

LEADING THE PROFESSION

The Society advocates for good law, and good lawyers, for the public good. The Society is an honest, independent broker delivering balanced, evidence-based commentary on matters which impact not only its members, but also the broader Queensland community.

Advocating for good law

The Society's 27 standing policy committees are comprised of over 350 volunteer committee members who contribute their expertise and knowledge to advocating for good law for the public good. Their dedication enables the Society to develop sound and balanced submissions to government when seeking legislative and policy reform which will have a positive impact for both the legal profession and the Queensland community. Our committee members come from a range of professional backgrounds, ensuring that our advocacy is truly representative on key issues affecting practitioners in Queensland and the industries in which they practise.

The Society values its relationship with the Queensland Government and the opposition, and is regularly consulted on the development of policy positions and proposed legislative amendments, leading to better outcomes and more responsive legislation. The Society also engages with the courts on procedural reform and practical issues affecting court users, including consultation on draft practice directions. The Society also appreciates the ongoing opportunities to be involved in a number of other Queensland Government consultative groups as outlined below.



169

QLS policy committee meetings



149

Stakeholder engagements



212

Legal policy submissions



20

Parliamentary public hearings

A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT

Our members held 169 committee meetings during 2017-18. The Society received 155 mentions in *Hansard* as a result of our work and also made a total of 212 submissions during the year. The number of successes accomplished as a result of these submissions increased by 40% on the previous year, from 167 to 390.

Recognising member contributions

We thank all QLS policy committee chairs, deputy chairs and members for applying their expertise and supplying their time throughout the year. In particular, we are grateful for the dedicated efforts of the chairs who are central to coordinating research and submissions, and engaging with priority stakeholders.

The Society would like to acknowledge the outgoing chairs and deputy chairs:

- **Jennifer Glover**
(Chair, Children's Law Committee)
- **Tony Conaghan**
(Chair, Franchising Law Committee)
- **Ashley Uren**
(Deputy Chair, Industrial Law Committee)
- **Cameron McKenzie**
(Chair, Insolvency and Reconstruction Law Committee)
- **Tony Deane**
(Chair, Litigation Rules Committee)
- **Matthew Turnour**
(Chair, Not-for-profit Law Committee)
- **Tim Stork**
(Deputy Chair, Planning and Environmental Law Committee)
- **Brian Herd**
(Deputy Chair, Elder Law Committee)
- **Alison Ross**
(Chair, Family Law Committee)

Committees

The Access to Justice and Pro Bono Law Committee

The Access to Justice and Pro Bono Law Committee configured the 2017 Access to Justice Scorecard and received more than double the amount of responses than the 2016 Scorecard.

The Committee also contributed to the Reviews of the National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance Services and Indigenous Legal Assistance Program and the *Criminal Law (Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement) Act 2017* Approved Form.

The Accident Compensation/ Tort Law Committee

This committee made 13 written submissions to governments and other stakeholders throughout this financial year. Members of the committee attended a public hearing before a parliamentary committee and several meetings with key stakeholders, including the Motor Accident Insurance Commission, the Supreme Court and the Office of Industrial Relations. These engagements allowed the committee to contribute to proposed reforms and advance the interests of QLS members and good law. Committee members have also contributed to the education of the profession.

The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Committee

This committee performed a number of roles in the last financial year, including contribution to policy and law reform submissions, updating resources for solicitor mediators and other ADR practitioners, assisting in the organisation and presentation of the ADR conference. Chief among its projects has been the development and promotion of a Dispute Resolution Hub which will assist ADR practitioners and users in connecting with each other. The committee is working towards securing support for this hub from key stakeholders.

The Banking and Financial Services Law Committee

A key piece of work for this committee was assisting the membership to prepare for the introduction of the National Mortgage Form in March 2018, including publishing a detailed article in *Proctor* and a further article offering practical guidance. The committee also met with the Registrar of Titles to prepare for the introduction of the National Mortgage Form, and contributed their expertise to other submissions in conjunction with the Property and Development Law Committee and the Competition and Consumer Law Committee.

The Children's Law Committee

The Children's Law Committee produced four written submissions over the financial year in the areas of youth justice and child protection. It assisted with various media enquiries and participated in stakeholder groups that were convened to consider the Expert Assistance Pilot and the transition of 17-year-old young people out of the youth justice system. A key achievement for the committee was the successful lobbying of the government for the removal of 17-year-olds from the adult criminal justice system in Queensland and the treatment of these young people in the youth justice system.

The Competition and Consumer Law Committee

This committee produced 13 written submissions over the past financial year in response to both state and federal inquiries. QLS submissions that are prepared by this committee are well-regarded and often adopted; for example, when reviewing the submission on the Australian Consumer Law Amendment Bill, the Commonwealth Department of Treasury noted the committee's concerns and removed an amendment from the bill. Committee members have attended meetings with stakeholders and assisted QLS in responding to media enquiries.

The Construction and Infrastructure Law Committee

This committee has contributed to several submissions and attended public hearings, including on the Building and Construction Legislation (Non-conforming Building Products – Chain of Responsibility and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2017, and the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Bill 2017. QLS was quoted in *Hansard* several times in relation to the appearance on the Security of Payment Bill. The committee also spearheaded a webinar for members on the implications of the new Security of Payment legislation, which was well received.

The Corporations Law Committee

The Corporations Law Committee meets as a joint Queensland Law Society – Law Council of Australia Committee. In addition to its members contributing to the Law Council of Australia work, the committee has contributed to a range of Society submissions including the Property Law Review.

The Criminal Law Committee

The committee produced 26 written submissions on both a proactive and responsive basis. Committee representatives gave evidence at five public hearings on the following bills: Penalties and Sentences (Drug and Alcohol Treatment Orders) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018, Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. The committee contributed significantly to QLS media and participated heavily in several stakeholder groups, notably, the streamlining criminal justice forum.

The Elder Law Committee

This committee has contributed to the content of several media releases regarding elder abuse, and has assisted in drafting several submissions including in response to the Senate's Aged Care Quality Assessment Review, the Guardianship and Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, and the Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Bill 2017, and in response to proposed changes to the *Retirement Villages Act 1999* and the *Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003*.

Brian Herd (former deputy chair of this committee) was one of the attendees at the public hearing on the proposed amendments to guardianship laws, and QLS was quoted 22 times in *Hansard* regarding this appearance.

The committee is in the process of evaluating the effectiveness of the GP trial campaign, as well as discussing possibilities for collaboration (such as with Queensland University of Technology) to expand the initial trial. It continues to be involved in the advanced care planning discussions and supported elder mediation programs.

Equity and Diversity Committee

The Equity and Diversity Committee continued its work this year on the Lawlink program, a First Nations law student liaison program aiming to connect the Society and our legal practitioner members with First Nations law students as they complete their studies. A new initiative was hosting a special event for our First Nations law students at the QLS Legal Careers Expo where students had the opportunity to meet Society staff and gain early access to the Expo. The Society is also grateful to the Women's Legal Service for hosting the students in March 2018, giving students the chance to learn about the valuable work of the service and career opportunities in the community legal centre sector after graduation. The committee also completed a review of the Equity and Diversity Awards, which were presented at the Legal Profession Dinner in March 2018.

The Family Law Committee

The Family Law Committee produced 12 submissions this financial year. It made significant contributions to the Review of the Family Law System, Family Law Amendment (Parenting Management Hearings) Bill 2017, and the Family Law Amendment (Family Violence and Cross-examination of Parties) Bill 2017.

The Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs adopted the committee's recommendations on better supporting victims of family violence in family law proceedings in its final report.

The Franchising Law Committee

This committee contributed to submissions, including in response to a request by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission regarding *ipso facto* reforms, as well as a federal inquiry into the effectiveness and operation of the Franchising Code of Conduct, and subsequently attended the federal public hearing on this matter. This committee is also involved in monitoring and educating the profession on developments in unfair contract terms and other Australian Competition and Consumer Commission initiatives.

The Health and Disability Law Committee

This committee has been instrumental in contributing to the cross-disciplinary discussion on improving the advanced care planning framework. The committee was also consulted on legislative reform, including the Guardianship and Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, the Queensland Law Reform Commission Review of Termination of Pregnancy Laws in Queensland, and regarding an investigation by the Queensland Ombudsman with respect to persons subject to a forensic order (disability).

This committee is also providing advice in relation to QLS inquiries on offender health services (particularly persons in solitary confinement), and assisted the QLS in preparing for ministerial level meetings with the State Government.

The Industrial Law Committee

This committee works hard to advocate on industrial law issues at both a state and federal level, which is demonstrated by the 10 written submissions to which its members have contributed. The committee has also assisted with QLS's professional development work in the form of presentations, *Proctor* articles and website updates. One of the committee's key pieces of advocacy this year was its response to the government's Labour Hire Licensing Scheme which involved submission work and stakeholder engagement to ensure that concerns with the proposed scheme were addressed.

The Insolvency and Reconstruction Law Committee

This committee is the Queensland branch of the Law Council of Australia's Insolvency and Reconstruction Law Committee. Its members contribute extensively to Law Council of Australia submissions, working groups and other activities. In addition, the committee also contributes to QLS conferences/webinars, advocacy and media enquiries.

The Litigation Rules Committee

This committee has consulted with QLS members, external stakeholders and other policy committees on issues relating to litigation, court processes and protocols, court resources and costs. It is called on for its expert opinions in these areas and provides guidance by way of written submissions and attendances at meetings. Members of the committee build key relationships with the courts, which provides an invaluable opportunity to raise and discuss issues affecting the profession. One of the key areas of advocacy this financial year has been the committee's push for the need for improved use of technology in Queensland courts.

The Mining and Resources Law Committee

This committee has produced 19 submissions in this financial year, often within difficult consultation timeframes. Submissions include a response to the Land Access Ombudsman Bill 2017, the consultation draft of the Mining and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill 2018 and the draft Queensland Solar Farm Guidelines. These submissions have led to QLS appearing at three public hearings, and numerous quotations in *Hansard*.

This committee also assists QLS with its participation in the Land Court's Land Users Reference Group, and has provided submissions to several requests by the court, including on the Mining Objections Hearing Review, the Expert Evidence Guidelines, and the Concurrent Evidence Guidelines.

The government often seeks QLS's advice, assisted by this committee, in both confidential consultation and public consultation drafts of proposed reform.

The Not-for-profit Law Committee

The committee prepared 13 submissions this financial year, including substantial submissions on the review of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, the inquiry into the Electoral Amendment (Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform) Bill 2017 (Cth), and the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Bill 2018 (Cth). The committee was specifically invited to appear before the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Review Panel to speak in more detail on its submission to the review. The committee also contributed to the Law Council of Australia's submissions on enhancing whistleblower protections in the not-for-profit sector and the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Bill 2018 (Cth).

The Occupational Discipline Law Committee

This committee's advocacy work seeks to ensure the rights of individuals in disciplinary proceedings are upheld and that processes and resources, particularly in the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal, are adequate. The committee has assisted in organising and presenting at QLS conferences.

The Planning and Environment Law Committee

The committee has contributed to a number of submissions this year, including the Nature Conservation (Special Wildlife Reserves) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, the draft Queensland Solar Farm Guidelines and the Vegetation Management and Other

Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. The committee also attended the parliamentary public hearing on the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 and subsequently, the Society's submissions were mentioned 25 times in the tabled parliamentary committee report on the bill.

The Property and Development Law Committee

This committee has again had a busy year of contributing to submissions and participating in consultation processes for the benefit of our members. The committee prepared and contributed to 14 formal submissions to inquiries including the Property Law Review process; the Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018; and the Treasury Laws Amendment (2018 Measures No. 1) Bill 2018 (Cth). In addition, the committee launched the new Real Estate Institute Queensland (REIQ)-QLS Commercial Tenancy Contract, consulted with the Australian Taxation Office in relation to proposed GST changes affecting property developers, updated four of the standard REIQ sale of land contracts to take account of significant GST legislation changes, conducted an e-conveyancing survey of the membership, and updated our membership on changes such as the introduction of priority notices by the Titles Office.

The Reconciliation and First Nations Advancement Committee

The committee was established by Council in October 2017, meeting a number of times and producing 12 policy statements and submissions. The committee will continue its work to promote reconciliation and advance First Nations' legal rights and interests into the next financial year.

The Revenue Law Committee

This committee continued their engagement with the Office of State Revenue on changes to the OSRConnect platform and with the Office of State Revenue's Taxation Consultative Committee, which considers technical state-based duties and revenue issues and how they affect our members. The committee has raised a number of practical issues with the Tax Collection Committee and continues to work with the Office of State Revenue in relation to potential clarifications. The committee was also instrumental in contributing to the Society's submission on the Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 which proposes amendments to the *Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act 1988*.

The Succession Law Committee

This committee continued its extensive work in reviewing aspects of the Uniform Civil Procedure Rules relevant to succession practice, and contributed to

submissions on the Guardianship and Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, the confidential review of the Trusts Bill 2013, and the *Property Law Act 1974* review project. The committee continues to liaise regularly with the Supreme Court Probate Registrar to ensure the profession is educated and kept abreast of relevant developments. This committee was instrumental in responding to a request for assistance from the Law Commission of UK and Wales regarding the operation of the dispensing of powers in Queensland.

The Technology and Intellectual Property Committee

This committee has contributed to several submissions, including a response to consultation papers of IP Australia, as well as the Hague Judgment Project – Recognition of Foreign Judgments with respect to copyright infringements. The committee also assisted the Law Council of Australia by providing feedback in response to the Law Council of Australia's cyber-security guideline for members.

Consultation and working groups

The Society was also involved in the following consultation and working groups this year:

- Administrative Appeals Tribunal – Migration Review Tribunal Liaison Group
- Advanced Care Planning
- Bar Association of Queensland
- Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Stakeholders Reference Group
- Court User Reference Group
- Court Liaison Group
- Court Case Management Committee Meeting
- Firearms Advisory Forum
- Land Court Resource Users Groups
- LawRight Management Committee
- Legal Aid Child Protection Stakeholder Forum
- Lexon stakeholder meetings
- Mental Health Tribunal
- National DV Policy Solicitors Network
- Probate Liaison Group
- Queensland Courts Safety and Risk Committee
- Queensland Legal Assistance Forum
- Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group
- Streamlining Criminal Justice Stakeholder Group
- Supreme Court Consultative Group
- Taxation Consultative Committee

Committees	Chair and deputy chair
Access to Justice/Pro Bono Law Committee	Chair: Elizabeth Shearer , Affording Justice Deputy Chair: Steven Herd , MurphySchmidt
Accident Compensation/Tort Law Committee	Chair: Michael Garbett , Moray Agnew Deputy Chair: Luke Murphy , MurphySchmidt
Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee	Chair: Toby Boys , Holding Redlich Deputy Chair: Paul Coves , Coves Litigation
Banking and Financial Services Law Committee	Chair: Michael Anastas , HWL Ebsworth Deputy Chair: Karla Fraser , Allens
Children's Law Committee	Chair: Damian Bartholomew , Youth Advocacy Centre Deputy Chair: Kate Grant , K Grant Solicitors
Competition and Consumer Law Committee	Chair: David Grace , Cooper Grace Ward Deputy Chair: Anthony Haly , HWL Ebsworth
Construction and Infrastructure Law Committee	Chair: Ross Williams , HWL Ebsworth
Corporations Law Committee	Chair: Derek Pocock , McCullough Robertson
Criminal Law Committee	Chair: Kurt Fowler , Fowler Lawyers Deputy Chair: Rebecca Fogerty , Potts Lawyers
Domestic and Family Violence Committee	Chair: Deborah Awyzio , DA Family Law Deputy Chair: Cameron MacKenzie , Gadens
Elder Law Committee	Chair: Kirsty Mackie , KRM Legal
Equity and Diversity Committee	Chair: Ann-Maree David , The College of Law
Ethics Committee*	Chair: Ben Cohen , Bartley Cohen Deputy Chair: Joe Siracusa , Siracusa Legal
Family Law Committee	Chair: Kathy Atkins , Jones Mitchell Deputy Chair: Margie Kruger , Ryan Kruse Lawyers
Franchising Law Committee	Chair: Derek Sutherland , HWL Ebsworth Deputy Chair: Janice Bywaters , Rouse Lawyers
Health and Disability Law Committee	Chair: Karen Williams , Health & Disability Law Chambers Deputy Chair: Simon Brown , Endeavour Foundation
Industrial Law Committee	Chair: Kristin Ramsey , Hynes Legal Deputy Chair: Giri Savaraman , Maurice Blackburn
Insolvency and Reconstruction Law Committee	Chair: Scott Butler , McCullough Robertson
Litigation Rules Committee	Chair: Andrew Shute , Carter Newell Lawyers Deputy Chair: Frances Williams , Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Mining and Resources Law Committee	Chair: James Plumb , Carter Newell Lawyers Deputy Chair: James Minchinton , Sparke Helmore
Not-for-profit Law Committee	Chair: Andrew Lind , Corney & Lind Deputy Chair: Paul Paxton-Hall , Paxton-Hall Lawyers
Occupational Discipline Law Committee	Chair: Calvin Gnech , Queensland Police Union Legal Group Deputy Chair: Andrew Forbes , Lander & Rogers
Planning and Environmental Law Committee	Chair: Michael Connor , Connor O'Meara
Property and Development Law Committee	Chair: Matthew Raven , Gadens Lawyers Deputy Chair: Kim Teague , Cooper Grace Ward Lawyers
Reconciliation and First Nations Advancement Committee	Chair: Linda Ryle , Cultural Advocacy and Legal Mediation Deputy Chair: Deenorah Yellub
Revenue Law Committee	Chair: Duncan Bedford , McCullough Robertson Deputy Chair: David Stitt , Herbert Smith Freehills
Succession Law Committee	Chair: Gary Lanham , Minter Ellison Deputy Chair: Michele Sheehan , Sheehan & Co
Technology and Intellectual Property Law Committee	Chair: Angeline Behan Deputy Chair: Kim Walters , W3IP Law

* Non-policy committee

QLS ETHICS CENTRE

The QLS Ethics Centre (the Centre) provides ethical guidance, practice support and leadership to the Queensland legal profession, as well as providing ongoing professional education. The Centre achieves this via a variety of platforms and products, including confidential telephone consultations with members on specific ethical issues, hands-on practice support visits to individual practices, and Bespoke Ethics Sessions delivered on-site at law firms and QLS events.

The Centre also provides guidance via guidance statements issued through the Ethics Committee, ethics notes published on the QLS website, and thought leadership via the Society's blog LawTalk. We interact significantly with QLS members, and have leveraged this to deliver practical tools, services and support to solicitors and law firms across the length and breadth of the state, as well as providing input to the national legal ethics conversation and policy direction.

The Centre is a key outward-facing and member-engaged area of the Society, providing a touchstone for feedback from the membership and the legal profession in general.

The Centre would like to thank the Ethics Committee for its work over the financial year and in particular would like to acknowledge and thank outgoing Chair Nola Pearce.



Modern Advocate Lecture Series, lecture three, delivered by Justice Peter Applegarth



Modern Advocate Lecture Series, lecture four, delivered by Justice Roslyn G Atkinson AO

Statistics at a glance

Enquiries	Ethics enquiries to the Centre	4259
Education	Bespoke Ethics Sessions	31
	Learning and professional development (including QLS-run District Law Association events)	42
	Practice Management Course	13
	Other presentations (including non-QLS District Law Association events, <i>pro bono</i> events for Legal Aid, government departments, community legal centres and Salvation Army legal)	21
	Universities	15
Practice support	Practice support consultancy service visits	64

Committee chairs

Committee	Chair and deputy chair
Ethics Committee	Chair: Ben Cohen , Bartley Cohen Deputy Chair: Joe Siracusa , Siracusa Legal

Modern Advocate Lecture Series: A return to collegiality

An initiative of QLS 2017 president Christine Smyth, the series offers ethical education and an opportunity to develop collegial networks which are the foundation of our profession. Clearly filling a need, the series has gone from strength to strength, with every session booking out rapidly and on-line viewing growing exponentially. Past lectures are available for download from the Society's website and this product has also proved popular with members.

The series involves presentations on advocacy skills from leading members of the Queensland judiciary and other legal luminaries. Speakers to date include Queensland Chief Justice Catherine Holmes, Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal President Justice Martin Daubney and former Chief Magistrate Di Fingleton. The lectures are followed by a networking session to allow junior members of the profession to network with their peers, and also to connect with senior members of the profession. In addition, invitations target those in law firms who make the briefing decisions, and members of the junior bar, to enable them to make productive connections.

Bespoke Ethics Sessions: Delivering for members

The Centre continued to provide Bespoke Ethics Sessions at no cost to firms who have at least 80% of their solicitors holding QLS membership. These sessions are specifically tailored to the needs of individual firms and continue to provide a vital connection between QLS and its members.

Sessions have been extremely well-received, with feedback rating both the presenters and the material highly, and requests for sessions increasing (including for non-traditional law firms and conferences that target in-house and government solicitors). This has allowed the Centre to increase its profile (and that of the Society) and provide value for QLS members.

QLS senior counsellors: Words from the wise

QLS senior counsellors are passing on their knowledge and wisdom via this service. Members can take advantage of confidential consultations with experienced solicitors in a broad range of practice areas at no cost. Counsellors provide a sounding board and sympathetic ear for practitioners of all experience levels, and can be a professional friend to practitioners isolated by geography or workload.

Tools and products

The Centre continued to produce tools and products for the profession, including the publication of three new guidance statements about termination of retainers, dealing with self-represented litigants and solicitor attorney remuneration. More guidance statements will be published during 2018-19.

The Centre also continued to prioritise the publication of ethics notes on a broad variety of topics, including updating websites and proper salutations in correspondence. We also focused on cyber-security and sexual harassment – two issues that have been of concern to the profession, both locally and abroad, throughout 2017-18. The Centre now has a comprehensive suite of products on cyber-security which help members to resist cyber-attacks and deal with the fallout should attacks be successful.

The Non-Binding Ethics Ruling service also operated throughout the year, providing rulings via the Ethics Committee on a variety of ethical issues between practitioners and firms. The library of rulings is growing, and members are coming to use those rulings in similar situations. The service will continue throughout the coming year and will become an even more valuable resource as more rulings are made and published.

QLS senior counsellors

Area	Counsellor	
Brisbane	Suzanne Cleary	
	Glen Cranny	
	Peter Eardley	
	Peter Jolly	
	Peter Kenny	
	Dr Jeff Mann	
	Justin McDonnell	
	Wendy Miller	
	Terence O'Gorman AM	
	Ross Perrett	
	Bill Potts	
Redcliffe	Bill Purcell	
	Elizabeth Shearer	
	Dr Matthew Turnour	
	Phillip Ware	
	Martin Conroy	
	George Fox	
	Southport	Gary Hutchinson
		Warwick Jones
	Toowoomba	Ross Lee
		Stephen Rees
		Thomas Sullivan
Chinchilla	Kathryn Walker	
	Michele Sheehan	
Caboolture	Kurt Fowler	
	Michael Beirne	
	Pippa Colman	
Sunshine Coast	Glenn Ferguson AM	
	Mark Bray	
Nambour	Anthony Ryan	
	Bernadette Le Grand	
Bundaberg	Chris Trevor	
	Vicki Jackson	
Gladstone	Paula Phelan	
	John Ryan	
Rockhampton	Chris Bowrey	
	Peter Elliott	
	Lucia Taylor	
Cannonvale	Russell Beer	
	Jim Reaston	
	Garth Smith	
Townsville	Peter Apel	
Cairns		
Mareeba		

Practice support: QLS at the coalface

The QLS Practice Support Consultancy Service remains one of the most popular and well-patronised services the Centre provides. The service involves experienced members of the team attending recently established law firms to provide guidance and assistance to these fledgling enterprises. In addition to providing on-the-spot feedback and guidance to new firms, the service establishes a mentoring channel by providing a contact point for the firms as they grow.

The service is a practical and effective option for members and allows new firms to become, and remain, viable leading to a healthier profession and stronger support for clients and the community in general.

Australian Solicitors Conduct Rules

The Australian Solicitors Conduct Rules form the backbone of ethical guidance for the profession. They were initially developed by the constituent bodies of the Law Council of Australia in June 2011, with an extensive Queensland published commentary being added to the rules in 2013. The rules are the go-to reference for solicitors in need of ethical guidance.

A review of the conduct rules is now underway to ensure the rules remain appropriate and current. The Society and the constituent bodies of the Law Council of Australia have undertaken substantial public and targeted consultations.

As a vital Queensland voice in the national ethics conversation, the Centre has been heavily involved in the current review of the conduct rules and has provided a comprehensive response to the discussion paper released by the Law Council of Australia. We continue to engage with the Law Council, its constituent bodies, the Professional Ethics Committee and other stakeholders via this important review.

The Centre's activity in this space has allowed QLS to provide leadership to its members, the profession in general, and the national profession in the vital realm of ethical conduct, which is at the heart of the solicitors' profession.

Workshops: Costs and communications to the fore

Through our constant engagement with membership and the broader profession, the Centre has identified the need for a comprehensive and workable method of properly scoping and planning legal matters. Previous methods of scoping are no longer adequate because clients are now more sophisticated, legal matters are more complex, and technology is presenting new challenges to clients and solicitors alike.

Adequate scoping and management of legal matters – be they transactional, court-based or advice files – are essential to ensure clients are properly informed of all possible outcomes, and that adequate costs disclosure is maintained. Adequate costs disclosure has been a focus of the Legal Services Commissioner, and it has become increasingly important to offer guidance to members in this area.

To address this issue, the Centre is developing a workshop on management of the client–solicitor relationship, costs and billing estimation, and client communications. We are training ethics solicitors in this method, and the Centre will begin to deliver the workshops throughout the state across the coming financial year.

These workshops will provide practical training in estimating costs, planning the management of files, and communicating effectively with clients on billings and progress. The aim is to ensure better outcomes for clients and increasing firm productivity.

Thought leadership

The Centre continued to be a thought leader of sustainable, ethical vision for the profession through the work of our Ethics Committee. We also published significantly across many platforms, including the Director's regular column and feature article collaborations in *Proctor*. The Centre also continued to be the major contributor to the Society's blog *LawTalk*, and we used platforms such as LinkedIn to promote specific ethics notes and products in response to issues as they arose.

The Director and individual solicitors of the Centre regularly attend and advise QLS policy and other committees. Engaging directly with membership in this way broadens the scope of the Centre's influence and guidance, and contributes positively to the competence of the legal profession in Queensland, and in general.

Solicitor Advocate Course: Preparing members for the future of law

Increasingly, solicitors are acting as advocates in court, especially in lower courts and tribunals. Given the growth of bespoke tribunals and the ever-increasing workload of the courts, the work of solicitors will now include a significant amount of advocacy.

To address this need, the Centre has started to deliver a Solicitor Advocate Course in conjunction with the Australian Advocacy Institute. The course covers essential advocacy skills including:

- presenting applications and injunctions
- developing case theory
- preparing and delivering effective examination and cross-examination
- preparing and delivering logical and persuasive opening and closing submissions
- communicating in the courtroom
- advocating in an ethical way.

The course is delivered *in situ* in actual courthouses, with participation from judges, senior lawyers and academics, all of whom are accredited with the Australian Advocacy Institute. Participants receive expert feedback and guidance following their performances and leave the course with an expanded skill set, and better prepared to represent clients. They can also elect to do further courses concentrating on higher court work and appeals.

The cost of the course is subsidised to ensure junior and early career solicitors can afford to participate. The course has proved extremely popular, and sells out quickly with each new offering; an indication that the course is meeting a genuine need of members.

REGULATION*

In the 2017-18 year Regulation continued its focus on limitation of liability, renewals and record management.

The records team was transferred to Regulation in February 2017, and successfully renewed through to July 2017. After that renewal, we recruited and trained a new records team, with the result being a measurably improved performance. From September 2017 to April 2018 the records team worked with the information management team and finance to build a new renewals process. The result was marked improvement on the 2017 model, and a much better renewals was run in 2018 – plus we now have a platform we can confidently use in the future. We will continue to work on rebuilding the registers of solicitors and foreign lawyers and put in place the necessary safeguards to ensure the privacy of members' personal information. During the year QLS also moved our solicitors' referral service completely online. Technical issues mean we have been unable to access data that would measure historical hits on the site, but anecdotally we believe the move has been a success. In August 2017, after renewals had quietened, Regulation spent three weeks examining 60,000 folders of documents on our computer system, and giving them *prima facie* archiving classifications, and provided an estimate of how long it would take to classify each document in each folder.

The Queensland Government amended the *Legal Profession Act 2007* to produce the new *Legal Profession Act 2017*, which brought the welcome change that incorporated legal practices could become members of the Society, and therefore members of the Limitation of Liability Scheme, which is administered by the Professional Standards Council. While amending the scheme to accommodate this development, we discovered some other aspects that needed review. It was determined that, since the scheme began in 2011, the Society had administered it contrary to both the law and the Scheme itself in that the Society had required members to elect to join the scheme. The correct administration was that all qualified members were in the scheme unless they opted out. Accordingly, the Society has drawn an amended scheme, which is awaiting ratification by the Professional Standards Council. We expect that in the coming year, incorporated legal practices will be able to benefit from the scheme, thus increasing protection for our members. The Society advised all members of the error, gave an apology and, in 2018, corrected the error. The membership responded by opting into the scheme in greater numbers than they had before. We will continue over 2018-19 to overhaul and update our conduct of the scheme.

There were 22 show cause matters reported by practitioners this year, up from 15 and 12 reported over the past two years, respectively. This increase was caused by a higher incidence of bankruptcy among practitioners. The Society also issued 10 show cause notices, up from six in 2016-17. We also undertook an immediate suspension of one practitioner's practising certificate under s63 of the Act. A significant number of these cases have mental health as a contributing factor.

The Society also recorded a large increase (135%) in practitioners being charged with serious offences. There were 17 this year, up from seven last year. The Society continued to offer our Free Legal Advice Service to practitioners who were the subject of a complaint to the Legal Services Commission or an adverse trust account investigation. The total cost of that service for the 2017-18 year was \$144,007 which benefited 65 individual practitioners, down from 98 last year. This coming year the Society will appoint more solicitors to the panel providing that service. These solicitors will be located in areas outside of Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

External interventions

The Society intervenes in a law practice when the property of clients is at risk. During 2017-18, QLS was required to intervene in five law practices: three receiverships and two appointments of supervisors to the law practice trust accounts. External interventions are currently responsible for approximately 32 trust accounts, with the number varying monthly with new appointments and the closure of old trust accounts. Seven trust accounts were closed, and 342 trust ledger balances totalling \$300,806 were cleared. The supervisors approved 2026 distributions from trust accounts under supervision.

Committee chairs

Committee	Chair and deputy chair
Committee of Management	Chair: Tricia Schmidt , MurphySchmidt Solicitors
Professional Conduct Committee	Chair: Tricia Schmidt , MurphySchmidt Solicitors Deputy Chair: Deborah Awyzio , DA Family Lawyers

Trust accounts

The trust account consultancy service is free and delivered to law practices, particularly new practices, over half a day. It is comprised of a visit from a trust account investigator, the examination of trust accounting procedures and the provision of advice on improvements that can be put in place, as well as identifying areas where existing procedures do not meet the required standard.

The service helps law practices get things right without the consequences of an investigation, and is independent of the investigations of affairs under the *Legal Profession Act 2007*. As at 30 June 2018, 59 law practices had used the consultancy service during the year.

The Society was instrumental in introducing changes to the Legal Profession Regulation 2017, which was introduced on 1 September 2017:

- s29(1) allows a law practice that maintains computerised trust accounting records to retain monthly reports (cashbooks, reconciliation statements, listing of ledger balances and listing of controlled money) in an electronic format as long as the reports can be printed later upon request
- s58 provides clarification around the procedure and requirements for the withdrawing of trust funds for the payment of legal costs.

To further maintain the high standard of trust account practice, the Society has established a remedial course for law practices that do not meet the required standard, over a period of two or more investigations of affairs. The principal of the practice responsible for the trust account is the referred party. The Legal Practice Tribunal, the Legal Practice Committee and the Legal Services Commission may also refer practitioners to the course.

The trust account information service answered 4973 requests for assistance during the year, which equates to 2.76 requests for each law practice with a trust account in Queensland. A same-day request response was delivered for 99% of queries.

* Formerly Professional Leadership

MENTAL HEALTH, WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE

The Society's Wellbeing Working Group is the primary group for leading wellbeing initiatives, with a focus is on providing the legal profession with guidance, education, events and publications on mental health and wellbeing.

A key research initiative this year has been a six question survey that has been introduced at various wellbeing events and as part of the Society's Practice Management Course (PMC), which is mandatory for anyone seeking to hold a principal practising certificate. The survey is comprised of the following questions:

1. Does your organisation have a mental health and wellbeing policy?
2. Does your organisation provide awareness training on common mental health conditions in the legal profession?
3. Does your organisation provide leadership training that addresses mental health and wellbeing issues?
4. If you were experiencing a mental health issue, do you feel that your organisation is equipped to help you manage it effectively?
5. Does your organisation provide training to staff and supervisors on how to have a wellbeing conversation?
6. Would you feel comfortable talking to your direct supervisor about your mental health?

Over 200 delegates have completed this survey and the findings help inform the development of interventions and initiatives, to better support the profession.

In 2016-17 the Society developed and commenced the rollout of the 'leading wellbeing in the legal profession' program with the Centre for Corporate Health, and this has continued in 2017-18. This program has been specifically designed for supervisors in the legal profession to address the statistic that 60% of employees' wellbeing at work is predicted by the quality of their relationship with their direct manager. The program is offered as a core syllabus to Society members and is a mandatory module of the PMC.

As part of its yearly professional development program, the Society offers a range of sessions on wellbeing, resilience and mental health with the following delivered in 2017-18:

- QLS and Family Law Practitioners Association Family Law Residential: The cost of experiencing vicarious trauma in family – what family lawyers need to know (July 2017)
- Mindful leadership for legal organisations as part of Mental Health Awareness Week (October)
- QLS Personal Injuries Conference: A path to wellbeing in the legal profession (October 2017)
- Annual Tristan Jepson Memorial Foundation lecture event featuring keynote speaker Jerome Doraisamy (November 2017)
- How to be a resilient lawyer (February 2018)
- Dealing with difficult clients and colleagues (February 2018)
- QLS Symposium 2018: Professionalism in the court room (March 2018)
- QLS Symposium 2018: Vicarious trauma – dealing with distressed clients (March 2018)
- QLS Open Day: Managing vicarious trauma for the legal and justice sector (May 2018)
- Mental health breakfast: Panel discussion – do no harm (May 2018)
- Early Career Lawyer mental health breakfast: Panel discussion – resilience and wellbeing (June 2018)
- 'Leading wellbeing in the legal profession' as part of our regional roadshows
 - North Queensland Roadshow (August)
 - Rockhampton Intensive (Oct 2017)
 - Roma workshop (March 2018)
- 'Leading wellbeing in the legal profession' program as part of the Society's Practice Management Course (various dates throughout 2017-18), funded by Queensland Law Foundation

We continue to support Minds Count (renamed from the Tristan Jepson Memorial Foundation) and its objectives to decrease work-related distress, depression and anxiety in the legal community and promote workplace psychological wellbeing. The Society is a signatory to the Minds Count Psychological Wellbeing Best Practice Guidelines and welcomes its adoption by law firms.

The Society's online resilience and wellbeing portal on the website provides information and support tools for individuals and organisations within the legal profession to manage the pressures of work and life. Tools include factsheets, videos, publications, the Minds Count guidelines and information about the LawCare program. There is also a dedicated section for wellbeing and resilience resources for organisations to further assist in the development of healthy and supportive legal workplaces of varying sizes.

LawCare

LawCare is a QLS member benefit and is a confidential, personal benefit available to all full and associate Society members, their staff and immediate family members.

Externally provided by Benestar, the service provides free access to up to six hours of counselling per year, plus a wealth of resources on Benehub. This recently added online resource allows QLS members to access a vast library of learning modules, podcasts, videos, meditations, articles, blogs, self-assessments, activities, animations and resource toolkits.

During 2017-18, 337 Society members, their staff or immediate family accessed LawCare.

- There were 332 EmployeeAssist cases recorded during the member year comprising both personal and work-related issues.
- Psychological issues were the most frequently presented – 113 cases in total with anxiety, depression and personal stress the highest categories.
- With respect to work-related issues, the vocational category recorded 54 reported cases, with issues relating work satisfaction representing the largest proportion in this category.
- ManagerAssist reported five cases in this period.

Working group chair

Working group	Chair
Wellbeing Working Group	Rolf Moses, Norton Rose Fullbright (until March 2018 upon his appointment as QLS Chief Executive Officer) Phil Ware, Stanwell Corporation (March 2018 to present)

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

On 5 July 2017 the Queensland Law Society launched its inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan 2017-19. Over the financial year, the Society strengthened its commitment to reconciliation by raising awareness of First Nations issues, increasing engagement with Elders, First Nations peoples, organisations and legal stakeholders, as well as exploring ways to increase opportunities for First Nations peoples. The Society thanks the RAP Working Group for its work over the financial year. A summary of our action items and important successes are set out below.

- Proper deadly** (Exceeded target) ●
- Deadly** (Target achieved) ●
- On the way to deadly** (On track) ●
- Which way?** (Target not achieved) ●

	Action items	Grade (weighted average)	Key findings
RELATIONSHIPS	1. The QLS RAP Working Group (RAPWG) actively monitors RAP development and implementation of actions, tracking progress and reporting	●	Achieved and continuing into the second year RAP, with strong representation of First Nations peoples and First Nations practitioners.
	2. Celebrate and participate in National Reconciliation Week (NRW) by providing opportunities to build and maintain relationships between First Nations peoples and other Australians.	●	Celebration, participation and recognition of NRW through staff morning tea and keynote address a success, with consideration to expanding reach to a wider/public event for members.
	3. Develop and maintain mutually beneficial relationships with First Nations peoples, communities and organisations to support positive outcomes	●	On track and continuing into the second year RAP, as the Society continues to develop and maintain mutually beneficial and respectful relationships with Elders, the First Nations community and First Nations stakeholders and organisations.
	4. Raise internal and external awareness of our RAP to promote reconciliation across our business and sector	●	Achieved and continuing into the second year RAP, with a focus on RAP on-boarding, articles published online, in social media and in <i>Proctor</i> as well as supporting and hosting First Nations events of cultural and legal significance.
RESPECT	5. Engage employees in cultural learning opportunities to increase understanding and appreciation of First Nations cultures, histories and achievements	●	Successful roll-out of cultural awareness training for staff with suggestions to increase awareness in specific cultural areas, cultural safety awareness and policy.
	6. Engage employees to promote understanding of the significance of First Nations cultural protocols, such as Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country, to ensure there is a shared meaning	●	Achieved with Acknowledgment of Country embedded in event and speech brief processes, Acknowledgment of Country recognised at formal QLS meetings and external events and awareness and information about protocols published on the Society website.
	7. Provide opportunities for First Nations staff to engage with their culture and communities by celebrating NAIDOC Week	●	Achieved and strongly supported with the RAP launch and NAIDOC stand encouraged and celebrated by Society staff.

Working group chairs

Working group	Chair and deputy chair
Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group	Chair: Shane Duffy , Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld) Ltd Deputy Chair: Bianca Hill-Jarro , QUT



Attendees at QLS launch of Innovate RAP 2017-19

	Action items	Grade (weighted average)	Key findings
OPPORTUNITIES	8. Investigate opportunities to improve and increase First Nations employment outcomes within our workplace	●	Achieved and continuing into the second year RAP, with advertising and encouraging First Nation candidates, employment metrics reporting as well as to investigate funding and strategy to advance this initiative into the next financial year.
	9. Investigate opportunities to incorporate First Nations supplier diversity within our organisation	●	Achieved with the implementation of the QLS Procurement policy to support First Nations supplier procurement where possible and staff training, with this initiative continuing into the second year RAP.
	10. Improve educational outcomes for First Nations students	●	This action item is a long-term strategy in which the Society has begun a good foundation in advancing its Lawlink program, creation of a First Nations Legal Student of the year award and advancing partnerships with legal tertiary and secondary institutions.
	11. Support First Nations solicitors and the broader legal profession	●	This action item is also a longer term strategy, with some action items to commence in the second year. The Society is positioned to support First Nations solicitors and the broader legal profession by raising awareness about cultural issues and raising the profile of First Nations practitioners. Further long-term focus is centred on retention strategies for First Nations people in the legal profession.
	12. Support internal staff and the wider Queensland community	●	The Society has rolled out activities and events for staff and the community and is continuing its work in supporting internal staff in raising awareness about reconciliation as well supporting the First Nations and wider community in advancing legal and First Nations advocacy. The newly established RFNAC has already dispatched 12 policy positions in supporting the wider Queensland community.
TRACKING	13. Report RAP achievements, challenges and learnings to Reconciliation Australia	●	Achieved and in progress to report to Reconciliation Australia in 2018-19.
	14. Report RAP achievements, challenges and learnings internally and externally		Initiative to be undertaken in 2018-19.
	15. Review, refresh and update RAP		Initiative to be undertaken in 2018-19.

Our important achievements at a glance include:

- **Successful endorsement by Reconciliation Australia of the Society's inaugural RAP in May 2017.**
- **Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group** – 91% of members identify as First Nations peoples and 90% of members are also legal practitioners.
- **Establishment of inaugural QLS Reconciliation and First Nations Advancement Committee (RFNAC)** – the RFNAC has been created to further the QLS's commitment to the RAP. The Committee's purpose is to advocate and raise awareness for reconciliation and advancement of First Nations community legal rights and interests. Since October 2017 to June 2018, the RFNAC has submitted 12 positions to policy reform.
- **Cultural awareness training** – the Society has successfully introduced cultural awareness training to its staff, which was rolled out during the first half of 2018 by Indigenous consultant Tom Kirk. The sessions engaged employees in cultural learning opportunities to increase awareness of First Nations cultures, histories, achievements and protocols.
- **LawLink support** – the LawLink program was established in 2004 and aims to bridge the cultural divide between Indigenous law students and the legal profession. Students gain insight into the profession through formal and informal meetings and site visits to law firms, barristers' chambers, community legal centres and various courts. The program generally runs twice a year, however, we held two events in March 2018. The first event was held as part of the QLS Careers Expo, where the students met the QLS CEO and staff and gained early access to the expo and resume services (ahead of 700 other students). The second event was hosted by the Women's Legal Service, a community legal centre which offers free legal and social work services to Queensland women. Queensland Law Society hosted LawLink at Law Society House in October 2017.
- **Yarning circles** – Society staff engaged in a Yarning Circle during National Reconciliation Week 2018 to encourage staff to come together and share stories of their experiences and understanding of Aboriginal culture and traditional practices. This harmonious, creative and collaborative way of sharing stories helps to grow and understand the real meaning of reconciliation. A permanent feature of a Yarning Circle will continue on a monthly basis for staff.
- **Human resources** – the Society has implemented RAP on-boarding for all new staff to raise awareness about reconciliation and the Society's commitments set out in the RAP. New staff will be required to complete the 'Share our Pride' online learning resource as a mandatory part of the on-boarding process.

- **QLS First Nations Awards** – in 2018, QLS conferred the following inaugural awards:
 - QLS First Nations Student of the Year award – presented to an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander individual for outstanding achievements in the law and for pursuing justice outcomes in the legal profession for First Nations People in Queensland. The award winner is Nareeta Davis. While enjoying the challenges of working in insolvency for 24 years, Nareeta always wanted to be a solicitor. Nareeta is proud to demonstrate to her children and the community, with whom she regularly volunteers and engages, the importance of academic study and to follow your dreams by overcoming adversity. Nareeta will be admitted as a solicitor in 2018 and will pursue a Masters Degree in Applied Law in 2018.
 - QLS First Nations Lawyer of the Year award – presented to an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander individual for outstanding achievements in the law and for pursuing justice outcomes in the legal profession for First Nations People in Queensland. The award winner is Leah Cameron, the current recipient of the Attorney General's Indigenous Legal Practitioner of the Year Award and the owner of Marrawah Law, Queensland's only Supply Nation-certified Indigenous legal practice. Leah's business employs over 75% Indigenous staff.
- **Symposium** – welcome to Country and core CPD session: At the Society's flagship conference, Symposium, Shannon Ruska addressed the large audience and engaged the members as part of his Welcome to Country, with great support and feedback from attendees. In addition, one of the core CPD sessions was 'Avoiding faux pas: Communicating with diverse clients'. The panel included lawyers with experience working in Asia and Ruth Link, Senior Manager, Portfolio and Program Management Advisory and Indigenous Sector Practice, Ernst & Young.

- **Continuing Professional Development** – in July 2017 and June 2018, the Society offered two complimentary CPD events for members:
 - **Webstreamed workshop: 'Communicating with Indigenous Queenslanders in Legal Contexts' by Dr Diana Eades** – advising how linguistic and cultural factors should be taken into account when practitioners work with Indigenous clients.
 - **First Nations and cognitive impairment: Intervention economics** – discussing whether it is fair to incarcerate a cognitively impaired person when the court, prosecution and even defence are unaware of that impairment. Two expert presenters are dealing with this topic and discussing First Nations youth who present with cognitive impairment.
- **Supporting the appointment of Queensland's first Indigenous judge** – the Society acknowledged and applauded the appointment of Judge Nathan Jarro, Queensland's first Indigenous judge, to the District Court. We continue to advocate for the increase in First Nations representation on the bench.
- **A Law Society first** – MyQLS leading the way in membership and cultural identification autonomy: The Society is a strong advocate for self-autonomy and cultural identification of First Nations lawyers and now, as a Law Society first, features a capability on the MyQLS profile to allow this function:

- **Promoting and recognising our First Nations peoples at all formal QLS meetings, external events as well as through our website, email signature of Acknowledgment of Country and display of First Nations artwork at Queensland Law Society House**
- **Raising awareness online and through Proctor** – the Society has a dedicated RAP page outlining its progress in its Reconciliation Action Plan as well as setting out resources and articles. In addition to our online presence, the increase of First Nations legal issues and profiling of First Nations Practitioners has been published in *Proctor* over the financial year
- **Increase in participation and support of Cultural Events** – the Society has actively encouraged staff and the membership to participate in nationally recognised cultural dates as well as to immerse themselves in community events.
- **Society publications** – the Society has developed a number of publications in support of reconciliation including a Welcome to Country Protocol, RAP Firm 101 checklist and a Cultural Calendar for staff and the Profession to access online at qls.com.au/rap

First Nation Peoples (optional)

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.

<p>Do you identify as being:</p>	<p>Please provide the name of your People or Country:</p>	<p>Tick here if you consent for this information to be displayed online on the QLS register of solicitors</p> <p style="text-align: right;">No</p>
----------------------------------	---	--



Attendees at the Elders morning tea to acknowledge the 10th anniversary of the apology to the Stolen Generations



Launch of QLS RAP

OUR LEGACY FOR RECONCILIATION: EMBEDDING OUR COMMITMENT TO RECONCILIATION AT QUEENSLAND LAW SOCIETY HOUSE

Cultural recognition and inclusivity is an important focus of the Society, with our commitment to ensuring reconciliation in action being observed and present in our everyday activities at Law Society House. One of many of these acts has been through internal changes that reflect a cultural presence.

'Harmony' by Mitch Shannon

In the development of the action plan, our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Working Group member Mitch Shannon, First Nations solicitor and artist, bequeathed his painting aptly named 'Harmony'. After obtaining permission, the artwork was subsequently transferred onto a canvas print and has been used as the inaugural Innovate RAP imagery. The Society continues to showcase this artwork both at Law Society House and across various visual media, upholding the artist's belief that in order to understand and support each other we must share our stories, our triumphs and our suffering and accept that each other's culture and history are an important part of our national identity.

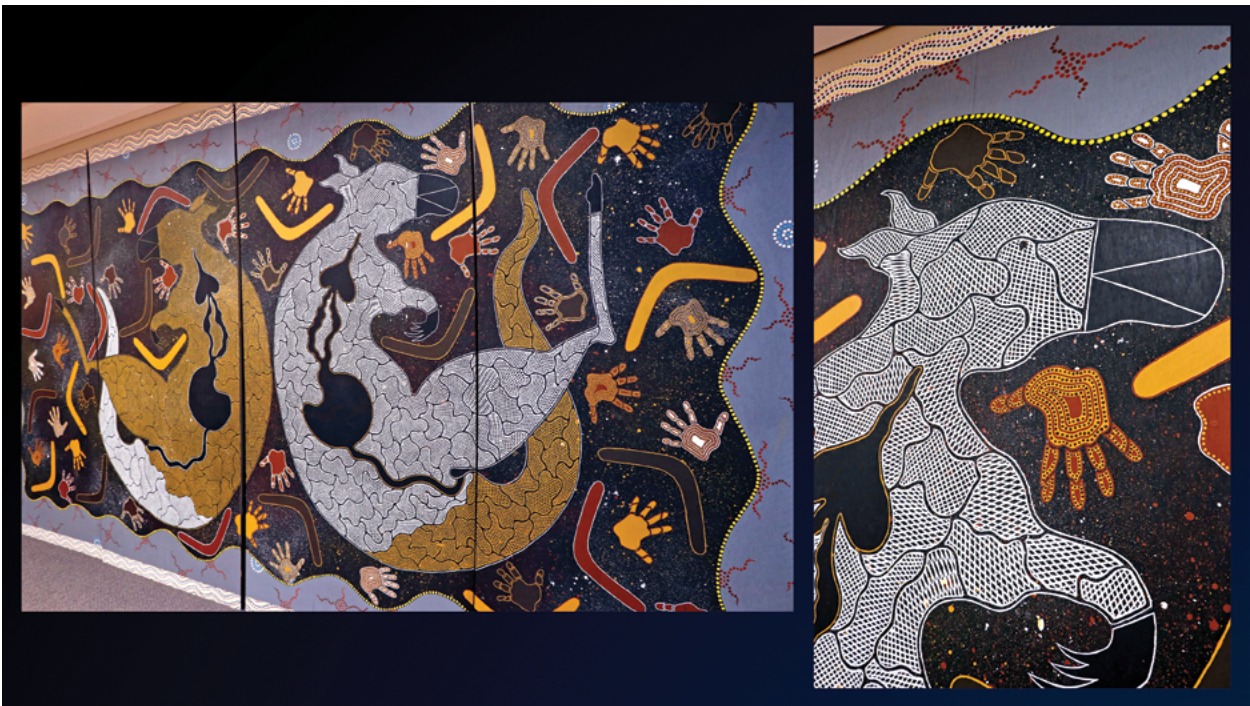
Jurungal room

The print canvas, 'Harmony' has been the centrepiece of Jurungal room, a room used by patrons within the legal industry and members for mediation and other alternative dispute resolution purposes. Jurungal means serenity' in Yuggera language and dedicating a language name to a room ensures that culturally significant practices have a permanent and visible place within the fabric of our organisation. A poem of the meaning written in in language is also featured in Jurungal room.



Our Acknowledgment of Country

The Society goes further to embed and uphold the importance of language and culture by permanently affixing an enlarged Acknowledgement of Country on the reception level windows. The unveiling was celebrated with a special morning tea with Elders in February 2018 to pay tribute to the 10-year anniversary of the Apology by former Prime Minister, the Hon. Kevin Rudd to the Stolen Generations, and was a well-attended and respected event. There have been other significant developments to the public interface on the QLS website, devoting a First Nations webpage where culturally appropriate information and resources for our members and the public can be accessed, as well as regular updates that provide insight to culturally inclusive practices and progress of our reconciliation action plan.



Mural

Another extraordinary display of cultural expression that exudes the spirit of reconciliation is located at Law Society House. The Society recognises and thanks Terry Stedman, QLS awards winner* and First Nations Committee member, for donating an extensive and impressive mural from the Logan Ganyjuu Family Support Service in May 2017, which now adorns the entire wall of our level 3 Board conference room. We encourage members and guests to appreciate the mural and other First Nations artwork that we have on display at Law Society House.

*QLS 2018 Equity Advocate Award winner as well as the Community Legal Centre Member of the Year award winner.

MEDIA

Queensland Law Society again increased and improved our media reach and activity during the past year to guarantee a stronger and clearer voice both nationally and throughout Queensland on the key legal topics to have lasting impacts on the profession and wider community.

The external media team from the newly created Policy, Public Affairs and Governance division maintained and extended its role during 2017-18 to provide greater expert and explanatory commentary, myriad policy and advocacy views and education on the law from the Society's key office holders, our committee heads and members.

The team, which evolved from the External Affairs Division created in 2016, has been proactive in engaging and encouraging mainstream media to tap into QLS's more than 13,000 members when seeking authoritative and insightful comment on various complex legal issues and publicly debated topics.

This ongoing and ever-evolving strategy is designed and dedicated to guarantee media will make the Society its first point of contact for advice on who is an opinion leader or expert for comment on all legal matters. QLS has provided proactive media on diverse topics including cyber-security in conveyancing and legal financial transactions, claims farming, an ongoing campaign in support of elder abuse prevention, the appointment of Queensland's first Indigenous District Court judge and the Queensland Supreme Court's landmark decision granting a woman the right to start a family using the sperm of a boyfriend who died almost two years earlier.

Extending our outstanding reputation and reach

Our increased activity has netted positive results, with 2834 mentions of Queensland Law Society in media reports: 1634 in broadcast media, 262 in print media and 938 online. The Society also produced 48 media releases. Our coverage represents an increase of 41 percent over the previous year's record-breaking result.

Leading established media outlets to publish content or comment mentioning QLS included:

- **Print:** *The Courier-Mail*, *The Australian*, Quest Community Newspapers, Australian Regional Newspapers
- **Broadcast:** National, Metro and Regional – Channel 9, Channel 7, Channel 10, ABC TV; and on radio, 4BC and Fairfax Media Network, as well as regional radio
- **Online:** ABC, *Brisbane Times*, *The Courier-Mail*, *The Guardian*, Quest Community Newspapers, Australian Regional Newspapers, *The Australian*, and News Limited and Fairfax national mastheads.

Supplying expert media to QLS membership and profession

The Policy, Public Affairs and Governance division has been active in supplying and inviting members to benefit from the team's advice and ideas on how to best engage with the media across Queensland and Australia. Members of the team have spoken in various forums and meetings with key stakeholders, QLS committees and members to discuss and provide advice on how to best secure positive and substantial media coverage and relationships.

