



Queensland  
**Law Society**<sup>®</sup>

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22**

**LEADING SOLICITORS IN QUEENSLAND**

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**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.**

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# About this report

*Queensland Law Society's 2021-22 annual report presents our corporate performance information for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.*

This report records our activities, achievements and challenges for the 2021-22 financial year and evaluates them against our strategic and corporate planning goals and targets. It also provides a summary of our corporate performance and priorities for initiatives in 2022-23 and beyond.

It has been a year of significant achievement for QLS. We launched a new strategic plan in July 2021 with the vision of *Leading Solicitors in Queensland*, underpinned by our purpose of *Good Law, Good Lawyers, Public Good*. Across the organisation, we are delivering on new goals and projects and our progress in our first year of the strategic plan is shared in this document.

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 our governance and setting the strategic direction.

This annual report complies with Queensland Government reporting requirements. This report aligns with QLS's current operational plan and corporate performance against our strategic objectives of Advocate, Regulate, Guide, Educate, Connect, and Grow.

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## Our commitment to accessibility

This annual report can be accessed at [qls.com.au/annualreports](https://qls.com.au/annualreports), via the Queensland Parliament website or in print form by contacting us (see below).

Our website [qls.com.au](https://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](https://data.qld.gov.au).

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## Feedback

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

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1300 367 757  
[info@qls.com.au](mailto:info@qls.com.au)

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7 September 2022

The Honourable Shannon Fentiman MP  
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice  
Minister for Women and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence  
1 William Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Attorney

I am pleased to submit for presentation to the Parliament the Annual Report 2021-2022 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 218-219 of this document.

Yours sincerely



**Kara Thomson**  
President

Email: [president@qls.com.au](mailto:president@qls.com.au)

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# About us

## *Our vision*

### *Leading Solicitors in Queensland*

Queensland Law Society Incorporated (QLS) is the leading membership representative body and co-regulator for the legal profession of solicitors in Queensland and oversees the professional conduct of 14,637<sup>1</sup> practising solicitors. The Society also provides leadership, guidance and support to 13,002<sup>2</sup> members, across several categories spanning the breadth of a solicitor's career.

QLS is continued in existence under the *Legal Services Act 2007* and is empowered by the Act to regulate the solicitor's branch of the legal profession in a co-regulatory capacity with the Legal Services Commission and the Bar Association of Queensland. The three bodies work together to administer the Act in the interests of the administration of justice.

While we have regulatory powers, in keeping with our vision, QLS is a versatile, responsive and collegiate representative body which supports and advocates on behalf of the Queensland legal profession and the wider community. We represent the profession with courage, fidelity and service in an ethically sound, calm and professional manner and much of our work advances the public good. Our purpose is *good law, good lawyers, public good* and to:

- be the authoritative voice of solicitors in Queensland
- help our members succeed
- connect the profession with QLS and each other, and
- respect, protect and promote human rights in our decision-making actions.

QLS empowers good lawyers, advocates for good law and serves the public good by providing a clear and reasoned 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 and the wider community.

Our purpose aligns with the Queensland Government's objectives for the community by supporting members and investing in skills to support members to find meaningful jobs and set up pathways for the future.

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

- 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
- Advancing the public good, support and advancement of First Nations Community through the First Nations Cultural Outreach Strategy 2020-25
- high-quality, ethical support and guidance to Queensland solicitors, including direct ethical consulting, bespoke educational sessions and published guidance statements and published guidance statements, through our wholly owned incorporated legal practice QLS Solicitor Support Pty Ltd
- clear, considered and balanced advocacy on matters of importance to the legal profession and the broader community
- accessible, high-quality, ongoing professional development and specialist accreditation

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<sup>1</sup> Membership and practising certificate figures correct as at 30 June 2022

<sup>2</sup> ibid

- 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, including the LawCare service
- support and guidance on trust account issues and trust account compliance, and
- direct practice support consultancy services to new and developing law firms throughout the state.