

Message from the CEO, Heather Moore



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

In exciting news this month, the consultation paper for the costs disclosure thresholds review was released on 5 May 2023. We're grateful for the many contributions received so far and welcome all submissions by 2 June 2023. Keep reading for more information about the consultation paper including where to find it and how to make submissions.

The Admissions Committee and the Law Admissions Consultative Committee will hold their first joint meeting on 25 May 2023. The Committees are moving to a joint meeting format to help them work even more closely together on issues of mutual interest. This will include the Australia-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement, with the recent announcement that it is expected to come into force on 31 May 2023. The Council also met on 18 May 2023 making this a busy and exciting month for the whole team!

On 28 March 2023 I was pleased to host a meeting of legal services commissioners or their equivalent from all states and territories, to discuss common and emerging issues. The meeting was followed by a farewell dinner for NSW Legal Services Commissioner, John McKenzie, hosted by the Law Society of NSW. We all wished John well in his retirement and acknowledged his significant contribution to the legal profession and the Uniform Law scheme. The Uniform Law continues to be well supported by Samantha Gulliver who is acting NSW Commissioner.

Costs disclosure thresholds review

The consultation paper for the costs disclosure thresholds review was published on the Council's website on 5 May 2023. The consultation paper is available [here](#) and invites feedback on:

- the costs disclosure thresholds
- the standard costs disclosure forms and information sheets
- the exception to disclosure for commercial and government clients
- the guidelines and directions on costs estimates issued by the Council and Commissioner, and
- certain aspects of record keeping in relation to costs disclosure documents.

Dr Matthew Butlin, appointed by the Council as the expert consultant and leader of the review, will consider the submissions which will inform his final report to the Council.

Submissions can be sent to submissions@legalservicescouncil.org.au by **2 June 2023** and will be published on the Council's website unless there is a request to be treated as confidential.

More information on the review is available [here](#).

Indexation

On 17 May 2023, the Legal Profession Uniform Law (Indexed Amounts) Notice 2023 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 accordance 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 (\$18,550) and \$100,000 (\$185,460) referred to in section 291 to 293 of the Uniform Law;

and \$25,000 (\$46,365) referred to in section 99 of the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014* (Vic) from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. The calculation of the indexed amounts is based on the latest consumer price index published by the Australian Statistician in April 2023.

The Notice is available [here](#) and the editorial note to rule 111A which includes the actual indexed amounts for FY2023/2024 is available [here](#).

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