

CHANGES TO CPD

These changes are effective from 1 April 2008.

As advised in the QLS Update and the February edition of the Queensland Law Society's Proctor magazine, there have been a number of changes made to the Queensland CPD Scheme Rules. These changes are effective from Tuesday, 1 April 2008.

What does this mean for Qld Practitioners?

A change from the compulsory subjects of Ethics, Risk Management and Trust Accounts to the less-prescriptive core areas of:

- Practical Legal Ethics
- Practical Management and Business Skills
- Professional Skills

The core units are to be collected at a rate of one [1] point per core area per year, i.e., a move away from the two [2] points per subject every three year cycle.

Removal of reading (private study) as a CPD Approved activity.

Removal of the Quality Assurance Program.

A non-exhaustive list of topics by Core Areas approved by the Council on 31 January 2008 pursuant to Rule 47(b) of the Queensland Law Society is outlined below.

This non-exhaustive list of topics is also non-prescriptive and is provided as a guide. The teaching of these core areas may be done pervasively, e.g., the core area of Practical Legal Ethics may be taught within a substantive law seminar. While providers may indicate the core area to which the CPD Activity belongs, it is the responsibility of the practitioner to identify which core area it applies to from their perspective.

Practical legal ethics core area

Conflicts of interest
How to identify an ethical issue
Communicating directly with third parties
Lawyer's duties to the court
Ethics within a technical legal context

Practice management and business skill core areas

Risk management
File management
Cost rules
Business planning
Financing a practice
Effective use of technology

Professional skills core area

Communication and interpersonal skills
Client interviewing
Plain English drafting
Negotiation and mediation skills
Career and personal development
Advocacy
Legal research

A CPD information booklet for the 2008/2009 Scheme Year is currently being prepared, and will be forwarded to all Queensland practitioners in due course.

compulsory professional **development**