7 May 2013

# Slater & Gordon announces \$63.9 million equity raising to accelerate UK expansion

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- Approximately \$63.9 million equity raising via a fully underwritten placement combined with a non-underwritten share purchase plan.
- Proceeds will be used to fund the next stage of growth in the United Kingdom (UK) personal legal services market, a key component of Slater & Gordon's growth strategy.
- Term sheets negotiated and signed for the acquisition of three UK personal legal services firms. Completion subject to finalisation of due diligence and negotiation of formal documentation.
- Equity raising provides funding for these acquisitions and the financial flexibility to pursue further growth opportunities in the UK.
- Continued strong growth in underlying business previous FY13 earnings guidance confirmed.

Slater & Gordon Limited ("Slater & Gordon") [ASX: SGH] announced today that it had signed term sheets for the purchase of three leading UK personal injury litigation firms. The acquisitions support Slater & Gordon's strategic goal to become one of the leading independent providers of legal services in consumer law in the UK.

Slater & Gordon also announced today the details of an approximately \$63.9 million equity raising to fund its accelerated UK expansion. The equity raising has been structured as a \$58.9 million placement to professional and sophisticated institutional investors, fully underwritten and sole lead managed by Macquarie Capital (Australia) Limited and a non-underwritten Share Purchase Plan to raise up to approximately \$5.0 million.

Slater & Gordon Managing Director Andrew Grech said, "a number of options have been investigated in the UK and the three potential acquisitions now identified will deliver a number of strategic benefits, including an expanded geographic base and specialised practice areas."

"The capital raising provides us with the financial flexibility to pursue the broad spectrum of growth opportunities in the UK. Twelve months on from entering the UK, the timing is now optimal to accelerate our growth plans in line with our strategy to become a dominant law firm brand in consumer legal services in the UK", Mr Grech said.

## **Capital Raising**

The capital raising comprises:

- A fully underwritten share placement to professional and sophisticated institutional investors in certain jurisdictions ("Placement") at a fixed price of \$2.55 which represents a 14.1% discount to Slater & Gordon's last close price of \$2.97. The Placement represents 13.5% of Slater & Gordon's issued share capital; and
- A non-underwritten Share Purchase Plan ("SPP") to raise up to approximately \$5.0 million. Eligible shareholders with a registered address in Australia or New Zealand will be invited to subscribe for up to \$15,000 worth of fully paid ordinary shares in the SPP, at the same price as the Placement, without incurring brokerage or other transaction costs. Full details of the SPP, including the SPP documentation, will be dispatched to shareholders on or about 10 May 2013.

All new shares issued under the equity raising will rank equally with existing ordinary shares on issue.

Investors should also refer to the investor presentation released with this market announcement for further details.

# **Key dates**

Event	Date
Record date for eligible shareholders to participate in SPP	6 May 2013 (7.00pm
	Melbourne time)
Conduct Placement	7 May 2013
Shares recommence trading	8 May 2013 (10.00am
	Melbourne time)
Lodgement & dispatch of SPP booklet	10 May 2013
Settlement of Placement	13 May 2013
Allotment and trading of New Shares issued under Placement	14 May 2013
SPP opens	20 May 2013
SPP closes	12 June 2013
Settlement of SPP	17 June 2013
Allotment and trading of New Shares issued under SPP	18 June 2013

Slater & Gordon reserves the right to vary the key dates and times without notice.

#### **ENDS**

## For more information

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#### **About Slater & Gordon**

Established 78 years ago, Slater & Gordon has built a powerful reputation as a law firm which fights for the best outcomes for everyday people. Today Slater & Gordon offers its broad range of legal services at more locations than any other law firm in Australia and in 2012 the business entered the UK market, delivering affordable legal advice and access to justice to even more people.

You can follow us on Twitter @SlaterGordon or at facebook.com/SlaterGordonAU.

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