

PATENTS CONSULTATION GROUP MEETING
11 April 2017
MEETING SUMMARY

The Patents Consultation Group (PCG) met on Tuesday 11 April 2017 in Sydney, below is a summary of the minutes of this meeting provided for public release.

Following on from an out of session paper, the Director of Performance Analysis Planning and Reporting outlined proposed changes and heard feedback from members as a part of the review of the IP Australia Customer Service Charter.

Amendments were made to the PCG Terms of Reference to include its new member from the New Zealand Institute of Patent Attorneys, who attended the meeting. Other changes were made to clarify wording and update documentation currently in use at IP Australia.

IPTA lead discussion surrounding translation requirements of Article 19 or 34 amendments for national phase entry in regard to PCT applications. IP Australia will further investigate this issue in collaboration with IPTA.

PCG members were provided an update on legislative activities. This included the deferral of the introduction of the Intellectual Property Laws Amendment Bill. Proposals in the draft Bill will be put on hold until further notice.

The Director of Domestic Policy updated the PCG on timing for the Government response to the PC Inquiry into Australia's IP Arrangements. The Government response is expected to be released by mid 2017 and will be a key factor in the setting of IP Australia's forward legislative agenda. Members were eager to be advised once the Government response has been released.

General Manager, Patents Mechanical and Oppositions Group advised the PCG on IP Australia's new IP Simplifying Tool for Analytics Reports (IPSTAR) developed by the Patents Analytics Hub in collaboration with a private sector company.

Members suggested the PCG Meeting Summary be published on IP Australia's website after each meeting.

Members agreed to remind their representative organisations on professional conduct when communicating with IP Australia examiners and other staff.

The PCG discussed the potential for insurance services to be developed in the patents area following IP Australia's current work in trade mark insurance.

The provision of documentation as evidence for oppositions claims was raised by members who noted that currently information relating to the procedure of submitting documentation as evidence and asking for directionals is somewhat unclear.

Issues relating to centralised payment for National Phase Entry were also discussed ahead of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Working Group meeting. The difficulties involved with the use of meta data and differing standards internationally along with other issues need to be resolved before centralised payment will be possible.

The next PCG meeting will be held on 27 July 2017 in Melbourne.