

SIXTH FLOOR SELBORNE WENTWORTH CHAMBERS

Level 6 / 174-180 Phillip Street SYDNEY 2000

THE SIXTH FLOOR ANNEX

READER & LICENSEE POLICY

The Sixth Floor has, for many years, leased rooms from Counsels Chambers Limited in Lockhart Chambers at 233 Macquarie Street, for use by readers and licensees of the Floor.

In 2006, the Floor consolidated its rooms on three consecutive floors of that building, with a reception, kitchen and conference rooms on the middle (10th) floor.

The Floor's objective in leasing these floors is to provide short to medium term accommodation, subject to availability, for readers and licensees, who are mostly former readers of the Sixth Floor. For a number of years vacancies on the main floor have been filled by members of this annex.

The Floor has an active program of professional development for readers and licensees, which has several components.

Readers on the Sixth Floor are required to have a member of the Floor as one of their tutors. At the conclusion of the reading year, licensees are invited to approach a member of the Floor's board to act as their mentor, to provide a point of contact between the board and licensees and to provide longer-term professional guidance.

In addition, early each year the Floor conducts a series of CPD seminars at which readers are required, and licensees who have recently finished their reading year are invited, to present short papers on current topics. The CPD program provides another avenue for contact with Floor members and an opportunity, for example, to highlight a particular area of expertise.

The Floor also operates a rotation system in which Floor members occupy rooms in the annex for a period of around a year, while two licensees, being the most senior members of the annex who have yet to do a rotation, occupy their rooms on the main floor. The system further promotes contact between the annex and the main floor.

The Board undertakes a rigorous vetting process before offering reader positions, in order to ensure that all who read on the Sixth Floor have reasonable potential to become members of the Floor. The Board then endeavours to manage subsequent licence offers to ensure that those who have confirmed that potential in their reading year have every opportunity to develop their practices before making an application for a room on the Floor.

In the past, it has generally proved possible to offer a licensee room to readers upon completion of their reading year. However, the Board does not undertake to offer a licensee room to all former readers, and renewal of licences and the term is thereafter in the board's discretion.

Occasionally issues may arise in the course of a readership year about the longer-term compatibility of the direction of the reader's practice with the practice areas of members of the Floor, resulting in no licence being offered. Such occasions have in the past been rare.

Readers will be asked by senior floor members to undertake work: generally research, basic drafting or some other kind of assistance with a case or advice. Toward the end of their reader year, the Floor's Board will consult with members who have sought the assistance of that reader with a view to seeking feedback in relation to their performance from sources other than that reader's tutor.

The Board will then determine whether an ongoing licence will be offered and, if so, the term of the licence. The term of any licence is a matter between the licensee and the Board and will not be publicly disclosed.