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## **Message from the acting CEO and Commissioner, Stephen Bray**

Welcome to the final edition of the Legal Services Council's newsletter for 2025.



Firstly, my deepest sympathies for the victims, their families and affected communities regarding the tragic incidents at Bondi this week. I have been heartened to see the community (including the legal community) coming together to condemn such an outright display of hatred, and to support the Jewish community during this difficult time.

It has been another busy year. I am proud of what the Council, Admissions Committee and Secretariat have achieved, and feel privileged to have been a part of that journey over the last 6 months.

The 10th anniversary of the Scheme, celebrated in Melbourne, was a real highlight. We've also made great headway in a few of our strategic projects, including on short form cost disclosure, the national review of Practical Legal Training, and our review of Accreditation Standards for Australian law courses. All of this is neatly summarised in our annual report,

which is now available (see below).

As we come to the end of 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 being great to work with. We wish you all a safe and restful holiday period.

We will finish up for the year on Wednesday 24 December 2025, returning on Monday 12 January 2026. Ella Howard will be acting as CEO and Commissioner for the period from 12 January through to 23 January.

I hope you all have a great and restful break. See you next year!

Stephen.

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## **Annual Report**

The 2024/25 annual reports of the Council and the Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation are now published – they can be viewed on our website [here](#).

It contains a description of our work in the last financial year, our strategic projects going forwards, some comparative statistics on the operation of the uniform law across jurisdictions, and a handy summary of key cases interpreting the uniform law over the last financial year. Enjoy!

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## **Practical legal training**

The national survey on practical legal training (PLT) closed on 30 November 2025. Thank you to those who helped distribute the survey and encouraged recent law graduates to complete the survey.

Urbis has provided an emerging findings presentation to members of the Admissions Committee, Law Admissions Consultative Committee (**LACC**) and the Council of Chief Justices.

Early next year, the Admissions Committee and the LACC intend to publish the final report from Urbis and a consultation paper on the possible reform options, which will take into account the ongoing PLT reform project in NSW.

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## **Accreditation standards for Australian law courses**

Last month, the Admissions Committee and the LACC announced a targeted consultation on proposed revisions to the Accreditation Standards. The targeted consultation will give national stakeholders a further opportunity to engage with proposed refinements to the revisions before they are confirmed as final. The consultation period closes on 20 March 2026.

The Admissions Committee and the LACC are working towards publishing the final updated Accreditation Standards by 1 July 2026. This will allow for an 18-month transitional period before the updated Accreditation Standards commence at the start of the 2028 academic year.

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## **Update on the costs disclosure thresholds review**

As noted in our last newsletter, the Legal Services Council has engaged a specialist research agency to conduct user testing of the redesigned standard cost disclosure forms and information sheets with consumers and lawyers. This testing has now commenced. A big thank you to those who assisted us in identifying solicitors and barristers who are interested in participating in the testing process.

Consumer and practitioner testing is expected to conclude in February 2026. Following

consideration of the testing results, we will move to broader stakeholder consultation on both the redesigned forms and additional recommendations from the [final report](#) arising from the review into costs disclosure thresholds.

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## **Tasmania visit**

The Chair of the Council, Sitesh Bhojani, and I recently visited Tasmania. The purpose of the visit was to promote increased awareness of the Uniform Law in Tasmania, and identify opportunities for greater consistency in legal regulation across jurisdictions.

During our time in Hobart, we also met with the Law Society of Tasmania, the Tasmanian Department of Justice, the Legal Profession Board of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Bar Association.

We appreciated the constructive conversations during these meetings, and look forward to continued engagement with stakeholders from Tasmania and other non-participating jurisdictions in the new year.

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## **Australian Legal Convention**

The Chair of the Council, Sitesh Bhojani, and I attended the Australian Legal Convention on 21 and 22 November 2025, arranged under the Auspices of the Council of Chief Justices. The Convention featured discussions on a breadth of topics including practical legal training, legal education, Indigenous issues and domestic violence.

It was an excellent opportunity to meet key stakeholders from across the country, including those from non-participating jurisdictions.

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