



**Hutchinson
Legal**

First
Anniversary

Two New
Partners

Client
FUNction

Australian
Rules

WINTER 2019

Insight

Introducing two new partners

We are pleased to announce that two of our existing team members, Madelaine Pelser and Shani Comben, will become Partners of Hutchinson Legal on 1 July 2019.

MADELAINE PELSER

Madelaine Pelser joined our Wills and Estates team in 2014 and has a background in both commercial and estate litigation. She now concentrates on Estate Planning, the administration of Estates and all matters relating to Elder Law.

Madelaine has a sensitivity and understanding of the emotions which surround this area of practice.

SHANI COMBEN

Shani Comben has been part of the team since Hutchinson Legal commenced, in her role as Office Manager. She works closely with our management and administration teams so as to ensure the smooth running of our office, both for staff and clients.

As people who share our values, we are confident that the appointments of Madelaine and Shani will have long term positive impacts on the future of the firm.

Shani Comben
(left) and
Madelaine
Pelser



FIRST ANNIVERSARY

H.S. Dixon Chambers celebrated its first anniversary on 21 May this year. Like wearing a new pair of shoes, adjusting to our new office has taken some 'breaking in', but both Hutchinson Legal and Your Lawyer have now settled comfortably into working life at 38 New Street.

"Seize the day, then let it go."

MARTY RUBIN

FAST FACTS

1511

The year Peter Henlein created the first modern (spring-driven) clock

31,556,926

The number of seconds in a year

46BC

The year the leap year was invented by Julius Caesar



YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR

Client FUNction

Movie: **The Lion King**
+ **Candy Bar Trio refreshments**

Date: Wednesday 17th July 2019

Venue: HOYTS Eastland, Ringwood

Time: 6:30pm for a 7pm film start

RSVP: 9870 9870 or
tristan@hutchinsonlegal.com.au

Places are limited – please reply early to avoid disappointment

Family Violence Intervention Orders

WHAT IS A FAMILY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION ORDER?

A family violence intervention order is a court order that protects victims who are affected by an act of family violence. The person the intervention order will protect is called the affected family member. The person the intervention order is made against is called the respondent.

WHAT IS FAMILY VIOLENCE?

The Family Violence Protection Act 2008 (Victoria) ("The Act") provides that family violence occurs when a person engages in abusive behaviour towards a family member. It involves behaviour that controls or dominates a person and causes them to fear for their own safety or wellbeing or that of another person.

Under the Act, behaviour constituting family violence includes:

- physical or sexual abuse;
- emotional or psychological abuse;
- economic abuse;
- threats;
- coercion; and
- any other behaviour that controls or dominates a family member.

Family violence also includes behaviour that exposes a child to any of the behaviours outlined above.

Some examples of family violence are slapping, hitting, punching, sexual assault, verbal threats, derogatory taunts, harassments, withholding necessary financial support, and deliberately isolating someone from their friends and family.

WHO IS A FAMILY MEMBER?

- Under the Act, family members are:
- spouses, de facto or domestic partners – whether there is a sexual relationship or not;
- parents and children, including children of an intimate partner;
- relatives by birth, marriage or adoption; and
- persons treated as family – such as guardians or carers.

For further information regarding Family Violence Intervention Orders, please visit our website at <https://www.hutchinsonlegal.com.au/family-violence-intervention-orders/>.

Why is the Australian Constitution important?

The Australian Constitution is a set of rules that define how our way of life is governed in Australia.

It creates three separate public institutions – the Federal Parliament, the Federal Courts, and the Executive Government (commonly called the Public Service).

The separation of these institutions is designed to act as checks and balances on each other and to prevent oppressive government.

The Parliament comprises two Houses; the House of Representatives and the Senate. The Queen is represented in Australia by the Governor General. The Constitution gives the Queen the power to disallow an Australian Act of Parliament, but this power has not been used in Australia and it is extremely unlikely that it would ever be used.

The Australian system of government is called a constitutional monarchy and our head of state is the Queen. On the advice of the Prime Minister, the Queen appoints the Governor-General.

Voters elect candidates from the electorate in which they live, to the House of Representatives and the Senate, to represent the state in which they live.

The rules in the Constitution also:

- define the structure of the Federal Parliament,
- shape how Parliament works,
- prescribe the powers Parliament has,
- regulate how federal and state Parliaments share power, and
- describe the roles of the Public Service and the High Court.

The Constitution took effect on 1 January 1901. This is known as the date of Federation in Australia.

The Constitution was drafted in a form that makes it hard to alter (some say unreasonably hard). This is because it is an extremely important document underpinning how the



government's powers can be applied, and possibly more significantly, limiting the use of government powers.

Changes can only be made through a referendum and since Federation, only 8 out of 44 referenda have approved changes to the Constitution.

Handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is 'Grant Hutchinson' and the second is 'Jason Lau'. There is a circular stamp or mark between the two signatures.

PER CON NOTTAS, GRANT HUTCHINSON & JASON LAU

 **Hutchinson Legal**

[hutchinsonlegal.com.au](https://www.hutchinsonlegal.com.au)

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