

Message from the CEO, Heather Moore



Hi and welcome to the final 2023 edition of the Legal Services Council's newsletter. The first of November marked the end of my first year as Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation and Chief Executive Officer of the Legal Services Council. It has been a very busy year and I am proud of what the Council, Admissions Committee and Secretariat have achieved, and the foundation that has been laid for 2024.

As we conclude the year, I would like to thank the members of the Council, the Council's committees, regulators, stakeholders and staff for their hard work and commitment.

I would also like to acknowledge the significant contribution of Sonja Stewart, who resigned as CEO of the Law Society of New South Wales in October. Anthony Lean, the Law Society's Deputy CEO, will also be moving on to an exciting new role in early 2024 after making a significant contribution to the Uniform Law. Kenny Tickle is acting CEO and a warm welcome to Valerie Griswold who was appointed as the Director, Legal Regulation from 3 October. I wish Sonja and Anthony all the best in their future positions.

We wish you all a safe and restful holiday period. We will finish up for the year on Friday 22 December 2023, returning on Monday 8 January 2024.

Uniform Law Summit 2023

The Council's Uniform Law Summit was held in Melbourne on 30 November. The Chair of the Legal Services Council, Alan Cameron AO opened the Summit by outlining the Council's achievements over the year. Attendees then had the opportunity to discuss the Legal Services Regulatory Dialogue established under the Australia-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement, how data is being used to inform regulation, matters relating to legal education, and regulatory issues and responses to artificial intelligence. We are grateful for the participation of all attendees and for the great ideas and feedback shared during the day.

Costs disclosure thresholds review

The Council received the report of Dr Matthew Butlin AM, independent expert consultant and leader of the review of costs disclosure thresholds in the Uniform Law, at its meeting on 28 September 2023.

The Council has agreed in principle to progress the recommendations in the report and endorsed a plan for the implementation of the recommendations over 2024. This work will begin with the development of updated standard costs disclosure forms and associated guidance and an updated information sheet for legal practitioners.

Click [here](#) for the final report and the implementation plan.

Annual reports

The annual reports of the Council and Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation were tabled in the Victorian Parliament on 1 November 2023 and are available [here](#) on the Council's website.

Conference of Regulatory Officers

In October, the CEO and members of the policy team attended the Conference of Regulatory Officers in Hobart, superbly hosted by the Legal Profession Board Tasmania. The Conference was themed “Regulation: Dealing with the BIG issues” and included sessions on megatrends and artificial intelligence, the concept of misconduct, unqualified legal practice, anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing as well as insights from the CEO of AHPRA on what it means to be an intelligent regulator. It was great to catch up with colleagues and stakeholders from participating and non-participating jurisdictions and to do it all in beautiful Hobart – see pic below!



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