

HERE FOR OUR MEMBERS

The Society's vision is for good law, good lawyers and public good. We're committed to supporting the profession by advocating, regulating, guiding, educating, protecting and connecting our members across Queensland.

Our purpose has, and will always be, to support members to have more satisfying, balanced and rewarding legal careers and businesses. By promoting the value of solicitors in the community and supporting the professional values of fidelity, service and courage, we galvanise the good law and good lawyers we represent.

We continue to strive for more convenient learning opportunities for our members, having recently retired physical DVDs. Our events (where filmed) can now be purchased online and streamed on any device at any time.

Building on from engagement survey results from our regional members (completed in late 2016), we continue to work with district law societies across Queensland to further enhance our local workshops and to deliver professional development tailored to each region. Each of these local workshops includes a complimentary ticket to our 'Celebrate, recognise and socialise' event held on the evening of the workshop. These events provide our members with an opportunity to come together, as well as celebrating those reaching 25 and 50 years of QLS membership.

We were proud to continue supporting many fantastic organisations that embody the Society's vision and that support, recognise and advocate for good law and good lawyers across Queensland, including:

- District law associations
- Suncoast Community Legal Service
- Justice and the Law Society
- Women Lawyers Association of Queensland
- Pride in Law
- Community Legal Centres Queensland
- LawRight.

Engagement via our policy and membership committees and working groups remains strong and is of the utmost importance to the Society, as are the QLS Ethics and Practice Centre and Legal Policy Teams.

There are over 390 volunteer members who make up our policy and membership committees and working groups. They assist us in our vision for good law, good lawyers and the public good.

The commitment of our members who sit on these committees (on a voluntary basis) is vital to our success. They allow us to engage with all aspects of our varied membership, ensuring we work for each member and their area of law.

We recognise our membership committees and working groups and policy committees, *page 20*, and thank them for their work over the financial year.

The Society would like to acknowledge outgoing working group chairs and deputy chairs:

- **Aron Gibbs**
(Chair, Early Career Lawyers Committee)
- **Rolf Moses**
(Chair, Wellbeing Working Group)
- **Linda Ryle**
(Deputy Chair, RAP Working Group)

Working group and committee chairs and deputy chairs

Committees and working groups	Chair and deputy chair
Early Career Lawyers Committee	Chair: Clare McDonald , GRT Lawyers
Government Lawyers Committee	Chair: Andrew Harris , Office of Industrial Relations
In-house Counsel Committee	Chair: Philip Ware , Stanwell Corporation
Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group	Chair: Shane Duffy , Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld) Ltd Deputy Chair: Bianca Hill-Jarro , QUT
Wellbeing Working Group	Chair: Philip Ware , Stanwell Corporation

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

QLS is committed to continuing to offer high-quality continuing professional development (CPD) events to all legal practitioners, with a focus on complimentary events for members of the Society and value-for-money courses. The Professional Development team designed the CPD calendar of events to keep our members up to date with the latest developments and emerging areas in the law, help them to comply with their compliance obligations, and to establish, build and grow successful legal businesses. The team develops content across a range of practice areas and engages with QLS Ethics and Practice Support, the QLS policy committees and the legal policy team to ensure CPD events are designed to meet the educational needs of the practitioner in a rapidly changing legal environment.

Professional development snapshot

During the 2017-18 financial year, QLS delivered 94 professional development and educational events which attracted over 4000 delegates. The events covered fundamentals, refreshers and practitioner support for practice diversification. We also offered a variety of masterclasses in contract law, advanced drafting and advocacy, disciplinary law, insolvency law and an elder abuse forum. Nine conferences were held in Brisbane and the Gold Coast, including Symposium and a joint Property Law and Conveyancing Conference.

Symposium 2018, QLS's flagship conference, saw consistently high delegate numbers, with corresponding delegate ratings. After running a QLS regional member survey, we acted on feedback from regional members and were able to offer, for the first time, a regional-tiered discount to make Symposium more accessible to regional members.

Regional CPD workshops

In consultation with district law associations, we delivered a local workshop in Port Douglas for Far North Queensland practitioners, and a local event in Rockhampton in conjunction with the Central Queensland Law Association. We also delivered local CPD workshops in Toowoomba and Roma.

Complimentary CPD events

This year QLS offered 15 complimentary member events comprising 15.5 CPD points. These events included the Tristan Jepson Memorial Foundation lecture, two RAP events, International Women's Day event, two mental health breakfasts as well as a targeted early career lawyers mental health breakfast, our annual half day Open Day, a half day cybersecurity workshop, four Modern Advocate Lecture series lectures and two livecasts.

Livecasts

We have delivered 28 livecasts this year, which is two more than last year. We have found that this format for delivering CPD is popular for practitioners who are pressed for time and want to participate in and listen to livecasts from the convenience of their offices. The most popular livecasts were those that covered updates to changes in the law.

Practice Management Course

The Practice Management Course is mandatory for solicitors seeking to become a law practice principal and the QLS Practice Management Course remains the course of choice for the overwhelming majority of aspiring principals. A total of 191 practitioners undertook the course during the 2016-17 financial year.

Committee chairs

Committee	Chair and deputy chair
Continuing Professional Development	Chair: Rachael Miller, Quinlan Miller & Treston Lawyers
Practice Management Course	Chair: Bill Potts, Potts Lawyers Deputy Chair: Greg Spinda, Maurice Blackburn Pty Ltd

Specialist accreditation

Twenty-four solicitors became accredited specialists in 2017-18.

QLS provides its members with the opportunity to be formally identified as an expert in their chosen area of practice through our Specialist Accreditation Scheme. Successful completion of these programs enables solicitors with extensive competence and knowledge to advertise their expertise with the profession's nationally-recognised mark of excellence.

In the 2017 calendar year, QLS offered accreditation in family law, succession law and property law. In accordance with the recently introduced biennial rotation, we offered an increased number of accreditation programs for the 2018 calendar year, including: business law, commercial litigation, criminal law, immigration law, personal injuries law and workplace relations. The immigration law and workplace relations programs are run nationally, in partnership with the Law Society of New South Wales and the Law Institute of Victoria, respectively.

A total of 66 candidates entered the 2018 programs – an increase from 2017, during which 61 candidates entered the programs.

QLS Council has delegated to the Specialist Accreditation Board the responsibility of overseeing and administering various aspects of the scheme, including establishing advisory committees for the different areas of accreditation. QLS thanks the chairs and committee members of the nine specialist accreditation programs that ran in 2017-18.

Specialist Accreditation Advisory Committee Chairs

Committee	Chair
2017	
Family Law	Bruce Dodd , Winn Paten Chambers
Property Law	Anthony Boge , HWL Ebsworth Lawyers
Succession Law	Angela Cornford-Scott , Cornford-Scott Lawyers Pty Ltd
2018	
Personal Injuries	Terry Killian , Hall & Wilcox
Commercial Litigation	Paul Betros , HopgoodGanim Lawyers
Criminal Law	Kurt Fowler , Fowler Lawyers
Business Law	Vicky Comino , University of Queensland
Workplace Relations	Mitch Devine , Devine Legal

Specialist Accreditation Board members

Name	Firm
Peter Jolly (Chair Dec 2017 onwards)	Thynne + Macartney
Julie Cameron (Chair Oct to Dec 2017)	Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Jennifer Hetherington (Chair Jul to Sep 2017)	Hetherington Legal
Kathy Atkins	Jones Mitchell Lawyers, Bond University
Glen Cranny	Gilshenan & Luton
Neil Henderson	The Services Union
Michael Klatt	Mullins Law
Christine Smyth	Robbins Watson Solicitors
Kara Thomson	Cooper Grace Ward

RECOGNISING AND CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS

Queensland Law Society is proud to recognise the work and contributions of members across the state. Each year we take pride in honouring members who serve as role models to the profession.

Legal Profession Dinner and Awards

The Legal Profession Dinner and Awards (LPDA) was held on Friday 9 March 2018 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. The dinner coincided with the conclusion of day one of Symposium, thus allowing our regional members who attended Symposium to also attend this prestigious event.

The President's Medal

Presented at the LPDA, our annual President's Medal is awarded in the spirit of Queensland's rich legal tradition, recognising commitment, contribution and outstanding performance in the profession. The 2018 medal was awarded to Kurt Fowler, criminal defence lawyer and QLS-accredited specialist at Fowler Lawyers in Caboolture. With a Bachelor and Master of Laws, Kurt has built his reputation on experience, discretion and professionalism. Having been recognised as the highest achiever in his year of becoming an accredited specialist in criminal law, he was subsequently appointed chair of the QLS committee overseeing this program and is also the chair of the QLS Criminal Law Committee.

The Agnes McWhinney Award

Our Agnes McWhinney Award, named after Queensland's first admitted female solicitor, recognises the contributions of outstanding women in the legal profession. In 2018 this award was presented to Ann-Maree David, who has devoted her career to professional development. Ann-Maree led the Society's own continuing legal education program for eight years until 2002 before going on to establish the Queensland campus of the Australian College of Law. Her passion extends well beyond education as she serves as the current president of Australian Women Lawyers, vice-president of the Women Lawyers Association of Queensland, and chair of the QLS Equity and Diversity Law Committee.

Equity and Diversity Awards

The Equity and Diversity Awards debuted at the LPDA in 2018, having previously been conferred separately to other awards. These awards celebrate practices that promote equity in the profession, engage in inclusive and equitable workplace practices and embrace workplace diversity in a meaningful way. Separated into two categories (large legal practice and small legal practice), the 2018 award for the large legal practice category was presented to Maurice Blackburn Lawyers, and the small legal practice category was awarded to Cairns-based Miller Harris Lawyers for the third time.

2018 award recipients

Award	Recipient	Photograph on page 17
President's Medal	Kurt Fowler, Fowler Lawyers	1
Agnes McWhinney Award	Ann-Maree David, College of Law	2
Innovation in Law	Streten Masons Lawyers	3
Community Legal Centre Member of the Year Award	Terry Stedman, South West Brisbane Community Legal Centre	4
Equity Advocate Award	Terry Stedman, South West Brisbane Community Legal Centre	4
Equity and Diversity Award (Large legal practice)	Maurice Blackburn	5
Equity and Diversity Award (Small legal practice)	Miller Harris Lawyers	6
Inaugural Queensland First Nations Lawyer of the Year*	Leah Cameron, Marrawah Law	7
Inaugural Queensland First Nations Legal Student of the Year*	Nareeta Davis	8

* These awards were offered for the first time in 2018.



OUR PUBLICATIONS

Queensland Law Society members have ready access to legal news and information with the weekly distribution of our electronic newsletter, **QLS Update**; **Proctor**, our iconic monthly magazine, in both hard copy and digital formats; and **LawTalk**, the Society's venture into the blogosphere, which offers insightful articles ranging from reasoned opinion pieces to print-out-and-study guides, with practical information for members from all practice areas.

Proctor

With both the legal profession and the law impacted by rapidly growing technology, *Proctor* brought this news to our members via a significant number of articles, providing a clearer understanding of these rapid changes. The topics covered ranged from a look at data-matching techniques utilised by the Australian Taxation Office and the risks associated with data breaches on iPhones and other mobile devices, as well as a study of how technology is being adopted by law firms in regional Queensland and the workings of the state's new information and communications technology ICT contracting framework.

Proctor also maintained its relationship with the forward-thinking Legal Forecast, examining cutting-edge technology issues such as the rights of clones and legal liability issues associated with artificial intelligence.

In advancing the Society's reconciliation action plan (RAP), *Proctor* strengthened its reporting on First Nations matters, including the launch of the RAP, and included articles on topics such as building rapport with First Nations clients, the importance of Mabo Day, and a detailed report on the Australian Law Reform Commission's report on Indigenous incarceration.

Proctor continued its primary focus on the law, with features examining new legislation and significant judicial decisions. It also interviewed legal professionals such as retiring Family Court Chief Justice Diana Bryant AO, Professor Gino Dal Pont and social observer Bernard Salt AM. As the financial year drew to a close, *Proctor* revealed its newest 'recruit', Society CEO Rolf Moses, who began a regular series of feature interviews, starting with Belinda Winter, an employment and industrial relations expert with a keen understanding of mental health in the workplace, and followed by *pro bono* guru Robert Reed OAM.

Proctor's audited circulation rose to an all-time high of 11,281 as of 31 March 2018, comprised of 10,345 print and 936 digital copies. While the overall number of readers is expected to continue growing, the balance of print to digital is expected to slowly lean more to electronic readership as more firms adopt paperless office policies and early career lawyers express their preference to read on mobile devices.

*Source: Audited Media Association of Australia

LawTalk

In 2017-18, we continued our work to share long-form thought pieces via our blog LawTalk (medium.com/qldlawsociety). The blog provides contributors, including staff and key committee members, with the opportunity to share opinion pieces and speak to the core topics the Society has been focusing on throughout the year. These include cyber-security issues, gender diversity, advocacy skills, sexual harassment and access to justice.

The blog gives the Society a way of communicating with members and the public in a timely manner, so we can share QLS's voice on a range of topics in an immediate way. Blog posts are shared via our social channels, especially LinkedIn. In this financial year, LawTalk published 29 posts, and attracted 4475 views.

QLS Update

Our weekly e-newsletter remains a must-read for many in the legal profession and beyond, with corporate governance executives among those seeking a regular update on legislative changes and legal news, as well as government stakeholders keen to update and submit news items for the profession.

QLS Update's mix of professional information, Society news and events, ethical guidance and feature articles is delivered to around 13,000 members, associate members and student members.

During 2017-18, *QLS Update* has been profiling the Society's advocacy work, as we've worked hard to call for public comment on issues that affect our members and reported back to the profession the changes we have been working towards for good law.

QLS Update had an average open rate of 36.8% in this financial year, with a click-through rate of 13.1%. This is well above the average legal open rate of 21.1%, and legal click-through rate of 2.7%.



THE FUTURE OF THE PROFESSION

Queensland Law Society is proud to host one of the most recognised careers exhibitions for legal students in Australia.

QLS Legal Careers Expo is the flagship student engagement event of the QLS calendar, now in its 12th year. It has seen consistent year-on-year growth, with over 700 students pre-registering to attend and 495 attending on the day. With 10% more exhibitors than 2017, and 40% more than five years ago, students are now able to engage with a wider group of organisations from across the legal profession.

The diversity of the exhibitors continues to grow with first time involvement from Real Estate Institute of Queensland, GradAustralia, LawGraduate Coach, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services and Pride in Law.

While attending the expo, students can book in for one-on-one consultations with human resources and recruitment executives at our Resume Rescue Clinic. These 15-minute appointments allow

students to gain invaluable advice and feedback on their resumes. Capacity constraints meant a maximum of 94 appointments were available, but factors such as students finishing early meant 101 students were able to use the service.

The expo has evolved with the invaluable feedback it receives from students and exhibitors each year. This year, we moved into the Plaza Terrace Room at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, the biggest space ever occupied by the expo. With planning well underway for 2019, this space allows us to continue to grow and expand the expo's offering to students.

QLS continues to engage with many touch points at universities across Queensland. Notably, we engage with legal faculties through human resources advisor Interfirm Group, and through the various student law societies on campus.

We continue to strive to make the expo all about where your law degree can take aspiring members of the profession.

