

28 July 2026

Our ref: [LP:LR]

Dr James Popple
Chief Executive Officer
Law Council of Australia
Level 1, MODE 3
24 Lonsdale Street
Braddon ACT 2612

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Dr Popple

Federal Court of Australia Transcription Services

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Federal Court of Australia's Transcription Services. The Queensland Law Society (QLS) appreciates being consulted on this important issue.

This response has been prepared with input from the QLS Litigation Rules Committee whose members have substantial expertise in this area.

In the past, our members have noted significant issues surrounding prompt access to court transcripts provided by transcription services in State Courts. Therefore, timely access to audio recordings and transcripts at a discounted cost would be of significant value to both practitioners and parties in the Federal Court. It is unclear whether the suggestion is to enable practitioners and users to access an audio recording to produce their own transcript or whether the Courts are proposing to produce the transcript using a transcription service (including AI tools).

In considering the use of any AI tools, it is likely that transcription services can produce sufficient transcripts for most purposes. QLS notes human-verified transcripts may still be necessary for complex matters where transcriptions are relied on during multi-day hearings or in appeals or if practitioners review an AI-assisted transcription and have reason to query its accuracy. An efficient process should be developed to enable checking a transcript against the recording in these circumstances, whether by the practitioner or by a Court officer.

However, our members do highlight safeguards are required in the use of artificial intelligence in this setting.

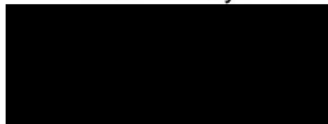
QLS would expect that the Court, practitioners and parties would seek assurance that confidentiality will be maintained at all times and that transcripts are not entered into public-facing AI tools, nor being used to train large language models. Similar expectations should apply to transcription providers. Having sufficient safeguards in place when using AI tools would ensure that the security and confidentiality of court proceedings is maintained.

Federal Court of Australia Transcription Services

Subject to these considerations, QLS supports the Federal Court continuing to explore opportunities to improve the accessibility, timeliness, and cost-effectiveness of transcription services through the adoption of appropriate technologies and service delivery models.

If you have any queries regarding the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact our Legal Policy team via policy@qls.com.au or by phone on [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully



Peter Jolly
President