

## Message from the CEO, Heather Moore



Hi and welcome to the latest edition of the Legal Services Council's newsletter.

In exciting news this month, Paul Maluga has joined us at the Secretariat as a Senior Policy Officer. Paul has a range of legal experience in government, various areas of private practice and academia, and we are delighted to welcome him to the team.

It was great to visit Perth for our July Council meeting and also take the opportunity to catch up with our Western Australian stakeholders. We were grateful to the Legal Practice Board in Western Australia for hosting us. The Council also met with the Chair of the Legal Practice Board and the Chair of the Legal Services and Complaints Committee. We are now busy working on our upcoming Uniform Law Summit and look forward to hosting it in Melbourne in November.

This month I have been meeting with the Law Council of Australia to discuss preparations for the Legal Services Regulatory Dialogue established under the Australia-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement. On 3 October, I attended a preliminary meeting of Australian and UK Dialogue participants to discuss practical and procedural matters. We expect to be in contact with regulatory authorities later in the year about issues and initiatives likely to be considered during the Dialogue.

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## Admission of foreign lawyers

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The Admissions Committee has commenced public consultation on proposed amendments to the Legal Profession Uniform Admission Rules 2015, which are intended to provide clearer guidance on the admission of foreign lawyers. The Committee is also seeking feedback on a draft Council guideline on conditional admission of foreign lawyers under the Uniform Law. The public consultation paper is available [on the Council's website](#) and the consultation will close on 6 November 2023.

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## **Practising certificate data for 2022/23**

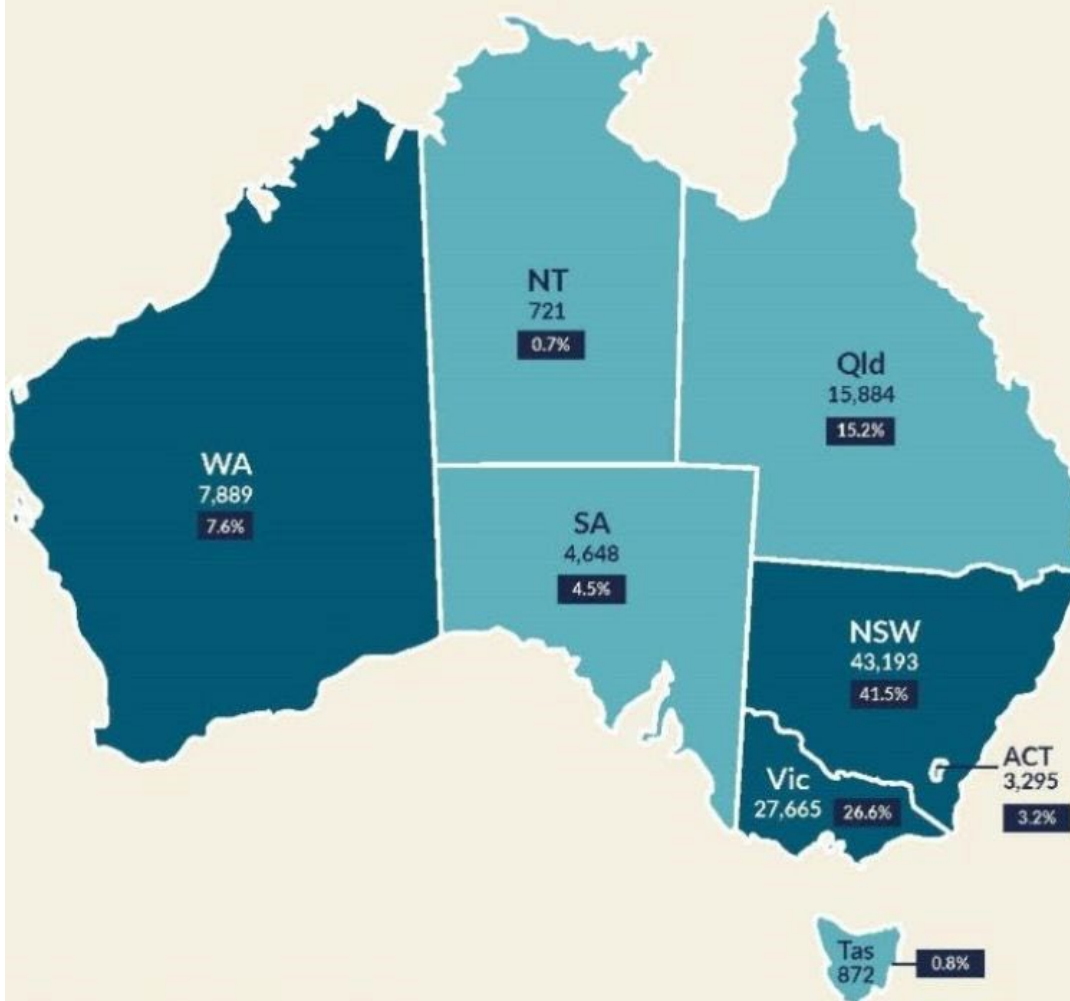
It is reporting season and the Secretariat has been working hard on the data to be published in the Commissioner's annual report. The regulatory authorities play an invaluable role in this process, and with some extra help from the bodies which issue practising certificates in the jurisdictions outside the Uniform Law, the report will include a snapshot of the legal profession Australia-wide.

Some of the key takeaways from the national data include:

- There are 97,497 solicitors and 6,670 barristers in Australia.
  - The number of legal practitioners regulated by the Uniform Law framework is 78,747. This figure represents 75.6% of all legal practitioners Australia-wide.
  - Females made up 53.8% of legal practitioners across Australia compared with 46.1% for males, with similar proportions in the Uniform Law jurisdictions.
  - More than half of Australian legal practitioners practise in a city (56.0%), almost one third practise in a suburban location (30.1%), and nearly one in ten practise in a regional area (8.9%), with similar proportions in the Uniform Law jurisdictions.
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## Legal profession snapshot

Number of legal practitioners  
(solicitors and barristers)  
Australia-wide  
As at 30 June 2023



There are **104,167** legal practitioners in Australia

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## Managed investment schemes

On 6 October 2023, the [Legal Profession Uniform General Amendment \(Managed Investment Schemes\) Rule 2023](#) commenced. The Rule limits the application of rule 91BA

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of the Legal Profession Uniform General Rules 2015 to litigation funding schemes entered into on or after 22 August 2020 and before 10 December 2022, being the time period within which litigation funding schemes were regulated as managed investments schemes under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth).

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## Admissions Committee membership



The Council has appointed Madeleine Dupuche, Director of Education Strategy and Design at Leo Cussen Centre for Law to the Admissions Committee from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025. The Council acknowledges the contribution of Professor Jenni Lightowlers, Dean of Deakin Law School, to the Admissions Committee during her appointment, which came to an end on 30 June 2023.

The Council has also reappointed the Hon Arthur Emmett AO KC to the Admissions Committee for a further term of one year from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

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## RUOK? Day



For RUOK? Day the Secretariat got out of the office to enjoy nature, sunshine, fresh air and cake. We went to the Love Your Nature exhibition at the Sydney Botanical Gardens, followed by afternoon tea at the café. It was a great opportunity to support the wellbeing of the team!

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Legal Services Council | Level 3, 19 O'Connell Street, Sydney NSW |  
<http://www.legalservicescouncil.org.au>