

23 March 2022

## Appointment of Freedom of Information Commissioner

*All comments to be attributed to Law Council of Australia President, Mr Tass Liveris*

The Law Council of Australia welcomes the appointment of Mr Leo Hardiman as the Freedom of Information Commissioner and looks forward to working with him following his commencement next month.

The transparency afforded by the Freedom of Information (FOI) scheme through the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) is critical to the effective operation of Australia's administrative law system, and more broadly to the integrity of our democratic institutions.

Considering the importance of FOI, the Law Council is pleased the role of FOI Commissioner has been permanently filled for the first time in nearly eight years.

The Law Council notes that funding was allocated in the 2021-22 Budget to support appointment of the FOI Commissioner and a dedicated team of support staff, which will provide additional capability and capacity and is an important step towards ensuring effective, quick and independent responses to information requests.

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