

Proposal to change the name and objects of the association

This is the first ever CEO Report in the journal. I would have liked to devote my page to expressing my gratitude to the members of APLA for their continuing support of the association, and to describe the honour I feel in fulfilling my role as CEO.

However, as fate would have it, the editor tells me that I only get one page and therefore I should address an important issue that requires consideration by all members of APLA. That is, recommendations for change that are to be debated at this month's Annual General Meeting.

I have been involved with APLA for almost six years. APLA continues to evolve. It is not the same organisation it was when it was first born and continues to change even now. Some of those changes have been a natural progression as membership has grown while political influences have forced changes of a different nature.



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In the August edition of *Plaintiff*, John Gordon in his President's Page hinted at possible changes to the name of APLA and the possibility of adopting a wider manifesto.

As a result of discussions by APLA's National Council, recommendations for change have been put forward. APLA's directors have recommended the changes to the membership be put to a vote at this month's AGM.

Essentially the changes for the consideration of members are these:

- A move away from promoting solely plaintiff interests, to a broader objective – protecting and enhancing justice, equality, freedom and the rights of the individual. Members of the association will subscribe to and advocate the association's objectives.
- Directors of the company will have been members of the association for a period of no less than three years.
- The name will change to APLA Ltd, Lawyers for the People, therefore keeping the APLA branding, but losing the association with 'plaintiff' in the name.

APLA's AGM will be held at this year's National Conference on Friday 17 October at 5.30 pm. If you can get

to this year's conference, have your say at the AGM. If you can't make it in person, send a proxy. Proxy forms were mailed out to all members recently along with a copy of the Annual Report. If you need a proxy form, please contact the APLA office and another will be sent to you.

The changes up for consideration at the AGM are recommended by APLA's directors. However, it is the membership that owns the association. Your voice is important, and we hope to hear from you all when the special resolutions are put to the vote.

Of course, there are plenty of other reasons to come to this year's National Conference. The conference committee have put together an outstanding program, with lots of great social activities running to keep you sane. We have even ensured that you won't miss out on the rugby world cup. So, if you haven't already registered, there is still time to ensure your seat in the sun. If that big case has now settled, or it suddenly seems like a good idea to nurture your professional development in a relaxed and warm environment, join us in Coolom from 16 to 19 October. I look forward to seeing you there. ☐