

Good law
Good lawyers
Public good

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

**We acknowledge the First Nations peoples
as the original inhabitants of Australia.**

**We recognise, respect and celebrate
the cultural distinctions of First Nations
peoples and value their rich and positive
contribution to not only Queensland but
also to the broader Australian society.**

About this report

Queensland Law Society's 2019-20 Annual Report presents our corporate performance information for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

This report records our activities, achievements and challenges for the 2019-20 financial year and evaluates them against our strategic and corporate planning goals and targets. It also provides a summary of our corporate performance, our planning around the next strategic plan, and priorities for initiatives in 2020-21 and beyond.

2019-20 has been a year of significant achievement amid challenging times for QLS. Across our organisation, we have delivered on some of QLS's long-held goals, implemented significant projects and realised bold plans as an effective and cohesive team. We are excited to share our progress here.

QLS is incorporated under the *Legal Profession Act 2007* and is defined as a statutory body under the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*. The QLS Council is responsible for overseeing the Society's governance and setting the strategic direction.

QLS's Annual Report complies with Queensland Government reporting requirements. This report aligns with QLS's current operational plan and corporate performance against our strategic focus areas of Advocate, Educate, Connect, Guide, Protect, Culture, Sustain and Improve.

Our commitment to accessibility

This Annual Report can be accessed at qls.com.au/annual-reports, via the Queensland Parliament website or in print form by contacting us (see below).

Our website qls.com.au also contains the required reporting in relation to the Council of Queensland Law Society as a government body. Recent Annual Reports can be accessed via our website.

Please contact us if you require assistance in understanding the Annual Report or for referral to interpreter services. Our open data reports can be accessed via data.qld.gov.au.

Feedback

If you have feedback or questions about content in this Annual report, please contact:

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7 September 2020

The Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Leader of the House
1 William Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Attorney

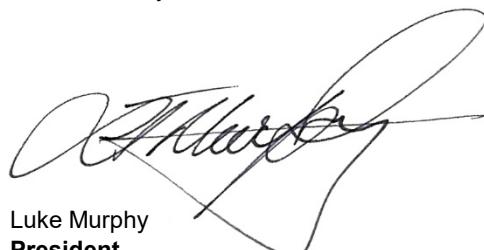
I am pleased to submit for presentation to the Parliament the Annual Report 2019-20 and financial statements for Queensland Law Society.

I certify that this Annual Report complies with:

- the prescribed requirements of the *Financial Accountability Act 2009* and the *Financial and Performance Management Standard 2019*; and
- the detailed requirements set out in the Annual report requirements for Queensland Government agencies.

A checklist outlining the annual reporting requirements can be found on pages 201-202 of this document.

Yours faithfully



Luke Murphy
President

Email: president@qls.com.au

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About us

Queensland Law Society (QLS) is the peak representative body for the legal profession in Queensland, providing leadership, guidance and support for more than 13,000 members, across all categories.

QLS empowers good lawyers, advocates for good law and serves the public good by providing a clear and passionate voice for solicitors and the legal profession in Queensland. We engage with government, the public and the legal community on issues of importance to the profession.

QLS is a versatile, responsive and collegiate representative body which supports and advocates on behalf of the Queensland legal profession. We represent the profession with courage, fidelity and service in an ethically sound, calm and professional manner.

Across many platforms and in conjunction with our members, QLS provides:

- high-quality, ethical support and guidance to Queensland solicitors, including direct ethical consulting, bespoke educational sessions and published guidance statements
- calm, clear and courageous advocacy on matters of importance to the legal profession and the broader community
- accessible, high-quality, ongoing professional development and specialist accreditations
- practical resources and opportunities for the profession to maintain and develop professional skills
- referrals via our Find a Solicitor web search and promotion of solicitors' role in the community
- support for practitioners' mental health, directly and via our member EAP, LawCare
- support and guidance on trust account issues and trust account compliance
- direct practice support consultancy services to new and developing law firms throughout the State
- regulation of trust account provisions of the *Legal Profession Act 2007*, external administration of law practices and management of the Legal Practitioners' Fidelity Guarantee Fund
- records administration for the issuing of practising certificates
- professional indemnity insurance to the members of the Queensland legal profession through Lexon Insurance Pte Limited.

Year in review

2019

1 July *Proctor* July edition special feature: Inside the Office of the Independent Assessor

2 July QLS calls for immediate ban on children 14 and under being held in watch houses

4 July QLS welcomes appointment of Queensland Chief Magistrate and new Mt Isa magistrate

10 July QLS backs review of consent laws by Queensland Law Reform Commission

10 July Queensland loses the State of Origin series, leaving QLS President Bill Potts to honour an annual bet by wearing a Blues jersey. NSW calls foul and demands “specific performance” when President Potts adds a Maroons scarf.

12 July QLS joins the NAIDOC Week family fun day in Brisbane’s Musgrave Park with a stall promoting the QLS RAP and services offered by QLS.

17 July More than 100 leading Queensland lawyers enjoy the QLS Best Lawyers Breakfast at Brisbane’s Blackbird Private Dining and Event.

22 July QLS extends its NAIDOC celebrations with a First Nations lunch, recognising its journey through the Innovate RAP, beginning its journey towards the Stretch RAP, and kicking off its inaugural First Nations in Conversations.

24 July Launch of the QLS Aspire Leadership Lecture Series, featuring Isabelle Reinecke of the Grata Fund.

1 August *Proctor* August edition special feature: Life after death – Providing hope for shattered lives or creating a lifetime of unintended consequences?

1 August QLS Conveyancing Conference, at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, offers a practical program, including how to navigate the minefield of retirement village structures.

2 August The annual QLS Criminal Law Conference, at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.

6 August First Nations students visit Law Society House for a LawLink event on the role of the in-house solicitor.

8 August Lecture three of the 2019 Modern Advocate Lecture Series features Judge Felicity Hampel SC of the County Court of Victoria.

10 August The Brisbane Magistrates Court team takes top place in the 2019 QLS Touch Football Tournament.

16 August Hervey Bay CPD Intensive

23 August Kingaroy CPD Intensive

30 August Solicitor Advocate Course: Building on foundations, a joint offering from the QLS Ethics and Practice Centre and the Australian Advocacy Institute

1 September *Proctor* September edition special feature: Innovation in law – preparing for the new normal

3 September QLS opposes change to 120-year-old sexual consent laws

9 September Nominations open for the QLS Council election 2019

11-12 September Property Law Conference, at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, offers varied sessions, including navigating trust structures in property transactions and verification of identity in the digital era

13 September Government Lawyers Conference at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

19 September 14 members lead the guest list to receive their 25-year membership pins at a Brisbane Celebrate, Recognise and Socialise event held at Blackbird Private Dining and Events

1 October	<i>Proctor</i> October edition special feature: Navigating the complexities of implementing voluntary assisted dying laws in Queensland. In a <i>Proctor</i> first, the magazine is printed with two covers – each symbolising one side of the life and death debate.
1 October	QLS welcomes appointment of two solicitors to the state's magistracy
9 October	Voting opens in the QLS Council election
10 October	QLS teams up with the Bar Association of Queensland to present the Minds Count Lecture at Law Society House, presented by King & Wood Mallesons partner John Canning
10 October	Lecture Four of the 2019 Modern Advocate Lecture Series features Justice Soraya Ryan of the Supreme Court of Queensland
11 October	More than 130 people attend the Personal Injuries Conference at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre
23 October	Legal professionals from Pride in Law, The Legal Forecast and members of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand join colleagues for a relaxed evening of networking at this Young Professionals Networking Evening
25 October	The successful candidates for seats on QLS Council are announced
1 November	The cover story in this month's <i>Proctor</i> is an interview with Family Court and Federal Circuit Court Chief Justice Will Alstergren QC
1-2 November	With its dual themes of life and death, the Succession and Elder Law Conference at Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort & Spa attracts 150 attendees enjoy sessions from estate litigation basics to complex ethical matters
12 November	Toowoomba CPD Intensive plus a Celebrate, Recognise and Socialise event
13 November	As the bushfire emergency continues throughout much of Queensland and New South Wales, QLS urges practitioners to put safety first
14 November	The 2019 Legal Profession Breakfast, at Brisbane City Hall, attracts a capacity crowd who listen to passionate anti-DV advocate Arman Abrahimzadeh OAM, co-founder of the Zahra Foundation Australia
26 November	QLS welcomes new law to stop insidious practice of claims farming
1 December	This month's <i>Proctor</i> cover story welcomes Queensland's first Human Rights Commissioner, Scott McDougall
4 December	Around 160 people gather at The Grove, Brisbane, for the QLS Appreciation Evening 2019 an event that acknowledges and thanks regular professional development presenters, committee members and other contributors to QLS for their support and participation
5 December	Thirteen past, present and future QLS Presidents come together at the Brisbane Club to share recollections over dinner
5 December	Around 85 early career lawyers attend Brisbane's Bar Pacino for the QLS Early Career Lawyers Christmas Party
11 December	QLS annual general meeting
12 December	The Chief Justice congratulates specialist accreditation graduates at the Brisbane Specialist Accreditation Christmas Breakfast, while other events celebrate the occasion in Cairns and Townsville

2020

1 January President Luke Murphy and Deputy President Elizabeth Shearer take up their posts for 2020, along with new QLS Council members

1 February Proctor begins 2020 with a cover feature on 2020 QLS President Luke Murphy

6 February President Murphy is officially welcomed at the New Year Profession Drinks in the Banco Court at the Queensland Elizabeth II Courts of Law

26 February Some 125 young professionals descend on City Winery Brisbane for the first (and possibly last) Young Professionals Networking Evening of 2020

1 March The special feature in the March *Proctor* is: The diversity journey – The challenge for the profession and those who navigate it

9 March QLS celebrates International Women's Day 2020 with an evening function

13-14 March QLS Symposium 2020 draws more than 650 attendees

13 March The profession celebrates its shining stars at the QLS Legal Profession Dinner & Awards

27 March President Luke Murphy and CEO Rolf Moses address the profession via video on measures QLS is taking in response to COVID-19

1 April The April *Proctor* special feature is: On parole – Not just a 'get-out-of-jail-free' card

15 April President Luke Murphy and CEO Rolf Moses announce a \$9 million QLS support package for Queensland's legal profession as it operates through the COVID-19 pandemic

22 April QLS launches three new COVID-19 support services – the Employment Law Advice Service, QLS General Manager Support Service and the QLS Government Financial Assistance Service

1 May The May *Proctor* special feature is: Creating your new normal – Navigating COVID-19 induced practice challenges. To overcome the distribution challenges associated with most of the workforce working from home, *Proctor* is distributed electronically.

15 May QLS applauds new laws paving the way for electronic signing of legal documents

22 May QLS applauds new regulations to allow for virtual document witnessing

28 May President Luke Murphy and CEO Rolf Moses announces the QLS Phase 2 support package for members, based on a \$750,000 grant from Law Foundation Queensland

1 June The June *Proctor* special feature is: COVID-19's legacy for justice – What will be worth keeping? This edition marks an historic milestone, as the last *Proctor* to be published in standard monthly magazine format.

22 June QLS welcomes the appointment of new Queensland Director of Public Prosecutions, Carl Heaton QC