



**Standing:** SNV president Michael Bula, SNV vice-president Joseph Lukaitis, SNV immediate past president Prof Phillip Hamilton, SNV councillor Giovanni Scomparin, SNV treasurer Julie Toop, SNV councillor Jan Horak, SNV honorary secretary Joseph Coleiro, SNV councillor Prof Peter Zabud **Seated:** LIV president Danny Barlow, Commission De Cooperation Notariale Internationale (CCNI) Italy vice-president Giuseppe Ramondelli, CCNI France president Jean-Paul Decorps, CCNI France secretary Jean-Pierre Krantz and CCNI North America vice-president Prof Jeffrey Talpis

## A VISIT WORTH NOTING

LIV president Danny Barlow recently met with representatives of the Society of Notaries of Victoria (SNV), an institution, which as it recently celebrated its sesquicentennial year, is as old as the LIV.

The SNV represents practising notaries public in Victoria, who have the ability to authenticate the signing of a deed and copies of documents, especially for overseas purposes, and

witness documents from another country.

Victorian notaries are generally senior lawyers who speak several languages and have some understanding of the legal work of other countries.

In December 2007, following two years of preparation and meetings, the SNV applied to become the Australian representative on the peak global body for notaries, the 76-country member

International Union of Notaries.

The meeting of SNV executive members and four delegates from the Union with Mr Barlow during their recent visit to Melbourne was part of that application process.

The Union inspection group, which included two French, an Italian and a Canadian representative, also met with Victorian Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Warren and several

government representatives.

SNV president Michael Bula said while he was amazed that so few lawyers and members of academia know what notaries actually do, the Victorian community generally could benefit should they be accepted into the Union.

"It will give us a tick of quality in terms of notarial deeds and Victoria, in terms of quality of notaries and international legal service, would in my opinion receive more international work and security," Mr Bula said.

"The Union sent a very high-powered delegation. They really wanted to get into the real nitty-gritty of what we do and I think they were impressed and we are now waiting for their report."

Mr Bula said a major benefit of membership was the group would have a strong lobbying voice with the United Nations; however, there were still a number of steps to be taken before acceptance. By the end of this year, the SNV will know if it has been accepted for the next stage.

Mr Barlow said the Society had worked hard through a rigorous application process to be included in the Union "and I hope they are named their 77th member nation".

For further information, visit [www.notaries.org.au](http://www.notaries.org.au).