

Good law  
Good lawyers  
Public good

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

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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 (QLS) 2020-21 annual report presents our corporate performance information for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, representing the final financial year of our four year strategic plan.

This report records our activities, achievements and challenges for the 2020-21 financial year and evaluates them against our strategic and operating planning goals and targets. It also provides a summary of our corporate performance, our planning around finalising and approving the next strategic plan, and priorities for initiatives in 2021-22 and beyond.

The financial year 2020-21 represents another significant year of achievement amid challenging times. Across our organisation, we have delivered and progressed some of QLS's long-held goals and realised strategic 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.

The Society's annual report complies with Queensland Government reporting requirements. This report aligns with QLS's current operating 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/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).

## Feedback

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

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7 September 2021

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 2020-2021 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 199-200 of this document.

Yours faithfully



Elizabeth Shearer  
**President**

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

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## About us

Queensland Law Society is the leading membership representative body and co-regulator for the legal profession of solicitors 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, in line with our purpose to:

- support our members and the profession to navigate through the challenges of COVID-19, and to ensure members and the profession have more satisfying, balanced and rewarding legal careers and businesses
- promote the value of solicitors in the community and supporting the professional values of fidelity, service and courage, and
- be the authoritative voice of solicitors in Queensland, speaking out for justice and the rule of law.

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.

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, guidance and practice advisory services to Queensland solicitors, including direct ethical consulting, bespoke educational sessions 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 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, including the LawCare service
- 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
- issuing of practising certificates
- professional indemnity insurance to the members of the Queensland legal profession through Lexon Insurance Pte Limited.