

Queensland Law Society Inc.

179 Ann Street Brisbane 4000
GPO Box 1785 Brisbane 4001
Phone 1300 FOR QLS (1300 367 757)
Fax 07 3221 2279
qls.com.au

President: Christine Smyth

Vice president: Christopher Coyne

Immediate past president: Bill Potts

Councillors: Michael Brennan, Chloe Kopilovic,
Elizabeth Shearer, Kenneth Taylor, Kara Thomson,
Paul Tully, Karen Simpson (Attorney-General's nominee).

Acting chief executive officer: Matthew Dunn

Editor: Melissa Raassina (Acting Editor)
m.raassina@qls.com.au | 07 3842 5849

Design: Alisa Wortley

Art direction: Clint Slogrove

Advertising: advertising@qls.com.au

Display Ads / Classifieds:
advertising@qls.com.au / classified@qls.com.au

Subscriptions: Sally Kirke 07 3842 5875

Proctor committee: Dr Jennifer Corrin, Kylie Downes QC,
Steven Grant, Vanessa Leishman, Callan Lloyd,
Bruce Patane, William Prizeman, Christine Smyth,
Frances Stewart, Anne Wallace.

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Advancing reconciliation in the profession

As part of the first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) for the solicitors of Queensland, the first meeting of the Queensland Law Society (QLS) Reconciliation and First Nations Advancement Committee was held in October.

This is the first of its kind for QLS, and the policy committee aims to raise awareness, promote reconciliation, advocate for and communicate the community and legal interests of Queensland's First Nations peoples. The committee is comprised of First Nations lawyers, First Nations legal professionals and advocates from all backgrounds.

This committee is one of the many initiatives borne out of the RAP and differs from the monitoring and implementation process of the RAP itself.

The inaugural committee chair is Linda Ryle, also president of the Indigenous Lawyers Association of Queensland, deputy chair of the QLS Equity & Diversity Policy Committee and deputy chair of the QLS RAP Working Group.

"It is an absolute pleasure to sit around a table with a group of such well-informed, committed and action-oriented First Nations changemakers," she said.

"We are only too aware of the great deal of work to be done and the contributions of this committee will provide the authoritative basis upon which QLS policy can reflect and include the perspectives and experiences of Queensland's First Peoples.

"It is the intention of this committee to also support and inform each of the other 25 QLS policy committees as and when invited."

The committee will meet bi-monthly to discuss current issues and proactively advocate around policy reform, participate in advancing the rights and interests across legislative developments, and be involved in discussions on how to increase the participation of First Nations peoples in the legal profession, and to support cultural inclusion and advance evidence-based submissions.

Keep updated via the First Nations People page on the QLS website qls.com.au/For_the_profession/First_Nations_People.

