

ANNUAL REPORTS

2024/2025

Overview

The Legal Services Council is an intergovernmental statutory corporation created by the Legal Profession Uniform Law, applied in New South Wales by the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014* (NSW), in Victoria by the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014* (Vic) and in Western Australia by the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2022* (WA).

The Legal Profession Uniform Law commenced on 1 July 2015 in New South Wales and Victoria and on 1 July 2022 in Western Australia.

This publication contains the annual reports of both the Legal Services Council and the Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation for 2024–2025.

The reports are prepared and submitted in accordance with clause 26 of Schedule 1 and clause 10 of Schedule 2 to the Legal Profession Uniform Law as in force in each participating jurisdiction.

All references to legislation in this report are to the Legal Profession Uniform Law, also referred to as the Uniform Law, unless otherwise indicated.

Copies of these annual reports are publicly available at www.legalservicescouncil.org.au.

REPORT OF THE LEGAL SERVICES COUNCIL 2024/2025

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20 October 2025

The Hon Michael Daley MP
Attorney General of New South Wales
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

The Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP
Attorney-General of Victoria
Minister for Planning
Level 26, 121 Exhibition St
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

The Hon Dr Toni Buti MLA
Attorney General of Western Australia; Minister for Commerce;
Tertiary and International Education;
Multicultural Interests
10th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Attorneys General

Annual report of the Legal Services Council for 2024–2025

Annual report of the Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation for 2024–2025

I am pleased to submit the annual report of the Legal Services Council for 2024–2025 in accordance with clause 26 of Schedule 1 to the Legal Profession Uniform Law.

I am also pleased to provide the annual report of the Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation for 2024–2025 prepared in accordance with clause 10 of Schedule 2 to the Legal Profession Uniform Law.

The financial statements of the Council include the financial statements of the Commissioner, consolidated as one entity. The statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and have been audited. A report provided by the Auditor is included.

This report also satisfies the requirements for an Agency Information Statement, required under Division 7.3 of the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018* (NSW). For the purpose of that legislation, the Legal Services Council and the Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation have self-assessed as group 2 agencies. Due to the reporting requirements under the Legal Profession Uniform Law, some of the information in this report goes beyond the minimum information required for an Agency Information Statement.

Yours sincerely



Sitesh Bhojani
Chair, Legal Services Council



Stephen Bray
A/Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation
A/Chief Executive Officer

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Chair's report



I am pleased to submit the annual report of the Legal Services Council for 2024–25. The report sets out the work done by the Legal Services Council, the Admissions Committee and the Council's Audit and Risk Committee, as well as the Law Admissions Consultative Committee.

This year, the Council was very pleased to have published a video package reflecting on the implementation of the Uniform Law in Western Australia, and is grateful to the former Western Australian Attorney General, the Hon John Quigley, the Legal Practice Board of Western Australia, the Law Society of Western Australia and the Western Australian Bar Association for their contributions. Their views on Western Australia with a fused profession becoming a participating jurisdiction under the Uniform Law Scheme are valuable and insightful.

In January, the Council was delighted to welcome Amber Cerny as a new member of the Council.

In June, Council member Joshua Thomson SC resigned from the Council following his appointment as President of the Western Australian Court of Appeal. Joshua has been involved with the Council as an observer, and then a member, since late 2018. He made a valuable contribution to the work of the Council over that time. On behalf of the Council, I thank him for that work and wish him every success for his judicial role.

I would also like to acknowledge the significant contribution of Heather Moore, who finished as CEO and Commissioner in May 2025. Heather was CEO and Commissioner for over two years and made a valuable contribution to Uniform Law scheme. Her valuable leadership and contribution is greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the Council, I thank the Hon Justice François Kunc who commenced as the Chair of the Admissions Committee on 1 July 2024, and acknowledge the ongoing work of the Committee.

I would also like to express the Council's thanks to the outgoing Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, Geoff Applebee, and welcome Malcolm Freame into that role.

Over the course of the year, the Council has continued to engage closely with its stakeholders, and I extend my sincere thanks for all of the collaborative assistance provided to the Council during the year. To my fellow Council members, Amber Cerny, Liz Harris, Noel Hutley SC, Andrew Pascoe and Juliana Warner, thank you for your valuable insights, guidance and work throughout the year. Finally, I record the Council's appreciation of the hard work and professionalism of the Council Secretariat team.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'S Bhojani'. The signature is stylized with a long horizontal line extending from the bottom.

Sitesh Bhojani
Chair, Legal Services Council

CEO/Commissioner's report



I was honoured to be appointed as Acting CEO and Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation in June 2025. My predecessor, Heather Moore, achieved a great deal in her time in those roles and I am very grateful for her excellent work.

In 2024–25 the Council continued its research project on consumer remedies. This included Stage 2 of the project, which captured the experiences of consumers and lawyers involved in the complaints process in New South Wales and Western Australia. While identifying both benefits and challenges, the research provides evidence that the handling of consumer matters under the Uniform Law is at its best a learning-orientated, non-adversarial process that can help realise wellbeing and other benefits for both consumers and lawyers.

The Council and Admissions Committee's work on the admission of foreign lawyers continued to be a priority during this reporting period. In May, the Council made an amendment to the Uniform Admission Rules which provides guidance to the admitting authorities on factors to take into account when considering whether a foreign lawyer is eligible for an exemption under s 18 of the Uniform Law. The Council also issued a Guideline which sets out further detail on the operation of the Rule.

The Admissions Committee, working with the national Law Admissions Consultative Committee, has also progressed work to update the Standards for the Accreditation of Australian Law Courses and commenced a review of practical legal training.

I would like to thank the members of the Council, Admissions Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee, as well as members of the Law Admissions Consultative Committee, for their valuable contributions during the year, as well as our outstanding staff team for their excellent support of the Council and its Committees. I would also like to thank all our stakeholders for their contributions during the year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Bray', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen Bray

Acting Chief Executive Officer, Legal Services Council
Acting Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation

The Standing Committee

The Standing Committee comprises the Attorneys General of New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia. The Standing Committee has a general supervisory role over the Council, the Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation and local regulatory authorities, which includes overseeing the finances of the Council and approving its budget. It also considers Uniform Rules developed by the Legal Services Council, the Council's Admissions Committee, the Law Council of Australia and the Australian Bar Association.



The Hon Michael Daley MP
Attorney General,
New South Wales



The Hon Jaclyn Symes MP
Attorney-General, Victoria
(up to December 2024)



The Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP
Attorney-General, Victoria
(December 2024–present)



The Hon John Quigley MLA
Attorney General,
Western Australia
(up to March 2025)



The Hon. Dr Tony Buti MLA
Attorney General,
Western Australia
(March 2025–present)

Our Council

Legal Services Council members



Sitesh Bhojani, Chair (appointed 18 March 2024)

Sitesh has practised as a barrister in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia and is highly experienced in competition and consumer law. He was a Commissioner of the Essential Services Commission in Victoria from 2019 to 2024, a Commissioner of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission between 1995 and 2003 and a former member and deputy chair of the Competition and Consumer Committee of the Business Law Section of the Law Council of Australia. He also worked for more than six years with the Office of the Australian Government Solicitor in Perth.



Amber Cerny (appointed 28 January 2025)

Amber Cerny is a senior corporate lawyer. She has worked in international and domestic law firms in Australia and spent nine years in London working in a Magic Circle firm and inhouse in government. She represents private and public sector clients on mergers and acquisitions, corporate reorganisations, foreign investment review board applications and advises on corporate and privacy law in Australia. Amber is currently the Chair of the Business Law Committee and Deputy Chair of the Privacy and Data Committee of the Law Society of NSW and a former Councillor and member of the Professional Conduct Committee.



Elizabeth Harris (appointed 26 October 2020)

Liz Harris is a lawyer who has specialised in consumer complaints relating to lawyers, acting for both lawyers and consumers. She is a recognised expert in costs law as co-author of *Quick on Costs*, the pre-eminent Australian text. She has conducted her own legal practice, been a sessional member of the VCAT Legal Practice list, a member of the Victorian Supreme Court Costs Committee and Chair of the Law Institute of Victoria's Advisory Board on Costs Law and its Cost Lawyers section. Liz consults to government and corporate legal departments about managing external lawyers and is regularly engaged as an expert witness on the management of legal work and costs in class actions and other significant litigation.



Noel Hutley SC (appointed 26 October 2020)

Noel Hutley SC is a barrister at Fifth Floor St James' Hall. He was admitted to the New South Wales Bar in 1981, appointed as Senior Counsel in 1996 and appointed as Queen's Counsel in Western Australia in 1997. Noel has also been admitted in the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, South Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland and Tasmania. He has previously been a member of the Council of the New South Wales Bar Association, President of the New South Wales Bar Association (November 2015–May 2017) and President of the Australian Bar Association (November 2017–November 2018). Noel's practice includes general appellate, equity/commercial, administrative, trade practices, company and competition law.



Andrew Pascoe (appointed 31 October 2022)

Andrew Pascoe is a practising lawyer in Western Australia. He was admitted to practice in New South Wales in 1992 and became a partner of Allens in 2000. He relocated to Perth in 2003. Andrew heads the corporate mergers and acquisitions practice for the Allens' Perth office, specialising in mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, ethics and professional responsibilities. Andrew is also the Chair of West Australian Opera and is a former member of the Legal Practice Board in Western Australia.



Joshua Thomson SC (31 October 2022 – 25 June 2025)

Joshua Thomson SC is a barrister at Francis Burt Chambers. Joshua was the Solicitor-General of Western Australia between 2018 and 2023. He was admitted to the Western Australian Bar in 2001 and appointed as Senior Counsel in 2012. Joshua is also a member of the Legal Practice Board in Western Australia. In June 2025, he was appointed and took on the role as the Honourable Justice Thomson, President of the Western Australia Court of Appeal and a Judge of the Supreme Court.



Juliana Warner (appointed 26 October 2020)

Juliana Warner is the President of the Law Council of Australia. She is also a member of the Law Admissions Consultative Committee, nominated by the Law Council. Juliana has more than 30 years' experience in conducting complex disputes and is former Partner in the Sydney office of Herbert Smith Freehills where she represented clients in litigation, alternative dispute resolution and regulatory processes. She was also the President of the Law Society of New South Wales in 2021.



Heather Moore, Chief Executive Officer and Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation (1 November 2022 – 9 June 2025)

Heather Moore has held a range of senior roles over twenty years, including acting Chief of Staff to the Secretary of the New South Wales Department of Justice, Private Secretary to the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, and Director of Policy at the Law Society of New South Wales. She has an in-depth understanding of the Uniform Law scheme, and has worked with government, the judiciary and the legal profession. Heather was awarded her law degree with First Class Honours and a University Medal and completed an Executive Masters in Public Administration in 2018.



Stephen Bray, Acting Chief Executive Officer and Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation (appointed 10 June 2025)

Stephen began his career working as solicitor in a large law firm in Sydney, as an Australian Youth Ambassador as the Court Assistant to the Chief Justice of Samoa, and then in the UK as a Government solicitor. For the last 13 years he has worked in senior roles in the NSW Government on law reform, policy, regulation and interjurisdictional negotiation. Stephen was appointed as Acting CEO and Commissioner for an initial period of six months, commencing on 10 June 2025.

Admissions Committee

The Admissions Committee members during the reporting period were:

- The Hon Justice François Kunc, Chair, nominee of the Chief Justice of Victoria in concurrence with the Chief Justice of New South Wales, appointed to 30 June 2028
- The Hon David Habersberger KC, nominee of the Chief Justice of Victoria in concurrence with the Chief Justice of New South Wales, appointed to 30 June 2028
- The Hon Justice Samuel Vandongen, nominee of the Chief Justice of Victoria in concurrence with the Chief Justices of New South Wales and Western Australia, who resigned in January 2025
- The Hon Justice Matthew Howard, nominee of the Chief Justice of Victoria in concurrence with the Chief Justices of New South Wales and Western Australia, appointed to 9 February 2028
- Mr Ross Drinnan, nominee of the Law Council of Australia, appointed to 30 June 2027
- Ms Madeleine Dupuche, nominee of an institution that provides practical legal training, appointed to 30 June 2028
- Mr Robert Hollo SC, nominee of the Australian Bar Association, appointed to 30 June 2028
- Ms Anna Liscia, nominee of the Standing Committee of Attorneys General, appointed to 20 June 2027
- Professor Anita Stuhmcke, nominee of a Faculty of Law, appointed to 17 December 2025.



**The Hon Justice
François Kunc**



**The Hon David
Habersberger KC**



**The Hon Justice
Matthew Howard**



Mr Ross Drinnan



**Ms Madeleine
Dupuche**



Mr Robert Hollo SC



Ms Anna Liscia



**Professor Anita
Stuhmcke**

The Uniform Law scheme

STANDING COMMITTEE – NSW, VICTORIAN AND WA ATTORNEYS GENERAL

Supervises the Legal Services Council, Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation and local regulatory authorities to ensure they fulfil their duties consistently with the Uniform Law's objectives.

Makes regulations and considers Uniform Rules.

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

Develops rules about admission to the legal profession.

Gives advice to the Legal Services Council about admissions-related matters.

LEGAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Monitors the Uniform Law's implementation and operation.

Develops General Rules and makes all Uniform Rules.

Issues guidelines and directions to local regulatory authorities about the exercise of their functions.

COMMISSIONER FOR UNIFORM LEGAL SERVICES REGULATION

Promotes compliance with the Uniform Law and Rules.

Ensures the consistent and effective implementation of Chapter 5 of the Uniform Law.

Raises awareness of the Uniform Law framework and its objectives.

Issues guidelines and directions to local regulatory authorities about Chapter 5 functions.

LOCAL REGULATORY AUTHORITIES FOR FUNCTIONS AND REGULATION OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION

ADMISSION TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION	AUSTRALIAN PRACTISING AND REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES	TRUST MONEY AND TRUST ACCOUNTING	COMPLIANCE AUDITS AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM DIRECTIONS	CONSUMER COMPLAINTS, DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE
Legal Profession Admission Board (NSW)	Bar Council (NSW)	Bar Council (NSW)	NSW Legal Services Commissioner	NSW Legal Services Commissioner
Victorian Legal Admissions Board	Law Society Council (NSW)	Law Society Council (NSW)	Law Society and Bar Councils (NSW)	Law Society and Bar Councils (NSW)
Legal Practice Board (WA)	Victorian Legal Services Board	Victorian Legal Services Board	Victorian Legal Services Board	Victorian Legal Services Commissioner
	Legal Practice Board (WA)	Legal Practice Board (WA)	Legal Practice Board (WA)	Legal Practice Board (WA)

COURTS AND TRIBUNALS

SUPREME COURTS OF NSW, VICTORIA AND WA

Appeal or review of some DLRA decisions, disqualification of entities from providing legal services, admission to and removal from the roll of Australian lawyers, appointment of receivers, injunctive relief.

LOCAL COURT OF NSW; MAGISTRATES COURT OF VICTORIA; MAGISTRATES COURT OF WA

Prosecution of summary offences.

NSW CIVIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL; VICTORIAN CIVIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL; STATE ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL WA

Chapter 5 consumer complaints, dispute resolution and professional discipline.

The Uniform Law framework

THE UNIFORM LAW

The Legal Profession Uniform Law sets out the regulatory arrangements for the legal profession, including:

- Admission to the Australian legal profession
- Legal practice
- Business practice and professional conduct
- Legal costs between a legal practitioner and their client
- Dispute resolution and professional discipline
- Functions and powers of the Council, the Commissioner and local regulatory authorities.

LOCAL APPLICATION ACTS

The Uniform Law is applied in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia by local Application Acts. Certain jurisdiction-specific arrangements, such as the operation of local authorities and fees, are dealt with by local Application Acts and Regulations.

- *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014* (Vic)
- *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014* (NSW)
- *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2022* (WA)
- Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Regulations 2015 (Vic)
- Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Regulation 2015 (NSW)
- Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Regulations 2022 (WA)
- Legal Profession Uniform Law Application (Accreditation) Regulations 2022 (WA)

THE UNIFORM RULES

The Uniform Rules provide operational detail and requirements for legal practitioners. The Council has specific responsibility for the development of the Uniform General Rules. After any necessary amendments, the Council submits the draft rule to the Standing Committee of Attorneys General.

The Council's Admissions Committee is responsible for developing the Admission Rules.

The Law Council of Australia and the Australian Bar Association are responsible for developing Legal Practice, Legal Profession Conduct and Continuing Professional Development Rules for solicitors and barristers respectively.

The Uniform Rules are:

- Legal Profession Uniform General Rules 2015
- Legal Profession Uniform Admission Rules 2015
- Legal Profession Uniform Continuing Professional Development (Solicitors) Rules 2015
- Legal Profession Uniform Law Australian Solicitors' Conduct Rules 2015
- Legal Profession Uniform Legal Practice (Solicitors) Rules 2015
- Legal Profession Uniform Continuing Professional Development (Barristers) Rules 2015
- Legal Profession Uniform Conduct (Barristers) Rules 2015

REGISTER OF DELEGATIONS

The Council may delegate certain functions to the Chair of the Council or the Commissioner.

The Council maintains and annually updates a Register of Delegations as required by section 413 of the Uniform Law.

Strategy

Legal Services Council and Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation Strategic Plan 2024–2025

The Legal Services Council and the Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation are established by the Legal Profession Uniform Law – the statutory framework for legal profession regulation which applies in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia.

The Council and Commissioner aim to promote the administration of justice by facilitating a uniform regulatory framework for the Australian legal profession which is applied consistently to maintain professional standards and provide efficient, effective and targeted protection for consumers.

Goals

The goals of the Council and Commissioner are:

1. Consistency in regulation under the Uniform Law in the context of a common Australian legal services market
2. Regulation which is efficient, effective, targeted and proportionate for consumers and the legal profession
3. Increased awareness of the Uniform Law and its adoption in non-participating jurisdictions.

Objectives

The Uniform Law sets out its objectives, as well as the objectives of the Council and Commissioner, as follows:

- The objectives of the Uniform Law are to promote the administration of justice and an efficient and effective Australian legal profession, by:
 - Providing and promoting interjurisdictional consistency in the law applying to the Australian legal profession
 - Ensuring lawyers are competent and maintain high ethical and professional standards in the provision of legal services
 - Enhancing the protection of clients of law practices and the protection of the public generally
 - Empowering clients of law practices to make informed choices about the services they access and the costs involved
 - Promoting regulation of the legal profession that is efficient, effective, targeted and proportionate
 - Providing a co-regulatory framework within which an appropriate level of independence of the legal profession from the executive arm of government is maintained.
- The objectives of the Council are to:
 - Monitor the implementation of the Legal Profession Uniform Law and ensure its consistent application across participating jurisdictions
 - Ensure that the Legal Profession Uniform Framework remains efficient, targeted and effective, and promotes the maintenance of professional standards
 - Ensure that the Legal Profession Uniform Framework appropriately accounts for the interests and protection of clients of law practices.
- The objectives of the office of Commissioner are to:
 - Promote compliance with requirements of the Uniform Law and the Uniform Rules
 - Ensure the consistent and effective implementation of the provisions of Chapter 5 and supporting Uniform Rules, through the development and making of appropriate guidelines
 - Raise awareness of the Legal Profession Uniform Framework and its objectives.

Functions

The Council and Commissioner have important statutory functions, for example:

- Developing, being consulted on, and making Uniform General Rules, Admission Rules, Conduct Rules, Practice Rules and Continuing Professional Development Rules
- Monitoring and promoting consistency in the exercise of functions by local regulatory authorities including by issuing guidelines and directions about the exercise of those functions
- Establishing and supporting Committees of the Council, currently the Admissions Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee
- Maintaining the Australian Legal Profession Register and registers of delegations
- Functions in relation to external examiners
- Indexation of specified amounts
- Reporting to the Standing Committee of Attorneys General
- Legislative compliance functions, including under the:
 - *Government Sector Audit Act 1983* (NSW)
 - *Government Sector Finance Act 2018* (NSW)
 - *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* (NSW)
 - *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (NSW)
 - *State Records Act 1998* (NSW), and
 - *Ombudsman Act 1974* (NSW).

Stakeholders

The Council and Commissioner work closely with stakeholders in the Uniform Law jurisdictions including:

- Local regulatory authorities
- Government departments and the Standing Committee of Attorneys General
- Professional associations
- Courts and tribunals, and
- Those who work with consumers.

This includes providing opportunities for information to be shared with, and between, stakeholders.

The Council and Commissioner consult and engage with stakeholders in the non-participating jurisdictions and help new entrants transition into the Uniform Law scheme.

The Secretariat supports the Law Admissions Consultative Committee and participates in the national regulators' network and Conference of Regulatory Officers.

Priority projects

Consistent with the goals, objectives and functions set out above, the Council has identified its priority projects as at July 2024. Other priorities may emerge, and the ongoing work of the Council in discharging its statutory functions will continue.

Costs disclosure thresholds review
Goals 1, 2 and 3
<p>The Council is progressing the recommendations in the final report of the costs disclosure thresholds review, received in September 2023. This work will proceed in line with the implementation plan, and has begun with the development of updated standard costs disclosure forms and information sheets. Other recommendations relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The costs disclosure thresholds • The exception to disclosure for commercial and government clients • The guidelines and directions on costs estimates issued by the Council and Commissioner, and • Certain aspects of record keeping in relation to costs disclosure documents.
Foreign lawyers
Goals 1, 2 and 3
<p>The Admissions Committee is working on proposed amendments to the Admission Rules relating to foreign lawyers. The Committee will monitor the impact of the Council's guideline on conditional admission. issued in May 2024.</p>
Non-participating jurisdictions
Goals 1 and 3
<p>The Council will continue to explore the expansion of the Uniform Law scheme to new jurisdictions.</p>
Australia-UK Free Trade Agreement
Goals 1, 2 and 3
<p>The Council and the Admissions Committee, working with the Law Admissions Consultative Committee, will continue to participate with the Law Council of Australia in the Legal Services Regulatory Dialogue convened in March 2024.</p>
Uniform Law amendments
Goals 1 and 2
<p>The Council will continue to work on proposals for amendment of the Uniform Law following the consultation undertaken in 2020.</p>
Data project
Goals 2 and 3
<p>Subject to other priorities, the Council will implement improvements to the database and other data collection practices identified in the review conducted in 2023–24.</p>

Admissions Committee Strategic Plan 2024–25

The Admissions Committee is established by the Legal Services Council (Council) under the Legal Profession Uniform Law – the statutory framework for legal profession regulation which applies in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia.

This Strategic Plan should be read with the Strategic Plan of the Council.

Goals

The goals of the Admissions Committee are:

1. Consistency in regulation of admission under the Uniform Law and across all State and Territories, in the context of a common legal services market
2. Regulation which is efficient, effective, targeted and proportionate in determining the standards for admission as an Australian legal practitioner, including for lawyers qualified overseas.

Functions

The Admissions Committee has important statutory functions, including:

- Developing the Admission Rules
- Giving advice to the Council about guidelines and directions of the Council relating to admission and any other matters relating to admission
- Giving advice to the Council about any matters referred to the Committee by the Council.

Stakeholders

The Admissions Committee works closely with stakeholders in the Uniform Law jurisdictions including:

- Local regulatory authorities including the admitting authorities
- Courts and tribunals
- Government departments and the Standing Committee of Attorneys General
- Professional associations
- Law course and practical legal training providers, and
- The representative body of law students.

This includes providing opportunities for information to be shared with, and between, stakeholders.

The Admissions Committee also consults and engages with stakeholders in the non-participating jurisdictions and New Zealand.

Working with the Law Admissions Consultative Committee

The Admissions Committee works closely with the Law Admissions Consultative Committee (LACC) to facilitate national consistency in admissions matters. The Committees meet jointly to discuss matters of mutual interest and common projects.

Priority projects

Consistent with the goals and functions set out above, the Admissions Committee has identified its priority projects as at September 2024. Other priorities may emerge, and the ongoing work of the Committee will continue.

Accreditation of law courses and PLT providers
The Admissions Committee, working with the LACC, is looking at how guidance for admitting authorities on the accreditation of law courses and PLT providers can be improved.
Foreign lawyers
<p>The Admissions Committee is working on proposed amendments to the Legal Profession Uniform Admission Rules 2015 (Admission Rules) relating to foreign lawyers. The Committee will monitor the impact of the Council's guideline on conditional admission, issued in May 2024.</p> <p>The Admissions Committee, working with the LACC, will develop updates to the Uniform Principles for Assessing Qualifications of Overseas Applicants for Admission to the Australian Legal Profession.</p>
Australia-UK Free Trade Agreement
The Admissions Committee, along with the Council and the LACC, will continue to participate with the Law Council of Australia in the Legal Services Regulatory Dialogue, convened in March 2024.
Proposed law courses with international providers
The Admissions Committee and the LACC are exploring the implications of requests that have been made to admitting authorities to accredit law courses where part of the law course is delivered by a provider based overseas.
Review of legal education and training
<p>The Admissions Committee and the LACC will consider recommendations developed by the Australasian Professional Legal Education Community Ltd. regarding the Practical Legal Training Competency Standards for Entry Level Lawyers, which form the basis of Schedule 2 to the Admission Rules.</p> <p>The Admissions Committee, along with the Council and the LACC, will continue to engage with the stakeholder group convened by the Council of Australian Law Deans to consider legal education. Subject to other priorities, the Admission Committee and the LACC may then consider the desirability of, and need for, a future review of the prescribed academic areas of knowledge, which form the basis of Schedule 1 to the Admission Rules.</p>

Note: The Law Admissions Consultative Committee has also developed a Strategic Plan for the reporting period, which is available on the Council's website.

Operations and performance

Over the last 12 months, the Council and the Admissions Committee have progressed a number of priority projects by engaging with stakeholders from New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australian as well as from jurisdictions that do not currently participate in the Uniform Law scheme. Some highlights of this year follow.

1. Priority projects

WA video package

The Legal Profession Uniform Law entered into force in Western Australia on 1 July 2022, bringing Western Australian lawyers under the same regulatory framework as Victoria and New South Wales. Two years later, the outgoing Attorney General of Western Australia, the Hon John Quigley MLA, shared his reflections on the Uniform Law, its benefits and implementation as part of a video package focusing on the introduction of the Uniform Law scheme in Western Australia. The Legal Practice Board of Western Australia, the Law Society of Western Australia and the Western Australian Bar Association also joined the Attorney General in sharing their perspectives.

Key benefits identified include:

- Standardising regulatory obligations while maintaining the role of local regulatory bodies
- Preserving the principle of co-regulation and introducing new informal ways of resolving consumer disputes
- Seamless practice across the Uniform Law jurisdictions for lawyers and consistent protections, rights and remedies for consumers.

The video package is available on the Council's website.

Costs disclosure thresholds

The Council has been working on developing updated standard costs disclosure forms and information sheets. The Council is grateful to the regulators for their review of the updated forms.

Work is now underway to design user-friendly versions of the draft standard costs disclosure forms ahead of user testing with consumers and lawyers.

Foreign lawyers

In May 2025, the Council made the Legal Profession Uniform Admission Amendment (Qualifications) Rule 2025 and an accompanying Guideline.

The Rule provides guidance to the admitting authorities on factors to take into account when considering whether a foreign lawyer is eligible for an exemption under s 18 of the Uniform Law. The Guideline sets out further detail on the operation of the Rule.

Both the Rule and Guideline commenced on 1 July 2025.

Throughout the reporting period, the Admissions Committee monitored the impact of the Council's guideline on conditional admission, made in May 2024.

Australia-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement

The Council, the Admissions Committee and the Law Admissions Consultative Committee (LACC) continued to undertake work in relation to the sector-led Legal Services Regulatory Dialogue (Dialogue) established under the Australia-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Since the first plenary meeting in March 2024, the four working groups established by the Dialogue have been constituted and had the opportunity to meet. These working groups are:

- Qualifications, Recognition and Admission: to consider requirements, pathways and approaches to admission to the legal profession and practice of law in Australia and the UK
- Business Structures and Issues: to consider the availability of business structures, as well as other issues for those conducting legal business across Australia and the UK
- Barrister and Advocate Cooperation: to consider issues relating to barristers' practice including the requirements for admission and practice which are specific to barristers and advocates, and
- Regulatory Cooperation: to consider other regulatory matters including opportunities to reduce regulatory friction, and give particular consideration to emerging issues relating to legal technology and artificial intelligence.

The Council, Admissions Committee and the LACC have appreciated nominees from the admitting authorities and legal profession regulators participating in the Working Groups.

The Dialogue met in December 2024 and March 2025 and considered updates from the Working Groups at each meeting. In January, the Dialogue submitted a report to the intergovernmental Professional Services Working Group, in accordance with the FTA. The Dialogue is developing a public report on its work.

Along with Ian Jeffery, CEO of the Law Society of England and Wales, the Council's CEO has co-chaired the Working Group on Qualifications, Recognition and Admission, which met three times during the reporting period. The Group is pulling together data on the movement of lawyers between Australia and the United Kingdom and compiling an inventory of resources available in each jurisdiction to provide lawyers with information about moving between jurisdictions.

Research project on consumer remedies under the Uniform Law

In May 2024, the Council engaged Heartward Strategic, an independent Australian social research agency, to undertake a qualitative research project on consumer remedies under the Uniform Law.

The aim of the research was to understand the impact of the introduction of these remedies on consumers, regulators and lawyers by reporting on the experiences and views of the regulators and legal professional associations in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia.

Stage 1 of the research involved interviews with regulators and legal professional associations in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia and found that overall, the Uniform Law's approach to consumer matters is seen as advantageous to regulators, consumers and lawyers. The report is now available on the Council's website at <https://legalservicescouncil.org.au/highlights/consumer-remedies-under-the-uniform-law.html>.

Stage 2 of the research captured the experiences of consumers and lawyers involved in the complaints process in New South Wales and Western Australia via an online feedback form and follow-up interviews with selected participants. While identifying both benefits and challenges, the research provides evidence that the handling of consumer matters under the Uniform Law is at its best a learning-orientated, non-adversarial process

that can help realise wellbeing and other benefits for both consumers and lawyers.

Review of practical legal training

The Admissions Committee and LACC are undertaking a review of practical legal training, incorporating issues of cost and quality. The Committees have convened as a subcommittee to progress this work.

The subcommittee circulated a project scope to key stakeholders in April and undertook work to endorse a design and themes for a survey of new solicitors and their supervisors. This survey builds on recent work, including the survey conducted by the Legal Profession Admission Board in New South Wales. The Secretariat has engaged Urbis to develop and run the survey, which will be undertaken later in 2025.

Accreditation of law courses

The Admissions Committee and the LACC have been continuing work on issues that have been raised about the accreditation of law courses. These include questions in relation to the minimum teaching hours of Priestley 11 subjects, the duration of law courses, and online examination of Priestley 11 subjects.

Following preliminary consultation with stakeholders, in March the Committees released a public consultation paper inviting submission on proposed revisions to the Accreditation Standards for Australian Law Courses. Submissions were received in June, and the Committees will consider these submissions later in 2025.

2. Amendments to the Uniform Law and Rules

Uniform Law amendments

The Council continues to engage with the Departments and DLRA's on a package of proposed amendments to the Uniform Law.

Indexation

On 22 May 2025, the editorial note to rule 111A of the Uniform General Rules was updated to include the actual indexed amounts for 2025/26.

Rule 111A adjusts the amounts specified in sections 291 to 293 of the Uniform Law; and section 99 of the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014* (Vic) in accordance with the published

Australian Statistician's consumer price index. This ensures the regulatory authorities and the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal maintain their jurisdiction to determine costs disputes in line with inflation.

These amounts are set out below:

Financial year	Original amount – \$100,000	Original amount – \$10,000	Original amount – \$25,000
2025–2026	\$314,330	\$31,440	\$78,585

Uniform Continuing Professional Development Rules

In August 2024, the Australian Bar Association (ABA) commenced public consultation on a proposed amendment to rule 9 of the Legal Profession Uniform Continuing Professional Development (Barristers) Rules. Rule 9 concerns the categories of continuing professional development (CPD) in which a barrister must engage each CPD year. The amendment would add an additional mandatory CPD category “Equality and Wellbeing” to rule 9.

The Council considered the submissions received by the ABA at its November 2024 meeting and approved the preparation of the draft rule. In June 2025, the Council submitted the amendment to the Standing Committee of Attorneys General, with a proposed commencement date of 1 April 2026 to coincide with the start of the CPD year.

Uniform Conduct Rules

In November 2024, the ABA and Law Council of Australia (LCA) commenced consultation with regulators, courts and tribunals on the proposed amendments to rule 101A of the Legal Profession Uniform Law (Barristers) Conduct Rules 2015 and rule 38 of the Legal Profession Uniform Law (Solicitors) Conduct Rules 2015, respectively. Both rules are concerned with the return to practice of judicial and court officers and tribunal members.

3. Engagement

The Chair and CEO of the Council met with the Attorney General of Western Australia in July 2024 and in May 2025 and with the Attorney General of New South Wales in May 2025.

Throughout the reporting period, the Council, CEO/Commissioner and Secretariat continued to meet regularly with stakeholders from Uniform Law jurisdictions including with:

- DLRA’s (Law Society of New South Wales, New South Wales Bar Association, New South Wales Office of the Legal Services Commissioner, Legal Profession Admission Board of New South Wales, Victorian Legal Services Board and Commissioner, Victorian Legal Admissions Board and Legal Practice Board in Western Australia)
- The New South Wales Department of Communities and Justice, Victorian Department of Justice and Community Safety and Western Australian Department of Justice
- Professional associations including the Law Institute of Victoria, Victorian Bar, Law Society of Western Australia and Western Australian Bar Association (noting the Law Society of New South Wales and New South Wales Bar Association are also DLRA’s).

Meetings were also held with the LCA, ABA and Law Firms Australia during this period. In January 2025, the CEO and a member of the policy team met with staff of the Ministry of Justice, Japan, to discuss the relation of the legal profession in Australia and the work of the Council.

Uniform Law Summit

The Council’s Uniform Law Summit was held in Sydney on 28 November 2024, with video conferencing available for those who were unable to attend in person. There were around 40 participants, with regulators, admitting authorities and Departments represented, as well as the Council and Secretariat.

The Summit program focused on collaboration and included the following:

- Breakout sessions for regulators and admitting authorities
- Update on the Council’s activities

- Update on the working groups established by the Legal Services Regulatory Dialogue
- Presentation of the Council's consumer remedies research
- Regulatory perspectives on mental health in the legal profession.

Non-participating jurisdictions

The Council and Admissions Committee have continued to engage with non-participating jurisdictions to understand their perspectives and promote the scheme.

Conference of Regulatory Officers

In October 2024, the CEO attended the Conference of Regulatory Officers in Melbourne together with two members of the policy team.

Alongside the conference, the CEO attended a dinner with the Commissioners or their equivalents from all jurisdictions. This meeting continues to provide a forum to discuss areas of common interest and emerging regulatory issues and an opportunity to strengthen relationships with non-participating jurisdictions.

The CEO also attended the annual meeting of the Administrators of Australasian Legal Admissions Authorities (AALAA), held alongside CORO. AALAA members were updated on the work of the Admissions Committee and the LACC, and the CEO invited attendees from non-participating jurisdictions to join quarterly meetings convened with the staff of the Uniform Law admitting authorities. These meetings are a forum to discuss the work of the Committees and hear from the admitting authorities about their current projects or any emerging issues.

Stakeholder engagement

During the reporting period, meetings were also held with regulators and professional associations in Tasmania and South Australia.

The Chair and CEO provided an update on the Uniform Law scheme at the LCA Directors' meeting in March.

4. Governance

Public Interest Disclosures

The Council and Commissioner have developed a Public Interest Disclosure (PID) Policy and Procedure in accordance with the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022* (NSW), published in June 2025. These set out how disclosures of serious wrongdoing should be reported and how a report will be assessed, reviewed and managed.

Management and accountability

The Council and the Commissioner oversee the operation of the Uniform Law scheme.

The objectives of the Uniform Law scheme are to promote the administration of justice and an efficient and effective Australian legal profession, by:

- Providing and promoting interjurisdictional consistency in the law applying to the Australian legal profession
- Ensuring lawyers are competent and maintain high ethical and professional standards in the provision of legal services
- Enhancing the protection of clients of law practices and the protection of the public generally
- Empowering clients of law practices to make informed choices about the services they access and the costs involved
- Promoting regulation of the legal profession that is efficient, effective, targeted and proportionate
- Providing a co-regulatory framework within which an appropriate level of independence of the legal profession from the executive arm of government is maintained.

The Council

The Council is a statutory corporation, which is separate from government, and may do what is necessary or appropriate to perform its functions.

The Council's objectives under the Uniform Law are to:

- Monitor the implementation of the Uniform Law and ensure its consistent application across participating jurisdictions
- Ensure the Uniform Law scheme remains efficient, targeted and effective, and promotes the maintenance of professional standards
- Ensure that the Uniform Law scheme appropriately accounts for the interests and protection of clients of law practices.

The Council makes all the Uniform Rules and to achieve a consistent approach, can issue guidelines and/or directions to local regulatory authorities, except in relation to complaints and professional discipline (which are matters for the Commissioner).

The Council has seven members, drawn from participating jurisdictions as follows:

- One member appointed as Chair on the recommendation of the Standing Committee with the concurrence of the Law Council of Australia and the Australian Bar Association
- Two members recommended by the Law Council of Australia
- One member recommended by the Australian Bar Association
- Three members recommended by the Standing Committee on the basis of their expertise in legal practice, consumer protection, legal professional regulation or financial management.

Council appointments are for three years. Members may be re-appointed and can hold office for a total of six years.

The Council met six times during the reporting year in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and online.

The Chief Executive Officer and Commissioner

On 10 June 2025 Stephen Bray was appointed as Acting CEO and Commissioner for an initial period of six months. This replaced Heather Moore, who held the role from 1 November 2022 to 9 June 2025.

The Commissioner is a statutory office holder, responsible for raising awareness of and promoting compliance with the Uniform Law and Rules. The Commissioner monitors and reviews the dispute resolution and professional discipline functions set out in Chapter 5 of the Uniform Law.

The CEO manages the day-to-day affairs of the Council in accordance with its policies and directions and is the head of the Council's Secretariat.

The person appointed as Commissioner must also exercise the functions of CEO of the Council.

The Admissions Committee

The Council appoints the Admissions Committee, following nominations in accordance with clause 21(1) of Schedule 1 to the Uniform Law.

The Committee is responsible for developing Admission Rules and has a broader role providing advice to the Council about admissions matters.

To that end, it liaises with Australian and foreign admitting authorities, and courts and professional associations in relation to Uniform Law issues and the recognition of qualifications obtained overseas.

The Committee has eight members drawn from participating jurisdictions and appointed by the Council:

- One current or former Supreme Court Judge from each participating jurisdiction nominated by the Chief Justice of the host jurisdiction for this Law with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of each other participating jurisdiction
- One person nominated by the Law Council of Australia, who has expertise or experience in legal practice
- One person nominated by the Australian Bar Association, who has expertise or experience in legal practice
- Two persons from different jurisdictions, each of whom is nominated by:
 - The Dean of a Law School or of a Faculty of Law or the head of an institution that provides practical legal training, or
 - A person who is of equivalent status or who has equivalent functions
- One person, nominated by the Standing Committee, who:
 - Is an officer or employee of a government department who has expertise or experience in regulating the legal profession or in monitoring or developing policy relating to the legal profession, or
 - Has expertise or experience in developing policy standards for admission or in accrediting education courses or institutions.

The Law Admissions Consultative Committee (LACC)

The LACC is a national group that reports to the Council of Chief Justices of Australia and New Zealand (CCJ), although it is not a committee of the CCJ. Its main role is to forge consensus on admission matters nationally, between the bodies represented by its members. The Council provides the LACC with secretariat support.

The Admissions Committee and the LACC have continued to work in a co-operative and collegiate manner. The Committees have continued to hold joint meetings to discuss matters of mutual interest, including the admissions projects set out below.

During the reporting period, the Chair of the LACC was the Hon Justice François Kunc. The members of the LACC and their nominating states or entities were:

- Mr Peter Garrisson AM SC (ACT)
- The Hon Justice Anthony Payne (NSW)
- Associate Justice Vince Luppino (NT) (until February 2025)
- Acting Associate Justice Craig Smyth (NT) (from February 2025)
- Mr Greg Moroney (QLD)
- The Hon Justice Christopher Bleby (SA)
- The Hon Justice Robert Pearce (TAS)
- The Hon David Habersberger KC (VIC)
- The Hon Justice Samuel Vandongen (WA) (until January 2025)
- The Hon Justice Matthew Howard (WA) (from February 2025)
- Associate Professor Vedna Jivan (Australasian Professional Legal Education Community Ltd. (APLEC)) (until June 2025)
- Ms Shirley Southgate (APLEC) (from June 2025)
- Professor Nick James (Council of Australian Law Deans)
- Ms Juliana Warner (Law Council of Australia).

The Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) is established by the Council. Under approved terms of reference, the ARC monitors and reviews the effectiveness and efficiency of the processes of the Council and the Commissioner.

The ARC members during the reporting period were Geoffrey Applebee (Chair and independent member until 31 December 2024), Malcolm Freame (Chair and independent member from 1 January 2025) Liz Harris (Council member), and Andrew Pascoe (Council member).

The ARC's key area of focus is the oversight of financial management, budget reporting and risk management. Its three meetings per calendar year

are scheduled to accommodate timeframes set by the New South Wales Audit Office and end of year financial statements.

The ARC also considers audit and risk matters throughout the year and receives reports from the New South Wales Department of Communities and Justice's finance team.

The Secretariat and employment arrangements

The Council's Secretariat administers the day-to-day work of the Council, the Commissioner and the CEO. It comprises six full time equivalent (FTE) staff: two Policy Managers, a Senior Policy Officer, two Policy Officers and an Executive Assistant. This is the same FTE staff as FY2023/24.

The Secretariat comprises public sector employees under the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013* (NSW), employed by the New South Wales Department of Communities and Justice.

Corporate operations

During the year, the Council continued to receive operational support from the New South Wales Department of Communities and Justice.

The Department provided corporate services to the Council under a service provider agreement, which was renewed in September 2024. The agreement covers human resources, finance, procurement and information and digital services.

The CEO and Secretariat liaise regularly with the Department in relation to these services.

Consultants

The Council and Commissioner did not engage any consultants in FY2024–25.

Applied legislation

Specified oversight legislation that commonly applies to New South Wales Government agencies applies to the Council by operation of the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014* (NSW), including:

- *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* (NSW)

- *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (NSW)
- *State Records Act 1998* (NSW)
- *Ombudsman Act 1974* (NSW)
- *Government Sector Audit Act 1983* (NSW)
- *Government Sector Finance Act 2018* (NSW).

Privacy and personal information

During the reporting period, the Council and Commissioner acted in accordance with the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1988* (NSW) and its Privacy Management Plan. The Secretariat were required to undertake training in respect of the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1988* (NSW).

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009

The Council did not receive any requests to access information during the reporting period.

The Council proactively releases information on its website of interest to the legal profession and public, including guidelines, directions, and public consultations.

The ARC reviews the kinds of government information held by the Council that should be released on an annual basis, as set out in the Council's Agency Information Guide.

Modern Slavery Act requirements

No issues were raised with the Legal Services Council by the Anti-slavery Commissioner during the financial year under the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (NSW).

The Council and Commissioner adopt best practice in procurement, which takes into account matters raised in the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (NSW).

Financial performance

Funding arrangements

The Council's and Commissioner's funding is provided pursuant to an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the three participating jurisdictions.

The Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014 (Vic) provides that the Victorian Legal Services Board is to pay an amount determined by the Victorian Attorney-General. In practice, that amount is determined by reference to the IGA and is paid from the Victorian Public Purpose Fund.

The New South Wales contribution is funded by admission fees prescribed by the Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Regulation 2015 (NSW). From each admission fee, \$400 is allocated to the New South Wales Department of Communities and Justice.

The Western Australian contribution is funded by a fee of \$30 charged on application for a practising certificate, prescribed by the Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Regulations 2022 (WA).

The Council's operating budget

On 16 December 2024, the Standing Committee approved the 2024–2027 triennial budget for the Council and the Commissioner. The operating budget of \$1,940,781 was approved for 2024–2025. Audited financial statements are presented in this report from page 51.

The cost of the Uniform Law scheme, that is reflected in the Council's budget, is shared between participating jurisdictions. The notional cost of the national regulatory scheme covering all practitioners in Australia remains well under \$30 per legal practitioner per year.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR UNIFORM LEGAL SERVICES REGULATION 2024/2025

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20 October 2025

Mr Sitesh Bhojani
Chair, Legal Services Council
PO Box H326
Australia Square NSW 1215

Dear Mr Bhojani

Annual report for 2024–2025

I submit the annual report of the Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation for 2024–2025 to the Legal Services Council, in accordance with clause 10 of Schedule 2 to the Legal Profession Uniform Law.

The report does not include separate financial statements for the Commissioner, as the financial statements of the Council and for the Commissioner are consolidated, as one entity. The financial statements have been prepared and audited in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

A report from the Auditor is contained with the financial statements.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Bray

A/Chief Executive Officer | Legal Services Council
A/Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation

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Commissioner's report

Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation

The office of the Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation is established by the Legal Profession Uniform Law. The objectives of the Commissioner are to:

- Promote compliance with the Uniform Law and Uniform Rules
- Ensure consistent and effective implementation of Chapter 5 of the Uniform Law (dispute resolution and professional discipline) and supporting Uniform Rules, through developing and making appropriate guidelines
- Raise awareness of the Uniform Law framework and its objectives.

The Commissioner is appointed for a term of up to five years by the Victorian Attorney-General on the recommendation of the Standing Committee of Attorneys General and with the concurrence of the Legal Services Council.

The Commissioner is independent of the Council in exercising functions under the Uniform Law, except as provided in Part 8.3 of the Uniform Law. The Commissioner works in close consultation with the Council's Chair and staff of the Secretariat and is also the Council's CEO.

Commissioner's reporting obligation

The Commissioner can report on matters relating to the exercise of Chapter 5 functions to the Council for the attention of the Standing Committee.

The Commissioner can also recommend that changes to Chapter 5 functions be referred to the Standing Committee. No recommendation was made by the Commissioner in respect of Chapter 5 during the reporting year.

Guidelines and directions

The Commissioner may issue guidelines and directions to local regulatory authorities concerning the exercise of Chapter 5 functions, to ensure consistency across participating jurisdictions.

In March 2016, the Commissioner issued a guideline and direction on costs estimates, which sits alongside a guideline and direction issued by the Council. The Council's review of costs disclosure thresholds considered the effectiveness of these guidelines and directions.

The review recommended that these guidelines and directions be revoked.

In October 2016, the Commissioner issued a guideline on internal review of decisions of local regulatory authorities.

Register of delegations

The Commissioner may delegate any of their functions (other than the power of delegation) to a member of staff. The Uniform Law requires that the Commissioner maintains a register of delegations, and that the register must be kept up to date and reviewed at least annually. The Commissioner did not delegate any functions during the reporting period.

Uniform Law database

The Uniform Law database includes data shared electronically by designated local regulatory authorities in relation to their complaints and admissions functions. That data is published annually in this report as well as data provided by the designated local regulatory authorities in relation to internal reviews.

This report also contains data provided by the fidelity authorities in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia in relation to fidelity fund claims in the reporting period.

Applied legislation

Specified oversight legislation that commonly applies to NSW Government agencies applies to the Commissioner including:

- *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* (NSW)
- *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (NSW)
- *State Records Act 1998* (NSW)
- *Ombudsman Act 1974* (NSW)
- *Government Sector Audit Act 1983* (NSW)
- *Government Sector Finance Act 2018* (NSW).

The Commissioner did not receive any requests to access information during the reporting period. The Audit and Risk Committee reviews the kinds of government information held by the Commissioner that should be released on an annual basis.

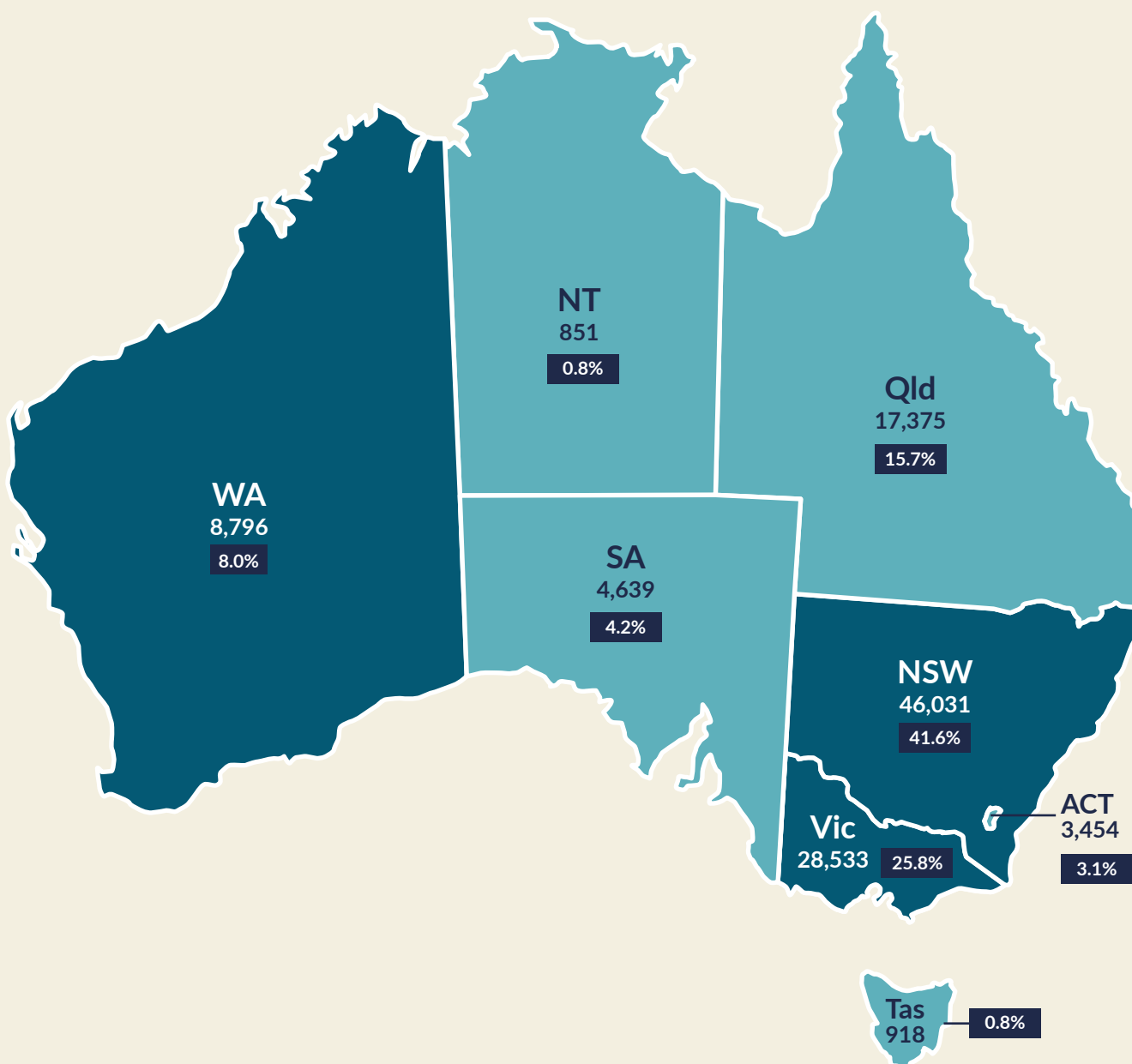
The functions of the Council in relation to the Commissioner and an account of how these have been executed during the year are summarised as follows:

- The Commissioner reports to each meeting of the Council and seeks to keep Council members informed of significant developments or issues between meetings.
- The Council examines annual and other reports of the Commissioner and reports to the Standing Committee on any matter appearing in or arising from any such report.
- This Annual Report was examined in draft by the Council in October 2025. No matters were suggested as the subject of a report to the Standing Committee.
- The Council can make recommendations to the Standing Committee on any changes to the role or functions of the Commissioner that the Council considers appropriate. No changes have been suggested since the commencement of the Uniform Law.
- The Council is required to inquire into and report on any question about the Commissioner's functions referred to it by the Standing Committee. No such questions were referred in the year.

More broadly, the Council and Commissioner continue to monitor the Uniform Law scheme to identify whether outcomes reflect intended objectives, or whether change is needed, including in any specific areas referred to them by the Standing Committee.

Legal profession snapshot

Number of legal practitioners
(solicitors and barristers)
Australia-wide
As at 30 June 2025



There are **110,597** legal practitioners in Australia

National data analysis

Practising certificates

The Commissioner is grateful to the following organisations which provided data on practising certificates for inclusion in this report:

- ACT Bar Association
- ACT Law Society
- Law Society of New South Wales
- Law Society Northern Territory
- Law Society of South Australia
- Law Society of Tasmania
- Legal Practice Board in Western Australia
- New South Wales Bar Association
- Queensland Bar Association
- Queensland Law Society
- Victorian Legal Services Board and Commissioner

The data provided relates to practising certificates issued to solicitors and barristers as at 30 June

2025. Please note that due to rounding, throughout this report the percentage figures may not equal 100.

Total number of practising certificates issued by jurisdiction

There are 110,597 legal practitioners in Australia (103,854 solicitors and 6,743 barristers).

Of the 103,854 solicitors Australia-wide, the largest proportion of solicitors are registered in New South Wales (41.6%) followed by Victoria (25.3%).

The number of legal practitioners regulated by the Uniform Law framework is 83,360 (2.2% increase since 1 July 2024). This figure represents 75.4% of all legal practitioners Australia-wide.

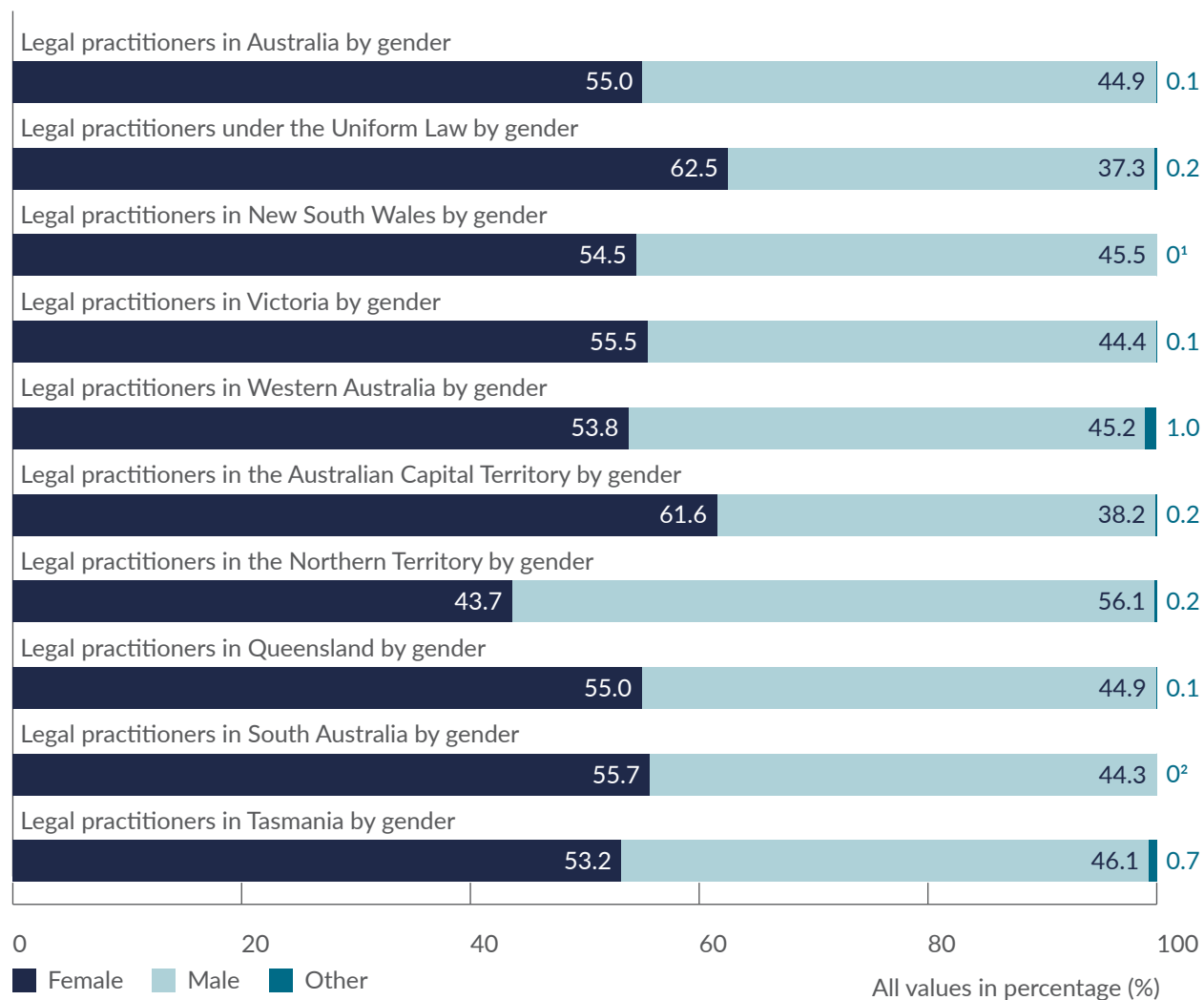
Solicitors make up 93.9% of the legal profession across the three Uniform Law jurisdictions.

Barristers in the Uniform Law jurisdictions represent 75.1% of barristers Australia-wide.



Legal practitioners by gender

Of the 110,597 legal practitioners across Australia, females made up 55% compared with 44.9% for males. In the three Uniform Law jurisdictions, females made up 62.5% of legal practitioners compared with 37.3 males%.



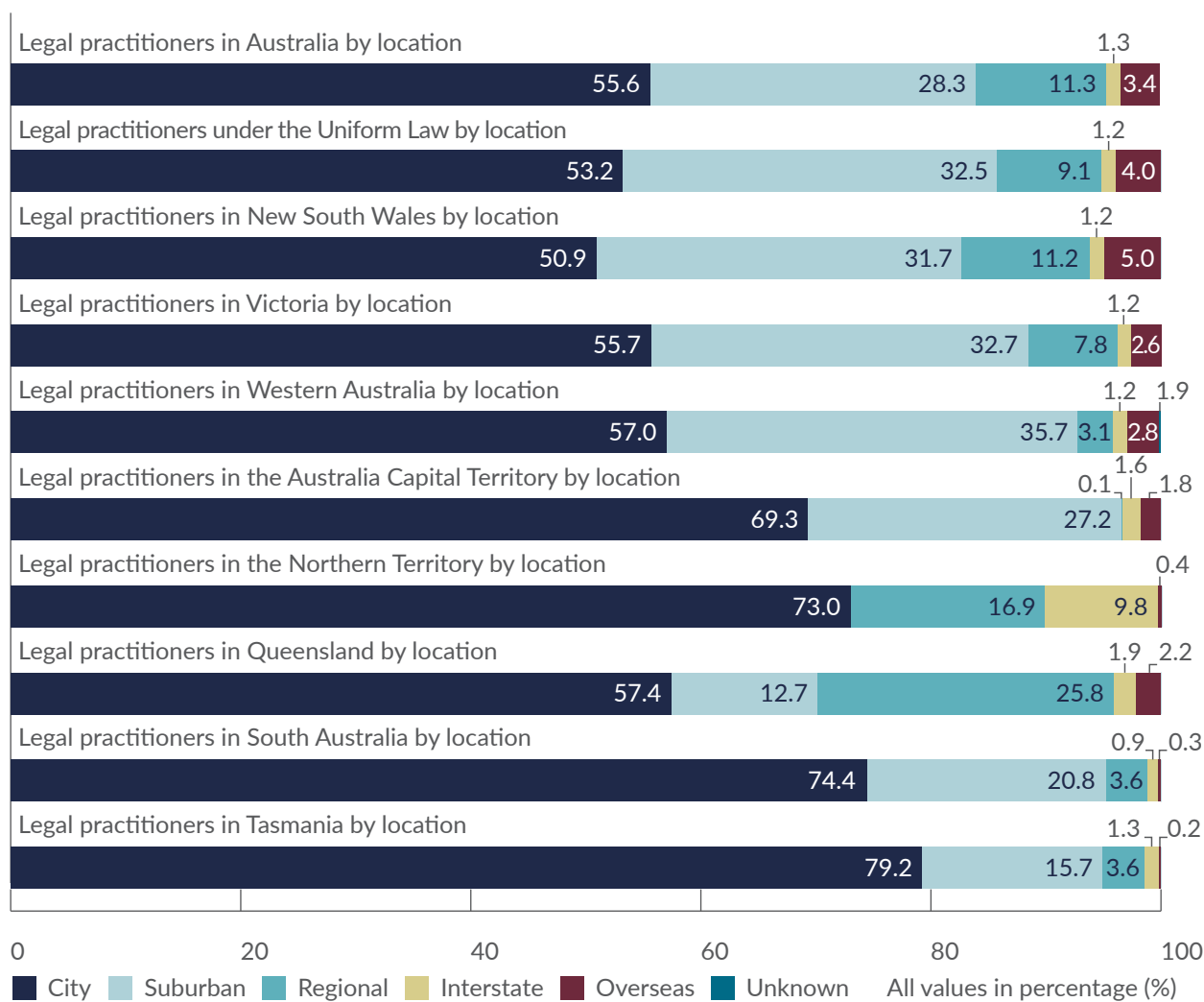
¹ Data in relation to practitioners who identify as neither male nor female was not provided by all DLRA in NSW

² Data in relation to practitioners who identify as neither male nor female was not provided by the DLRA in South Australia.

Legal practitioners by location

More than half of all legal practitioners across Australia practise in a city (55.6%), almost one third practise in a suburban location (28.3%) and 11.3% practise in a regional area.¹

In Uniform Law jurisdictions, 53.2% of legal practitioners practise in a city, 32.5% practise in a suburban location and 9.1% practise in a regional area.



¹ Each jurisdiction has a different method for assigning these categories (for example, for New South Wales barristers, regional includes all barristers who have a practice address which is outside a 10km radius from the Supreme Court of New South Wales).

Uniform Law data analysis

This report includes data on admissions and complaints provided by the designated local regulatory authorities (DLRAs) under the Uniform Law. It also contains data on fidelity fund claims provided by the fidelity authorities.

These reports reflect the statutory obligations of the Commissioner under cl 10(2) of Schedule 2 to the Uniform Law to publish statistical information about complaints received, resolved, and determined. The Commissioner is also required to report on compliance functions and audit information regarding fidelity funds as submitted by fidelity authorities. Evaluation of statistical information assists the Commissioner and the Council to monitor the operation of the Uniform Law and the achievement of their legislative objectives.

The complaint numbers in this report may differ slightly from those included in the annual reports published by the DLRAs. This is because the data for the reports may have been sampled at different times which can lead to small discrepancies as case files continue to be managed.

Uniform Law admissions

The Legal Profession Admission Board of NSW (LPAB), Legal Practice Board in Western Australia (LPBWA) and Victorian Legal Admissions Board (VLAB) are statutory bodies that perform functions associated with admission to the legal profession in the Uniform Law jurisdictions. These functions include determining the eligibility and suitability of applicants for admission in the respective jurisdictions and accrediting, monitoring and reviewing academic and practical legal training courses and providers. In addition, the LPAB assesses foreign lawyer applications for admission in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, and VLAB assesses foreign lawyer applications for admission in South Australia and Tasmania.

The LPAB, LPBWA and VLAB provide admissions data to the Uniform Law database for the purpose of sharing, monitoring and analysing admissions under the Uniform Law. The LPAB, LPBWA and VLAB have worked together and with the Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation on admissions data to ensure that a consistent and reliable approach is applied under arrangements for reporting the number and categorisation of admissions. This is the third year in which the LPBWA has been engaged in this process after it joined the Uniform Law scheme on

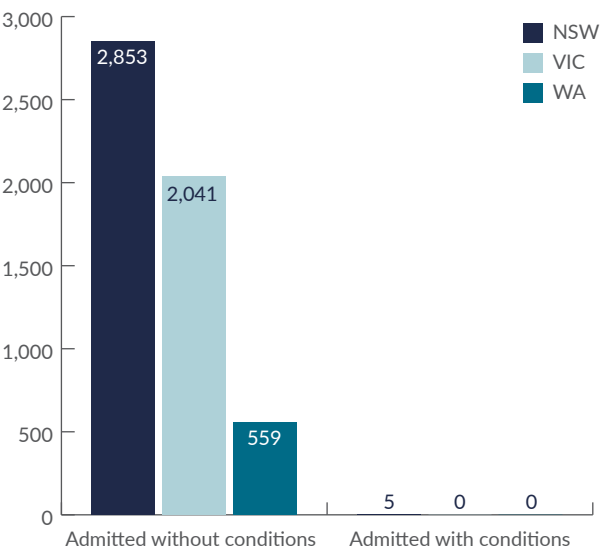
1 July 2022. The Commissioner is grateful to the LPAB, LPBWA and VLAB for their work in providing this data.

Total admissions under the Uniform Law

The number of admissions has increased slightly in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia, from a total of 5,363 in 2023–2024 to 5,453 in 2024–2025. The following table shows the total figures for admittees in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia. 52.3% per cent of admissions were in New South Wales, 37.4% in Victoria and 10.3% in Western Australia.

Admission status	NSW	VIC	WA	Total
Admitted without conditions	2,848	2,041	559	5,448
Admitted with conditions	5	0	0	5
Total	2,853	2,041	559	5,453

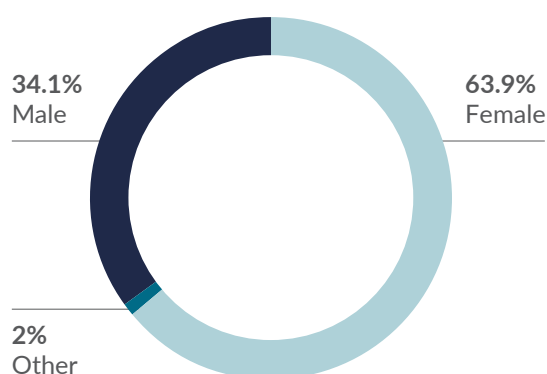
These figures do not include admissions under mutual recognition legislation.



Total admissions by gender

Gender	NSW	VIC	WA	Total
Female	1,893	1,297	293	3,483
Male	955	736	171	1,862
Other	5	8	95	108
Total	2,853	2,041	559	5,453

Of all Uniform Law admittees, 63.9% identified as female, 34.1% identified as male, with 2.0% identifying as other.



Admissions by age

As in past years, numbers of Uniform Law admissions decreased as the age of the applicant increased. This year, around three quarters (77.1%) of admittees were aged 30 years or under.

Admissions of foreign lawyers

Approximately 5.1% of admittees had previously been admitted overseas.

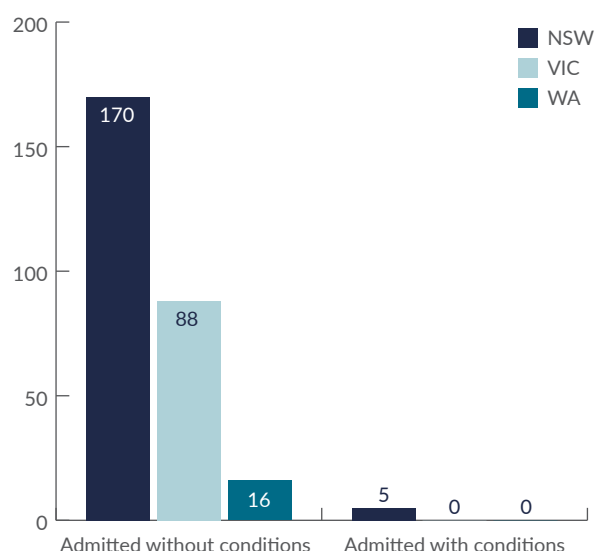
Admission status	NSW	VIC	WA	Total
Admitted without conditions	170	88	16	274
Admitted with conditions	5	0	0	5
Total	175	88	16	279

The United Kingdom, South Africa, India and Hong Kong remain the main jurisdictions in which foreign lawyers seeking admission under the Uniform Law were previously admitted.

In New South Wales, 175 or 6.1% of total New South Wales admittees (2853) were previously admitted overseas. Of those, 121 identified as female and 54 identified as male.

In Victoria, 88 or 4.3% of total Victorian admittees (2,041), were previously admitted overseas. Of those, 48 identified as female, 39 identified as male and 1 identified as neither male nor female.

In Western Australia, 16 or 2.9% of total Western Australian admittees (559) were previously admitted overseas. Of those, 9 identified as female and 7 identified as male.



Admissions by Australian university and institution

Qualification Institution	NSW	VIC	WA	Total
Australian Catholic University	54	89	0	143
Australian National University	72	37	7	116
Bond University	27	12	5	44
Central Queensland University	11	2	4	17
Charles Darwin University	10	16	9	35
Charles Sturt University	36	4	0	40
Curtin University	0	0	64	64
Deakin University	9	356	6	371
Edith Cowan University	1	0	29	30
Flinders University	1	3	0	4
Griffith University	17	3	2	22
James Cook University	1	1	0	2
La Trobe University	2	190	0	192
Macquarie University	408	2	0	410
Monash University	6	540	1	547
Murdoch University	2	3	125	130
NSW LPAB	101	1	0	102
Queensland University of Technology	21	15	3	39
RMIT University	0	79	1	80
Southern Cross University	41	6	1	48
Swinburne University of Technology	1	43	0	44
The University of Newcastle	135	2	0	137
The University of Notre Dame Australia NSW	55	0	0	55
The University of Notre Dame Australia WA	1	1	58	60
The University of Western Australia	4	5	195	204
The University of Canberra	11	3	0	14
University of Adelaide	8	10	1	19
University of Melbourne	14	253	3	270
University of New England	106	20	3	129
University of New South Wales	365	4	1	370
University of Queensland	6	10	1	17
University of South Australia	2	3	0	5
University of Southern Queensland	6	10	5	21
University of Sydney	383	13	2	398
University of Tasmania	4	6	2	12
University of Technology Sydney	392	9	1	402
University of the Sunshine Coast	1	0	0	1
University of Wollongong	189	2	0	191
Victoria University	3	168	1	172
Western Sydney University	172	0	0	172
Not known (including foreign qualified)	175	120	29	324
Total	2,853	2,041	559	5,453

The most popular universities were Monash University (547), Macquarie University (410), and the University of Technology Sydney (402).

Complaints handling and professional discipline

The following report analyses the ninth full year of statistics on the operation of Chapter 5 of the Uniform Law (complaints and discipline) in New South Wales and Victoria, and the third year that includes data from Western Australia. The NSW Office of the Legal Services Commissioner (OLSC), the Law Society of NSW (LSNSW), the NSW Bar Association (NSW Bar), the Victorian Legal Services Board and Commissioner (VLSB+C) and the Legal Practice Board in Western Australia (LPBWA) provided data for this analysis. The Commissioner is grateful for the DLRAs' valuable assistance in providing this data.

In reading this report, it is important to note that every year, legal practitioners provide hundreds of thousands of legal services to members of the community, as well as to corporate and government clients. The vast majority of legal practitioners provide legal services professionally, expeditiously and to a standard that satisfies clients. These practitioners do not come to the attention of the legal profession's regulators.

Total number of opened complaints by jurisdiction

The total number of opened complaints recorded across New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia was 5,378. This is a 15.1% increase from the total complaints recorded across the three jurisdictions last year (4,671). This reflects an upward trend over the last three years (4,671 in 2023–2024; 4,528 in 2022–2023; 4001 in 2021–2022).

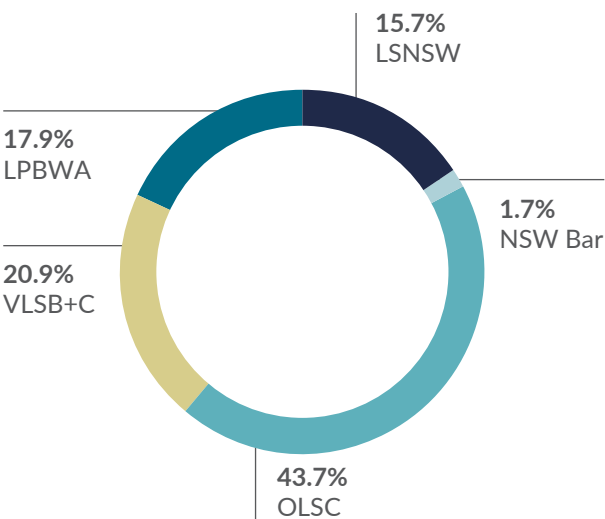
In New South Wales, the OLSC receives all complaints. Through delegations, the OLSC co-regulates with the LSNSW Council and the NSW Bar Council. Together, the Councils handled 936 or 28.5% of all New South Wales complaints. In total, the New South Wales regulators received 3,288 complaints for the 2024/25 financial year and as of 30 June 2025 reached a resolution for 1,935 (58.9%) of them with 1,353 (41.1%) still in the preliminary assessment stage. Complaint figures in New South Wales have increased by approximately 10.2% in the last year (from 2,984 to 3,288).

The VLSB+C deals with legal practitioner complaints in Victoria. VLSB+C received 1,125 complaints for the 2024–2025 financial year and as of 30 June 2025, reached a resolution for 452 (40.2%) of them with 673 (59.8%) still in the

preliminary assessment stage. Complaint figures for Victoria have increased 17.6% (from 957 in 2023–24). In addition, approximately 2,218 consumer concerns out of 6,185 enquiries were resolved through an early resolution process. These matters were not recorded as complaints.

The LPBWA has provided all complaints data for Western Australia. The LPBWA received 965 complaints for the 2024–2025 financial year and as of 30 June 2025 reached a resolution for 821 (85.0%) of them with 144 (15.0%) still in the preliminary assessment stage. This is the third year that Western Australia has provided complaints data after joining the scheme in July 2022 with a 17.8% increase in complaints compared to last year (819).

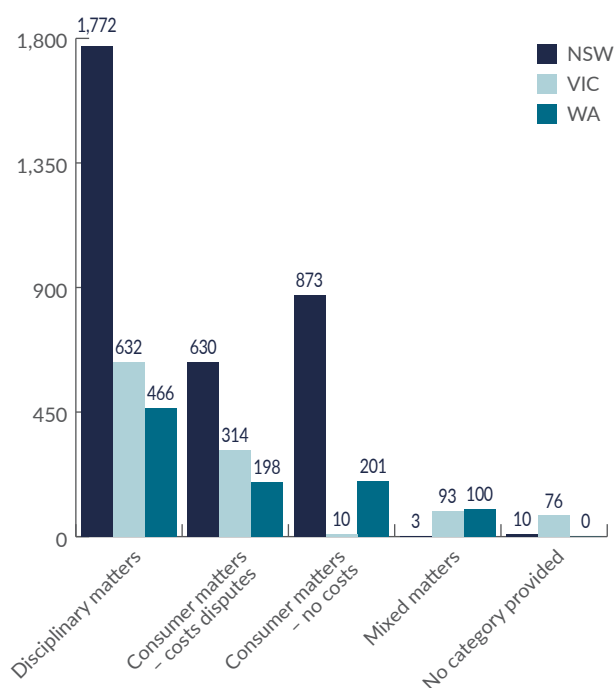
DLRA	NSW	VIC	WA	Total
LSNSW	842			842
NSW Bar	94			94
OLSC	2,352			2,352
VLSB+C		1,125		1,125
LPBWA			965	965
Total	3,288	1,125	965	5,378



Opened complaints by category and jurisdiction

The number of opened complaints is grouped into three categories under ss 269 to 271 of the Uniform Law: consumer, disciplinary or mixed matters.

Category	NSW	VIC	WA	Total
Disciplinary matters	1,772	632	466	2,870
Consumer matters – costs disputes	630	314	198	1,142
Consumer matters – no costs	873	10	201	1,084
Mixed matters	3	93	100	196
No category provided	10	76	0	86
Total	3,228	1,125	965	5,378



Consumer matters made up under half (2,226 or 41.4%) of the total number of opened complaints. Similar to last year, the total number of consumer disputes was almost evenly split between consumer matters involving and not involving costs disputes.

Consumer matters not involving a costs dispute include complaints about a legal practitioner or a law practice relating to the provision of legal services to the complainant, which the DLRA determines should be resolved by the exercise of its functions under Part 5.3 of the Uniform Law.

Disciplinary matters accounted for over half of the total number of opened complaints (2,870 or 53.4%). This category is broad and includes many minor matters that fall short of a disciplinary breach but are categorised as disciplinary because they are

not consumer matters. This category also includes 270 complaints which, if substantiated, could amount to unsatisfactory professional conduct or professional misconduct.

Mixed matters are complaints that include issues relating to both disciplinary and consumer matters.

Opened complaints by issue and jurisdiction

The OLSC, LSNSW, NSW Bar, VLSB+C and LPBWA report on common complaint types and subtypes. These figures should be read in the context of the very large number of matters conducted by law practices and the outcome that only a small portion of these complaints were substantiated.

Complaint type	NSW	VIC	WA	Total
Ethical matters	1,157	480	328	1,965
Competence and diligence	891	170	421	1,482
Costs	417	292	204	913
Communication	512	71	293	876
Compliance matters	222	53	8	283
Trust money and trust accounts	100	47	15	162
Personal conduct	33	39	14	86
Complaint with no type provided	13	199	0	212
Total	3,345*	1,351*	1,283*	5,979*

* These totals are more than the figure for all opened complaints because a complaint may contain more than one issue.

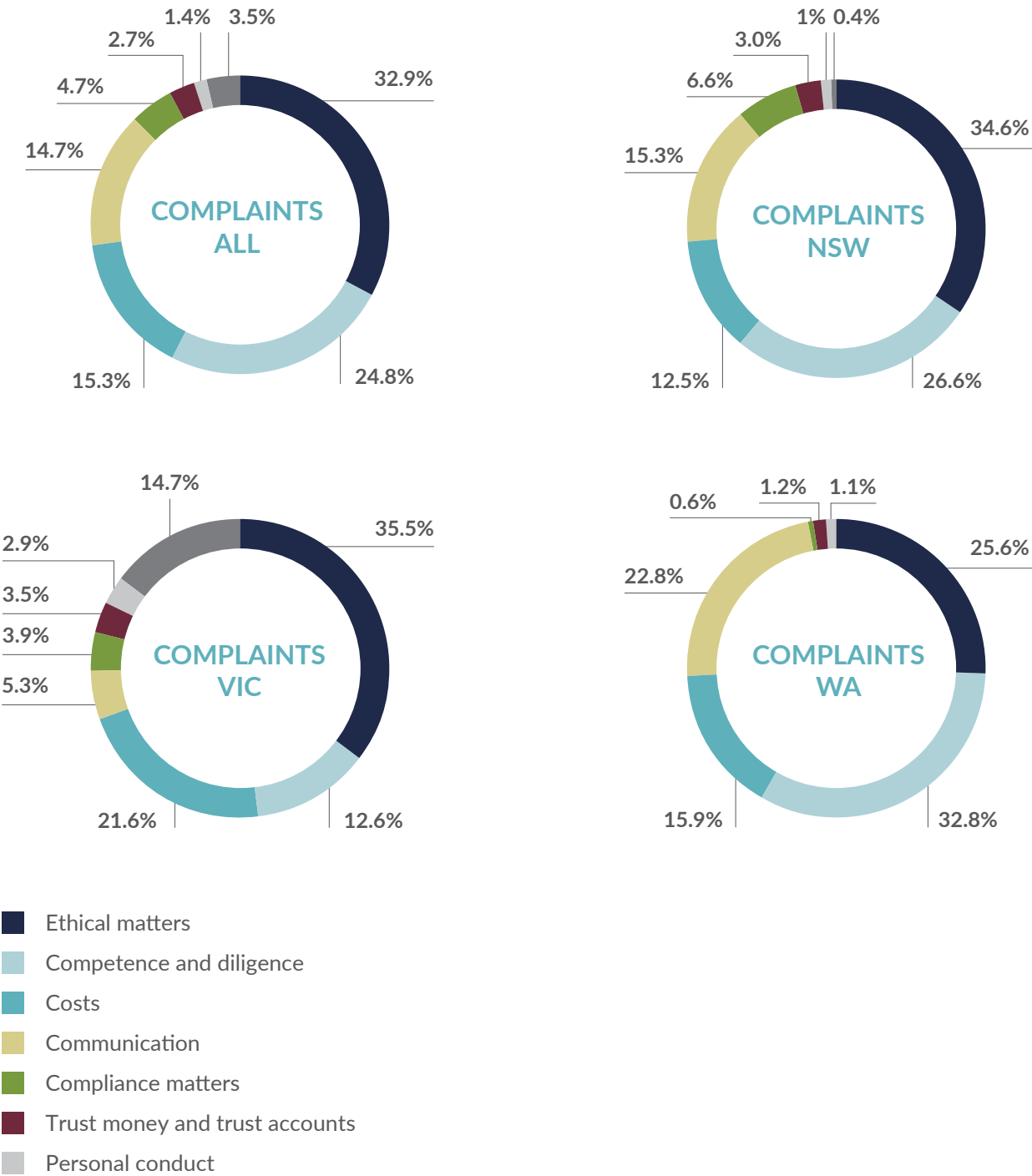
Like last year, the highest number of opened complaints by issue across all three jurisdictions fell under the broad heading of 'ethical matters' (1,965 or 32.9%). This complaint type includes allegations about instructions issues and misleading conduct. The proportion of complaints relating to ethical matters is broadly consistent with previous years: 30.5% in 2023–2024; 29.4% in 2022–2023; 32% in 2021–2022; and 29% in 2020–2021.

Complaints related to a legal practitioner's competence and diligence were the second most common complaint type (1,482 or 24.8%, compared with 20.2% in 2023–2024). This complaint type includes delay, poor advice/case handling, and general incompetence.

The number of complaints about costs (913 or 15.3%) is less than the complaints figures from 2023–2024 (20.0%).

The proportion of complaints relating to communication has decreased slightly since last year (876 or 14.7%, compared with 19.1% in 2023–2024).

Opened complaints by issue and jurisdiction



Opened complaints by individual practitioner and law practice type

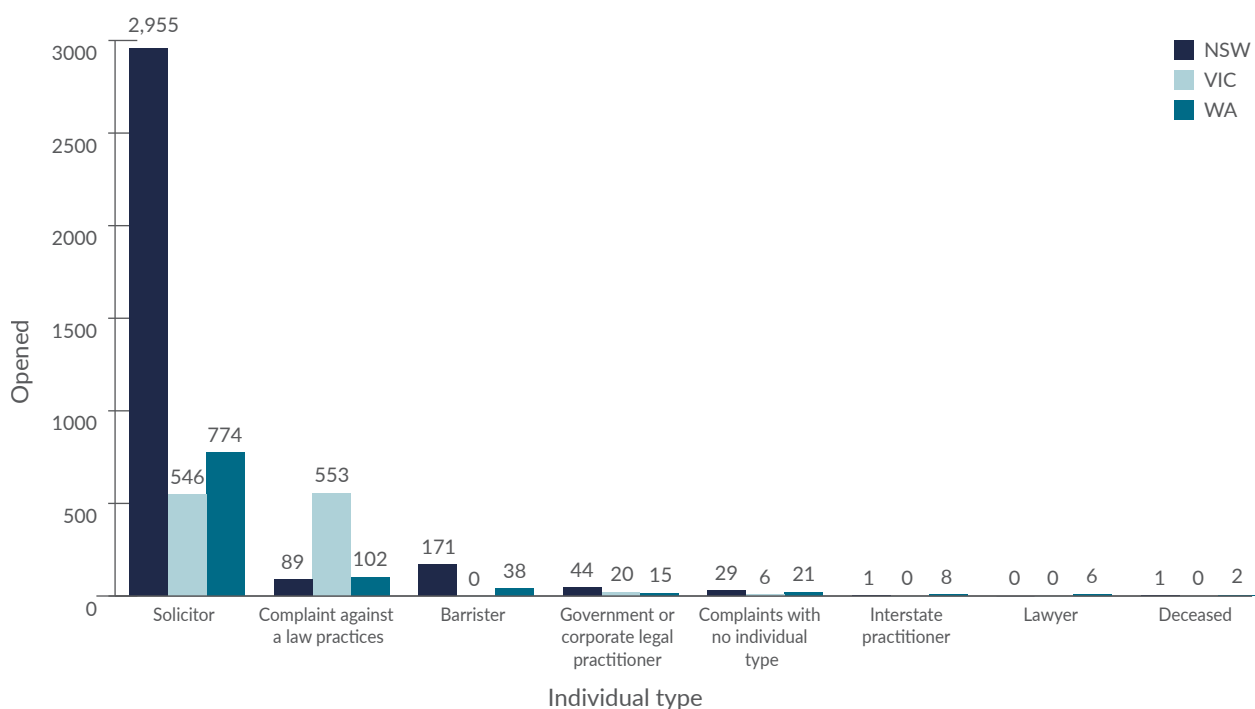
Complaints against solicitors in private practice ranked highest at 79.4%. This figure has fluctuated over recent years (73.3% in 2023–2024; 83.2% in 2022–2023; 75% in 2021–2022; and 83.8% in 2020–2021). The proportion of complaints against law practices (13.8%) has also fluctuated (17.5% in 2023–2024; 7.3% in 2022–2023; 18.3% in 2021–2022; and 10.4% in 2020–2021). Barristers were the subject of 3.9% of all complaints, less than the 2024 figure of 5.2%.

These figures broadly reflect the proportion of solicitors (93.9%) and barristers (6.1%) that make up the legal profession in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia.

Breakdown of individual practitioner type which were the subject of a complaint by jurisdiction

Individual practitioner type	NSW	VIC	WA	Total
Solicitor	2,955	546	774	4,275
Complaint against a law practice	89	553	102	744
Barrister	171	0	38	209
Government or corporate legal practitioner	44	20	15	79
Complaints with no individual type	29	6	21	56
Interstate practitioner	1	0	8	9
Lawyer	0	0	6	6
Deceased	1	0	2	3
Total	3,290*	1,125	996*	5,381*

* The total figure is higher than the number of complaints opened in the year because a legal practitioner may have a complaint lodged against them while they are a solicitor, then also when they move to the Bar. Therefore, there are individuals who can have more than one individual type.



Complaints by law practice type by jurisdiction

Just under half of complaints related to incorporated legal practices (49.2%). This compares to 56.55% in 2023–2024; 54.3% in 2022–2023; 44% in 2021–2022; and 51% in 2020–2021.

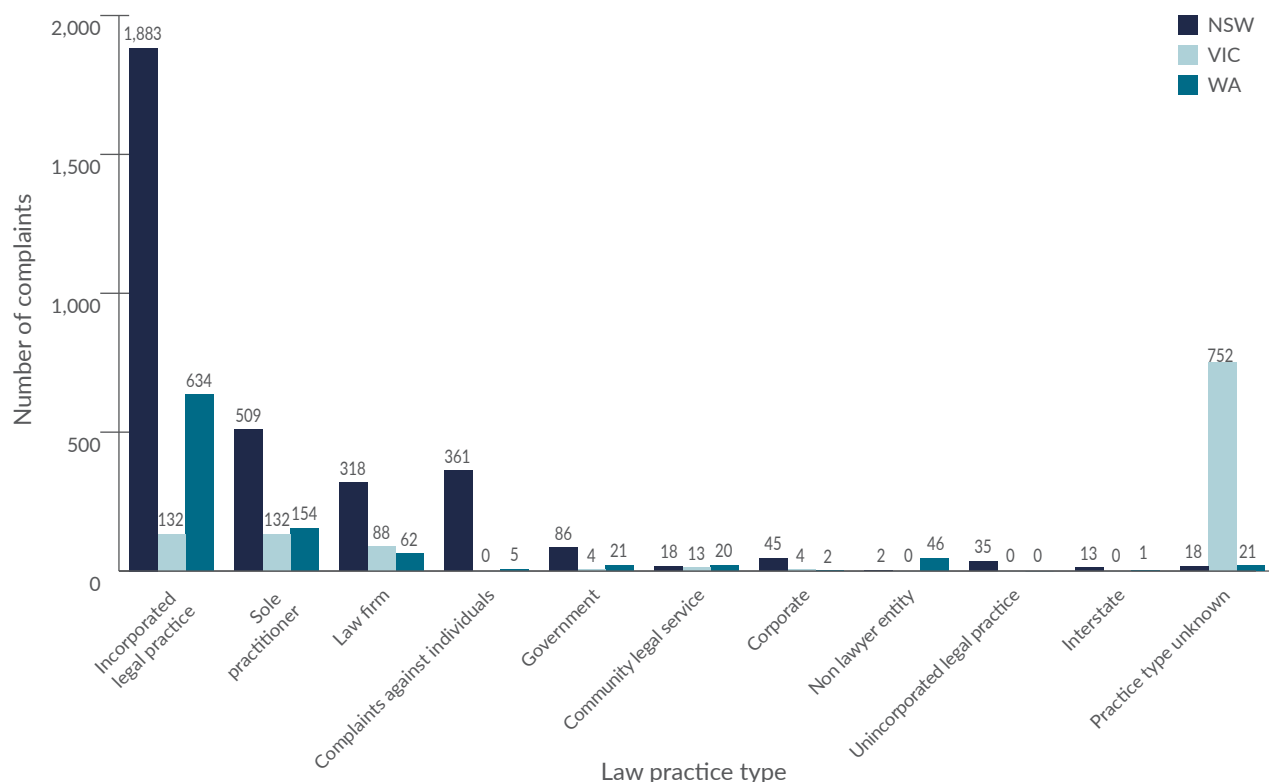
Complaints in relation to sole practitioners accounted for 14.8% of complaints, a decrease from the 2023–2024 figure of 18.4% and 2022–2023 (19.9%).

Complaints made in relation to law firms comprised 8.7% of all complaints, lower than the proportion in 2023–2024 (11.1%), 2022–2023 (11.5%), 2021–2022 (11%) and 2020–2021 (13%).

Breakdown of law practice type by jurisdiction

Practice type	NSW	VIC	WA	Total
Incorporated Legal practice	1,883	132	634	2,649
Sole Practitioner	509	132	154	795
Law Firm	318	88	62	468
Complaints Against Individuals	361	0	5	366
Government	86	4	21	111
Community Legal Service	18	13	20	51
Corporate	45	4	2	51
Non Lawyer Entity	2	0	46	48
Unincorporated Legal Practice	35	0	0	35
Interstate	13	0	1	14
Practice type unknown	18	752	21	791
Total	3,288	1,125	966*	5,379*

* This total is higher than the total opened complaints as a complaint may have multiple practice types.



Areas of practice associated with complaints

Consistent with previous reports, the greatest number (23.5%) of opened complaints involved family/de facto law matters. The second highest area of law was 'other civil' matters (15.3%) followed by commercial/corporations/franchise matters (10.7%).

Complaints involving conveyancing matters made up 6.9% of the total number, slightly down from 8% in 2023–2024.

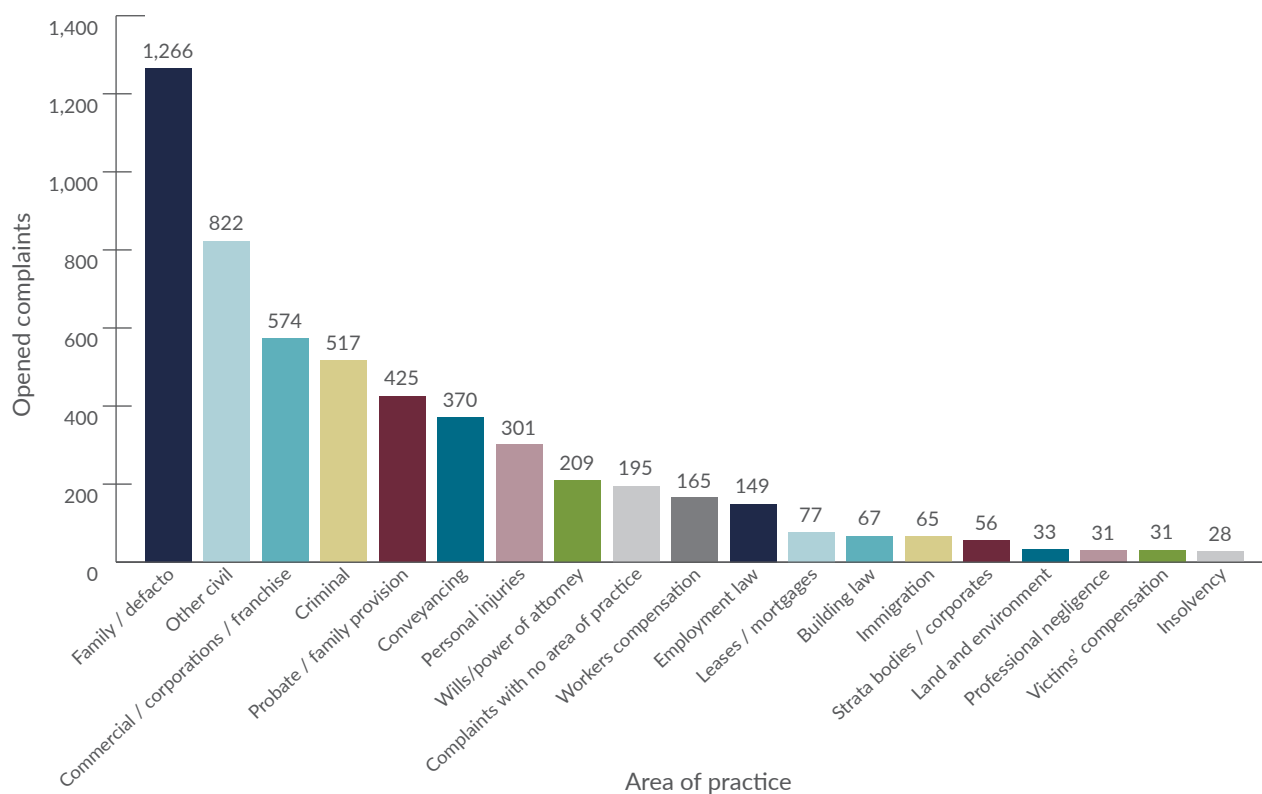
Complaints in probate/family provision claims were 7.9%, similar to 8% in 2023–2024. Taken together with the area of practice of wills/powers of attorney, this group of claims, also referred to as 'elder law' complaints, made up 11.8% of all complaints.

Where complaints had not been assigned an area of practice, generally these complaints related to the legal practitioner's personal conduct and were unrelated to an area of practice.

Number of complaints by areas of practice

Area of practice	Total
Family / Defacto	1,266
Other civil	822
Commercial/Corporations/Franchise	574
Criminal	517
Probate / Family Provisions	425
Conveyancing	370
Personal Injuries	301
Wills / Power of Attorney	209
Complaints with no area of practice	195
Workers Compensation	165
Employment Law	149
Leases / Mortgages	77
Building Law	67
Immigration	65
Strata Bodies / Corporates	56
Land and Environment	33
Professional Negligence	31
Victims Compensation	31
Insolvency	28
Total	5,381*

* The total is higher than the total number of opened complaints, as each complaint may have more than one associated area of practice.



Average number of opened and closed complaints

During the reporting year 5,378 complaint files were opened and 5,239 complaint files were closed. This figure includes the closure of complaints that were opened prior to this reporting period. More complaints were opened than closed with an average of 448 opened each month compared to 437 closed.

During the reporting year, 3,208 of the total 5,378 opened complaints were closed. By 30 June 2025, 59.7% of the opened complaints were finalised (compared to 56.7% in 2023–2024), while 40.3% of complaints remained opened (compared to 43.3% in 2023–2024).

Complaints closed under previous legislation are not captured here.

Total number of closed complaints by section of the Uniform Law

The following table provides a breakdown of all closed complaints by reference to the relevant provision of the Uniform Law.

Section	Outcome	2025	2024
273	Withdrawal of complaint	761	742
277	Closure of whole or part of complaint (any reason, any stage) after preliminary assessment*	3,089	2,901
286	Prerequisites to resolution action not satisfied	2	0
287	Informal resolution of consumer matters	1,129	912
288	Mediation	25	19
289	Settlement agreements	30	18
290	Determination of consumer matters by the local regulatory authority	10	7
292	Binding determination in costs disputes	4	2
293	Cases where binding determinations are not made in costs disputes	188	109
299	Determination by local regulatory authority – unsatisfactory professional conduct	68	52
300	Initiation and prosecution of proceedings in designated tribunal	33	23
None	No Uniform Law section **	111	66
Total		5,450	4,851

* This covers matters from pre-assessment stage through to matters that have been fully investigated. See breakdown of

s 277 closures below. It excludes duplicate complaints, the subject matter of which has been or is being investigated (s 277(1)(d)).

** This includes closures after the completion of an investigation where no finding of unsatisfactory professional conduct has been made and the DLRA is not of the opinion that the conduct may amount to professional misconduct.

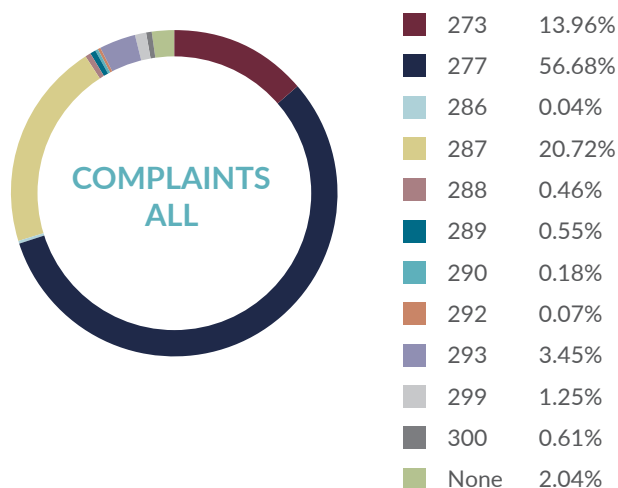
The total of 5,450 includes matters commenced before the reporting period and excludes duplicate complaints. This figure exceeds the figure for closed complaints (5,239) because a complaint may be closed against more than one provision. For example, in a complaint with two streams (i.e. mixed), the consumer matter component may be closed under s 277(1)(b) of the Uniform Law and the disciplinary complaint may be closed under s 299(1)(c).

In total, 20.7% of complaints were subject to informal dispute resolution under s 287 of the Uniform Law.

Overall, 14% of closed complaints were withdrawn compared with 15.3% in 2023–2024. Withdrawal of a complaint may occur at any stage of an investigation including where the substance of the complaint was addressed or resolved, and the complainant no longer wished to continue with the complaint.

In costs disputes where binding determinations are not made and where the DLRA is unable to finalise the case, the Uniform Law allows the parties to apply for a costs assessment or to make an application under jurisdictional legislation for the matter to be determined. This accounted for 3.4% of complaints closed.

A further 0.6% of the complaints were closed when a decision was taken to initiate tribunal proceedings.



Over half (56.7%) of the complaints were closed under s 277, which is slightly lower than 59.8% in 2024.

Table of closed complaints under s 277(1)

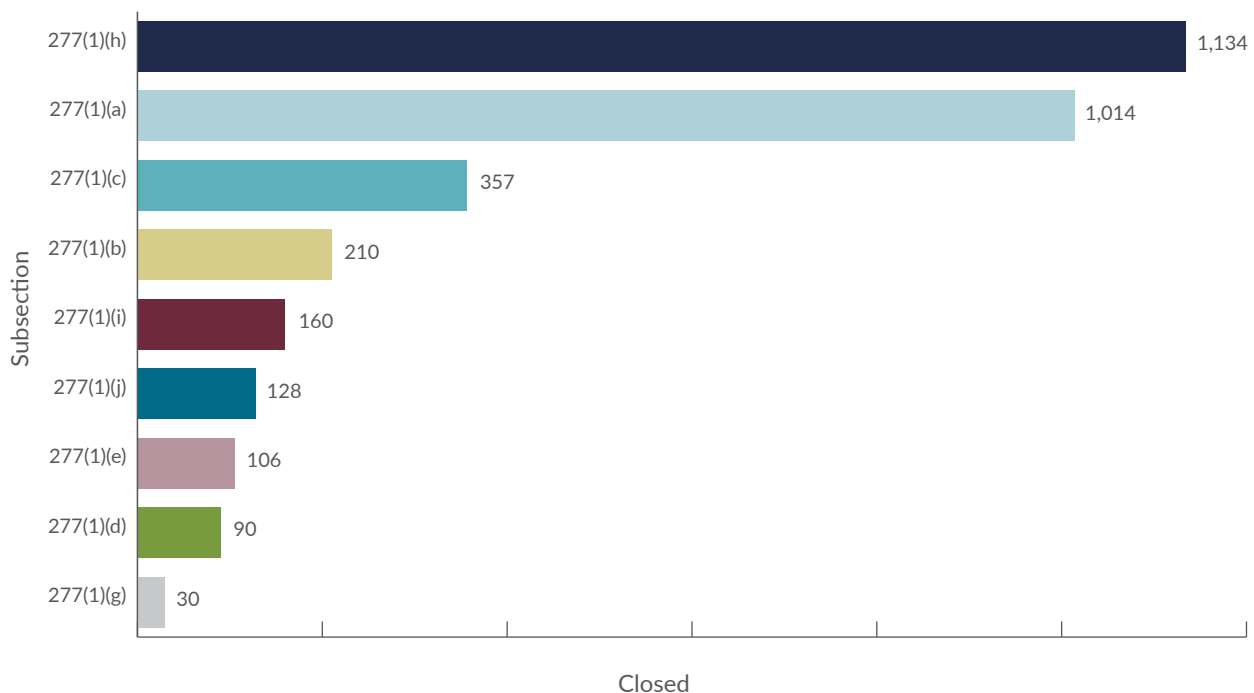
Section	Outcome	Total
277(1)(h)	DLRA views that complaint cannot result in a disciplinary outcome	1,134
277(1)(a)	Vexatious, misconceived, frivolous or lacking in substance	1,014
277(1)(c)	Complainant has not responded or responded inadequately to a request for further information	357
277(1)(b)	Complaint was made out of time	210
277(1)(j)	DLRA is satisfied that it is in the public interest to close	160
277(1)(i)	No DLRA power to deal with complaint	128
277(1)(e)	Subject matter being investigated by police or investigatory or law enforcement body	106
277(1)(d)	Subject matter of the complaint has been or is being investigated	90
277(1)(g)	Subject matter is the subject of civil proceedings	30
Total		3,229

* This figure is more than the figure for all complaints closed under s 277 in the above table (3,089) because a complaint may be closed under more than one subsection of s 277.

Section 277 is used to close complaints which do not proceed past preliminary assessment. Closure of complaints under s 277(1) in whole or in part may be due to:

- The DLRA forming the view that the complaint cannot result in disciplinary action (35.1%) under s 277(1)(h)
- The complaint being vexatious, misconceived, frivolous or lacking in substance (31.4%) under s 277(1)(a)
- A failure by the complainant to respond or provide adequate information (11.1%) under s 277(1)(c).

Closure under s 277(1) may also occur when the complaint is outside the jurisdiction of the relevant DLRA's powers (4.0%), or because the complaint would be more appropriately investigated by the police or other investigatory or law enforcement agency (3.3%).

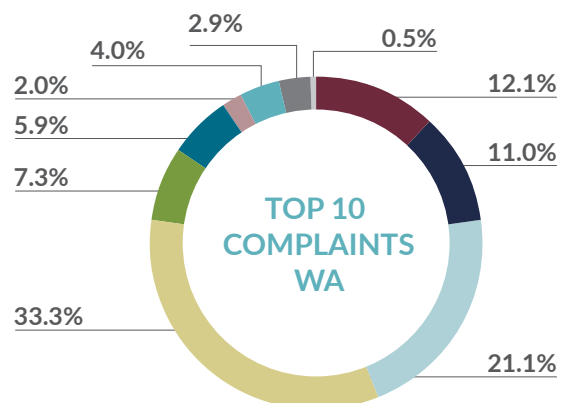
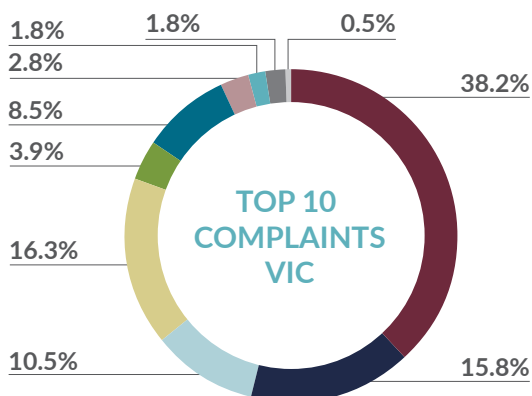
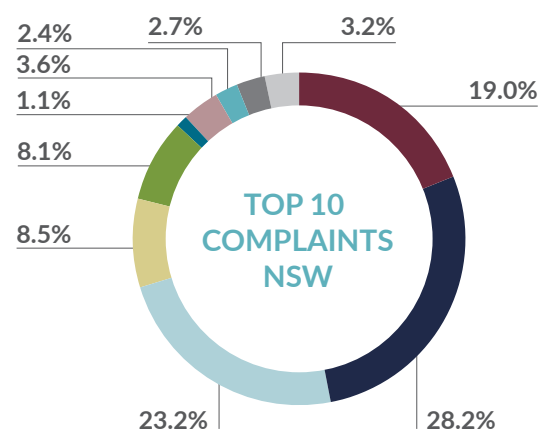
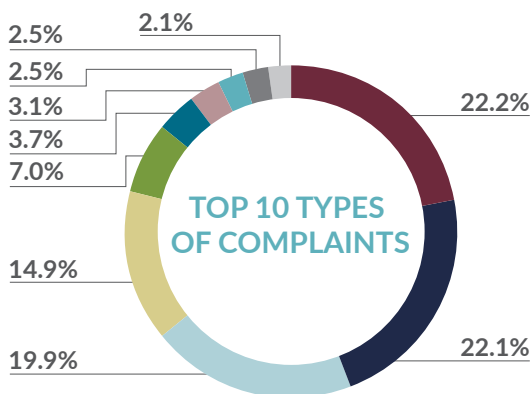


Top ten types of closed complaints by outcome and jurisdiction

The table and graph below represent the top ten types of closed complaints by outcome and jurisdiction, which is a subset (i.e. 5,106) of the outcome in all closed complaints (5,239).

Section	Outcome	NSW	VIC	WA	Total
277(1)(h)	DLRA views that complaint cannot result in a disciplinary outcome	564	456	114	1,134
287	Informal resolution	838	188	103	1,129
277(1)(a)	Vexatious, misconceived, frivolous or lacking in substance	691	125	198	1,014
273	Withdrawal of a Complaint	254	194	313	761
277(1)(c)	Complainant has not responded or responded inadequately to a request for further information	241	46	70	357
293	Cost assessment no binding costs	32	101	55	188
277(1)(j)	DLRA is satisfied that it is in the public interest to close	107	34	19	160
277(1)(b)	Complaint was made out of time (no costs dispute)	72	21	37	130
277(1)(i)	No DLRA power to deal with complaint	79	22	27	128
277(1)(e)	Subject matter being investigated by police or investigatory or law enforcement body	95	6	5	106
Total		2,973	1,193	941	5,107

Top 10 outcomes - total



Determinations

The DLRA has the power under the Uniform Law to make a determination in both consumer and disciplinary matters. In consumer matters, they determine what is a fair and reasonable outcome. The legal practitioner may be ordered to apologise, redo the work or reduce fees, undertake further education or supervision, or pay compensation to their client, up to a maximum of \$25,000.

In disciplinary matters, the DLRA may order a reprimand or caution if the practitioner is found to have engaged in unsatisfactory professional conduct. The DLRA may also make orders that the legal practitioner pay a fine of up to \$25,000 or recommending a condition be placed on their practising certificate.

The table below shows the number of determinations made by the DLRA during the reporting period.

Determination	NSW	VIC	WA	Total
Determination by local regulatory authority	OLSC 7	3	0	10
Binding determination in costs disputes	OLSC 3	1	0	4
Unsatisfactory professional conduct	LSNSW 11 NSW Bar 14 OLSC 9	27	7	68
Initiation and prosecution of proceedings in designated tribunal	LSNSW 4 NSW Bar 1	12	16	33
Total	49	43	23	115

It should be noted that any given complaint may have been subject to more than one determination (e.g., a costs determination and then later a disciplinary determination). Therefore, the above figures are not necessarily indicative of complaint numbers.

Internal reviews

Section 313 of the Uniform Law provides that the DLRA may (at its absolute discretion) conduct an internal review of a decision made by the authority (or its delegate) if the authority considers it appropriate to do so. On review, the DLRA must consider whether the decision was dealt with appropriately and whether the decision was based on reasonable grounds.

The DLRA may confirm the original decision, make a new decision or refer it back to the original decision maker. The table below includes information in relation to internal reviews completed during the reporting period in each jurisdiction.

	Total	Declined	Confirmed	Referred
NSW				
LSNSW	66	66	0	0
NSW Bar	22	22	0	0
OLSC	117	117	0	0
VIC	60	58	1	1
WA	48	48	0	0
Total	313	311	1	1

Court and tribunal decisions

The Secretariat is aware of the following decisions which include a discussion or an interpretation of the Uniform Law that sheds light on its operation.

Accident Claims Lawyers Pty Ltd (Subject To Deed Of Company Arrangement) v Legal Practice Board [2024] WASC 249 (15 July 2024)

The case arose after the Legal Practice Board of Western Australia issued a notice to Accident Claims Lawyers Pty Ltd (ACL), requiring it to undergo a compliance audit. The Board had identified concerns regarding paralegals potentially engaging in unqualified legal practice and allegedly inadequate supervision. ACL challenged the Board's authority to conduct such an audit, arguing that s 256 of the Uniform Law does not permit an audit of the compliance of associates of a law practice.

The Supreme Court of WA considered the proper construction of s 256. Justice Seaward concluded that an audit under s 256 is directed at assessing the compliance of the law practice with the Uniform Law. It does not authorise an audit into the compliance of the associates of a law practice. However, her Honour clarified that an audit of a law practice's compliance may, depending on the facts of the case, involve consideration of actions of its associates.

The Court agreed with ACL, finding that the Board had misconstrued s 256 and therefore misdirected itself as to the conditions, limits and purpose of its statutory power. This misdirection led the Board to make the decision for an improper purpose, namely, to audit the compliance of ACL's associates, rather than the compliance of the law practice itself. As a result, the Board's decision to conduct the audit was quashed.

The decision clarifies that the Board's power to conduct a compliance audit is limited to assessing a law practice's compliance with the Uniform Law, except where reviewing actions of associates is necessary to audit compliance of the law practice itself.

A.C.N. 627 087 030 Pty Ltd atf The YBL Trust v Elisabeth Theodore; A.C.N. 627 087 030 Pty Ltd atf The YBL Trust v Andrew John Price [2024] NSWDC 592 (13 December 2024)

The case involved an appeal of decisions made by the Cost Assessment Review Panel (the Review Panel). The matters arose from disputes over legal costs incurred in prior family law and Supreme Court proceedings, in which the defendants had been represented by the plaintiff law firm. The Review Panel found that the firm had failed to comply with cost disclosure requirements, rendering the costs agreement void.

The plaintiff sought leave under s 89(4) of the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014* (NSW) to rely on an expert report prepared by a UK-qualified costs lawyer. Although the expert was admitted to practise in NSW, he had no direct experience practising in the jurisdiction. The NSW District Court rejected the evidence, on the basis that the expert lacked direct experience in NSW legal practice and that the report did not meet the threshold for fresh or substitute evidence. The judgment clarified that expert opinion must be based on specialised knowledge relevant to the jurisdiction and must not intrude upon the judicial function of interpreting legal standards.

The Court ultimately found that the Review Panel had erred in determining that the original costs disclosure and costs estimate failed to comply with the Uniform Law. His Honour formed the view that s 174(1)(a) of the Uniform Law does not require an estimate of total legal costs to be expressed as a single figure, and that providing a range of costs is acceptable.

However, where a costs range is provided, it must reflect a genuine and reasonable estimate, tailored to the client's circumstances. The judgment emphasised that costs disclosure must be meaningful and not a mere formality, reinforcing the consumer protection intent of the Uniform Law.

In *Eftekharzadeh-Mashhadi v Rogaris [2025] NSWSC 523 (23 May 2025)* the Supreme Court similarly held that providing ranges of costs is acceptable, provided they are realistic, transparent and justifiable in the circumstances. The

decision confirms that perfect precision in costs estimates is not required, especially in complex or evolving litigation.

Bogan v Estate of Smedley [2025] HCA 7 (12 March 2025)

The case involved a class action filed in the Supreme Court of Victoria against the former directors and auditor of Arrium Corporation Ltd, alleging breaches of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth). The plaintiffs applied for a Group Costs Order (GCO), which allows for lawyers to be paid a percentage of any settlement or judgment.

In Victoria, s 33ZDA of the *Supreme Court Act 1986* (Vic) enables the Victorian Supreme Court to make GCOs. The provision effectively operates as an exception to prohibition on contingency fees at s 183 of the Uniform Law. No other Australian jurisdiction currently permits contingency fees for solicitors in class actions.

Following the GCO application in this matter, a defendant sought to transfer proceedings to the Supreme Court of NSW under s 1337H(2) of the *Corporations Act*, arguing that NSW was the more appropriate forum. The Supreme Court of Victoria ordered that the transfer application be determined after the GCO application, and subsequently made a GCO in favour of the plaintiff's solicitors. A number of questions arising from the transfer application were removed to the Victorian Court of Appeal, and then to the High Court for determination.

The High Court confirmed that a GCO granted in Victoria does not 'travel' with the proceeding and would not be enforceable in another jurisdiction. It also held that this limitation is a relevant factor in determining whether a transfer is in "the interests of justice", per s 1337H(2) of the *Corporations Act*. The High Court concluded that the interests of justice would likely not be served by transferring the proceeding to NSW, given the considerable risk that the class action would not be able to proceed in the absence of the GCO.

Birketu Pty Ltd v Atanaskovic [2025] HCA 2 (5 February 2025)

The case involved a long-running dispute between Birketu Pty Ltd and Atanaskovic Hartnell, an unincorporated legal practice that had previously represented Birketu in litigation. The dispute centred on whether the firm, having acted for itself as a party to the proceedings, could recover fees for work performed by an employed solicitor.

The High Court's earlier decision of *Bell Lawyers Pty Ltd v Pentelow* [2019] HCA 29, abolished the Chorley exception (established in *London Scottish Benefit Society v Chorley* (1884) 13 QBD 872), which allowed for self-represented solicitors to recover costs for their own time. However, following *Bell Lawyers*, uncertainty remained as to whether an unincorporated law firm could recover costs for legal work performed by its employed solicitors.

In *Birketu Pty Ltd v Atanaskovic* [2025] HCA 2, the High Court confirmed that while a firm cannot recover costs for work done by its partners or principals acting for themselves, it can recover costs for work done by employees, as these are considered professional legal costs actually incurred.

The majority of the Court found that the rejection of the Chorley exception in *Bell Lawyers* means the general common law principle of indemnity for professional legal costs now applies equally to law firms.

This decision provides clarity under the Uniform Law, confirming that both incorporated and unincorporated law firms can recover costs for work done by employed solicitors. It reinforces the distinction between self-representation and representation by employed legal professionals.

***Council of the Law Society of New South Wales v Vo; Council of the Law Society of New South Wales v Dinh* [2024] NSWCA 275 (22 November 2024)**

Ms Dinh was employed as a solicitor at Vo Lawyers, where the principal, Mr Vo, misappropriated over \$2 million in client funds, primarily to support a gambling addiction. In 2022, both were convicted of fraud offences and sentenced by the District Court.

Although Ms Dinh did not personally remove the funds from the trust account, she played a significant role in concealing the fraud and deceiving clients. In 2024, the Law Society of NSW commenced disciplinary proceedings in the NSW Court of Appeal, seeking declarations that both Mr Vo and Ms Dinh were not fit and proper persons to remain on the roll.

The Court acknowledged the sentencing remarks from Ms Dinh's criminal trial, which noted that her level of criminality was considerably less than Mr Vo's. Mr Vo was in a position of power and Ms Dinh was considerably younger. She was

described as intelligent, with excellent prospects for rehabilitation and a low risk of reoffending.

Nevertheless, the Court ordered the removal of both Mr Vo and Ms Dinh's names from the Roll. Despite the favourable findings towards Ms Dinh, the Court emphasised that public trust in the legal profession is paramount. Dishonest conduct, particularly involving client money, not only harms individual clients but undermines the integrity of the legal profession. The Court noted that legal practitioners should be able to trust one another and that Ms Dinh's actions brought the profession into disrepute.

The decision highlights that the duty to apply independent forensic judgement extends to junior lawyers, even in circumstances of power imbalance. It also confirms that the ordinary consequence of dishonestly appropriating client funds is removal from the roll, regardless of mitigating factors.

***Valu v Minister for Immigration* [2025] FedCFamC2G 95 (3 January 2025)**

In this matter, the Applicant, Mr Valu, sought judicial review of a decision made by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal concerning immigration matters. During the proceedings, Mr Valu's legal representative (referred to as "ALR"), filed written submissions generated using the artificial intelligence (AI) tool, ChatGPT that contained fictitious citations and fabricated quotes.

ALR admitted to incorporating AI-generated content without verifying its accuracy, citing time constraints and health issues. Although the submissions were later amended and an apology was offered, the Court found that ALR's conduct fell short of the standard of competence and diligence expected of a legal practitioner. ALR's conduct also breached the duty owed to the Court under rule 19.1 of the Legal Profession Uniform Law Australian Solicitors' Conduct Rules 2015, which requires that a solicitor must not deceive or mislead the court, even unintentionally.

Judge Skaros accepted that ALR demonstrated awareness, regret and embarrassment. However, given the seriousness of the conduct and the time wasted by the Court in verifying the false citations, the matter was referred to the Office of the NSW Legal Services Commissioner under the Uniform Law for potential disciplinary action.

The decision highlights the growing concern around the misuse of generative AI in legal practice and reinforces the importance of maintaining

professional standards and public trust in the legal system.

Similar circumstances were considered in *Dayal [2024] FedCFamC2F 1166 (27 August 2024)*, where a solicitor submitted inaccurate, AI-generated citations and summaries in a family law matter. Despite the solicitor offering an unconditional apology, the Court considered that it was in the public interest to refer the matter to the Victorian Legal Services Board and Commissioner.

Other Decisions

The following are also cases of note:

- *Andrews and Legal Practice Board of Western Australia [2024] WASAT 131 (29 November 2024)*
- *Citilawyers Pty Ltd v Tomaras [2025] NSWSC 209 (17 March 2025)*
- *Council of LSNSW v Li [2024] NSWCA 218 (9 September 2024)*
- *Council of the Law Society of New South Wales v Croke [2024] NSWCA 195 (8 August 2024)*
- *Council of the Law Society of New South Wales v Ghobrial [2024] NSWCA 307 (20 December 2024)*
- *Council of the New South Wales Bar Association v Waterstreet (No 2) [2025] NSWCATOD 4 (15 January 2025)*
- *Council of the NSW Bar Association v Rollinson [2024] NSWCA 84 (19 April 2024)*
- *Falzon Legal Pty Ltd v Manager, Costs Assessment [2024] NSWSC 1202 (25 September 2024)*
- *Giurina v McLeay [2024] VSCA 326 (20 December 2024)*
- *Kuksal v Victorian Legal Services Board (Recusal, Summons and Subpoena) [2024] VSC 418 (18 July 2024)*
- *Re Safatli [2025] VSC 280 (21 May 2025)*
- *Robertson v Legal Services and Complaints Committee [2025] WASCA 92 (20 June 2025)*
- *Sanjiv v Coleman Greig Lawyers Pty Ltd [2025] NSWSC 528 (26 May 2025)*
- *Shen v NSW Legal Services Commissioner [2024] NSWCATOD 174 (29 October 2024)*
- *Smith v The Legal Contribution Trust [2024] WASC 454 (3 December 2024)*
- *Tricarico v Victorian Legal Services Board (No 2) [2025] VSC 242 (7 May 2025)*
- *Victorian Legal Services Board v Kuksal [2025] FCA 558 (8 July 2025)*

Fidelity funds

The fidelity funds are statutory compensation schemes maintained by the LSNSW for New South Wales legal practitioners, by the VLSB+C for Victorian legal practitioners and the Legal Contribution Trust for Western Australian legal practitioners.

The Uniform Law requires that claims against the fidelity fund received on or after 1 July 2015 in New South Wales and Victoria and 1 July 2022 in Western Australia are determined independently of the legal profession.

In New South Wales and Western Australia, an annual contribution to the fidelity fund is made by legal practitioners who wish to be granted a principal or employee practising certificate. In Victoria, the fidelity fund fee is charged at variable rates to principals and employees who work in law practices that operate a trust account.

Corporate legal practitioners and government legal practitioners are not required to contribute to the fidelity fund in any jurisdiction.

The following information relates to fidelity fund claims under the Uniform Law in the reporting period.

2024 – 2025 Financial Year	New South Wales	Victoria	Western Australia
Practitioners contributing to the fidelity fund	29,178	14,903	6,125
Balance of the Fidelity Fund as at 30 June 2024	\$56,993,258.63	\$97,200,000 ¹	\$25,000,000
Claims outstanding as at 1 July 2024	7	20	1
Claims received during FY2024–2025	14	22	1
Classification of claims	All new claims were classified as being claims relating to trust money.	Claims related to “limb (a)” type defaults – alleged failure to pay or deliver trust money or property arising from an act or omission of an associate of a law practice involving fraud or dishonesty.	Claim relating to misconduct
Value of claims received	\$2,942,475.03	\$30,310,433.01	\$12,346.76
Number of claims allowed / partly allowed / settled	10	10	1
Value of payments made	\$3,258,436.45	\$802,101.44	\$4,947
Reasons for allowing claims	Claims were allowed because the claimant suffered a pecuniary loss as a result of a default as defined in s 219 of the Uniform Law.	Claims were allowed where it was found that a claimant had suffered a relevant pecuniary loss from a compensable default.	Claimant suffered a pecuniary loss from a default.
Disallowed claims	2	12	1
Reasons for disallowing claims	Claims were disallowed because there was no pecuniary loss suffered by the claimant and no default.	Claims were disallowed, generally, where the Board or Delegate was not satisfied a compensable default had been established (including because: a claim was not made about trust money; there was no evidence of fraud or dishonesty; or because the subject funds were excluded from being compensable from the Fund (e.g., paid to a law practice to invest)).	No default because no trust money was received.
Appeals made by unsuccessful claimants	1	0	0
Claims outstanding at end of FY2024–2025	16	16	0
Court proceedings commenced as a result of claim	0	1	0

¹ Note the 2023–2024 Annual Report of the Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation incorrectly reported the balance of the Victorian Fidelity Fund as at 30 June 2024 as \$3,854,961 rather than the correct figure of \$87,800,000.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2025

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Statement by Chief Executive Officer and Commissioner

For the year ended 30 June 2025

Pursuant to section 7.6(4) of the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018* (NSW), I state that these financial statements:

- Have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and the applicable requirements of the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018* (NSW), the *Government Sector Finance Regulation 2024* (NSW) and the NSW Treasurer's directions, and
- Present fairly the Legal Services Council's financial position, financial performance and cash flows.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Legal Services Council made pursuant to clause 26 of Schedule 1 to the Legal Profession Uniform Law.



Stephen Bray

Acting Chief Executive Officer, Legal Services Council and Commissioner
for Uniform Legal Services Regulation

25 September 2025
Sydney



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Legal Services Council, incorporating the Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation

To Members of the New South Wales Parliament

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Legal Services Council, incorporating the Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation (the Council), which comprise the Statement by the Chief Executive Officer and Commissioner, the Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2025, the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2025, the Statement of Changes in Equity and the Statement of Cash Flows, for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a Statement of Material Accounting Policy Information, and other explanatory information.

In my opinion, the financial statements:

- have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the applicable financial reporting requirements of the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018* (GSF Act), the *Government Sector Finance Regulation 2024* (GSF Regulation) and the Treasurer's Directions
- presents fairly the Council's financial position, financial performance and cash flows.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of my report.

I am independent of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of public sector agencies
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

I believe the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

The Chief Executive Officer and Commissioner's Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The Chief Executive Officer and Commissioner is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the GSF Act, GSF Regulation and Treasurer's Directions. The Chief Executive Officer and Commissioner's responsibility also includes such internal control as the Chief Executive Officer and Commissioner determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Chief Executive Officer and Commissioner is responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the financial statements.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. The description forms part of my auditor's report.

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Council carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited financial statements on any website where they may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the financial statements.



Jan-Michael Perez
Director, Financial Audit

Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

29 September 2025
SYDNEY

Statement of comprehensive income

for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	Actual 2025 \$'000	Actual 2024 \$'000
Expenses excluding losses			
Personnel services expenses	2(a)	1,315	1,211
Operating expenses	2(b)	531	301
Depreciation	2(c)	70	85
Finance costs		1	2
Total expenses excluding losses		1,917	1,599
Revenue			
Grants and contributions	3(a)	1,941	1,808
Interest revenue		80	73
Other revenue		16	-
Total revenue		2,037	1,881
Net result		120	282
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		120	282

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2025

	Notes	Actual 2025 \$'000	Actual 2024 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	1,959	1,933
Receivables	5	72	11
Total current assets		2,031	1,944
Non-current assets			
Right of use assets	6	–	70
Total non-current assets		–	70
Total assets		2,031	2,014
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	7	195	206
Lease liabilities	8	–	72
Provisions	9	213	235
Total current liabilities		408	513
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	9	11	9
Total non-current liabilities		11	9
Total liabilities		419	522
Net assets		1,612	1,492
EQUITY			
Accumulated funds		1,612	1,492
Total equity		1,612	1,492

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of changes in equity

for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Accumulated funds \$'000	Total equity \$'000
Balance at 1 July 2024	1,492	1,210
Net result for the year	120	120
Total comprehensive income for the year	120	120
Balance at 30 June 2025	1,612	1,612
Balance at 1 July 2023	1,210	1,210
Net result for the year	282	282
Total comprehensive income for the year	282	282
Balance at 30 June 2024	1,492	1,492

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of cash flows

for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	Actual 2025 \$'000	Actual 2023 \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Payments			
Personnel services related		(1,325)	(1,100)
Suppliers for goods and services		(594)	(431)
Finance cost		(1)	(2)
Total payments		(1,920)	(1,533)
Receipts			
Grant & contributions		1,872	1,808
Interest received		80	73
Other		17	-
GST refunded		49	27
Total receipts		2,018	1,908
Net cash flows from operating activities	12	98	375
Cash flows from financing activities			
Payment of principal portion of lease liabilities		(72)	(71)
Net cash flows from financing activities		(72)	(71)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		26	304
Opening cash and cash equivalents		1,933	1,629
Closing cash and cash equivalents	4	1,959	1,933

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

1. Statement of material accounting policy information

(a) Reporting entity

The Legal Services Council (Council) is an incorporated statutory body, and the Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation (Commissioner) is a statutory office holder established under the Legal Profession Uniform Law. The Legal Profession Uniform Law is applied as a law of NSW by the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014* (NSW) (Application Act). Section 7(1) of the Application Act provides that the *Government Sector Audit Act 1983* (NSW) and the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018* (NSW) (GSF Act) apply to the Council and the Commissioner as if they were each a GSF agency within the meaning of those Acts.

These financial statements are for the Council and incorporate transactions and balances of the Commissioner. The transactions and balances of the Commissioner in isolation are considered immaterial to these financial statements. On this basis, the reporting entity is referred to as the Legal Services Council, incorporating the Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation. These entities do not represent the Crown.

The Council, incorporating the Commissioner, is a not-for-profit entity (as profit is not its principal objective) and it has no cash generating units. Under clause 17(3) of Schedule 1 to the Legal Profession Uniform Law the functions of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Council are exercised by the Commissioner.

The financial statements of the Council, incorporating the Commissioner, for the year ended 30 June 2025 have been authorised for issue by the Council on 25 September 2025.

(b) Basis of preparation

The Council's financial statements are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared on an accruals basis and in accordance with:

- The requirements of the GSF Act
- Applicable Australian Accounting Standards (which include Australian Accounting Interpretations), and
- Treasurer's Directions issued under the GSF Act.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Plant and equipment and certain financial assets and liabilities are measured at fair value. Other financial statement items are prepared under the historical cost convention except where specified otherwise.

Judgements, key assumptions and estimations are disclosed in the relevant notes to the financial statements.

All amounts are rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars and are expressed in Australian currency which is the Council's presentation and functional currency.

(c) Statement of compliance

The financial statements and notes comply with Australian Accounting Standards, which include Australian Accounting Interpretations.

(d) Accounting for the Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except that the:

- Amount of GST incurred by the Council as a purchaser that is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is recognised as part of an asset's cost of the acquisition or as part of an item of expense
- Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included.

Cash flows are included in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis. However, the GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to the ATO, are presented as operating cash flows.

(e) Comparative information

Except when an Australian Accounting Standard permits or requires otherwise, comparative information is presented in respect of the previous period for all amounts reported in the financial statements.

(f) Change in accounting policy, including new or revised Australian Accounting Standards

(i) Effective for the first time in 2024-25

The accounting policies applied in 2024-25 are consistent with those of the previous financial year. Several amendments and interpretations apply for the first time in 2024-25, but do not have a material impact on the Council's financial statements.

(ii) Issued but not yet effective

NSW public sector entities are not permitted to early adopt new Australian Accounting Standards, unless Treasury determines otherwise.

The following new Australian Accounting Standards are not yet effective and have not been applied, as per NSW Treasury Policy and Guidance TPG 25-02 *Mandates of options and major policy decisions under Australian Accounting Standards*:

- AASB 17 *Insurance Contracts* (effective from 1 January 2023)
- AASB 18 *Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements* (effective from 1 January 2027)

- AASB 2014-10 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Sale or Contribution of Assets between Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture* (effective from 1 January 2025)
- AASB 2022-9 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Insurance Contracts in the Public Sector* (effective from 1 July 2026)
- AASB 2023-5 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Lack of Exchangeability* (effective from 1 January 2025)
- AASB 2024-2 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification and Measurement of Financial Instruments* (effective from 1 July 2026)
- AASB 2024-3 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Annual Improvements Volume 11* (effective from 1 July 2026)
- AASB 2024-4B *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Effective Date of Amendments to AASB 10 and AASB 128* (effective from 1 July 2028)

The impact of the new standards and interpretations is considered to be immaterial.

2. Expenses excluding losses

(a) Personnel services expenses

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Salaries and wages (including annual leave)	1,086	1,028
Payroll tax	69	61
Superannuation	120	91
Long service leave	40	31
Total	1,315	1,211

Employees are provided by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice (NSW Department) to carry out the Council's operating functions. While the Commissioner is a statutory officer, the Commissioner is for administrative purposes treated as an employee of the NSW Department. The remuneration of the Chair and members of the Council is also administered by the NSW Department.

The NSW Department recovers its employee related expenses (including entitlement and leave accruals) from the Council. The employee related expenses paid or payable to the NSW Department are classified as "Personnel Services" in the Statement of Comprehensive Income, and are calculated by the NSW Department using the following recognition and measurement criteria:

- Salaries and wages (including non-monetary benefits), and annual leave expenses are recognised and measured at undiscounted amounts of the benefits in the period which the employees render the service.
- Superannuation – the expense for certain superannuation schemes (e.g. Basic Benefit and Aware Super, formerly First State Super) is calculated as a percentage of the employees' salaries. For other superannuation schemes (State Superannuation Scheme and State Authorities Superannuation Scheme), the expense is calculated as a multiple of the employees' superannuation contributions.

- (iii) On-costs, such as payroll tax and workers' compensation insurance, which are consequential to employment, are recognised as expenses where the employee benefits to which they relate have been recognised.

(b) Operating expenses

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Administration ²	88	60
Audit fees	37	36
Communications	2	5
Consultancy services	77	73
Corporate Services – NSW Department of Communities and Justice ¹	46	45
Insurance ²	19	13
Legal fees	11	15
Travel	84	54
Contractors	167	–
Total	531	301

1 The NSW Department provides corporate services to the Council under a service partnership agreement which covers finance, procurement, human resources, and information and digital services.

2 Insurance costs are reclassified from administrative expenses to reflect material line items. Prior-year comparatives have been reclassified for consistency.

(c) Depreciation

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Depreciation		
Plant and equipment	–	16
Right of use asset – premises	70	69
Total	70	85

3. Revenue

(a) Grants and Contributions

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Contribution from NSW Department of Communities and Justice	1,075	1,005
Contribution from Legal Practice Board in Western Australia	177	169
Contribution from Victorian Legal Services Board	689	634
Total	1,941	1,808

Recognition and measurement

Funding contributions were provided by the NSW Department, the Victorian Legal Services Board (VLSB) and the Legal Practice Board in Western Australia (LPBWA) based on the Council's operating budget that was approved by the Standing Committee (comprising the Attorneys General of NSW, Victoria and Western Australia). Funding is split between NSW, Victoria and Western Australia and calculated in accordance with clause 8.1.2 of the Intergovernmental Agreement, that is with reference to each participating jurisdiction's proportion of the total number of legal practitioners to whom practising certificates were issued over the immediately preceding year.

The NSW contribution is funded by a \$400 fee charged on each lawyer’s admission in NSW. The fee is collected by the NSW Legal Profession Admission Board and is allocated to the NSW Department for the purposes of the Council. The source of the VLSB funding is prescribed by s 139 of the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014* (Vic) to be the Victorian Public Purpose Fund. The Western Australian contribution is funded by a fee of \$30 charged on application for a practising certificate, prescribed by Clause 36 of the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Regulations 2022* (WA), and collected by the LPBWA.

Contribution revenue from the NSW Department, the VLSB and the LPBWA is recognised in the year in which it is received.

Deemed appropriations and summary of compliance

Section 4.7 of the GSF Act states that deemed appropriation money is government money that a GSF agency receives or recovers (including from the Commonwealth or another entity) of a kind prescribed by the regulations that—

- (a) Forms part of the Consolidated Fund, and
- (b) Is not appropriated under the authority of an Act.

The contribution from the NSW Department meets the definition of deemed appropriation money as prescribed by clause 34(1)(b) of the *Government Sector Finance Regulation 2024* (NSW).

The Attorney General of NSW is taken to have been given an appropriation out of the Consolidated Fund under the authority of section 4.7 of the GSF Act, at the time the Council and the Commissioner receive or recover any deemed appropriation money, for an amount equivalent to the money that is received or recovered by the Council. The spending authority of the Attorney General from deemed appropriation money has been delegated or sub-delegated to the CEO of the Council and the Commissioner for its own services.

The delegation/sub-delegations for FY2025, authorising the CEO of the Council and the Commissioner to spend deemed appropriation money, impose limits to the amounts of individual transactions, but not the overall expenditure of the Council. The individual transaction limits have been properly observed.

The contribution from Victoria is not considered deemed appropriation money as, under s 139 of the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014* (Vic), the VLSB must pay out of the Public Purpose Fund each financial year an amount determined by the Victorian Attorney-General as Victoria’s contribution to the funding of the Council.

The contribution from Western Australia is not considered deemed appropriation money as s 34 of the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2022* (WA) provides that the LPBWA must pay Western Australia’s funding contribution as required by the Intergovernmental Agreement to the Council.

4. Current assets – cash and cash equivalents

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Cash at bank and on hand	1,959	1,933
Total	1,959	1,933

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand and bank balances. Refer to Note 13 for details regarding credit risk and market risk arising from financial instruments.

5. Current assets – receivables

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Current receivables		
Amount owed by NSW Department of Communities and Justice	69	–
GST receivable	3	7
Prepayments	–	4
Total	72	11

Details regarding credit risk of trade receivables that are neither past due nor impaired, are disclosed in Note 13.

Recognition and measurement

Receivables are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Trade receivables that do not contain a significant financing component are measured at the transaction price. The Council holds receivables with the objective to collect the contractual cash flows and therefore measures them at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

6. Leases

The Council leases office accommodation. Lease contracts are typically made for fixed periods of 1 to 5 years. Lease terms are negotiated on an individual basis and contain a wide range of different terms and conditions. The lease agreement does not impose any covenants, but leased assets may not be used as security for borrowing purposes. The Council does not provide residual value guarantees in relation to leases.

(a) Right-of-use asset under lease

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Year ended 30 June		
Balance at 1 July	70	139
Depreciation expense (Note 2(c))	(70)	(69)
Balance at 30 June	–	70

Recognition and measurement

AASB 16 Leases (AASB 16) requires a lessee to recognise a right-of-use asset and a corresponding lease liability for most leases.

The original lease for 19 O'Connell Street, Sydney, held with NSW Trustee and Guardian expired on 30 June 2025. The new lease is under negotiation. Following the lease expiration, the Council has continued to occupy the premises under a holdover arrangement. As the original lease is enforceable on a month-to-month basis, the lease is effectively treated as a short-term lease.

The Council has elected to recognise payments for short-term leases as expenses on a straight-line basis, instead of recognising a right-of-use asset and lease liability. Short-term leases are leases with a lease term of 12 months or less. Rent payments under the holdover arrangement are recognised as expenses on a straight-line basis.

Right-of-use assets

Right-of-use assets are recognised at the commencement date of the lease (i.e. the date the underlying asset is available for use). Right-of-use assets are initially measured at the amount of initial measurement of the lease liability, adjusted by any lease payments made at or before the commencement date and lease incentives, any initial direct costs incurred, and estimated costs of dismantling and removing the asset or restoring the site.

Right-of-use assets are subsequently measured at cost and depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease term and the estimated useful lives of the assets, as follows:

- Office space accommodation 1 to 5 years

The right-of-use assets are also subject to impairment. There is an assessment at each reporting date of whether there is an indication that the asset may be impaired. If any indication exists, or when annual impairment testing for an asset is required, the Council estimates the asset's recoverable amount. When the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to its recoverable amount.

As a not-for-profit entity, an impairment loss is recognised in the net result to the extent the impairment loss exceeds the amount in the revaluation surplus for the right-of-use asset.

(b) Lease liabilities

The following table presents liabilities under leases.

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Balance at 1 July	72	143
Interest expenses	1	2
Payments	(73)	(73)
Balance at 30 June	–	72

The following amounts were recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ending 30 June 2025 in respect of leases where the Council is the lessee:

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Depreciation expense of right-of-use assets	70	69
Interest expense on lease liabilities	1	2
Total amount recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income	71	71

The Council had total cash outflows for leases of \$73k in FY2025 (FY2024: \$73k).

Recognition and measurement

Lease liabilities to make lease payments and right-of-use assets representing the right to use the underlying assets are recognised and measured at the present value, except for short-term leases and leases of low-value assets.

Lease liabilities

At the commencement date of the lease, lease liabilities are recognised and measured at the present value of lease payments to be made over the lease term. Lease payments include:

- Fixed payments less any lease incentives receivable;
- Variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate;
- Payments of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the Council exercising the option to terminate.

The lease payments are discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease.

Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

The short-term lease recognition exemption is applied to short-term leases of plant and equipment (i.e. those leases that have a lease term of 12 months or less from the commencement date and do not contain a purchase option). The lease of low-value assets recognition exemption is also applied to leases of office

equipment that are considered to be low value. Lease payments on short-term leases and leases of low value assets are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

7. Current liabilities – payables

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Creditors and sundry accruals	38	59
Amount owing to NSW Department of Communities and Justice	128	120
Accrued payroll expense	29	27
Total	195	206

Details regarding liquidity risk are disclosed in Note 13.

Recognition and measurement

Payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Council and other amounts. Short-term payables with no stated interest rate are measured at the original invoice amount where the effect of discounting is immaterial.

Payables are financial liabilities at amortised cost, initially measured at fair value, net of directly attributable transaction costs. These are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Gains and losses are recognised in the net result when the liabilities are derecognised as well as through the amortisation process.

8. Current lease liabilities

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Current		
Lease liability (Note 6)	–	72
	–	72

Details regarding liquidity risk are disclosed in Note 13.

Recognition and measurement

Lease liabilities classified as financial liabilities at amortised cost are initially measured at fair value, net of directly attributable transaction costs. These are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Gains and losses are recognised in the net result when the liabilities are derecognised as well as through the amortisation process.

9. Current / non-current liabilities – provisions

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Current: Provision for personnel services		
Annual leave* and related on-costs	113	155
Long service leave** and related on-costs	100	80
Total	213	235
Non-current: Provision for personnel services		
Long service leave and related on-costs	11	9
Total	11	9
Aggregate provision for personnel services		
Provisions – current	213	235
Provisions – non-current	11	9
Accrued salary, wages and on-costs (Note 7)	29	27
Total	253	271
*Current annual leave obligations expected to be settled after 12 months	–	76
**Current long service leave obligations expected to be settled after 12 months	100	80
Total	100	156

Personnel services provisions comprise the Council's liability to the NSW Department for annual leave, long service leave, superannuation and payroll tax arising from personnel services rendered by the NSW Department as at balance date.

Recognition and measurement

Annual leave

Annual leave is not expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service. As such, it is required to be measured at present value in accordance with AASB 119 *Employee Benefits* (although short-cut methods are permitted).

Actuarial advice obtained by Treasury has confirmed that using the nominal annual leave balance plus the annual leave entitlements accrued while taking annual leave (calculated using 8.4% of the nominal value of annual leave) can be used to approximate the present value of the annual leave liability. The effect of discounting has been assessed as immaterial to annual leave. All annual leave is classified as a current liability even where the liability is not expected to be settled within 12 months as there is no unconditional right to defer settlement.

Long service leave

Long service leave is measured at the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided up to the reporting date in accordance with AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*. Consideration is given to certain factors based on actuarial review, including expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using Commonwealth government bond rates at the reporting date.

Consequential on-costs

Consequential costs to employment are recognised as liabilities and expenses where the employee benefits to which they relate have been recognised. This includes outstanding amounts of superannuation and payroll tax.

10. Commitments

The Council has no capital expenditure commitments as at 30 June 2025 (2024: \$nil).

11. Contingent assets and liabilities

The Council does not have any contingent assets and liabilities as at 30 June 2025 (2024: \$nil).

12. Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to net result

Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to the net result as reported in the Statement of Comprehensive Income is as follows:

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Net cash flows from operating activities	98	375
Depreciation expense	(70)	(85)
Increase in receivables and prepayments	61	8
Decrease in payables	11	47
Decrease / (Increase) in provisions	20	(63)
Net result for the year	120	282

13. Financial instruments

The Council's principal financial instruments are outlined below. These financial instruments arise directly from the Council's operations or are required to finance the Council's operations. The Council does not enter into or trade financial instruments, including derivative financial instruments, for speculative purposes.

The risks arising from financial instruments are outlined below, together with how they are managed. Further quantitative and qualitative disclosures are included throughout the financial statements.

The CEO, the Council's Audit and Risk Committee and the Council have responsibilities for the establishment and oversight of risk management and review and agree strategies for managing risks. The risk register is established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the Council, to set out controls and to monitor risks. Compliance is reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee and the Council on a regular basis. No risks in relation to financial instruments have been identified for inclusion on the risk register.

(a) Financial instrument categories

Class	Notes	Category	Carrying amount 2025 \$'000	Carrying amount 2024 \$'000
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	4	Amortised cost	1,959	1,933
Receivables ¹	5	Amortised cost	69	–
Financial liabilities				
Payables ²	7	Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	195	206
Lease liabilities	8	Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	–	72

¹ Excludes statutory receivables and prepayments (i.e., not within scope of AASB 7).

² Excludes statutory payables and unearned revenue (i.e., not within scope of AASB 7).

The classification of financial assets and liabilities is determined after initial recognition and, when allowed and appropriate, is re-evaluated at each financial year end.

(b) Financial risks

i. Credit risk

Credit risk arises when there is the possibility that the counterparty will default on their contractual obligations, resulting in a financial loss to the Council. The maximum exposure to credit risk is generally represented by the carrying amount of the financial assets (net of any allowance for impairment).

Credit risk arises from the financial assets of the Council, including cash and receivables. No collateral is held by the Council. The Council has not granted any financial guarantees.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises cash on hand and bank balances.

Receivables – trade debtors

Collectability of trade debtors is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Procedures, as established in the Treasurer's Directions, are followed to recover outstanding amounts, including letters of demand.

The Council's debtors are mainly government entities with high certainty of recovery and, therefore, it is not exposed to material credit risk as at 30 June 2025.

ii. Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Council will be unable to meet its payment obligations when they fall due. Risk is managed through monitoring future cash flows and maturities planning to ensure adequate holding of high quality liquid assets. During the current and prior year, the Council had no loans payable. No assets have been pledged as collateral. The Council's exposure to liquidity risk is deemed insignificant based on prior period data and current assessment of risk.

Liabilities are recognised for amounts due to be paid in the future for goods or services received, whether or not invoiced. Amounts owing to suppliers (which are unsecured) are settled in accordance with the policy set out in TPG25-04 NSW Government Faster Payment Terms Policy.

For small business suppliers, where terms are not specified, payment is made not later than 30 days from date of receipt of a correctly rendered invoice. For other suppliers, if trade terms are not specified, payment is made no later than the end of the month following the month in which an invoice or a statement is received.

For small business suppliers, payment is made within 5 business days of receipt of a correctly rendered invoice, interest is paid on late accounts unless an existing contract specifies otherwise. For payments to other suppliers, late payment interest is at the discretion of the CEO.

The table below summarises the maturity profile of the Council's financial liabilities based on contracted undiscounted payments, together with the interest rate exposure.

	Weighted average effective interest rate	Nominal Amount \$	Interest Rate Exposure			Maturity Dates	
			Fixed Interest Rate \$	Variable Interest Rate \$	Non- interest bearing \$	< 1 year \$	1–5 years \$
2025							
Payables	–	195	–	–	195	–	–
		195	–	–	195	–	–

	Weighted average effective interest rate	Nominal Amount \$	Interest Rate Exposure			Maturity Dates	
			Fixed Interest Rate \$	Variable Interest Rate \$	Non- interest bearing \$	< 1 year \$	1–5 years \$
2024							
Payables	–	206	–	–	206	–	–
Lease liabilities	1.57%	72	72	–	–	72	–
		278	72	–	206	72	–

iii. Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices and comprises interest rate risk and other price risk. The Council's only exposure to market risk is interest rate risk on cash balances.

iv. Interest rate risk

The Council does not have exposure to interest rate risk through interest bearing liabilities. The Council does not account for any fixed rate financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss or at fair value through other comprehensive income. Therefore, for these financial instruments a change in interest rates would not affect profit or loss or equity. A reasonably possible change of +/- 1% is used, consistent with current trends in interest rates. The basis will be reviewed annually and amended where there is a structural change in the level of interest rate volatility. The Council's exposure to interest rate risk is set out below.

	2025		2024	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
	–1%	+1%	–1%	+1%
Net Result	(20)	20	(19)	19
Equity	(20)	20	(19)	19

(c) Fair value measurement

i. Fair value compared to carrying amount

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement is based on the presumption that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either in the principal market for the asset or liability or in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset or liability.

The Council does not hold financial assets and financial liabilities where the fair value differs from the carrying amount.

ii. Fair value recognised in the Statement of Financial Position

It has been assessed that cash, trade receivables, trade payables and lease liabilities approximate their fair values, largely due to the short-term maturities of these instruments. The Council does not hold financial assets and liabilities that are valued at fair value using valuation techniques.

14. Related party disclosures

The Council's key management personnel compensation is as follows:

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Salaries	330	356
Post employment benefits	38	39
Total remuneration	368	395

The Council did not enter into any transactions or loans, including transactions on arm's length terms and conditions with key management personnel, their close family members and controlled or jointly controlled entities thereof.

The Council's key management personnel and their compensation disclosures are limited to the key decision makers, i.e. CEO and all members of the Council. The remuneration of the Council's key management personnel includes Council members.

During the year, the Council received funding contributions from the participating jurisdictions as set out in Note 3(a). A member of the VLSB and a member of the LPBWA are also members of the Council.

The aggregate value of the material transactions and related outstanding balances as at and for the year ending 30 June 2025 are as follows:

	Notes	2025 Transaction value \$	Net receivable/ (payable) \$
Nature of transactions			
Contribution from NSW Department of Communities and Justice	3	1,075	-
Contribution from Legal Practice Board in Western Australia	3	177	-
Contribution from Victorian Legal Services Board	3	689	-
Lease payments to NSW Trustee and Guardian	6	73	-
Receivable from NSW Department of Communities and Justice	5	69	-
Payable to NSW Department of Communities and Justice	7	-	(157)
		2,083	(157)

	Notes	2024 Transaction value \$	Net receivable/ (payable) \$
Nature of transactions			
Contribution from NSW Department of Communities and Justice	3	1,005	-
Contribution from Legal Practice Board in Western Australia	3	169	-
Contribution from Victorian Legal Services Board	3	634	-
Lease payments to NSW Trustee and Guardian	6	73	-
Payable to NSW Department of Communities and Justice	7	-	(147)
		1,881	(147)

15. Events after the reporting period

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2025 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the Council's operations, the results of those operations, or the Council's state of affairs in future financial years.

END OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

