



280/001/427/03

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RECEIVED
22 MAY 2006
BY: *J. Pike*

Dr Andrew Southcott MP
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Andrew
Dear Dr Southcott

I refer to your letter dated 1 March 2006 to Premier Rann regarding a treaty to amend the Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA), tabled on 28 February 2006. I am responding on behalf of the Premier as the Minister for Industry and Trade.

The South Australian Government welcomes Singapore's liberalisation in joint law ventures and financial services for the benefit of Australian legal practitioners and financial operators.

The proposed treaty reflects the South Australian Government's communication to the Commonwealth on State trade in services and investment reservations, with a minor adjustment. The reservation for South Australia's legal services (4-1(A)-7) was approved with the following words, rather than those provided in the treaty as tabled:

"South Australia

Natural persons practicing foreign law in South Australia may only join a local law firm as a consultant and may not enter into partnership with or employ local lawyers. There are restrictions on the circumstances in which a corporation may obtain a practising certificate.

A person is not taken to be practising the profession of the law if he or she is only providing legal advice or services relating to the law of a place outside Australia.

A company that is a subsidiary of a foreign law firm is not permitted to obtain a practising certificate and is not permitted to share profits with any other company or firm".

I take this opportunity to advise that since South Australia had confirmed its reservations under the SAFTA with the Commonwealth in 2005, the State has removed its residency requirements for Medical Practitioners by introducing the *Medical Practice Act 2004 (SA)* and Dental Practitioners by amending the *Dental Practice Act 2001 (SA)*.

However section 58 of both acts does allow the relevant board to suspend the registration of medical or dental practitioners on application, if either practitioner has not lived in Australia in the prior twelve month period.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Adam Comley of the Department of Trade and Economic Development (Ph 08 8303 2505) regarding these matters if you seek further clarification.

I thank you for providing an opportunity for the State to comment on the proposed treaty to amend the SAFTA.

Yours sincerely



Kevin Foley MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND TRADE