November 18, 2016

CPD COURSES

Gosford
Sales & Prop Mgmt
Tue 22nd Nov

Dee Why
Sales & Prop Mgmt
Thu 24th Nov

Sydney
Commercial & Retail
Sales & Leasing
Thu 1st Dec

Castle Hill
Sales & Prop Mgmt
Thu 1st Dec

Sydney
Strata Management
Tue 13th Dec

Sydney
Sales (AM)
or Prop Mgmt (PM)
Thu 15th Dec

Newcastle
Sales & Prop Mgmt
Wed 25th Jan

Ballina
Sales & Prop Mgmt
Mon 20th Feb

Bathurst
Stock & Station (AM) or Sales & Prop Mgmt (PM)
Mon 20th Feb

Training Reforms

This month has seen the release of NSW Fair Trading’s Real Estate and Property Services Industry Reform paper. The reform paper is not a discussion paper, meaning that it is not an open for input document; it is the product of previous industry consultation and contains the proposed changes for the industry. This document will affect each and every one of the agents holding a licence or certificate of registration under the Property, Stock and Business Agents Act 2002.

The reforms are split into the following categories:

- Licensing and Qualifications;
- Continuing Professional Development;
- Conduct and Accountability;
- Audit processes;
- Disciplinary Powers; and
- Future of Real Estate & Property Sector

While the majority of the reforms will impact each agent in some way, there are a number of the reforms that will impact your training, in terms of continuing development as well as your qualifications to work within the industry.

As we provide you with the educational services for your profession, let’s focus on those reforms, which are:

Certificate of Registration

- There will be 3 additional Units of Competency required for achieving the Certificate of Registration qualification. These Units have not yet been specified but will focus on an increase in skill level for Certificate holders;
- Certificate holders will be required to transition to a licence within four years of obtaining their Certificate of Registration;
- The reforms will specify the types of activities a Certificate holder can undertake in their role.

Licence Holders

- The on-site residential property manager, business and buyers agents licence will be incorporated into the real estate agents licence.
As a provider of your educational services, we are still giving feedback to Fair Trading that business agents still need to be separate as the skill set is quite different from that required for general property transactions.

Licensee-In-Charge

- There will be an additional category of licence, which is a Licensee-in-Charge Licence;
- To obtain your Licensee-in-Charge authority, a licence holder will be required to complete either the Diploma level qualification from the Property Services Training package or hold a Certificate IV in Property Services as well as an equivalent qualification in business management. Applicants will also be required to have completed at least two years’ experience with a licensed business and be able to provide evidence of that experience to Fair Trading.

Continuing Professional Development

- For certificate holders, annual CPD for the first 4 years will be 6 Units of Competency from a Certificate IV qualification until the qualification is completed
- Annual CPD for licensees and licensees-in-charge will be increased from 4 hours to 6 hours. I.e. reduced from 3 points/hour to 2 points/hour
- Licensees-in-charge must also complete an additional 3 hours CPD focusing on business skills
- The 6 hour requirement for CPD for licensees and licensees-in-charge is divided into 3 hours for the compulsory topics and 3 hours for the elective topics
- The compulsory topics will only be able to be offered by an industry body. For you as an ACOP client, this will remain a seamless process for your CPD, as we work in conjunction with the Estate Agents Co-operative Ltd (EAC), which will mean that you will have access to the best of both worlds – industry expertise and a registered training provider to link with your qualifications.

Our office will be closed for the Festive Season from 12pm on Wednesday 21st December 2016 and will re-open at 8:30am on Thursday 5th January 2017.
The past fortnight has been yet another busy one for the College. Alas there has only been one birthday and we haven’t even celebrated it yet as Jane Morgan, our Trust Accounting trainer has not been in the office for the mandatory cake.

Our trainers have been around the State again these last weeks, including Batemans Bay, Scone, Coffs Harbour, Bathurst, Moree and Parramatta.

Everyone in the office is pleased (and relieved) to welcome Megan back to work after her two and a half week holiday in Hawaii. She has come back full of energy and ready to help all of her trainers and Smart and Skilled students - the students and ACOP missed her.

Lastly, the College is now decorated within an inch of its life - you’d be forgiven for starting to sing “it’s beginning to look a LOT like Christmas” as you enter the College doors! And of course we are playing the Michael Buble Christmas CD (well Rosy is anyway). Come and check out our fabulous decorations.

While the above reforms are only a small section of the proposed changes, and some of the other reforms will have a major impact on your agency practices, it is important to note that these reforms are not coming into place immediately. In fact they may take at least 12 months to be formalised. Over the next couple of newsletters we will explore some of the other areas of the reforms and ensure to keep you updated of any changes or notifications that are released regarding the future of your industry.

‘Til next time,

Wishing you every success in your business ventures,
Rosy Sullivan
Don’t forget to renew

The College regularly receive calls from agents who have unwittingly let their licence or certificate expire.

Whilst in most cases it is a simple fact of having to complete your CPD training or perhaps you have completed the training but did not renew with Fair Trading on time, there is the odd occasion where it could potentially require you to complete further training - particularly where there has been a change of legislation since the time you last renewed.

Rather than being in a position where you are required to complete additional training, it is advised that you take advantage of NSW Services online renewal service, which allows you to renew your qualifications and update your information. Simply follow the link at https://www.onegov.nsw.gov.au/GLS_Portal/snsw/Renew/Details

It is important to remember that it is your responsibility to update and renew your own licence or certificate - not your employers. Set a reminder in your calendar. While we will always tell you where and when the next CPD session is in your area, not everyone completes their CPD training around the same time every year or necessarily around the time that their authority requires renewal.

If you have a spare couple of minutes visit the new online system and ensure your details are correct. Go to NSW Services online at https://www.onegov.nsw.gov.au/publicregister/#/publicregister/categories