

Deputy Premier  
Attorney-General  
Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation  
Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs

Level 10, 15 Murray Street, HOBART TAS 7000  
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001  
Phone: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]



Legal Services Council  
PO Box H326  
Australia

12 MAY 2026

By email: [submissions@legalservicescouncil.org.au](mailto:submissions@legalservicescouncil.org.au)

Dear Sir/ Madam,

### **Practical Legal Training Reform**

I refer to the consultation paper on the Review of the Practical Legal Training. I am responding on behalf of the Tasmanian Government as Attorney-General and Minister for Justice.

I express considerable concern regarding the implications of the recommendations on Tasmania, particularly the focus on the NSW model that will not translate well to Tasmania or other smaller jurisdictions.

I note the findings that are of particular concern:

- Require University law courses to teach, assess and identify practical skills and knowledge, which currently form part of PLT course;
- Establish a shorter PLT program of at least 4 weeks, with one week's preparatory reading/preparation with the course focusing on identified practical skills and knowledge.
- Require 15 days' workplace experience to be completed prior to admission.

There are a myriad of issues that arise from these proposals but first and foremost in my view these proposals fall far short of adequately preparing practitioners.

The Tasmanian Legal Practice Course is an institution within Tasmania and is very well respected locally and nationally. The 24-week course includes the ability to graduates to appear before real Judges and engage with members of the profession while training. The course is also 100 per cent face to face, which is instrumental in producing high calibre practitioners. Graduates of the course have gone on to be Governors, Judges of the Supreme and Federal Courts, Magistrates, Attorneys-General, and practitioners all over the world.

I hold significant concerns over the proposal to effectively abolish the Tasmanian Legal Practice Course in favour of a four-week program.

Additionally, I am advised that a four-week course would not qualify for fee-help financial assistance. This would undoubtedly have a significant impact on the ability to undertake the

course for those who cannot afford to pay up front. There is also likely to be a reduction in graduate salary for those employees as significant more training will have to be undertaken internally to make them ready for practice.

The reality is that many Tasmanian firms will not be in a position to offer that level of supervision, especially small firms or sole practitioners. This creates a significant attraction and retention issue for the Tasmanian profession. I anticipate that this will impact other jurisdictions, especially in regard to practitioners in regional areas. Accordingly, I have copied in my interstate colleagues.

I request that any proposal which would adversely impact on the training of new practitioners in Tasmania or elsewhere not be supported.

Yours sincerely



Hon Guy Barnett MP  
**Deputy Premier**  
**Attorney-General**  
**Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation**  
**Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs**

**CC:**

The Hon. Michelle Rowland MP – Attorney-General, Commonwealth.

The Hon. Deb Frecklington MP - Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Integrity, Queensland.

The Hon. Michael John Daley MP - Attorney-General, New South Wales,

The Hon. Tara Cheyne MLA - Attorney-General and Minister for Human Rights and Government Services and Minister for the Night Time Economy, Australian Capital Territory.

The Hon. Sonya Kilkeny MP - Attorney-General and Minister for Planning, Victoria.

The Hon. Kyam Maher MLC – Deputy Premier, Attorney-General and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, South Australia.

The Hon Marie-Clare Boothby MP - Attorney-General, Minister for Tourism and Hospitality, Major Events, Parks and Wildlife and Racing, Northern Territory.

The Hon Dr Tony Buti MLA - Attorney-General and Minister for Commerce, Tertiary and International Education and Multicultural Interests, Western Australia