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Commonwealth itself appointed senior counsel and not queen's counsel. Last year the Queensland Bar enthusiastically responded to an invitation from their attorney general to revert to QC. In February this year, the Victorian Bar Council resolved to give senior counsel the option of being QC or SC.

In our state we have had no option since the government amended the Legal Profession Act to effectively abolish QC in NSW. We have had a very widely recognised and respected system of appointing senior counsel in NSW for more than 20 years. For most of that time we were on our own in this regard. None of us operated under any measurable market disadvantage at any point in that history.

As a result of the Queensland and Victorian developments, the Bar Council established a working

group to advise it about the advantages and disadvantages of reverting to QC. This group was chaired by Bill Priestly. It received more than 200 submissions from our members. The submissions and the opinions of the members of the working group reflected a stark and deeply held division amongst us about reversion to QC.

At the time of writing the Bar Council had yet to consider the working group report but, irrespective of its decision on the issue, many people will be unhappy. Of course, the issue cannot be finally determined by the bar. Ultimately, if there is to be reversion, it will need legislative change.

Like any political advocacy that the bar engages in, any approach to the government needs to focus on public interest issues. To revisit 'QC' in NSW, the bar will

need to convince both houses of parliament that the public will benefit from the move.

The Bar Child Care Initiative

This month I was honoured to be able to launch the new child care initiative for members of the Bar Association. We conducted a survey of our members and found strong support for the association facilitating access to child care. As a result, we have entered into an agreement with Jigsaw Corporate Childcare to underwrite the cost of a number of childcare placements in Jigsaw's first class facilities in the CBD. Parents increasingly struggle to juggle work and child care burdens. The waiting lists for placements in child care facilities are almost as long as the waiting list for membership of the SCG. We have places reserved for barristers and their staff.

I foresee great demand for the existing places and growth in the arrangement.

Corrections

Page 84 of *Bar News* Summer 2013-14 included an article on the swearing-in ceremony for the Hon Justice Darke. The article referred to his Honour as 'the Bar Association's representative' on Justice Sheahan's inquiry into workers compensation common law matters in 2001. This was

incorrect. Justice Darke was counsel assisting the inquiry. *Bar News* regrets any confusion this might have caused.

Page 5 of *Bar News* Summer 2013-14 featured a group photograph of barristers

in the Bar Practice Course 02/13. The caption misspelt Ramesh Rajalingam. *Bar News* apologises to Mr Rajalingam.

