Laparoscopy
- ☞ Paediatrician
- ☞ Radiologist
- ☞ Obstetrician with expertise in premature babies.
- ☞ Expert in the condition Golden Staph., believed to have commenced after an arthroscope.
- ☞ Expert opinion on possible misdiagnosis of early stages of cervical cancer.
- ☞ Expert from ACT who specialises in Hepatitis C.

If you can assist please phone the APLA Co-ordinator, Anne Purcell on (02) 262 6960.

