

Progress against our Strategic Plan 2020–2021

GOAL 1: ACHIEVE NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNIFORM LAW

Priority actions	Work undertaken/completed
1.1 Work with the Standing Committee and Departments of Justice in NSW, Victoria and WA to achieve national implementation	
<p>Standing Committee (SC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings and six-monthly reports • Annual Reports <p>NSW and Victorian Departments of Justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings and regular liaison about policy matters and expansion of the Uniform Law (UL) scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Legal Services Council (Council) sent six-monthly reports to the SC in July and January • The Council and Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation's (Commissioner) 2019-20 Annual Reports were provided to the Victorian and NSW Parliaments and tabled on 10 and 17 December • The CEO met with Department representatives in October, December and June • Secretariat policy officers met with Departmental policy officers in June and regularly liaised with them about policy matters
1.2 Continued engagement with the participating jurisdictions to collaborate on the operation of the Uniform Law	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular liaison with designated local regulatory authorities (DLRAs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In August, November and May, the CEO held DLRA Executive meetings • Secretariat policy officers met with DLRA policy officers in February and May and with policy officers from admitting authorities in February and June
1.3 Continued engagement with the non-participating jurisdictions (NPJ) to understand their perspectives, address any issues and promote the Uniform Law	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular liaison with non-participating jurisdictions and stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In July, the Secretariat liaised with the Law Society of South Australia about the UL scheme • In January and February, the Chair and CEO met with the Law Society of Tasmania and the Legal Profession Board of Tasmania • In June, the Chair and CEO met with the ACT Law Society • In this period, the COVID-19 pandemic and associated travel restrictions prevented a number of planned visits to key stakeholders in non-participating jurisdictions
1.4 Support WA joining the Uniform Law scheme	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular liaison with the WA Solicitor General • Regular liaison with the WA, NSW, and Victorian Departments of Justice • Liaison with the Legal Practice Board of WA (LPBWA), the Law Society of WA and the WA Bar Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WA Solicitor General participates as an observer at Council meetings • The Hon Justice Rene Le Miere participates as a WA observer at the Admissions Committee meetings • The CEO continued discussions with the Executive Director of the LPBWA about issues relevant to WA joining the UL scheme • WA stakeholders were consulted on UL issues in accordance with the Intergovernmental Agreement

GOAL 2: ENSURE THAT THE UNIFORM LAW SCHEME IS A RESPONSIVE REGULATORY REGIME FOR THE LEGAL PROFESSION IN AUSTRALIA

Priority actions	Work undertaken/completed
2.1 Ensure the Uniform Law remains an effective regulatory regime	
2.2 Recommend Uniform Law changes, as appropriate	
Managed Investment Schemes (MIS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise the MIS Rules Review project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In July, the Council published its Report on the Review of MIS Rules and invited submissions on revised guidance material in relation to the MIS Rules In May, the Council commenced a public consultation on proposed amendments to MIS Rule 91B
First Priority Amendments to the Uniform Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise the First Priority UL Amendments project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In September, the SC approved, in principle, 34 proposed amendments to the UL The Secretariat is working with the Departments to progress the amendments
Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants (RCMPI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake consultation on relevant recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In February, the Council consulted with DLRA's and other stakeholders about relevant recommendations made by the RCMPI and provided a report to the RCMPI Implementation Taskforce in April In April, May and June, the Secretariat attended Legal Profession Regulation Working Group meetings, convened by the RCMPI Implementation Taskforce
2.3 Recommend Uniform Rules and Guidelines changes, as appropriate	
Australian Solicitors' Conduct Rules (ASCR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the Law Council of Australia's (LCA's) proposal to update the ASCR and to harmonise relevant rules with the Bar Rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In September, the Council approved amendments to the Legal Profession Uniform Law Australian Solicitors' Rules 2015 (Solicitors' Conduct Rules) proposed by the LCA In April, the Council approved new Rule 11A of the Solicitors' Conduct Rules proposed by the LCA The proposed amendments to the Solicitors' Conduct Rules were submitted to the to the SC for approval in May
Indexation Uniform General Rule (UGR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update and publish indexation amounts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FY 2020-21 indexed amounts, made pursuant to UGR 111A, came into effect on 1 July In May, the Council published the Legal Profession Uniform Law (Indexed Amounts) Notice 2021, which will apply from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
First Priority Amendments to UL Rules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise the First Priority Amendment Project in relation to the Uniform Rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The remaining amendments to the Uniform Rules are dependent on the proposed amendments to the UL referred to in item 2.2 above
Litigation funding schemes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake public consultation on the interim Legal Profession Uniform Amendment (Litigation Funding Schemes) Rule 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The interim Legal Profession Uniform Amendment (Litigation Funding Schemes) Rule 2020 commenced in August A public consultation on the interim Rule commenced in May

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Priority actions	Work undertaken/completed
<p>Interest rate payable on fidelity fund claims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review interest rate payable on fidelity fund claims 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In August, the Council published a consultation paper seeking views on the interest rate payable on fidelity claims The Council submitted the proposed Legal Profession Uniform Law General Amendment (Interest Rate) Rule 2020 to the SC for approval in October In March, the Council provided further information on the proposed amendment to the SC, as requested
<h3>2.4 Undertake Uniform Law projects</h3>	
<p>UL Data Sharing Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor and review the effectiveness of reports generated from the UL database 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat continues to monitor and review the effectiveness of reports generated from the UL database, in consultation with the DLRAs A meeting with the DLRAs was held in February
<p>Australian Legal Profession Register (ALPR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an electronic register of legal practitioner details in the UL jurisdictions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ALPR, containing publicly available data about NSW and Victorian legal practitioners, has had over 12,000 views since its launch in December 2019
<p>External Examiners' (EE) Course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a review of the EE Course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EE Working Group, which includes technical experts from the DLRAs, met in December and April
<h3>2.5 Support the Admissions Committee (AC)</h3>	
<h4>2.5.1 Assist the AC to review the Uniform Admission Rules (UARs)</h4>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admission of foreign lawyers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In August and November, the Foreign Lawyer Working Group met to consider changes to the foreign lawyer admission provisions and processes In February, the AC consulted with the Chief Justices and admitting authorities in NSW, Victoria and WA about a proposed amendment to the definition of "Board" in the UARs In June, the AC commenced a public consultation on proposed amendments to the UARs relating to foreign lawyers
<h4>2.5.2 Provide policy, technical and administrative support</h4>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the Admissions Committee (AC) and its appointments including three meetings per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat supported AC meetings on 3 September, 18 February and 10 June The Council appointed Dr Elisabeth Peden SC and Mr Ross Drinnan to the AC from 1 July 2021 for a term of three years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide secretariat support for Law Admissions Consultative Committee (LACC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat supported LACC meetings on 3 September, 18 February and 10 June

GOAL 3: BUILD AWARENESS OF THE BENEFITS OF THE UNIFORM LAW

Priority actions	Work undertaken/completed
3.1 Provide stakeholders, legal practitioners and consumers with timely and accurate information about the Uniform Law scheme	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly update the Council's website and advise stakeholders of UL developments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The website published eight highlights on UL consultations and the Council's activities during this period Information about the appointment of the new Chair and Council members was published in November
3.2 Enhance the profile of the Council and the Admissions Committee in the legal profession	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with the legal profession to discuss the role of the Council and AC Regular meetings with stakeholders to discuss the Council, AC and the UL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In December, the Council hosted its third annual UL Summit in Sydney attended (in person or via video-link) by the DLRAs, LPBWA, and NSW and Victorian Departments See 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4 above
3.3 Promote the Uniform Law scheme in non-participating jurisdictions (NPJs)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage and consult with stakeholders in NPJs about joining the UL scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CEO participated in the Australian legal regulators' meetings in July, December and April See 1.3 above
3.4 Identify, develop and realise opportunities to raise awareness of the Uniform Law scheme	
<p>Strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use website to consult and to advise of UL developments Publish a quarterly newsletter Submit UL articles to publications Monitor media re UL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The website regularly publicises changes to the UL, Rules, consultations and other developments In this period, there were 73,130 visits to the website Newsletters have continued to be published quarterly, and a special edition was published in October to acknowledge the outgoing Chair and Council members

GOAL 4: CONTINUE TO ADMINISTER A WELL-GOVERNED ORGANISATION

Priority actions	Work undertaken/completed
4.1 Support the Council and the Audit and Risk Committee	
4.1.1 Council	
<p>Effectively support the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convene five Council meetings per year Undertake policy development and implementation Provide administrative support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat supported Council meetings on 30 July, 23 September, 25 November, 9 February and 27 April

GOAL 4: CONTINUE TO ADMINISTER A WELL-GOVERNED ORGANISATION

Priority actions	Work undertaken/completed
4.1.2 Audit and Risk Committee (ARC)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene three meetings per year • Follow the ARC annual plan • Review and recommend a triennial budget to the Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat supported ARC meetings on 28 July, 16 September and 9 February • The Council appointed Council members Murray Baird and Elizabeth Harris to the ARC in November
4.2 Comply with statutory reporting requirements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish Annual Reports for the Council and Commissioner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2019-20 Annual Reports were distributed in December to key stakeholders and published on the website
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and review the Council triennial budgets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's Triennial Budget FY2019-21 was approved by the SC on 10 September 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with NSW Audit Office (AO) requirements and NSW applied statutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NSW AO requirements for FY 2019-20 were met, resulting in unqualified audits for the Council and Commissioner
4.3 Review and implement Council's governance and business arrangements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual review and update of Council's governance documents • Monitor the Corporate Services Agreement (CSA) arrangements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In February, the ARC approved updated Council's governance documents • The Secretariat continues to monitor the CSA arrangements
4.4 Foster a productive and collegiate workplace	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage effective teamwork and staff development • Implement performance appraisal process including staff training/development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CEO and policy officers met regularly to discuss priorities • A new Principal Policy Officer commenced in October • Performance reviews were conducted in July, December and June • Relevant staff training was identified and undertaken

