

Message from the CEO, Heather Moore

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



In exciting news, the Council had its first meeting led by our new Chair, Sitesh Bhojani, in Melbourne on 16 May. We are again grateful to the Victorian Legal Services Board and Commissioner for being such great hosts. We are looking forward to meeting with Western Australian stakeholders while we're in Perth in July, with thanks in advance to the Legal Practice Board for hosting the Council's visit.

There have also been developments at the Secretariat with the addition of two new Policy Officers. David Yao joins us from the Professional Standards Authority and Ananya Singh joins us from private practice in family law. We are delighted to have David and Ananya on board. I would also like to wish Jessica Wardle well as she starts her secondment at the New South Wales Department of Communities and Justice. We will miss you Jess.

We are also farewelling the long-serving and highly respected Chair of the Admissions Committee and the Law Admissions Consultative Committee (**LACC**), the Hon Arthur Emmett AO KC. I thank the Chair for his leadership, including the introduction of joint meetings which has bolstered the Committees' national approach to admissions matters. The Committees and some special guests had the opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of the Chair following his last meeting on 13 June. I am looking forward to working with the Hon Justice François Kunc and welcoming him as Chair of both Committees from 1 July (more on appointments below).

Admissions Committee and LACC appointments

At its meeting on 13 June the Admissions Committee appointed the Hon Justice François Kunc of the Supreme Court of New South Wales as its new Chair. The Council of Chief Justices has also appointed Justice Kunc as the Chair of the LACC, with both appointments to commence on 1 July.



The Council has appointed Ms Anna Liscia to the Admissions Committee from 1 July. Ms Liscia is the Head of Dispute Resolution and Litigation at IRDI Legal in Perth and a former member and Chair of the Legal Practice Board in Western Australia.

Mr Ross Drinnan has also been reappointed to the Admissions Committee. Mr Drinnan is a partner at Allens based in Sydney, a Director of the Law Council of Australia and Chair of Law Firms Australia.

Guideline on conditional admission

The Council made a guideline on conditional admission of foreign lawyers on 16 May, as recommended by the Admissions Committee. The guideline is issued by the Council to designated local regulatory authorities exercising functions under section 20(1) of the Legal Profession Uniform Law and is available [here](#). On behalf of the Council and Committee, I would like to thank stakeholders for their input during the development of the guideline.

Update on the Legal Services Regulatory Dialogue

The first plenary meeting of the Dialogue established under the Australia-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement was held over two nights on 5 and 6 March. The Council, the Admissions Committee and the LACC were represented by the CEO of the Council and the Chair of the Admissions Committee and the LACC, the Hon Arthur Emmett AO KC.

A communique setting out an overview of the discussion was circulated to stakeholders and published by the Law Council of Australia (available [here](#)). It reports on the four working groups which Dialogue participants resolved to establish on the following topics:

- qualifications, recognition and admission
- business structures and issues
- barrister cooperation, and
- regulatory cooperation (in relation to legal technology and artificial intelligence).

Work is underway to settle the terms of reference for the working groups, to be convened in the coming months.

Update on the costs disclosure thresholds review

Work is progressing on the development of updated standard costs disclosure forms and information sheets following the review of costs disclosure thresholds. Thank you to everyone who gave us feedback on the forms and information sheets. The drafts are being reviewed in light of this feedback ahead of user testing with consumers and practitioners later in the year.

Update on indexation

On 6 June 2024, the Legal Profession Uniform Law (Indexed Amounts) Notice 2024 was published on the Council's website in accordance with rule 111A of the Legal Profession Uniform General Rules 2015. 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 line with the published 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.

The Notice sets out the indexed amounts that apply to the original amounts of \$10,000 (\$23,865) and \$100,000 (\$238,595) referred to in sections 291 to 293 of the Uniform Law; and \$25,000 (\$59,650) referred to in section 99 of the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014* (Vic) from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. The Notice is available [here](#)

and the editorial note to rule 111A which includes the indexed amounts for FY2024/2025 is available [here](#).

Copyright © Legal Services Council 2024, all rights reserved. This newsletter is produced by the Legal Services Council and is for general information purposes only.

You are receiving this email as a stakeholder of the Legal Services Council. We'd love your feedback on this issue or if you would like to unsubscribe, please email: lsc@legalservicescouncil.org.au

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