

Australia's largest immigration law firm Fragomen Australia announces further expansion as immigration services firm Greenberg Australia joins its Australian practice.

Fragomen Australia is pleased to announce that Greenberg Australia joined the firm. This is a very important development for the firm in Australia and particularly in Brisbane where the majority of the Greenberg practice is based.

Fragomen is the world's largest immigration services provider specialising in corporate immigration and with Australian offices in Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. Greenberg Australia (Greenberg) is a well regarded corporate immigration services firm in Australia with an established reputation and a significant presence in Queensland where Ben Willis, former Managing Partner of Greenberg Australia, now leads Fragomen's Brisbane office.

Robert Walsh, Managing Partner of Fragomen Australia welcomed Greenberg and its staff into the Fragomen practice saying, *"there are obvious synergies in our businesses with Greenberg staff's technical excellence, client service culture, and quality and commitment to its corporate clients being ideally matched to our own values"*.

Greenberg has offices in Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney and its 19 staff will be a welcome addition to Fragomen, bringing the Fragomen Australia practice to over 190 employees and adding to the depth and breath of the team in Australia.

Robert Walsh continued, *"This latest development is consistent with our efforts to ensure that we can provide the best quality of services to our clients across all areas of immigration law and reinforces our already substantial client base. It also reflects positively on our standing in the Australian market as a full service immigration law firm that practices, such as the Greenberg practice wish to join us and become part of the Fragomen team."*

We are particularly pleased to welcome Ben Willis and Megan Driscoll both of whom are accredited specialists in immigration law and Registered Migration Agents. Ben is a long standing practitioner in immigration law and has deep local knowledge and expertise in the Queensland market. Ben will take on responsibility as the Practice Leader of the Brisbane office, leading and developing our business opportunities in this important market."

Ben Willis commented, *"We are very pleased to be part of Fragomen. It became evident during our early discussions with Fragomen that our values and goals matched easily, and this allowed us to move quickly to make the transition a reality. Amongst other things, the move allows our existing clients to access the extensive global footprint and reach of the global Fragomen firm. Australian businesses are increasingly looking towards immigration services providers with significant reach for their visa and immigration needs outside of Australia."*

For Fragomen, this development is consistent with a number of initiatives the firm has taken in recent times. These include:

- the formation of the Centre for International Employment and Migration (CENTIEM) as a research, advocacy and training organisation for companies employing overseas workers, (www.centiem.com),
- the establishment of an employment law practice led by Chris Barton, a former partner of Freehills, to provide a range of employment law related services focusing particularly on the needs of companies employing overseas workers and negotiating labour agreements with the Government,
- the establishment of a presence in Auckland, New Zealand in addition to its long established office in Wellington, and
- the expansion of the firm's operations in the Sydney market with the decision to open an office in North Ryde to provide services in the rapidly expanding North and North West areas of the city.

In an era of globalised workforces and continuing skills shortages across many professional and trade occupations in most areas of Australia, the continued expansion of Fragomen reflects the firm's commitment to invest in ways that will meet the growing needs of large and small corporate clients.

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