

3 August 2022

Our ref: KB-LRC

Dr James Popple  
Chief Executive Officer  
Law Council of Australia  
19 Torrens Street  
Braddon ACT 2612

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Dr Popple

#### **Joint Costs Advisory Committee Inquiry 2022**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments for inclusion in the Law Council of Australia's (LCA) submission to the Joint Costs Advisory Committee (JCAC) in relation to its 2022 Inquiry into Legal Practitioners' Scale of Costs.

The Queensland Law Society (QLS) supports the recommendations made in the LCA's previous submission. Given current inflation, we agree the scales of costs need to be updated as proposed. We also consider a process needs to be implemented so that the scales are reviewed and updated more regularly.

We support updating the National Guide to Counsel fees. In doing so however, the levels allowed for solicitors should also be updated to ensure that counsel and solicitors remain broadly in step.

We note the LCA's previous submission, at paragraph 7 stated:

*The Committee should consider the need for a greater level of parity between the pay scales for barristers, as between the respective State and Territory jurisdictions on the one hand, and the Federal Courts on the other.*

QLS generally supports this submission, but we note in Queensland, there are not generally separate pay scales for barristers.

If you have any queries regarding the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact our Legal Policy team via [REDACTED].

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]  
Kara Thomson  
President