



The Law
Society
OF TASMANIA

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For immediate release

Law Society condemns bail comments

The Law Society of Tasmania today condemned as misguided comments made by Police Association president Randolph Wierenga and published on Saturday. Mr Wierenga is reported to have said that “bail is a privilege, not a right”.

Law Society Vice-President Mr Bill Griffiths said:

“To say that bail is a privilege, not a right, demonstrates a fundamental misunderstanding of the nature of bail. In most cases there is a presumption in favour of bail. When it is determined that bail is appropriate, the conditions of bail that are to be imposed should go no further than the circumstances of the particular case require.”

Mr Griffiths said that it was important to remember that whenever anyone is charged with an offence, the presumption of innocence is fundamental.

He went on to say that the recent criticism by Mr Wierenga of Magistrates is not helpful. Whether police, or lawyers for a Defendant, disagree with a grant of bail or with a bail condition, the appropriate procedure is to apply to the Supreme Court.

ENDS

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Media Release

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