

THE QUEENSLAND LAWYER

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ARTICLE

The Queensland legal profession and the brave new (regulatory) world – Steven White

In the last Act passed in 2003, the Queensland Parliament endorsed a number of significant changes to the regulation of the legal profession in Queensland. The *Legal Profession Act 2003* (Qld) reforms, among other areas, admission, firm structure, responsibility for interest on trust accounts, and complaints handling and disciplinary processes. The Act substantially reduces the regulatory role of the Queensland Law Society, while increasing the capacity for political intervention, raising concerns about the independence of the profession. Perhaps running out of patience with the profession, the government has chosen to implement a reform package that eschews responsive regulation in favour of more direct control over the activities of the profession. 248

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Customer Service and sales inquiries:

Tel: 1800 650 522

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Web: www.lawbookco.com.au

Email: service@thomson.com.au

Editorial inquiries:

Tel: (02) 8587 7000

HEAD OFFICE

100 Harris Street PYRMONT NSW 2009

Tel: (02) 8587 7000 Fax: (02) 8587 7100



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