

## Notices

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### Legal Practitioners Complaints Committee

At the request of the Professional Affairs Committee of the Legal Practice Board, the Complaints Committee recently considered a matter relating to the advertising for sale and the sale of legal documents and similar material from websites established for that purpose on the internet.

While noting that the practice is widespread and noting also the legitimate marketing interests of practitioners associated with such sites, the committee was concerned that lay persons who, without the benefit of proper legal advice, selected, purchased and completed documents they had obtained from such sites, ran the risk of suffering adverse consequences as a result of the use of such documents.

The committee discussed its concerns with a practitioner associated with such a website and, as a result of those discussions, the practitioner agreed to include on the principal page of the website advertisement the following warning:-

You should note that: -

1. (Name of website) is not a law firm and does not give legal advice.
2. You may incorrectly interpret or misunderstand a question and therefore end up with a document that is wrong or won't work.
3. The legal, commercial and taxation effects of a document can vary based on your personal situation.
4. Only you know the purpose for which you intend to use a document you build; (name of website) is not responsible for your choice of document. If in doubt, consult a solicitor and seek legal advice or consult another professional adviser (not this website) on the document's suitability.
5. (Name of website) cannot and does not warrant that a document you decide to build is appropriate to or suits your needs."

The Complaints Committee is of the view that all practitioners conducting such websites should include, again in a prominent position on the principal page of the website, a warning in the form or to the effect of that set out above.