



Attorney-General

121 Exhibition Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
GPO Box 123
Melbourne Victoria 3001
Telephone: (03) 8684 1111
Facsimile: (03) 8684 1100
DX 210220

Our ref: CD/14/433434

Mr Greg Anastasi
via email: changeofpa@gmail.com

Dear Mr Anastasi

Justice Legislation Amendment (Succession and Surrogacy) Bill 2014

Thank you for your email of 2 September 2014 to the Minister for Corrections, the Hon Edward O'Donohue MLC, regarding the legislation currently before Parliament to reform the law relating to wills and succession. As this issue falls within my portfolio responsibilities as Attorney-General, your email has been referred to me for consideration.

I am appreciative of your support for these important reforms which aim to ensure that the wishes of the deceased are respected and to limit inappropriate claims against the deceased's will.

The Coalition Government's proposed reforms arise from the recommendations of the Victorian Law Reform Commission's *Succession Laws Report*.

These reforms will also repeal the special costs rules for family maintenance claims that currently mean the legal costs of the claims are usually paid out of the estate; instead, the ordinary rules on legal costs will apply, meaning that an unsuccessful party will usually be liable to pay the legal costs.

This Bill has been passed by the Legislative Council and is currently before the Legislative Assembly for consideration.

Thank you again for writing to the Government with your views.

Yours sincerely

ROBERT CLARK MP
Attorney-General

9/10/14