



## Mobile research and technology for Lawyers

## Norris Ward McKinnon Case Study

### Heritage

Norris Ward was founded in 1919 and merged with McKinnon & Co and O'Neill Allen in 2001 to form Norris Ward McKinnon (NWM). They operate specialist teams who are each responsible for expert advice in areas including Family, Litigation, Employment, Commercial Business, Property, Rural, Corporate, Trust and Estate Law.

NWM is an active member firm of NZ LAW (a nationwide network of independent law firms) which services the Hamilton community and the Greater Waikato region.

### The Mission

NWM embraces flexibility and understands that success comes from delivering legal advice that focuses on finding unique legal solutions that will meet their clients' requirements. Their goal is to provide these innovative solutions, which add real value to their clients' needs, by using the latest technology and applications. They underwent an extensive architectural refit at their premises during 2012, with a focus on the latest technology to help create the right environment for out-of-the-box thinking and solid up to date advice.

LexisNexis joined forces with NWM and supplied the team with the latest iPad tablets, loaded with ebooks and digital looseleaf publications, to test how technology can help.

“It is all well and good having the latest gadgets, but if they do not work within existing processes and workflow requirements then it has no positive impact. The trial of LexisNexis Red and ebooks on the iPad was an ideal way to test our current methodology with the latest technology and offering from LexisNexis.”

**Rachel Scott** Associate NWM



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## Findings

### 1) Ebooks and LexisNexis Red

Over the course of 4 weeks, the team found that:

- 1) the ebooks' contents page and keyword search function is very helpful;
- 2) the digital page turning ability was a very nice "book-like-effect"; and
- 3) the digital looseleaves application (*LexisNexis Red*) is easy to search and its portability and offline accessibility is a big benefit when you are at Court.

The team was impressed overall with the iPad's intuitive interface and their office's secure WiFi capabilities.

*“The content was great, easy to use and we found what we were looking for, and it was good to have texts and looseleaves together in one place.”*

*Shelley Slade-Gully Associate NWM*

### 2) Technology

The team reported that:

- 1) free and secure WiFi is not always available outside the office;
- 2) access to key office programs (like time recording and billing) on tablets is an issue; and
- 3) lawyers do need mobile devices that can print documents / forms remotely.

*“We think your product is well-suited to firms seeking the benefits of combining legal resources with leading edge technology.”*

*Geoff McDonald Partner NWM*

## Recommendation

The teams concluded that mobile content is useful and they are confident that their investment in technology infrastructure will improve their efficiencies and deliver better value for their clients.

*“We think your product is great (LexisNexis Red and ebooks).”*

*Rachel Scott Associate NWM*

LexisNexis recommends mobile devices, like iPads, with mobile internet capabilities (3G / 4G) and WiFi. 3rd party remote access applications like *TeamViewer* will further ensure lawyers can remotely access their work PCs' desktop and programs.

We have a special *LexisNexis Red* package for NZ LAW members – please contact your RM or call customer support on 0800 800 986



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