



### **What is Independent Certification?**

Your solicitor's files and the legal work that they have performed on your behalf is reviewed by someone who is not employed by your solicitor. Our business is totally separate to your solicitor's firm.

We issue a Certificate of Assessment which particularises the legal work performed and the fees which your solicitor is entitled to charge for this legal work.

### **Who are we?**

We are a firm of costs assessors and costs lawyers and are engaged by solicitors, law firms, and government departments to provide legal costing services. Our Principal Costs Lawyer, Michael Graham, is listed on the Register of Approved Costs Assessors maintained by the Supreme Court of Queensland. Mr Graham is one of the Court Appointed Costs Assessors who determine legal costs disputes between solicitors and their clients, as well as between parties in Court proceedings.

There is no special relationship between us and our clients (of which your solicitor may be one). We have no financial interest in our clients' businesses nor do they have any in ours.

### **Why do solicitors engage us to assess their legal costs?**

This ensures that your solicitor charges you the appropriate amount for the legal work

they perform for you. Their work is reviewed objectively by us and they do not have any influence over how much we determine is appropriate for the legal work they have performed.

### **What do we do?**

In determining an appropriate amount for legal fees for a client's matter, we review the actual files maintained by your solicitor. We review each letter, file note, and document held on your solicitor's file and then decide how much (if anything) to allow for each item of work.

We will only allow an amount that we think is appropriate having regard to the work performed. If we do not think your solicitor should be paid for some of the legal work performed then we will not include an allowance for such work (e.g. if you have to chase up your solicitor for a letter that they were to prepare for you then we will not allow any amount for your "chase up" telephone call).

### **Can you contact us?**

Yes you can. If we have provided an independent Certificate of Assessment for your solicitor and you have some questions about the costs we have allowed you may telephone or email us to discuss our assessment of legal costs. There will be no charge to you for contacting us.