



Annual Report

2023/24



Acknowledgement of Country

The Law Society of Western Australia respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live and work, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Artist: Marlia Miyalan Fatnowna

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All social photos courtesy of The Scene Team and the Law Society of Western Australia. Images of the Old Court House Law Museum courtesy of Bo Wong.

Who We Are

The Law Society of Western Australia is the peak professional association for lawyers in Western Australia. The Law Society is a not-for-profit association dedicated to the representation of its members and to the enhancement of the legal profession.

For the period between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2026, the Law Society has adopted a new Strategic Plan 2023-2026, which is outlined below.

- The Society's **vision** is to be the essential membership for the legal profession.
- The Society's **purpose** is to be the voice of the legal profession in Western Australia.

The Society's vision is supported by the introduction of a **mission statement**:

- To deliver strong advocacy, high-value networking, education and support services for the West Australian legal profession.

This Strategic Plan will be ultimately delivered through the achievement of three new strategic imperatives:

- To be an **influential voice**, enabling members and community to stay informed and represented
- To be an **essential support** to legal professionals, empowering them to do their best work
- To be a **central point for connections** across the profession, industry and community.

This Strategic Plan 2023 – 2026 reflects key stakeholders' needs and expectations and provides a clear focus and direction for the future for the Society. To read more about the Strategic Plan 2023-2026, please [click here](#).



President's Report

Paula Wilkinson

This financial year, the Law Society has continued to work hard to ensure its members are well informed, supported and engaged.

Our new [Strategic Plan](#) reflects stakeholders' needs and expectations and provides a clear focus and direction for the future. Our vision, mission and purpose is realised through three strategic imperatives:

- To be an influential voice for our members and the community;
- To be an essential support to legal professionals and;
- To be a central point for connections across the profession, industry and community.

Attracting record membership numbers in the reporting period, we have worked hard to maintain a sustainable financial performance, enabling us to deliver upon these imperatives.

I am pleased to report that our overall member satisfaction rate remains above 85%, while our annual membership growth remains within our 2-5% annual growth target.

Influential Voice for Members

The Law Society remains a strong advocacy voice for the profession and is currently focusing on multiple areas of law reform. Our work in this area is underpinned by the Law Society's 32 specialist committees who advise and contribute to our advocacy process. Please read further about this work in our [Influential Voice](#) section of this report.

In 2023/24, the Law Society maintained a strong public advocacy presence on matters concerning or affecting members, including the following:

Juvenile Detention

In October 2023, the Law Society welcomed a Crime and Corruption Commission announcement that it would investigate circumstances surrounding the first juvenile suicide in prison custody in this State. While the report, delivered in June 2024, did not make adverse findings against officers there on the night of the incident, the Law Society remains concerned about conditions of

juvenile detention and is continuing to advocate, strongly, for the closure of Unit 18, at Casuarina Prison, where the teenager died.

Our advocacy intensified after a Supreme Court of WA ruling that the State repeatedly broke the law with its lockdown treatment of three children in the Banksia Hill Detention Centre, and that similar treatment of some children housed in Unit 18 was also against the law.

Judicial Commission

The Law Society continued its push for the establishment of an independent Judicial Commission, which would investigate complaints against members of the judiciary. Currently, the complaints are managed by heads of jurisdiction, leaving them open to accusations of bias, or unconscious bias.

Freedom of Information Changes

In June 2024, the Law Society welcomed recommendations from the report 'The Culture of Implementing Freedom of Information in Australia' into the functioning of Freedom of Information offices across Australia.

The report called for proactive information release to be normal practice and for better skills and training for public servants in the area of Freedom of Information. To read more about this report, please [click here](#).

In April 2024, the Law Society wrote to WA Attorney General John Quigley, expressing concern about the time being taken by the Office of Information Commissioner (OIC) for external review under the Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA) (FOI Act) and calling for reform to the processes and procedures under the WA FOI system – branding it ineffective and impractical.

Media Attention

My opinion pieces also attracted strong media attention during the year and you can read these as follows:

- The West Australian – [Kids' jail must be last resort](#) – 25 April 2024;

- The West Australian – [There's far more to be done in law reform on sexual violence](#) – 20 May 2024;
- The West Australian – [It's an easy fix that would save lives. Why has it taken 33 years?](#) – 6 June 2024

The Society's advocacy extended to key stakeholder meetings throughout the year with members of the Council Executive.

We had very helpful and productive meetings with a range of stakeholders, including heads of jurisdictions, including the Chief Judge of the Family Court of Western Australia and Family Law Practitioners Association of Perth; the Attorney General of Western Australia; the Joint LSWA/ WA Bar Association meeting with Chief Justice Mortimer - Federal Court of Australia; the Shadow Minister for Justice; and meeting the Chair and Director of Legal Aid WA.



Susie Moir - Law Society, the Attorney General the Hon John Quigley MLA, Paula Wilkinson – 2024 President of the Law Society, Gary Mack – Senior Vice President Law Society, Judy McLean – Junior Vice President Law Society, David Davidson – Chair Criminal Law Committee, Angie Gimisis – Council Member Law Society

Essential Support to the Legal Profession

The Law Society provides member services across key priority areas for the profession which support professional learning, practice management, risk management and contribute vital services to the community.

Accreditation for Wills and Estates Practitioners

At their May 2024 meeting, the Law Society Council resolved to expand the Accreditation scheme from the area of Family Law, which is currently the only area of specialist accreditation on offer by the Law Society, to include Wills and Estates law. A pilot Wills and Estates accreditation programme will be offered, in partnership with the Law Institute of Victoria, in 2025.

This is a major initiative for the Law Society in-line with the Society's Strategic Plan. I want to thank members of the Law Society Accreditation Committee and Elder Law Committee for their submissions to the Council.



Specialist Accreditation provides practitioners with the opportunity to be recognised formally as having an enhanced level of competency in their field, a high standard of professionalism, and a commitment to ongoing expertise development through continuing legal education.

Central Point for Connections

The Law Society brings people together across the profession, industry and community via a range of engaging opportunities to connect and support the legal profession.

Committees

The Law Society's standing committees guide our advocacy work through sharing their specific expertise, experience and perspectives. The committees' 375 members practice across many areas of law relevant to the Law Society's business and advocacy. This includes access to justice and the Rule of Law at a State and Federal level.

Being a member of a committee enables members to develop a deeper understanding of various areas of law, allows ready access to information about law reform within areas of practice and provides an excellent opportunity to build relationships and networks within the profession.

Connecting with the Profession

The Law Society held many exclusive member events throughout the financial year, including two joint initiatives with the Black Swan State Theatre Company in their promotion of the important work of Australian-born author Suzie Miller, whose



Amanda Morrison – Lived Experience Advocate, Philip Hardless – Barrister, Murray Chambers, The Hon Lindy Jenkins – Chair Law Reform Commission, Dr Jennie Gray – CEO, Women's Legal Service, Karesa Dias – State Solicitor's Office, Aine Whelan – Law Society, at the 2024 Law Week Book Club Forum



Matthew and Simon Burt reviewing exhibits at the Old Court House Law Museum

book *Prima Facie* has shone a spotlight on the justice response to sexual violence, as well as the issue of consent.

Our members and guests also attended a number of high calibre events throughout the year which you will read about later in the report, including the Young Lawyers Black Tie Ball and the Gala Dinner, where the prestigious Lawyer of the Year Awards were announced. Other standout events included Book Club, the Golden Gavel, the Mock Trial Competition, the End of Year Celebration and the year-long Student Mentoring Programme.

Welcoming the Judiciary

It was a busy year welcoming new members of the judiciary and throughout the year the Law Society spoke at a total of 13 welcomes for the following: Deputy President Peter O'Keeffe and Commissioner Pearl Lim to the Fair Work Commission; The Hon Justice Matthew Howard to the Supreme Court; The Hon Justice Stephen Lemonis to the Supreme Court; The Hon Judge Terence Palmer SC to the District Court; The Hon Judge Felicity Zempilas to the District Court; His Honour Judge Craig Astill to the District Court; The Hon Judge Alain Musikanth to the Supreme Court; His Honour Judge Matthew Curwood SC to the District Court; Master Sarah Russell to the Supreme Court; Her Honor Judge Genevieve Cleary to the District Court; The Hon Justice Kate Glancy to the Supreme Court; The Hon Justice Gary Cobby to the Supreme Court; and His Honour Judge Alan Sefton SC to the District Court.

The Law Society in the Community

The Law Society's connection to community goes from strength to strength each year. Being part of the community is an important element of the Law Society's work. It engages with community in several ways to provide support, education and access to justice. I would like to make special mention of the following:

Law Week 2024

The recognition of the work of the profession remains a vital element of the Law Society's mission and Law Week is a wonderful conduit to

that end, providing vital connections within the profession.

There were over 24 very successful events held around the State, including many community events to help better community understanding of the law and how it can help them.

The Law Society held its Law Week Long Lunch to close Law Week and I was very pleased to host the Attorney General, the Hon. John Quigley, who joined us as our guest of honour. The Attorney provided guests with a very inspiring and engaging insight into his career, achievements and perspectives on life.



The Attorney General the Hon John Quigley MLA in conversation with Deborah Kennedy at the 2024 Law Week Long Lunch

It was exciting to host the Law Society's Inaugural Aboriginal Youth Civics Leadership Day during Law Week and to officially welcome 24 students from across Western Australia and 2 from New South Wales. This day of learning and interaction was led by Aboriginal Elders and advocates and also attended by members of the Judiciary, including the Chief Justice of Western Australia, the Hon Justice Peter Quinlan; the Hon Justice Michael Lundberg; and His Honour Judge David MacLean. Thank you to our project partners who made this inaugural Leadership Day possible: Aboriginal Legal Service of WA, Polly Farmer Follow the Dream, Kulbardi Murdoch University, Association of Independent Schools in WA, Future Footprints, Foundation for Indigenous Sustainable Health and law firm partner King & Wood Mallesons.

Cluedunnit Kids Competition

Something close to my heart was experiencing the wonderful Cluedunnit Kids Competition, sponsored by Curtin Law School, which took place from February to June 2024. This year we had 75 teams of Year 6 students from across the state compete to solve a fictitious crime



Cluedunnit 2023: Winning school Harrisdale Primary School and Teacher with Professor Robert Cunningham – Curtin University, Sergeant Garry Corker – WA Police, Paula Wilkinson – 2024 President of the Law Society and His Honour Judge Hylton Quail – President Children's Court of Western Australia

using the rules of evidence. I had the privilege along with President of the Children's Court of Western Australia, His Hon Judge Hylton Quail and Professor Robert Cunningham, Dean and Head of Curtin Law School, in welcoming the winning students to the Children's Court, providing them with an opportunity to interact with the legal profession and to experience the court environment. Thank you to the judging panel who joined me this year in reviewing the outstanding student submissions: The Chief Judge of the District Court of WA, The Hon Julie Wager; President of the Children's Court, Judge Hylton Quail, Claire Rossi Legal Aid WA, Sergeant Gary Corker, WA Police and Professor Robert Cunningham. Please see [Cluedunnit Kids](#) for more details.

50 Years of the Old Court House Law Museum

The Law Society's Old Court House Law Museum, Perth city's oldest building, is a central point for the community to gain an understanding of the law in Western Australia, the history and people behind its development.

50 years on from the inception of the Museum, it was great to see record visitor attendance of over 12,000 which is a direct result of extending opening hours to six days per week; a first for the Museum. The Law Society held a special morning tea for former staff and volunteers, to acknowledge their valuable contribution to the

upkeep of the Museum, which hosts a significant collection of over 2,000 items.

Law Access Limited

Law Access is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Law Society in the service of matching applicants for legal assistance to lawyers. This period it launched more in its series of easy-to-understand, informational videos spoken in languages other than English. It launched videos in the Indigenous language of Kriol and in Vietnamese.

Law Access also launched its First Nations Action plan, [click here](#) to read more about this plan. In November, resources for lawyers engaging in trauma-informed legal practice were published, [click here](#) to read more.

During Law Week, Law Access saw a record 948 participants in its annual Law Week Walk for Justice, raising more than \$180,000 for the service.

Thank You

The Law Society is a purpose-driven organisation with a clear strategic focus to continue its standing as the respected voice of the legal profession in Western Australia. I have been so very pleased, in my time as President, to witness the incredible work that Law Society staff, as well as the various committee members, put in to obtaining the best results for our members.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Chief Executive Officer David Price for his continued and valued support of the Law Society and for his guidance to me in this role.

I also acknowledge and commend the countless volunteer hours and contributions made by the Law Society's Executive and Council.

Thank you to the dedicated staff of the Law Society, who work so hard behind the scenes to create events for connecting the profession, advocate and add value for our members.



Leadership group launching 2024 Walk for Justice



Chief Executive Officer's Report

David Price

It has been another strong financial year for the Law Society, with membership numbers now on the cusp of 5,000.

We continue to deliver relevant and valued services, resulting in another pleasing increase in annual Ordinary membership for the year ending 30 June 2024, within our target of 2 to 5% growth on the previous year.

In April and May 2024, the Law Society conducted a scorecard survey of members to derive key insights from its membership base. The scorecard received an 87% response of "satisfied" or "very satisfied" for how the Law Society is performing.

Our Membership and Corporate Services teams work diligently throughout the year, but particularly during the renewal period, to ensure members are informed and can renew or join with ease.

Thank you to all new members who joined and those that again renewed this year— we look forward to continuing as an influential voice and supporting you to practice, learn and connect with colleagues.

Advocating on Behalf of Members

The Law Society's advocacy agenda is developed as part of its overarching strategic plan. Over the past year the agenda included:

- Protected Entertainment Precincts;
- Review of existing and potential new accreditation programmes for areas of legal practice;
- Fair, Safe and Inclusive Legal Workplaces: Law Clerks, Graduates and Lawyers;
- Proposal for compulsory re-action mediation in estate matters;
- Legal Practice Board Sexual Harassment reporting processes;
- Uniform Law;
- Retention of women in the legal profession

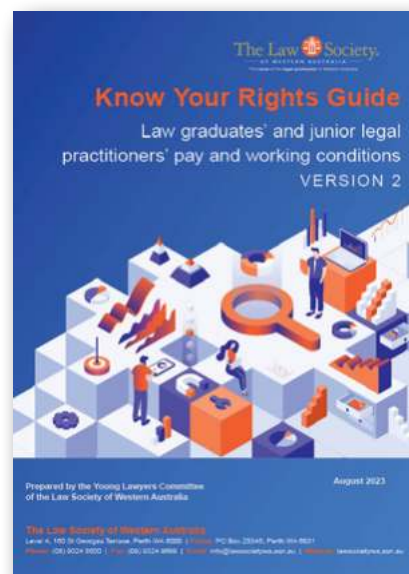
Advocacy has also been focused on the following areas of law reform this financial year:

- Liquor Control (Protected Entertainment Precincts) Amendment Bill 2022
- Stage 2 Review of the Model Defamation Provisions: Part A: Liability of internet Intermediaries for Third Party Content
- Review of Australia's Modern Slavery Act
- Exemptions for Litigation Funding Schemes
- Derivative actions in deceased estate matters
- Legislative responses to coercive control in Western Australia
- Review of the Youth Offenders Act
- Review of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015.

Young Lawyers Committee (YLC) Advocacy

Know Your Rights Guide and Fair, Safe and Inclusive Legal Workplaces Guidelines

The YLC worked to update these guides to ensure they reflect changes to the law and trends, such as the applicability of the 'Right to Disconnect' and interpreting the Legal Services Award as relevant to junior legal professionals. To read more about these Guidelines, please [click here](#).



Membership Benefits - Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Freedom

As I mentioned earlier, the Law Society has once again exceeded its membership target. With the benefit of free CPD as part of membership when members renew or join by 31 July, in many cases delivering savings of \$1,000 or more, our CPD Freedom membership has now grown to nearly 3,800.

Law Mutual

The Law Society established Law Mutual in 1995 as an organisation to carry out and administer the Professional Indemnity Insurance Arrangement for the body of persons comprising the Insureds, whether or not they are members of the Society. Law Mutual acts in accordance with the directions of the Council and operates under the business name "Law Mutual (WA)".

Law Mutual insurance arrangements provided broad professional indemnity cover for almost 1,200 law practices during the financial year.

The claim frequency continued its improving trend and now sits in the range of 40 to 50 claims per year. However, the overall cost of cover increased by around 7% from the previous year, due to a smaller subsidy from surplus capital and an increase in the average cost of claims.

Throughout 2023/24, Law Mutual promoted its Risk Management Seminar Programme, which encouraged practitioners and law practices to focus on priority and emerging risk management issues.

In all, 1,375 attendees attended 16 seminars, webinars and in-house risk reviews as part of the Programme.

Seminar topics to address the needs of the profession included new and emerging issues such as AI and cyber security.

Law Mutual also provides tools and resources such as the 'Risk Control Map' and 'Practice Management' and 'Matter Management Guidelines' to assist practitioners. To read more about these resources, please [click here](#).

Law Access

This year the Law Society was pleased to donate \$37,121 to Law Access following members' approval at the 2023 AGM. The Law Society's support this year also extended to enabling Law Access to receive \$100,000 from the Attorney General via the Law Society Public Purposes

Trust Fund, in addition to the in-kind with financial support including payroll, managing accounts and monthly reporting, marketing and communications support and with ad hoc events on an annual basis.

In this financial year, Law Access has referred 151 matters to lawyers, with approximately 7,223 pro bono hours' worth an estimated \$2.47m*.

**Estimates are based on the pro bono lawyer survey results extrapolated to the number of matters referred.*

National Chief Executive Officer Meetings

Chief Executive Officers of all the Law Societies and Bar Associations in Australia met regularly via Zoom and in person to discuss a range of issues affecting the legal profession.

This important forum enables initiatives to be shared and to facilitate a uniform approach to a range of important things affecting the Australian legal profession.

Conference of Law Societies

The Conference of Law Societies (COLS) is a coalition of Australian Law Societies which works collaboratively on a range of issues of national and jurisdictional interest. Law Society Presidents and Chief Executive Officers from around the country held quarterly meetings of COLS in 2023/24.

Important issues were discussed, ranging from mandatory reporting, legal assistance funding, diversity and inclusion, sexual harassment, anti-money laundering and counter terrorism financing legislation, professional standards schemes, member engagement, continuing professional development and the Voice to Parliament.

Law Council of Australia

The Law Society of Western Australia is one of 17 Constituent Body members of the Law Council of Australia which comprises Australian Bar Councils, Law Institutes, Law Societies and Law Firms Australia. The President of the Law Society is a Director on the Law Council of Australia (which represents the Australian legal profession in Australia and internationally).

It advocates on legal and policy matters of national and international importance to uphold the rule of law, to support the administration of, and to promote access to justice. The Law Council is a federal organisation representing 95,000 Australian lawyers through their bar associations, Law Societies and Law Firms Australia (the Constituent Bodies).

In 2023/24 the President attended four meetings of the Law Council of Australia.

Law Society Life Members Receive Distinguished Honours

In January 2024, Corruption and Crime Commissioner John McKechnie KC was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the Australia Day Honours. The former Supreme Court Justice received the honour for his distinguished service to the law, to the judiciary and to the community of Western Australia.

In June, long-time Chair of the Law Society's Environment, Town Planning and Local Government Committee Denis McLeod became a Member of the Order of Australia in the General Division (AM), in the King's Birthday Honours.

Mr McLeod received the recognition for his significant service to the law, urban planning and the Western Australian community.

The Law Society extends its congratulations to both life members.

Thank you

The success of the Law Society can be attributed to the exceptional service and loyal commitment provided by our Council Members, Executive, Committee Members and Law Society staff.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Immediate Past Presidents Ante Golem, current President Paula Wilkinson and both their Executive teams in 2023/24 for their dedicated and ongoing support.

Thank you also to the Law Society Council Members of 2023 and 2024 and our many Committee Members, all of whom volunteer many hours of their time and make invaluable contributions to the work of the Law Society.

To our loyal staff, I look forward to the year ahead and am again excited about what we can achieve together.





Governance

Our Council

In accordance with the Law Society of Western Australia's constitution, the Law Society Council has 17 members - 16 elected plus the Immediate Past President.

The composition and tenure of the Council is as follows:

- President – 1 Year
- Senior Vice President – 1 Year
- Junior Vice President & Treasurer – 1 Year
- Immediate Past President – 1 Year
- 9 Ordinary Members – 2 Years
- 1 Country Member – 2 Years
- 3 Junior Members – 1 Year

The Law Society appoints its Council through an annual election process which facilitates the election of those positions which are deemed vacant in that year.

The nomination and voting processes are conducted in line with the Law Society's Constitution and are overseen by the Law Society's Chief Executive Officer.

The Law Society's Council is responsible for the leadership, strategy and governance of the Law Society and includes the setting and monitoring of the Strategic Plan and oversight of the Law Society's operational and financial performance.

The Council does this, in part, by delegating responsibility of the day-to-day operations of the Law Society to the Executive Committee and Chief Executive Officer who - supported by the Senior Management Group (SMG) - have the authority to carry out their responsibilities in accordance with the Law Society's constitution and policies, established by the Council.

Council members are provided with governance and media training to support them in the execution of their duties and also attend a strategic planning day each year, with the Chief Executive Officer and the SMG, to support and enhance the delivery of the Law Society's overall Strategic Plan.

The Council is dedicated and committed to the strong representation of the Law Society, its members and the legal profession, generally.

Council Sub-committees

The Council has the power to create committees which are bound by the relevant bylaws. Their purpose is to consider and make recommendations to the Council, for consideration. The Council operates three sub-committees which directly support the day-to-day operation of the Law Society:

- 1. Executive Committee** – The Executive Committee comprises the President, Senior Vice President, Junior Vice President & Treasurer, the Immediate Past President and one Ordinary Council member, who is appointed by the Executive for up to 6 months in each calendar year. The Committee considers and makes decisions on regular and ad-hoc executive, operational and strategic matters.
- 2. Finance and Audit Committee (FAC)** – The FAC is chaired by the Junior Vice President & Treasurer and in addition to the Chair, comprises the President, Senior Vice President and a member of the Law Society with financial expertise, nominated by the Council. The FAC, supports the Council with the oversight of key financial responsibilities, including but not limited to the annual financial budget and audit processes.
- 3. The Professional Indemnity Insurance Management Committee (PIIMC)** – The PIIMC provides the Council with advice and recommendations regarding the Law Mutual insurance arrangements and associated matters. It is comprised of four independent members with specific expertise in relevant areas and three current Council members.

Law Society Council 2023

The Council of the Law Society of Western Australia for 2023
1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023



Ante Golem

President

Herbert Smith Freehills



Paula Wilkinson

Senior Vice President

Kim Wilson & Co



Gary Mack

Junior Vice President
& Treasurer

Abacus Legal and Mediation



Rebecca Lee

Immediate Past
President

Francis Burt Chambers

Council Ordinary, Country and Junior Members



Ben Bullock

Ordinary Member
Steedman Stagg Lawyers



Thomas Camp

Ordinary Member
Butcher, Paull & Calder



Dr Brett Davies

Ordinary Member
UWA Law School



Angie Gimisis

Ordinary Member
Hall & Wilcox



June Kenny

Ordinary Member
JKLS



Judy McLean

Ordinary Member
Fremantle Community Legal Centre



Kim Morrison

Ordinary Member
O'Sullivan Davies Lawyers



Terry Palmer SC

Ordinary Member
Quayside Chambers
(resigned July 2023)



Kellie Woods

Ordinary Member
Dentons



Michael Ryan

Country Member
Mortlock Ryan & Co



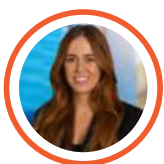
Daniel Dyer-Smith

Junior Member
Sedgman Pty Limited



Tyler Greatrex

Junior Member
Palisade Corporate



Demi Swain

Junior Member
Bennett
(from May 2023)

Law Society Council 2024

The Council of the Law Society of Western Australia for 2024

1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024



Paula Wilkinson

President
Kim Wilson & Co



Gary Mack

Senior Vice President
Abacus Legal and Mediation



Judy McLean

Junior Vice President
& Treasurer
Fremantle Community Legal Centre



Ante Golem

Immediate Past
President
Herbert Smith Freehills

Council Ordinary, Country and Junior Members



Ben Bullock

Ordinary Member
Nexus Airlines



Thomas Camp

Ordinary Member
Butcher, Paull & Calder



Angie Gimisis

Ordinary Member
Hall & Wilcox



Mark Hemery

Ordinary Member
Hotchkin Hanly Lawyers



Dr Jessica Henderson

Ordinary Member
Murray Chambers



June Kenny

Ordinary Member
JDKLS



Aleks Miller

Ordinary Member
State Solicitor's Office



Kim Morrison

Ordinary Member
O'Sullivan Davies Lawyers



Kellie Woods

Ordinary Member
Francis Burt Chambers



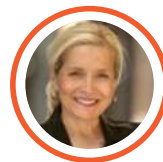
Michael Ryan

Country Member
Mortlock Ryan & Co



Bec Rees

Junior Member
Moray & Agnew



Souzi Clifford

Junior Member
Resolve Right Mediation



Ashton Hardstaff

Junior Member
L3Harris Integrated Mission
Systems Australia Pty Ltd

Committees

The Law Society continues to be proudly committed to its purpose: *to be the voice of the legal profession in Western Australia* and sincerely thanks all committee members for their ongoing contributions.

Committee membership provides an opportunity for members to influence the Law Society's advocacy on law reform and policy and to develop networks within their areas of practice.

The Law Society's 32 standing committees ensure that its advocacy work is informed by members of the profession with specific expertise, experience and perspectives.

The committees' 335 members practice across many areas of law relevant to the Law Society's business and advocacy, including Access to Justice and the Rule of Law, at State and Federal level.

Being part of a committee enables development of an understanding of the area of law and allows ready access to information about law reform within areas of practice.



Access to Justice

Gary Mack (Chair)

Maryse Aranda, Rebecca Davey, Alana Dowley (ex officio), Lara Gotti, Sue Kee, Greg McIntyre SC, Mark Hemery, Catinca Hozoc-Martin, Chelsea McKinney, Gregory Mohen (Deputy Chair), Karen O'Sullivan, Nicholas Snare, Garth Tinsley



Commercial Law

Shane Stewart (Chair)

Andreas von Altenstadt, Ian Barnard, Michael Berkeley-Hill, Ben Bullock (Council Ex Officio), Ashani Chawda, Sonia Chee, Andrew Crean, Paul Evans, Tony Fifield, Robert French (Deputy Chair), Emma Garlett, Tyler Greatrex, Ashton Hardstaff (ex officio), Maggie McGuinn, Steven Pynt, Rhian Richards (Observer), Tom Webb



Accreditation

Elizabeth Hynes (Chair)

Denby Kerr, Julia Mansfield, Kim Morrison (Deputy Chair), Trevor O'Sullivan, Paula Wilkinson



Construction and Infrastructure

Adrienne Parker (Chair)

Dan Dragovic, Elisabeth Edwards, Scott Ellis, James Healy, Tristan Iredell, Nathan Landis, Christopher Ryder, Amanda Sinclair, Tom Webb



Administrative Migration Law

Crawford York (Chair)

Hamish Glenister, Thomas Griffiths, Munashe Rusamo, Rajesh Saharan, Martin Udall



Costs

Sandra Costopoulos (Chair)

Daniel Coster, Russell Daily, David Davidson, Tony Fifield, David Garnsworthy, Richard Graham, James Gatti, Anthony Hevron (observer), Amy Pascoe (Deputy Chair), Libby Smith, Murray Thornhill, Kellie Woods (ex officio)



Alternative Dispute Resolution

Scott Ellis (Chair)

Mark Blundell, Graham Castledine, Nicoletta Ciffolilli, Ante Golem (ex officio), Roselina Kruize, Nathan Landis, Robert Lilley, Karene Primrose, Dr Pat Saraceni, Steven Standing, Her Honour Judge Natalie Whitby



Country Practitioners

Michael Ryan (Chair)

Peter Brindal, Simon Creek, Amelia Englert (Deputy Chair), Jenna Hampton, Jessica Henderson, Megan Lawler, Carolyn Riley, Yolanda Schuurmans



Brief Editorial

Jason MacLaurin SC (Editor)

Ryan Arndt, Gregory Boyle, Ben Bullock, Thomas Camp (resigned May 2024), Gad Coffie, Dr Michael Douglas, Dr Jessica Henderson, Anlee Khu (resigned November 2023), Roselina Kruize (vacated February 2024), The Honourable John McKechnie AO KC, Thomas Moorhead, Dr Pat Saraceni, Robert Scealess, Andreas von Altenstadt



Courts

Edward Greaves (Chair)

Charmian Barton (ex officio), Rick Cullen, Shonelle Duthie, Paul Evans, Principal Registrar Leonie Forrest (ex officio), Angie Gimisis (ex officio), Angelina Gomez, Richard Graham (Deputy Chair), Nathan Landis, Aaron McDonald, Principal Registrar Kate McDonald (ex officio), Principal Registrar Brenda McGivern (ex officio), Martyn Plummer (ex officio), Dr Pat Saraceni, Glenn Scott, Jonathon Slack-Smith, District Registrar Russell Trott (ex officio) Dora van der Westhuyzen, Alexander Ward-Noonan, Deputy Chief Magistrate Elizabeth Woods (ex officio)



Ethics

Fiona Stanton (Chair)

Michael Cashman, Gad Coffie, Professor Brett Davies, Paul Donovan, Paul Evans (Deputy Chair), Karen Farley SC, Sue Kee, Dr Andrew Lu AM, Ashley Macknay (PEC), Alain Musikanth SC, Karene Primrose, Chris Robertson, Craig Slater, Glen Scott, Sukhwant Singh



Old Court House Law Museum Foundation

Sandy Anghie, Catherine Fletcher, Dr Toni Church, Ante Golem, The Honourable Lindy Jenkins, The Honourable Dr Andrew Lu AM



Criminal Law

David Davidson (Chair)

Ryan Arndt, Avril Bartlett, Clare Brennan, Michael Cashman, Anthony Elliot (Observer), Karen Farley SC (Deputy Chair), Hamish Glenister, Teck John Ling, Judy Mclean (ex officio), Carly Price, Brianna Rositano, Claire Rossi, Kirsten Scott, Nicholas Snare, Registrar Whitbread



Joint Form of General Conditions for the Sale of Land

Frank Poeta (Chair)

Jolene Ashworth, Peter Beekink, Hendrik Bendtsen, Anthony Davis, Marcus Easthope, Cath Hart (REIWA), Meagan Johnston, Tim Lane (REIWA), Ross McCallum (REIWA), Simon Moen, Joe White (REIWA), Peta Whyte



Education

Adam Levine (Chair)

Robert Bathurst, Thomas Coltrona, Fiona Halsey, Mark Hemery (ex officio), James McMillan, Julian Misso, Kim Morrison, Dr Pat Saraceni



Human Rights and Equal Opportunity

Greg McIntyre SC (Chair)

Eli Bernstein, Milo Bronleigh (YLC), Coraline De Zilwa (YLC), Matthew Giles, Natasha Leedman, Sara Pearson, Grace Ritter, Kristen Scott (LCA EO Committee representative), Rabia Siddique (Deputy Chair), Carolyn Tan, Grace Ward, Katrina Williams, Belinda Wong



Elder Law and Succession

Anthony Durand (retired June 2024)

Sally Bruce (Deputy Chair), Rob Durey, Daniel Gill, Elizabeth Heenan, John Hockley, Amanda Liston, Ross Mendonca, Robert Nash, Peter Nevin, Gabriel Wong, Kellie Woods, Janet Woollard



Indigenous Legal Issues

Greg McIntyre SC (Chair)

Emma Garlett, Aparna Jayasekera, June Kenny (ex officio), Juanita King, Jenny McKenzie (Deputy Chair), Judy Mclean (ex officio), His Honour Kevin Sleight



Employee Relations

Cory Fogliani (Chair)

Elaine Buchanan, Robert French, Matthew Giles, Giacomo Giorgi (Deputy Chair), Kendra Hagan, Mark Hemery, Michael Jensen, Stephen Kemp, Natasha Leedman, Aleks Miller (ex officio), Hannah Penwarden, Rajesh Saharn, Daniel Stojanowski, Isabella Wilson



In-house/Government Lawyers

Amanda Kailis (Chair) (retired June 2024)

Elizabeth Edwards (Deputy Chair), Sarah Forster, Angela Howie, Kelli King, Elizabeth Maynard, Diane Sinagra, Maya van den Driesen, Zoran Vukojevic



Environment, Town Planning and Local Government

Denis McLeod AM (Chair)

Andrew Carr, Steven Halls, Eve Lynch, Alexander McGlue, Glen McLeod (Deputy Chair), Matthew Pudovskis, Ian Reper, Linda Rowley, Craig Slarke, Stephen Willey (ex officio)



Insolvency & Restructuring

Nirupa Manoharan (Chair) and Rebecca Hanrahan (Co-Chair)

Philip Blaxill, Dr Rebecca Collins, Michelle Dean, Sam Dundas, James Healy, Tom Langdon, Rob McKenzie, Chris McLeod, Nino Odorisio, Chris Pearce, Anika Sadler



Professional Standard Scheme Committee

Vidal Pinckney-Hockless (Chair)

Jocelyne Boujos, Carolyn Moss, Kelly Zhang, Benjamin Luscombe (resigned May 2024)



Property Law

Marcus Easthope (Chair)

Andreas von Altenstadt, Mark Atkinson, Peter Beekink (Deputy Chair), Henrik Bendtsen, Christopher Booth, Murray Broadbent, Anthony Davis, Susan Dukes (ex officio), Meagan Johnston, Simon Moen, Peta Whyte, Gabriel Wong



Intellectual Property and Technology

Eli Bernstein (Chair)

Simone Basso, Samuel Fiddian, Iain Freeman, Angelina Gomez, Michael Paterson, Christa Queern, Stephen van Heerden, Zoran Vukojevic



Quality Practice Standard

Craig Slater (Chair)

Erin Blight, Peter Liron, Alyce Martin, Andrew McGuinness, Julie Ots, Kevin Chalklin



Joint Law Society (LS)/Women Lawyers (WLWA)

Libby Fulham (Chair)

Leanne Allison (WLWA), Karess Dias (Deputy Chair), Rachel Eaton (LSWA), Lisa Guagliardo (WLWA), Isabel Insker (LSWA & YLC), Farah Mehta (WLWA), Menka Orellana (WLWA), Sara Pearson (WLWA), Elisha Wayner (WLWA), Kirsten Scott (SLWA & LCA), Maya vanden Driesen (LSWA)



Taxation Law

David Murphy (Chair) (LCA)

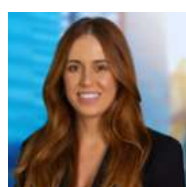
Matthew Crowley, Humphry Faas (Deputy Chair) (LCA), Adrian Hanrahan (LCA), John Hockley (LCA), James McMillan, Robert Scales (LCA), Daniel Taborsky (LCA), Zoran Vukojevic, Grahame Young (LCA)



Mental Health and Wellbeing

Michael Berkeley-Hill (Chair)

David Davidson, Coraline De Zilwa, Libby Fulham, Angie Gimisis (ex officio), Nicholas Snare, Julia Sutherland, Stacey Wellings (Deputy Chair & FLPWA), Melissa Wishart (ex officio)



Young Lawyers

Demi Swain (Chair)

Isabella Wilson (Deputy Chair 2024) Emma Boogaardt, Milo Bronleigh, Thomas Coltrona, Coraline De Zilwa, Anthony Dique, Tom Durkin, Daniel Dyer-Smith, Garrick Garvey, Lea Hiltkamp, Catinca Hozoc-Martin, Isabel Inkster, Mary-Kate Ledger, Aleksandra Miller (Deputy Chair 2023), Tom Oliver, Rebecca Rees, Matthew Petriwskyj, Munashe Rusamo, Jessica Sheppard, Katherine Swann, Dora van der Westhuyzen, Isabella Wilson, Annabelle Williams

Rebecca Rees 2024 YLC and Council member

Ex-officio: Daniel Dyer-Smith, Tyler Greatrex



Personal Injuries and Workers' Compensation

Joel Trigg (Chair)

Mark Civitella (Deputy Chair), Irena Ferraro, Asanka Gunasekera, Vidal Pinckney-Hockless, Ian Murray, Eleanor Scarff, Julia Wedlock, Kerry Wood



Professional Indemnity Insurance Management

Dudley Stow (Chair)

Jocelyne Boujos, Thomas Camp, Robert Evans, Peter Forbes, Paula Wilkinson, Judy McLean

An Influential Voice with Policy Submissions

In the 2023/24 financial year, the Law Society's Committees contributed to 40 policy paper submissions on key issues affecting the profession and advocating on the rule of law.

2023

- Input for a Submission on the Initial Data and Digital Government Strategy
- Continuing Professional Education for Legal Practitioners on Coercive Control Consultation
- Retention of Original Affidavits that have been E-Filed
- Workforce Planning and Development Strategy and Implementation Plan for Legal Assistance Sector – Feedback
- Legal Practice Board of Western Australia Consultation Concerning Sexual Harassment Reporting
- Re-Establishment of the Probate Sub Committee of the Supreme Court
- Delays in Initial Disclosure
- Judicial Immunity
- Status of Judicial Commission
- Legal Aid Solicitor Remuneration Rate – Legal Costs Committee Scale of Costs Rationale
- Space in Family Court of Western Australia Building
- Admission of Foreign Lawyers - A
- HELP Debt Relief Policy for Legal Practitioners Working in Rural, Regional and Remote Locations
- Confidential – Future Review of Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2022 and the Legal Profession Uniform Law (WA)
- Confidential – Law Council of Australia Equitable Briefing Policy
- Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2022 Section 201 Application of Interest – Legal Contribution Trust
- Achieving Greater Consistency in Laws for Financial Enduring Powers of Attorney
- Progress a new Equal Opportunity Act
- Admission of Foreign Lawyers - B
- Scoping Continuing Professional Development in Australia
- Council of Law Deans Project – Australian Legal Education 2030

- Capacity of the Peter Durack Commonwealth Law Courts Building
- Strengthening Security of Law Firm Trust Account Payments
- Insurance Legislation Amendment (Motor Vehicle Claims Harvesting) Bill 2023
- Joint Statement from Women Lawyers WA, WA Bar and Law Society – Channel Nine – Alice McShera

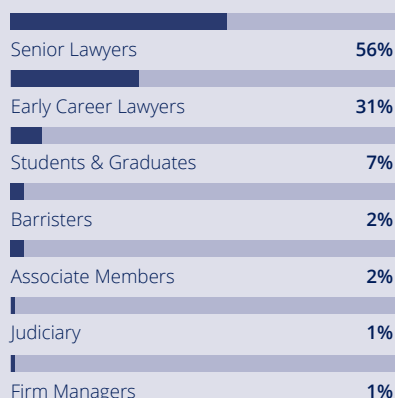
2024

- Australian Pro Bono Centre Survey/Consultation
- Family Law Amendment Bill (No 2) 2023: Consultation Update
- Council of Australian Law Deans Project (CALD) – Australian Legal Education 2030 and Beyond
- Use of Communication Partners in Western Australian Courts and in the Mental Impairment Review Tribunal
- Conciliation Rules, Arbitration Rules and Costs Determination
- Insurance Legislation Amendment (Motor Vehicle Claims Harvesting) Bill 2023 (Bill)
- Consultation Proposed Amendment of the Legal Profession Uniform Continuing Development Rules (Barristers) 2025
- Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2022 – Contentious Business Determinations Review
- Submission on Evidence Bill 2024
- Repeat Stealing Offences
- Reform to the processes and procedures of the Office of Information Commissioner under the WA Freedom of Information Act
- Review of updated Standard Costs Disclosure forms and information sheet
- Action on the Elimination of Ligature Points in Prison Cells in Western Australia
- Financial Services Regulatory Framework in relation to Financial Abuse
- Phase 2 Consultation on Anti Money Laundering/Counter Terrorism Funding Reforms and draft Guidance Materials for the Profession

A Year of Impact



4,934
Members



Includes 13 honorary, 38 life members and 22 on leave members.



375

Members shaped the Law Society's advocacy by sitting on over 32 committees and contributing submissions to Council

Engagement with the Legal Profession



Registrations for the Law Society's Continuing Professional Development (CPD) offering.

12,929
Total CPD attendances



70 Face-to-face seminars/webinars



55 On-Demand Seminars



3,746
CPD Freedom Members

CPD Programme sponsor **legalsuper**



1,360

Participants attended **23** Law Mutual Risk Management Workshops and Seminars



2,443

Participants in the Professional Standards Scheme



2,270

People attended **16** Society events



59

Accredited Family Law Specialists



41

Firms accredited through the Quality Practice Standard



93

Mentees paired with mentors within in our **3** mentoring programmes



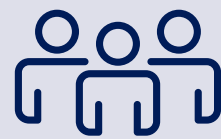
40

Policy paper submissions produced on key issues affecting the profession and advocating on rule of law



408

Volunteers supported the Law Society through Education and Community Services, CPD Programme, The Old Court House Law Museum and the Mentoring Programme



15,200

Attendances at CPD and Social events

Engagement with the Community



Find a Lawyer

This year the Law Society's Find a Lawyer Service saw **23,000** members of the public use our Find a Lawyer website feature nearly **70,000** times.



5,925

Educated on the legal profession by participating in the Francis Burt Law Education Programme



12,129

Total visitors to the Old Court House Law Museum



1,248

Mock Trial student participants

- 120** School teams competed
- 120** Legal Professionals volunteered
- 657** Students gained WACE accreditation



432

Students from metro and regional schools participated in the Lawyer Visits to Schools Network

Cluedunnit Kids



419

Students from 26 metro and regional schools



Digital engagement with the community via social media followers:



Facebook: **3,100+**
LinkedIn: **7,400+**
X: **1,500+**



Facebook: **2,100+**
LinkedIn: **3,500+**
Instagram: **590+**



Old Court House Law Museum website visits: **4,545+**
Instagram **534+**



Website users: **135,000+**
Total Traffic: **243,000+**



A Year in Review

Influential Voice

To be an influential voice, enabling members and community to stay informed and represented

The Law Society proactively engages with key stakeholders on behalf of the legal profession to drive positive change for the legal profession, and to ensure the rule of law and access to justice. It also promotes the importance of being legally aware and informed through its provision of legal education for the community.

Expert committee participation and guidance is central to our advocacy work as the voice of the legal profession.

The Law Society's advocacy is supported by 32 committees across many areas of law, with meetings held regularly.

Committees are actively involved in developing submissions, crafting responses to government including on legislative and policy reform matters, providing feedback to the Law Council of Australia on federal issues, and contributing to the Law Society's Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme.

Our established position as the voice of the profession is due to the support of our committee members who are passionate and responsive, diligent and focused on improving legal practice across the State.

To keep committee membership energised, the four-year terms of members expire every two years, when members can re-apply for a further term or apply to join a new committee.

This process, known as the 'spill', accords with best practice in corporate governance and ensures continuity on committees, while allowing the opportunity for new members - with fresh ideas and perspectives - to become involved.

The next 'spill' will occur in September 2025 with committee appointments, commencing on 1 January 2026.

This year the committees contributed to 40 policy paper submissions, [click here](#) to read more details on these submissions.

Our advocacy work is strengthened by focused communications to external stakeholders, including the media and through social media.

This is key to ensuring the Law Society's advocacy and policy agenda has impact.

The Law Society maintains strong connections with State and national media outlets. Activities throughout the year include:

- In July 2023, the Law Society continued to raise its concerns in relation to the manner in which the State government and the Department of Justice are managing children and young people in detention centres at Banksia Hill and Unit 18, Casuarina. To read more about this media release, please [click here](#).
- October 2023 saw the Law Society welcome the Corruption and Crime Commission's inquiry into the death of a juvenile in Unit 18 at Casuarina Prison. Law Society President Ante Golem said the Law Society welcomed the CCC announcement given the public interest and the seriousness of the incident. To read more about this media release, please [click here](#).
- In December 2023, the Law Society voiced its concern about commentary from the State Government on a judicial decision, stating that criticism by one arm of government over its independent arm undermined the public's confidence in the administration of justice. To read more about this media release, please [click here](#).

In the first six months of 2024, Law Society President, Paula Wilkinson, had three opinion articles published about Law Society advocacy issues including:

- April 2024, the Law Society urged those seeking election or re-election in the upcoming State election in 2025 to put prison staffing issues, as well as youth diversionary and rehabilitation programs, high on their list of priorities. It called for the State Government to act quickly to relieve the pressure on officers and staff at Unit 18, and the youth being held there, by urgently finding alternative detention options. To read this article, please [click here](#).

- During May 2024, the President stated there was far more to be done in law reform on sexual violence and welcomed the Australian Law Reform Commission's call for submissions on justice responses to sexual violence: The Law Society urged all victim survivors of sexual assault to make a submission in the process being held by the Law Reform Commission. To read this article, please [click here](#).
- In June 2024, the President put the spotlight on the fact that 33 years had passed since the Royal Commission's recommendations from the investigation into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody between 1988 and 1991 were handed down. In particular the President questioned why one of the 339 recommendations to improve custodial responses to illness, injury and suicide attempt in custody had not been fully implemented across WA's medium and maximum-security prisons. The removal of ligature points in prison cells is still in practice and the Law Society wrote to the Corrective Services Minister Paul Papalia, seeking details on the progress being made in relation to the elimination of ligature points in prison cells. To read this article, please [click here](#).



Megan Shaw – Museum Curator being interviewed by Beau Pearson - Channel 10

Media interest was also attracted in May during Law Week, including radio and newspaper coverage for the Law Access Walk for Justice, and television coverage of the *A Just Legacy - Behind the Scenes: The Burt Family Collection* exhibition launch at the Old Court House Law Museum.

Staying Informed Through the Law Society's flagship Digital Journal, *Brief*

The Law Society's influence extends to members through its bi-monthly official digital journal with the purpose of:

- Keeping members up to date with current legal issues across all sectors of the profession

- Providing amendments to Acts and case note summaries to benefit members
- Supplying depth to certain matters of controversy
- Reporting Law Society events and the essential support provided to members

In 2024, *Brief* celebrated its 50th anniversary, honouring 50 years of continued publication and readership.

Brief is produced six times per year in February, April, June, August, October and December.

During the financial year, key articles included a comprehensive overview of the Voice to Parliament referendum, outlining the new WA Biodiscovery Bill which sets out a new framework for accessing WA's native plants and animals, a review of Australia's Modern Slavery Act and the obligation shift from reporting to acting, a series on WA's New Security of Payment Laws, an update on the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 (WA)* and the reversion to the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (WA)* and summary on Tackling the Increase of Reportable Deaths in the Coroner's Jurisdiction of Western Australia. The Law Society would like to acknowledge the authors, both regular and ad hoc, who have contributed articles to ensure the robustness and diversity of content within *Brief*.

The Law Society is also very appreciative of the ongoing commitment of the *Brief* Editorial Committee and the considerable work the Committee undertakes to deliver each edition of *Brief*.

1974 Edition



2024 Edition





The Hon Lindy Jenkins – Chair Law Reform Commission, the Hon Chief Justice Peter Quinlan, Dr Jennie Gray – CEO, Women’s Legal Service WA, Suzie Miller – author, Anna Casellas – Partner, Clayton Utz, Rabia Siddque – Human Rights Lawyer

The Law Society in the Community

The Law Society’s reach extends beyond the legal profession to work with community in promoting access to justice, legal education and a greater understanding of the law as part of a civil society. The Society connects with the legal and broader public through the annual Law Week festival of events, Law Access Ltd Inc; Education and Community Services, the Old Court House Law Museum; and the services of How Can a Lawyer Help Me? and Find a Lawyer.

Law Week 2024

This year’s Law Week was a resounding success across the State, with 24 events promoted by the Law Society to highlight the important and valued work of the legal profession.

This year, Law Week stretched over a two-week period to bring together the wider profession to engage with the public and various communities to promote access to justice, how to engage with the legal profession and to discuss burning topics of importance for the profession and the community. With a theme of ‘Justice, Inclusion and Community’, Law Week presented diverse events connecting participants to ideas and issues where greater engagement can make a difference to advocate for change.

An informative Book Club discussion analysed the polarising work of fiction *Prima Facie* authored by Suzie Miller. This book - based on a play of the same name - was staged in Perth this year by the Black Swan Theatre Company and has become essential reading for members of the

legal profession around the world. A distinguished panel, chaired by Karesse Dias, discussed the adequacy of the justice response to victims of sexual crimes. With thanks to Herbert Smith Freehills for hosting the evening.

A series of podcasts featuring regional legal practitioners was developed by the Law Society during Law Week. Created to shine a spotlight on the benefits and challenges of regional practice. Country Counsel includes conversations with regional practitioners from the Kimberley through to the Great Southern. To learn more about this podcast series, please [click here](#).



Aboriginal Youth Civics Leadership Day

The Law Society's Francis Burt Law Education Programme hosted the inaugural Aboriginal Youth Civics Leadership Day in May, with 24 students from across Western Australia and two from New South Wales, participating in the Day.



Leadership Day students with the Hon Justice Michael Lundberg, His Honour Judge David MacLean, the Hon Chief Justice Peter Quinlan and Elder Dr Gerrard Shaw

The Law Week Long Lunch

The Long Lunch was held on 27 May with many members of the profession getting together to enjoy each other's company and the wit and insight of the Hon. John Quigley MLA, Attorney General of Western Australia, who kept the audience entertained. Thank you to principal sponsor Legal Home Loans and supporting sponsor Shearn HR Legal, without whom the event would not have been possible.

Law Access Walk for Justice

The ninth annual Law Access Walk for Justice attracted nearly 1,000 people for the walk along the Swan River foreshore, with many members of the legal profession and their furry friends making the early start to the morning. The walk raised approximately \$185,000, including a generous donation of \$50,000 from the McCusker Charitable

Foundation and \$18,000 from university and corporate sponsors.

Information Sessions Across Law Week

- Legal Aid WA held a number of informative and educational sessions during Law Week, including its first Law Week public webinar, which focused on the May 2024 changes to family law. It also launched a new podcast series, Law Talk WA to help people navigating a separation as well as R U Legal?



Legal Aid participating in the 2024 Law Week

- The Supreme Court held an information session for lawyers, explaining the simple and cost-effective civil mediation process, which helps parties to resolve their disputes without going to a costly trial.
- The Corruption and Crime Commission opened its doors with a special Law Week event explaining the role that lawyers play in corruption investigations.
- In Mirrabooka, the Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre set up a pop-up stall at the community markets to provide a range of free services including referrals for legal consultations with a lawyer or advocate, as well as information about community education programmes.



Paula Wilkinson – 2024 President of the Law Society, The Hon Peter Quinlan, Chief Justice of Western Australia, the Attorney General the Hon John Quigley MLA, Leanne Round – Law Society

Guests at the 2024 Law Week Long Lunch

- In Shoalwater, Mountain Lawyers held a workshop for nearly 60 members of Switched on Seniors to explain the importance of estate planning for seniors.
- In the Kimberley, legal and support services from Derby and Broome set up information stalls, to help locals with referrals and advocacy and to provide general advice on the law.
- In Geraldton, legal centre Regional Alliance West (RAW) held its fourth annual Law Week art competition, with a legal theme which saw a range of entries from the Mid West, Murchison and Gascoyne.

Education and Community Services (ECS)

ECS is comprised of the Francis Burt Law Education Programme, the Mock Trial Competition and the Old Court House Law Museum. These services connect the Law Society to its members and the broader community to inform, educate and engage in the rule of law as a cornerstone of a civil society.

Francis Burt Law Education Programme (The Programme)

The Programme once again attracted capacity numbers participating in community legal education tours.

Participants observe a real court in session in the Supreme, District and/or Magistrates Courts, as well as having the opportunity to take part in a scripted mock trial.

The Programme aims to advance the Western Australian community's understanding of the law, legal principles and the court system.



Students participating in a scripted mock trial at the Old Court House Law Museum

A total of 5,925 people participated in the Programme with school groups representing 92% of total groups; 76% were secondary schools and 16% were primary.

In order to encourage equity of access our Subsidised School Visits Programme enabled schools, that may lack financial resources and have an Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage (ICSEA) value of 1000 or less, to participate in the Programme's tours.

Thanks to the sponsorship from Curtin Law School, which covers the costs of bus hire and/or tour fee. This financial year, 285 students, across 12 groups from six schools (metropolitan and regional) - benefited from this equity of access and access to justice initiative.

As part of the Society's outreach initiative, lawyers teamed with the Programme to visit schools in an educational capacity. 8 schools across metropolitan and regional Western Australia took part with lawyers speaking to 432 students.

Feedback from coordinating teachers and volunteer lawyers demonstrated the value of this engagement with school communities.

Volunteer Lawyer Feedback

Rating



5.0

The lawyer visit experience gave me pride in my work and was beneficial to my profession.



5.0

Meeting students and facilitating their engagement with the law and the legal profession had a positive impact on me (both professionally and personally).



4.8

Coordinating Teacher Feedback

My students better understand the importance of the legal system and how it connects to their lives because of the lawyer visit.

The Old Court House Law Museum

Perth's oldest building, The Old Court House, is one of Western Australia's most significant colonial cultural heritage sites. Operating within the building is the Old Court House Law Museum (the Museum), a non-profit institution providing free access for the public. Managed by the Law Society, the Museum has links to the Western Australian courts and legal profession. The Museum provides the Western Australian community with a safe space for reflective discussion on the rule of law in the state, past and present.

In its second year as a charitable entity, the Museum had record-breaking visitation, with a 62% increase bringing total visitors to 12,129. 40% of visitors to the Museum were local, 37% international and 23% were interstate guests.

This significant increase in visitation can be attributed to extended opening hours to six days a week, including weekends. This led to the appointment of two new part-time Museum appointments and an increase in volunteers from 4 to 15. The economic value of this volunteer time is estimated at \$40,266.

Thanks to the continued generosity of donors, the Museum progressed ambitious outcomes in collection management, digitisation and conservation during the financial year.

The Museum continued its focus on collection management, with the goal of making it more accessible to the wider public. To that end, progress was made with:

- Expanding accessibility of the Collection: Standardisation, data cleaning and research work of collection records for the purpose of a data transfer to a new collections database, E-Hive.
- Digitisation: 10% of the collection was professionally photographed or scanned.

- Conservation: Eighteen items from the Burt Family Collection received conservation treatment, updated storage and rotation, including Alfred Hawes Stone's notebook, Sir Francis Burt AC KCMG KC's judicial gown and Archibald Paull Burt's first Criminal Trial Notebook.

The special exhibition *A Just Legacy - Behind the Scenes: The Burt Family Collection* was launched in April as part of the Boorloo Heritage and National Heritage festivals. The exhibition highlighted the conservation and digitisation progress of the items.

In May, the Museum celebrated the 50th anniversary of its origins, with a morning tea attended by founding members and supporters.

The Museum received \$52,746 in tax deductible donations this financial year including the Wright Burt Foundation. Donations to the Museum support:

- expanding access to experiences;
- undertaking important collection management work to conserve the collection; and
- digitisation of the collection and publishing it online for wider public viewing, research and educational purposes.

For further details on the Museum and its achievements in 2023/24, [click here](#) to read the Old Court House Law Museum Year in Review.

With gratitude to the Museum Foundation Committee members for their advocacy and support:

- Sandy Anghie
- Dr Toni Church
- Catherine Fletcher
- Ante Golem
- The Hon Lindy Jenkins
- The Hon Dr Andrew Lu AM



Old Court House Law Museum Foundation Committee, L-R Catherine Fletcher, Ante Golem, the Hon Lindy Jenkins, Sandy Anghie, the Hon Dr Andrew Lu AM, Dr Toni Church

Essential Support

To be an essential support to legal professionals, empowering them to do their best work

The Law Society provides member services across key priority areas for the profession which support professional learning, practice management, risk management and contribute vital services to the community.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

The Law Society's focus remains on providing an outstanding educational experience tailored to the needs of local and regional practitioners. It provides two comprehensive CPD Programmes per year, as well as a number of signature events, which enable the profession to access vital learning opportunities whilst maintaining their CPD compliance with the Legal Practice Board.

This financial year, record numbers attended with nearly 13,000 participants registering for 70 seminars, with access to 55 on-demand seminars available through the CPD Online platform.

Receiving CPD Freedom free of charge is an included essential offering for members who renewed their membership or joined before 31 July. CPD Freedom offers members unlimited access to CPD seminars across multiple platforms and gives members the freedom to undertake as much learning as they desire, at no extra cost*.

The benefits of CPD Freedom include delivery channels that are flexible for members including face-to-face, live online or on-demand virtual learning seminars. A record number of members, 3,746, took advantage of this exclusive benefit.

(*Terms & Conditions applied to this offer.)

The 2023-2024 Spring and Summer CPD Programmes provided over 60 seminars, with highlights including:

- A focus on keeping members abreast of modern technology, the Law Society presented two seminars in October 2023 highlighting the legal risk surrounding Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its potential disruption of intellectual property (IP).
- November 2023 saw the Australian Human Rights Commissioner, Lorraine Finlay, give an insight into how lawyers might apply a human rights approach to legal practice. The seminar examined questions including what legal practice looks like when human rights are taken into account and the issues to consider at the intersection of human rights and legal practice.
- To mark 20 years since the establishment of the Western Australian Corruption and Crime Commission (CCC), the Law Society invited keynote speaker Kirsten Nelson, Director of Legal Services at the CCC, who discussed the power, strength and weaknesses of the Commission and the National Anti-Corruption Commission which was established in 2022, to investigate serious or systemic corruption within the Commonwealth public sector.



Paula Wilkinson – 2024 President of the Law Society welcomes attendees to a Law Society CPD Seminar

CPD Signature learning events for the profession included:

- Practical Advocacy Weekend 2023 was held in September at the Perth Children's Court. Head Coaches Bill Keane and Anthony Crocker from Francis Burt Chambers guided participants to deliver a civil injunction application, after which they presented a closing address, conducted examinations-in-chief and performed cross-examination for a mock criminal trial.

A unique feature of this course is it includes voice and performance coaching which are essential to good courtroom advocacy. Expertly delivered by professional voice coach Julia Moody, the former Head of Voice at the WA Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) for 22 years. Her session focused on courtroom performance, teaching participants to use their voice, space and equipment to effectively deliver their case.

Senior practitioners from the Supreme, District and Magistrates courts, Federal Court of Australia, State Administrative Tribunal; the Industrial Relations Commission and the Bar undertook the role of coaches for the weekend, creating a rich and diverse learning experience.

- March 2024 saw a forum of practitioners come together for the CPD Day for Practitioners Across the State, a highlight of the CPD calendar. The event attracted more than 180 participants in total from across the state, with 41 practitioners attending in person to build greater support of Regional, Rural and Remote (RRR) practice. Topics included RRR Lawyers' advocacy roles for youth, navigating estate planning, wills and elder abuse in the regions and recent trends in Criminal Injuries Compensation claims. Other concepts included escaping violence, best practice when supporting clients and ethics for country lawyers.

- We celebrated World Environment Day on 5 June 2024. With the support of our Environment, Town Planning and Local Government Committee, practitioners came together in person to hear about recent cases at the intersection between planning and environmental law, environmental regulation in offshore areas and the Vogel/McFerran independent Review of the WA Environmental Approval Processes and Procedures.
- Another sold out Essentials of Advocacy and Negotiation Day was held on 28 June 2024. The day was a huge success, covering a range of topics vital for practitioners in advocacy such as *Examining your own witness, What makes a good advocate and opening and closing statements*. Attendees also had the opportunity to delve into ethics surrounding advocacy. Twelve (12) presenters provided well-rounded and essential information for attendees to advance their legal knowledge and practical application, in order to improve their advocacy, examination and negotiation skills.
- The *Criminal Law (Mental Impairment) Act 2023* Education Series collaboration between the Law Society, the Department of Justice, the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA, Legal Aid WA and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is a five-part educational seminar series on the Criminal Law (Mental Impairment) 2023 Act. Launched by the Attorney General the Hon. John Quigley in August 2023, the series attracted more than 500 attendees. 3 sessions were delivered in this financial year.

Thank You

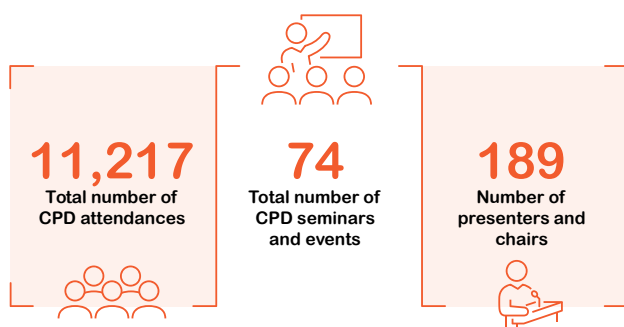
The Law Society extends its thanks to all Chairs, speakers, and committees for their contribution to the development of the CPD events and seminars programme.



Students and Judges at the 2023 Practical Advocacy Weekend

Summary of CPD Feedback

CPD Seminar Engagement for the CPD Year 2023/24*



Participant Feedback for the CPD Year 2023/24*



* The CPD Year is 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Mentoring Programmes

Offering support and sharing knowledge through the influence of mentoring can be powerful. The Law Society understands the value of facilitating both mentor and mentee opportunities as an essential support for the legal profession. To provide the right mentorship, the Society has developed three targeted mentoring programmes:

- Law Student Mentoring Programme
- Practitioner Mentoring Programme
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Law Students' Programme

The Young Lawyers 2024 Law Student Mentoring Programme paired 74 mentees with mentors. Young lawyers volunteered their time to participate and were introduced to their mentees at a launch event in April.

Participants heard about the benefits of both mentoring and being a mentee from the Law Society's Emerging Lawyer of the Year 2023, and guest speaker, Felicia Chan.

The Mentoring Programme for Practitioners is available to practitioners of all levels of practice post admission. This Programme runs from May to December each year and utilises the services of an independent coordinator with a background in training, facilitation, mentoring and coaching. The coordinator runs annual introductory sessions for new mentors and mentees and keeps in touch with them throughout the Programme.



2024 Law Student Mentoring Programme Launch Night in action

This year, 19 mentees participated in the programme. 17 of the assigned mentors had been a part of the Programme in previous years with three of those having been involved since the Programme's inception in 2011. This continuity of mentors ensures the Programme provides essential support to the participants.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Law Students' Programme is a bespoke mentoring programme open to any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander law students in any year of their study of law and is offered at any time.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students apply to the Law Society and are matched with a suitably experienced mentor for the duration of the Programme.

Law Society Accreditation

The Law Society delivered three accreditation programmes to members as follows:

Quality Practice Standard (QPS)

QPS certification reflects excellence in legal practice management. This year 41 firms held accreditation through the scheme. These firms have developed, and adhere to, documented internal processes designed to provide a consistent approach to matter management, risk management and client satisfaction. QPS-accredited firms are audited each year, to ensure they comply with standards above the minimum requirements set out by legislation. They are also entitled to a 7% discount for the first year on professional indemnity insurance premiums through Law Mutual, and a 5% discount thereafter.

Family Law Specialist Accreditation Programme

The Law Society also provides a Family Law Specialist Accreditation Programme which is conducted on a national basis and provides family law practitioners with the opportunity to be formally recognised as having:

- A high level of competency in their field;
- A high level of professionalism; and
- A commitment to ongoing expertise development, through continuing legal education.

There are currently 59 Family Law Accredited Specialists in Western Australia with 10 new specialists accredited in 2023. Specialists have the added benefit of being able to use the Family Law Accredited Specialist logo and branding on their marketing material, to promote their high standing in the area.

The Law Society conducts the Family Law Specialist Accreditation Assessment Programme every two years with the next Assessment Programme scheduled for 2025.

Wills and Estates Specialist Accreditation Programme

In May 2024, the Law Society determined to partner with the Law Institute of Victoria (LIV) to deliver a pilot of the Wills and Estates Specialist Accreditation Programme in 2025, provided there is a minimum of 15 candidates.

Subject to the satisfactory delivery and completion of the pilot in 2025, the Law Society will continue to offer the ongoing delivery of the Wills and Estates Specialist Accreditation Programme in Western Australia every two years.

National Mediator Accreditation Scheme (NMAS)

NMAS identifies national standards of practice and competencies for mediators in Australia. The Law Society is a Recognised Mediation Accreditation Body (RMAB), under the NMAS and has established panels of mediators and arbitrators to assist the legal profession, and the public, as needed.

The Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee makes recommendations to the Law Society Council about the inclusion of mediators and arbitrators on the panels maintained by the Law Society.

Professional Standards Scheme (the Scheme)

The Professional Standards Council (PSC) approved the third Scheme on 2 February 2024 and it will be effective from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2029.

In November 2023, feedback received on the Law Society's Annual Professional Standards Report (APSR) commended the Society for its random auditing of participating members to check compliance with professional indemnity top-up insurance arrangements as well as limited liability disclosure requirements. The APSR is submitted to the PSC each year to highlight key achievements with regards to consumer protection and improved occupational standards.

The Scheme closed the year with 2,443 participants as at 30 June 2024 with 155 new participants joining during the year. During 2023/24 significant work was undertaken in collaboration with the PSC.

Law Society Public Purposes Trust

Fund (the Trust)

Each year the Trust allocates funds towards annual grants each year for applications from organisations that meet the following objectives:

- To advance the education of the community, and any section of it, with respect to the law
- To advance the collection, assessment and dissemination to the community, and any section of it, of information relating to the law
- To improve the access of the community, and any section of it, to legal services.

Funding enabled 22 successful recipients to provide vital services to the community. This year's grant recipients include the Albany Community Legal Centre Inc, Street Law Centre WA Inc and the Pilbara Community Legal Service Inc.

Albany Community Legal Centre used funds to provide legal services and assistance to individuals appearing before the Magistrates Court in relation to restraining orders and protection and care matters in Albany, Narrogin and Katanning.

Street Law was funded to provide legal services to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness state-wide.

The Pilbara Community Legal Service used funds to provide legal services and legal education to the low income, low literacy and disadvantaged of the community in the Pilbara region.

Note: The Law Society of Western Australia is the trustee of the Trust. Grants of \$3,000,000 were approved to be paid out of the Trust this financial year, as authorised by the Attorney General.

Find a Lawyer Service

Find a Lawyer is the Law Society's free online database comprised of Law Society members from throughout the state. The database enables the public to search for a lawyer by location and practice area while also providing a platform for those firms that have more than 50% Society membership to be promoted to the general public.

The public can also access the database by calling the Society office where they are assisted with their search and provided with the contact details of lawyers that matched their requirements. This year the Society's Find a Lawyer Service saw 23,000 members of the public use our Find a Lawyer website feature nearly 70,000 times.

Central Point for Connections

To be a central point for connections across the profession, industry and community

The Law Society brings people together through a range of engaging fora to connect and support the legal profession.

Building Connections through Committee Work

At the Law Society's first Annual General Meeting on 3 October 1927 there were 96 Foundation Members and since then, in its near 100-year history, thousands of lawyers have volunteered to Chair or participate on the Law Society's many committees. Law Society committee membership provides practitioners with an opportunity to develop networks within their area of practice, learn from more senior practitioners and to connect with activities outside of the workplace.

With 32 committees covering diverse areas of law including Indigenous legal issues, intellectual property and technology and mental health and wellbeing, becoming involved in committees opens the door to influencing law reform and policy development. Practitioners are also afforded the opportunity to enhance their expertise within their practice area which benefits the profession and community at large.

Connecting with Members through a New Website Experience

The Law Society's website is the central digital communication hub for the profession to access services. In late December 2023 the Law Society launched a new website, ensuring greater capability and speed and a much-improved user experience for the profession and community.

Drop down menus have been re-imagined to be easier to navigate, search functionality has been enhanced, standalone sites for Law Mutual and the Old Court House Law Museum have been developed, and site readability and accessibility were also upgraded.

Connecting the Profession

The Law Society's many events throughout the financial year provided opportunities for the profession to meet and connect outside work commitments. Events spanned the spectrum of fun, social, sporting and inspirational.

Golden Gavel

In August, the Law Society's annual evening of satire didn't disappoint when 250 young lawyers attended the Golden Gavel competition at the Ritz-Carlton. 7 competitors combining their comedic talents with the art of public speaking to entertain guests.

Master of Ceremonies Calvin Rokich held the night together, with Rupert Williamson, from King &



Participants, winners and judges at the Law Society 2023 Golden Gavel Competition



Award winners and guests at the 2023 Gala Dinner and Awards Evening

Wood Mallesons taking the top prize. The Hon. Justice Jenni Hill, then Law Society President Ante Golem and Rachael Young SC judged the event.

Striving to Improve Working Conditions for Young Lawyers – Panel and Networking Event by the Young Lawyers Committee (YLC)

In September, YLC Committee Chair Demi Swain guided a strong panel comprised of Hon Matt Keogh MP, Ante Golem, Aleks Miller and Holly Gretton on this important topic for the profession. Discussions delivered meaningful insights using the Fair, Safe and Inclusive Legal Workplaces Guidelines (Guidelines), developed by the YLC.



L-R: Aleks Miller – YLC, the Hon Matt Keogh MP, Demi Swain – YLC, Holly Gretton – Hall and Wilcox and Ante Golem – 2023 President of the Law Society

The panel provided thoughtful observations into the current status quo and opportunities for growth and improvement within the legal profession. The focus was on working conditions and how workplaces can better support the health and wellbeing of their employees. Audience members offered personal and authentic experiences and took the opportunity to carry on the conversation with panellists over drinks post formalities.

Gala Dinner and Awards Evening – an Evening of Recognition

The Law Society's annual Gala Awards Evening recognises members of the profession who go above and beyond their paid work. The 2023 awards, held in October saw nearly 400 guests enjoying the opportunity to network with friends and colleagues and celebrate those who stood for giving of their time to others. An incredibly strong finalist short list saw Lawyer of the Year won by Tom Monks, from Tom & Co Legal, while Emerging Lawyer of the Year was awarded to Felicia Chan from Ashurst (now Legal Counsel, INPEX). Law Access Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year was awarded to Tom Lettenmaier from Murray Chambers.

Sporting Chances

The YLC held two showcase sporting events for members over the summer period – a mixed netball competition held in November, featuring 13 teams who competed in the annual friendly over five rounds on indoor and outdoor courts and in February, a mixed volleyball competition, with six teams competing for top spot. Members enjoyed drinks and food after both events. Law firm Allens took out the netball top honour, while Herbert Smith Freehills were champions of the Beach Volleyball.

Winding up the Year

The YLC's end-of-year sundowner saw more than 60 lawyers and students gather at a go-to city bar in November to celebrate the end of another year and to toast another successful Law Student Mentoring Programme. In December, the Law Society celebrated the end of 2023 with a 170-strong gathering of the legal profession, including members of the judiciary, at the Ritz-Carlton overlooking the beautiful Swan River.



Guests enjoying the 2023 YLC End of Year Sundowner

Young Lawyers Black Tie Ball

The bi-annual Young Lawyers Black Tie event is always a highlight of the social calendar. 430 members of the legal profession gathered at Optus Stadium in February where glamour and fun were the order of the evening. A special feature of the night was the guest speaker Her Hon Judge Linda Black who addressed the crowd with her confident wit and wisdom, holding the room to attention. The party atmosphere was capped off with a full dance floor and the sounds of the extraordinary DJ Siboney.



2024 Young Lawyers Black Tie Ball



2024 Welcome to the Profession Breakfast

Welcome to the Profession Breakfast

The Welcome to the Profession Breakfast in March 2024 provided a platform for the profession to welcome its news graduates and new lawyers. More than 200 members of the profession helped to welcome new members and featured an inspiring presentation by the Hon. Justice Natalie Whitby as guest speaker. Justice Whitby shared invaluable experience with young new lawyers urging them to be person they would like to work for, be on the other side of or would want as their lawyer.

Partnering with the Arts to Create New Experiences

In June, the Law Society partnered with the Black Swan State Theatre Company for a special performance of *RBG: Of Many, One*, about the extraordinary life of the late US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg. Law Society members were invited to an exclusive pre-show function, before enjoying the performance about the life of legal trailblazer. The play was written by Australian-born Suzie Miller – who also wrote *Prima Facie* – and starred Australian actress Heather Mitchell.

Beyond the Magic Circle – Alternative Legal Careers Night

In June the YLC's careers night was a sold-out event for law students, graduates and young lawyers all keen to hear about alternative pathways and careers in the law beyond the 'Magic Circle' of big law firms. A diverse group of speakers shared authentic insights and inspiring advice including Irene Kuo, Fortescue; Christopher Taylor-Burch, Francis Burt Chambers; Duan Thakhoda, WA Local

Government Association; Lucas Roosendaal, Legal Aid Western Australia; Anna Farrant, Women's Legal Service WA; Isabel Inkster, State Solicitor's Office; and Jason Rickersey from the WA State Government.



Beyond the Magic Circle, L-R Isabel Inkster – State Solicitor's Office, Katherine Swann – Ashurst, Jason Rickersey – State Government of WA, Irene Kuo – Fortescue, Duan Thakhoda – WALGA, Christopher Taylor-Burch – Francis Burt Chambers, Anna Farrant – Women's Legal Service WA, Lucas Roosendaal – Legal Aid WA

Meeting Would-Be Lawyers at Student Career Expos

Having a presence at career expos allow the Law Society to reach out to perspective law students and those considering a career or degree in law. In May, the Law Society and YLC committee members Thomas Coltrona, Rebecca Rees and Daniel Dyer-Smith attended the Wesley College and Penrhos College Expo at Murdoch University, where they engaged with parents and students interested in the law.

In May, the Law Society also attended the Perth Law Careers Fair held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. YLC Chair Demi Swain and members Thomas Coltrona, Emma Boogaardt and Matthew Petriwskyj joined the Law Society in meeting with perspective law students to chat about the law, careers in the law and the role the Law Society plays as a central point for connections in the profession.

Mock Trial Competition

The Law Society's enduring Mock Trial Competition continues to go from strength to strength. The Competition, which is currently in its 37th year, involves student teams taking the roles of barristers, instructing solicitor, witnesses and court staff in fictitious civil and criminal law matters. These matters are adjudicated by a volunteer lawyer or law student as the judicial officer. Teams compete in 3 compulsory rounds in the first half of the year with the top 16 ranked teams then progressing through to finals rounds in the second half of each year.

2023 Competition

116 teams competed across 7 rounds culminating with the Grand Final in October 2023. The Grand Final was adjudicated by His Honour Chief Justice Peter Quinlan and, for the first year, was between two public schools with Bob Hawke College securing the win over Rossmoyne Senior High School in a hotly contested mock criminal law matter (involving a Taylor Swift impersonator).

2024 Competition

Beginning in March and as a sign of its increasing popularity, a record 120 teams competed in 180 mock trials at the old Supreme Court in Perth.

More than 1,200 students from 64 schools participated in the first 3 compulsory rounds of the 2024 Competition.

Over 120 volunteer lawyers, law graduates, associates and law students supported the competition acting as mock trial judges, advocacy coaches or developing educational and case materials.

As a result of our inclusion and access agenda, 7 schools with an Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage (ICSEA) value of 1000 or less were able to register their teams thanks to the Student Access Program made possible through our partnership with Francis Burt Chambers.



2023 Mock Trials in action and winning school Bob Hawke College

Cluedunnit Kids

The Law Society's beloved Cluedunnit Kids invites Year 6 students to solve a fictitious 'crime' using the rules of evidence and sentencing principles in a fun way. 75 teams from all around the state submitted their findings in creative submissions including video interviews, video songs, dancing and animation, and physical displays such as board games and booklets.

The 2024 winner was Harrisdale Primary School. The Law Society extends its thanks to the President of the Children's Court of Western Australia, His Hon Judge Hylton Quail, for allowing access to the court for the presentation of the awards.

The Law Society is grateful for the support of the Curtin Law School - as well as the WA Police and Legal Aid WA - for their work in ensuring enjoyable and interesting scenarios with which the students can engage.



The Hon Justice Michael Lundberg, The Hon Peter Quinlan, Chief Justice of Western Australia and Elder Dr Gerrard Shaw with a Leadership Day student

Inaugural Aboriginal Youth Civics Leadership Day

The Law Society's Francis Burt Law Education Programme team hosted its first Aboriginal Youth Civics Leadership Day in May, with 24 students from across Western Australia and two from New South Wales, participating in the Day.

The students came from many different language groups and were nominated to attend for showing leadership potential and/or civic awareness.

The students heard from Aboriginal Elders, Uncle Ben Taylor-Cuimera and Uncle Gerrard Shaw, as well as Rob and Zoe Davis from As One Nyitting, Kulbardi Youth Ambassadors, international advocate Dr Hannah McGlade and young Aboriginal advocates, as well as Kim Farmer and representatives from the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA.

The Chief Justice of Western Australia, the Hon Justice Peter Quinlan, the Hon Justice Michael Lundberg and His Hon Judge David MacLean joined Law Society President Paula Wilkinson in officially welcoming the students and presented them with participation certificates.

The Law Society is proud to work with Aboriginal organisations and Aboriginal Peoples to facilitate Aboriginal-led programmes that aim to create opportunities for, and inspire, young Aboriginal Peoples to be future leaders and/or civic advocates.



2024 Leadership Day group participants

Thank You!

We couldn't do the important work we do supporting the legal profession without the support of our wonderful sponsors, advertisers and partner organisations. You are all important.

Aboriginal Legal Service of WA

Atrium Homes

Bennett - Litigation and Commercial Law

Cancer Council WA

Cat Haven

Children's Cancer Research

College of Law

Curtin University School of Law

Department of Energy, Mines, Industry
Regulation and Safety

Department of Finance

Department of Justice

Dog's Refuge Home

Francis Burt Chambers

Follow the Dream: Polly Farmer Foundation

Glen McLeod Legal

Hall & Wilcox

Herbert Smith Freehills

Herron Todd White

Initiative Media

Jackson McDonald

Kulbardi Aboriginal Centre, Murdoch University

Leap

Legal Home Loans

legalsuper

Marsh

MinterEllison

Public Purposes Trust

Relationships Australia

RSM

Salvation Army

Shearn HR Legal

State Administrative Tribunal

University of Western Australia

WorkCover WA

Thank You from the Old Court House Law Museum

Making History – Framing the Future

Foundations



Law Firms



Individuals

Founding Champions

- Sandy Anghie
- Ante Golem
- The Hon Dr Andrew Lu AM

Founding Donors

- Henry Boston OAM
- Peter Brindal
- Tony Chong
- Professor Brett Davies
- Danielle Davies
- Olivier David and Dr Bennie Ng
- Karen Farley SC
- Catherine Fletcher
- The Hon Nicholas Hasluck AM
- Stephen Josland
- Pino and Christine Monaco
- Dr Narrelle Morris
- Jodie Moffat
- Gavin Ryan
- The Hon Justice Melanie Sloss
- Carolyn Thatcher SC
- Áine Whelan
- Anonymous x 7



Corporate Governance

Annual General Meeting

The Society's Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday, 21 November 2023.

Councillor Meeting Attendance 2023

1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023

Member	Council (Total 4)	Trustee of Law Mutual Fund (Total 3)	Trustee of the Public Purposes Trust (Total 3)	Trustee for the Old Court House Law Museum Trust (Total 3)	Trustee of the Chief Justice's Law Week Youth Appeal Trust (Total 1)
Ante Golem	3	3	3	2	1
Paula Wilkinson	4	3	3	3	1
Gary Mack	4	3	3	3	1
Rebecca Lee	3	3	3	2	1
Ben Bullock	4	2	2	2	-
Thomas Camp	4	3	3	3	1
Dr Brett Davies	4	3	3	3	1
Angie Gimisis	2	1	1	1	-
June Kenny	2	1	1	1	-
Judy McLean	3	3	3	2	1
Kim Morrison	4	3	3	3	1
Kellie Woods	3	1	1	2	-
Michael Ryan	2	1	1	2	-
Daniel Dyer-Smith	3	3	3	2	1
Tyler Greatrex	3	2	2	2	1
Demi Swain	3	2	2	3	1

Councillor Meeting Attendance 2024

1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024

Member	Council (Total 4)	Trustee of Law Mutual Fund (Total 3)	Trustee of the Public Purposes Trust (Total 2)	Trustee for the Old Court House Law Museum Trust (Total 2)
Paula Wilkinson	4	3	2	2
Gary Mack	3	2	2	2
Judy McLean	3	3	2	2
Ante Golem	2	2	2	2
Ben Bullock	2	1	-	-
Thomas Camp	4	3	2	2
Angie Gimisis	4	3	2	2
Dr Jessica Henderson	4	2	1	1
Mark Hemery	3	2	1	1
June Kenny	4	3	2	2
Aleks Miller	4	3	2	2
Kim Morrison	3	2	2	2
Kellie Woods	2	2	1	1
Michael Ryan	3	2	2	2
Bec Rees	3	2	2	2
Souzi Clifford	4	3	1	1
Ashton Hardstaff	2	1	1	1

Constitution: Rule 57

There is an Executive of the Council consisting of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Immediate Past President and one ordinary member of the Council who is to be appointed by the Executive for up to 6 months in each calendar year.

Executive Appointed Councillors 2024

Ben Bullock

16 February to 30 April 2024

Angie Gimisis

1 May to 31 July 2024

Executive Appointed Councillors 2023

Judy McLean

1 June to 30 September 2023

Thomas Camp

1 October to 31 December 2023

Associations Incorporation Act 2015

Section 42 – Disclosure of material personal interest.

In accordance with part (2) *A member of the management committee of an incorporated association who has a material personal interest in a matter being considered at a management committee meeting must disclose the nature and extent of the interest* – the following disclosure was made in the 2023-2024 year.

Name of Member	Date of Meeting/Item No.	Description of interest
Gary Mack	26 July 2023 – Item C5 - Imposition of Condition on Annual Practising Certificates	Personal interest – on the LPBWA Board
Kellie Woods	25 October 2023 – Item D5 - Increase to Number of Ordinary Positions for Law Society of Western Australia 2023 Elections for 2024 Council	Renominating for 2024 Council
Daniel Dyer-Smith	Item E.2 – 25 October 2023 – Confidential -Future Review of Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2022 and the Legal Profession Uniform Law (WA)	Personal conflict
Ante Golem	Item E.4 (2) – 25 October 2023 – Confidential – Appointment of Directors to Law Access Limited	Nominee to the Law Access Board from 1 January 2024
Kellie Woods	Item D.1 – 29 November 2023 – Recommendations of Council Selection Panel – 2023 Biennial Review of Committee Membership	Nominated to a Committee
Kim Morrison	Item C.1 – 28 February 2024 – Family Law Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2023: Consultation Update	Co-Chair of the Law Reform Committee of FLPA
Aleks Miller	Item C.1 – 27 March 2024 - Submission on Evidence Bill 2024	Employee of the State Solicitor's Office. Provides advice to government on Bills
Aleks Miller	Item C.2 – 27 March 2024 - Repeat Stealing Offences	Employee of the State Solicitor's Office. Provides advice to government on matters associated with this item
Aleks Miller	Item C.2 – 24 April 2024 – Reform to the Processes and Procedures of the Office of Information Commissioner Under the Western Australian Freedom of Information Act	Employee of the State Solicitor's Office. Advises on FOI applications and dealings with the Office of the Information Commissioner

Executive & Stakeholder Meetings

Executive Meetings 2023

- The Chief Judge of the Family Court of Western Australia and the Family Law Practitioners Association
- The Attorney General of Western Australia

Other Stakeholder Meetings 2023

- Law Council of Australia (President/President Elect/CEO)
- Legal Services Council
- University of Notre Dame
- Legal Practice Board of Western Australia

Executive Meetings 2024

- Legal Aid WA
- The Shadow Minister for Justice
- The Attorney General of Western Australia

Other Stakeholder Meetings 2024

- The Chief Justice Federal Court of Australia
- Deans of Law Schools

Nominations to External Boards

The Society nominated members to represent the profession on the following external boards and committees:

Steering Committee of the WA Human Rights Act Campaign

Legal Aid Committee 2023-2024

Law Council of Australia Rural, Regional and Remote Committee

Legal Costs Committee (Members)

State Records Advisory Committee

Australian Pro Bono Centre (WA Director)

Legal Costs Committee (Chairperson)

Western Australian Reproductive Technology Council (Member and Deputy Member)

Life Members

2022

The Hon Rene Le Miere KC

Greg McIntyre SC

The Hon John McKechnie AO KC

Ted Sharp

Craig Slater

2020

Mr Denis McLeod AM

2019

John Ley SC

2018

Kevin John Edwards AM

Cav. Maria Saraceni

His Honour Judge Hylton Quail

2017

Robert Kronberger

2016

Susan Fielding

The Hon Kevin Parker AC RFD KC *

Chris Zelestis KC

2015

The Hon Justice Carmel McLure AC KC

Steven Penglis SC

Clare Thompson SC

2014

Dudley Stow

2013

Her Hon Antoinette Kennedy AO

The Hon Robert Nicholson AO KCSJ FAAL

2012

His Excellency Malcolm McCusker AC CVO KC, Governor of WA

The Hon Chief Justice Wayne Martin AC KC

The Hon Michael Murray AM QC *

The Hon Daryl Williams AM KC

2010

John Fiocco

Laurie Shervington

2009

Elizabeth Heenan

2008

John Gillett

David Garnsworthy

2007

Michal Lewi AM

2005

The Hon Judge John Chaney SC

Rick Cullen

2003

The Hon Sir John Lavan

2002

Gregory Boyle

Judy Eckert

The Hon Robert French AC

The Hon Chief Justice David Malcolm AC *

Robert Meadows KC *

Her Hon Judge Kate O'Brien

John Syminton

1998

The Hon Sir Francis Burt AC*

The Hon Peter Durack KC

The Hon John Toohey AC*

The Hon Ian Medcalf AO*

1996

The Hon Barry Rowland QC

The Hon John Wickham QC*

Rory Argyle

*deceased

Financial Statements

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	NOTE	2024 \$	2023 \$
Revenue and Income	5	5,489,044	4,760,099
Investment income		38,423	23,317
Gain on the revaluation of properties		-	-
Governance expenses		(709,623)	(633,296)
Member services and advocacy services expenses		(2,181,149)	(2,103,969)
Community programmes expenses		(426,730)	(353,389)
Interest expenses		(738)	(734)
Finance and administration expenses		(1,485,850)	(1,456,425)
Surplus for the year		723,377	235,603
<hr/>			
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		723,377	235,603

The above Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2024

	NOTE	2024 \$	2023 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	13.1	2,858,774	2,571,435
Trade and other receivables	6	343,644	89,206
Other financial assets	13.2	700,000	-
Other assets		89,854	88,944
Total current assets		3,992,272	2,749,585
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	7	3,687,500	3,817,675
Right-of-use asset	16	4,315	12,946
Intangible assets	8	15,735	19,580
Total non-current assets		3,707,550	3,850,201
Total assets		7,699,822	6,599,786
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	9	590,662	535,305
Provisions	10	349,520	306,305
Borrowings	11	10,000	-
Lease Liability		4,442	8,774
Revenue in advance		2,034,799	1,744,379
Total current liabilities		2,989,423	2,594,763
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Borrowings	11	-	10,000
Provisions	10	9,835	13,393
Lease Liability		-	4,442
Total non-current liabilities		9,835	27,835
Total liabilities		2,999,257	2,622,599
Net assets		4,700,564	3,977,187
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Retained surplus	12	4,700,564	3,977,187
Total members' funds		4,700,564	3,977,187

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	RETAINED SURPLUS \$	TOTAL \$
Balance as at 1 July 2022	3,741,583	3,741,583
Surplus for the year	235,603	235,603
Total comprehensive income for the year	235,603	235,603
Balance as at 1 July 2023	3,977,187	3,977,187
Surplus for the year	723,377	723,377
Total comprehensive income for the year	723,377	723,377
Balance as at 30 June 2024	4,700,564	4,700,564

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	NOTE	2024 \$	2023 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Member subscriptions		3,308,294	3,003,321
Interest received		26,623	21,255
Receipts from other operating activities		2,830,204	2,674,231
Payments to suppliers and employees		(5,122,494)	(5,051,988)
Net cash generated by operating activities	13.3	1,042,627	646,819
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(45,776)	(53,959)
Payments to other financial assets		(700,000)	-
Payments for intangible assets		-	(7,434)
Net cash (used in)/generated by investing activities		(745,776)	(61,393)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Interest expenses		(584)	(435)
Payments for right-of-use leases		(8,928)	(8,928)
Net cash used in financing activities		(9,512)	(9,363)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		287,339	576,063
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		2,571,435	1,995,372
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	13.1	2,858,774	2,571,435

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. General Information

In the opinion of the Council, the Law Society of Western Australia Inc. (Law Society of Western Australia) is not publicly accountable. These financial statements are Tier 2 general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards –Simplified Disclosures adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA).

The Law Society of Western Australia is an incorporated association registered in Western Australia.

The Law Society of Western Australia is a not-for-profit entity for the purpose of preparing the financial statements under the Australian Accounting Standards.

2. Application of new and revised accounting standards

The Law Society of Western Australia has not adopted any new or revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australia Accounting Standards Board (the AASB) that are relevant to its operations and effective for an accounting period that begins on or before 1 July 2024.

3. Accounting policies

3.1 Goods and services tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except:

- a) where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office, it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense; or
- b) for receivables and payables which are recognised inclusive of GST.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the Australian Taxation Office is included as part of payables in the Statement of Financial Position.

Cash flows are included in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis. The GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the Australian Taxation Office is classified within operating cash flows.

3.2 Revenue recognition

3.2a Revenue recognition policy for revenue from contracts with customers (AASB 15)

AASB 15 requires revenue to be recognised when control of a promised good or service is passed to the customer at an amount which reflects the expected consideration.

Revenue is recognised by applying a five-step model as follows:

1. Identify the contract with the customer
2. Identify the performance obligations
3. Determine the transaction price
4. Allocate the transaction price
5. Recognise revenue

Generally the timing of the payment for sale of goods and rendering of services corresponds closely to the timing of satisfaction of the performance obligations, however where there is a difference, it will result in the recognition of a receivable, contract asset or contract liability (revenue in advance).

Notes to the Financial Statements

3.2 Revenue recognition (continued)

The following revenue streams were identified as having performance obligations over time.

- Member Subscriptions
- Finance and administration services

The following revenue streams were identified as having performance obligations at a point in time.

- Member services and activities
- CPD programme and education
- Marketing and promotion
- Other revenue

None of the revenue streams of Law Society of Western Australia have any significant financing terms as there is less than 12 months between receipt of funds and satisfaction of performance obligations.

3.2b Revenue recognition policy for revenue streams which are either not enforceable or do not have sufficiently specific performance obligations (AASB 1058)

Grant income

Assets arising from grants in the scope of AASB 1058 are recognised at their fair value when the asset is received. These assets are generally cash but may also be property which has been donated or sold to the Law Society of Western Australia at significantly below its fair value.

Once the asset has been recognised, the Law Society of Western Australia recognises any related liability amounts (e.g. provisions, financial liabilities). Once the assets and liabilities have been recognised then income is recognised for any difference between the recorded asset and liability.

3.3 Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs are recognised in profit or loss in the period in which they are incurred.

3.4 Employee benefits

A liability is recognised for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave, long service leave, and sick leave when it is probable that settlement will be required and they are capable of being measured reliably.

Liabilities recognised in respect of short-term employee benefits, are measured at their nominal values using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Liabilities recognised in respect of long term employee benefits are measured as the present value for the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the Law Society of Western Australia in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

3.5 Taxation

The Law Society of Western Australia is exempt from income tax under section 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act (1997).

3.6 Property, plant and equipment

Land and buildings held for use in the production or supply of goods or services, or for administrative purposes, are stated in the statement of financial position at their revalued amounts, being the fair value at the date of revaluation, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses. Revaluations are performed with sufficient regularity such that the carrying amounts do not differ materially from those that would be determined using fair values at the end of each reporting period.

Notes to the Financial Statements

3.6 Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Any revaluation increase arising on the revaluation of such land and buildings is recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated within equity, except to the extent that it reverses a revaluation decrease for the same asset previously recognised in profit or loss, in which case the increase is credited to profit or loss to the extent of the decrease previously expensed. A decrease in the carrying amount arising on the revaluation of such land and buildings is recognised in profit or loss to the extent that it exceeds the balance, if any, held in the properties revaluation reserve relating to a previous revaluation of that asset.

On the subsequent sale or retirement of a revalued property, the attributable revaluation surplus remaining in the properties revaluation reserve is transferred directly to retained earnings. No transfer is made from the revaluation reserve to retained earnings except when an asset is derecognised.

Fixtures and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives, using the straight-line method. The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each reporting period, with the effect of any changes in estimate accounted for on a prospective basis.

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected to arise from the continued use of the asset. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or retirement of an item of property, plant or equipment is determined as the difference between the sales proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset and is recognised in profit or loss.

Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets.

There are no short-term or leases of low-value assets for the year ending 30 June 2024.

3.7 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Law Society of Western Australia has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, it is probable that the Law Society of Western Australia will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at the end of the reporting period, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation. When a provision is measured using the cash flows estimated to settle the present obligation, its carrying amount is the present value of those cash flows (where the effect of the time value of money is material).

When some or all of the economic benefits required to settle a provision are expected to be recovered from a third party, a receivable is recognised as an asset if it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received and the amount of the receivable can be measured reliably.

3.8 Financial instruments policy

Recognition and initial measurement

Trade receivables are initially recognised when they are originated. All other financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Law Society of Western Australia becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Notes to the Financial Statements

3.8 Financial instruments policy (continued)

Financial assets – Classification.

On initial recognition, a financial asset is classified as measured at amortised cost. Financial assets are not reclassified subsequent to their initial recognition.

Financial assets – subsequent measurement and gains and losses.

Financial assets at amortised cost

These assets are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. The amortised cost is reduced by impairment losses. Interest income and impairment are recognised in profit and loss. Any gain or loss on derecognition is recognised in profit and loss.

Impairment

The Law Society of Western Australia recognises loss allowances for expected credit losses (ECLs) on financial assets measured at amortised cost. The Law Society measures loss allowances at an amount equal to lifetime ECLs.

When determining whether the credit risk of a financial asset has increased significantly since initial recognition and when estimating ECLs, the Law Society of Western Australia considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis, based on the Law Society of Western Australia's historical experience and informed credit assessment and including forward-looking information.

The Law Society of Western Australia assumes that the credit risk on a financial asset has increased if it is more than 30 days past due.

Measurement of ECLs.

ECLs are a probability-weighted estimate of credit losses. Credit losses are measured as the present value of all cash shortfalls (i.e. the difference between the cashflows due to the Law Society of Western Australia in accordance with the contract and the cashflows that the Law Society expects to receive).

ECLs are discounted at the effective interest rate of the financial asset.

Write-off

The gross carrying amount of a financial asset is written off when the Law Society of Western Australia has no reasonable expectations of recovering a financial asset in its entirety or a portion thereof.

Derecognition of financial assets

The Law Society of Western Australia derecognises a financial asset when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or when it transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the asset to another party. If the Law Society of Western Australia either transfers or retains substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership and continues to control the transferred asset, the Law Society of Western Australia recognises its retained interest in the asset and an associated liability for amounts it may have to pay. If the Law Society of Western Australia retains substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of a transferred financial asset, the Law Society of Western Australia continues to recognise the financial asset and also recognises a collateralised borrowing for the proceeds received.

On derecognition of a financial asset in its entirety, the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the sum of the consideration received and receivable and the cumulative gain or loss that had been

Notes to the Financial Statements

3.8 Financial instruments policy (continued)

recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in equity is recognised in profit or loss.

On derecognition of a financial asset other than in its entirety (e.g. when the Law Society of Western Australia retains an option to repurchase part of a transferred asset), the Law Society of Western Australia allocates the previous carrying amount of the financial asset between the part it continues to recognise under continuing involvement, and the part it no longer recognises on the basis of the relative fair values of those parts on the date of the transfer. The difference between the carrying amount allocated to the part that is no longer recognised and the sum of the consideration received for the part no longer recognised and any cumulative gain or loss allocated to it that had been recognised in other comprehensive income is recognised in profit or loss. A cumulative gain or loss that had been recognised in other comprehensive income is allocated between the part that continues to be recognised and the part that is no longer recognised on the basis of the relative fair values of those parts.

3.9 Financial liabilities

The financial liabilities of the Law Society of Western Australia including borrowings and trade and other payables, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs.

Other financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective yield basis.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability, or (where appropriate) a shorter period, to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

The Law Society of Western Australia derecognises financial liabilities when, and only when, the Law Society of Western Australia's obligations are discharged, cancelled or they expire. The difference between the carrying amount of the financial liability derecognised and the consideration paid and payable is recognised in profit or loss.

3.10 Fair value measurement

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date, regardless of whether that price is directly observable or estimated using another valuation technique. In estimating the fair value of an asset or a liability, the Law Society of Western Australia takes into account the characteristics of the asset or liability if market participants would take those characteristics into account when pricing the asset or liability at the measurement date. Fair value for measurement and/or disclosure purposes in these financial statements is determined on such a basis, except for share-based payment transactions that are within the scope of AASB 2, leasing transactions that are within the scope of AASB 117, and measurements that have some similarities to fair value but are not fair value, such as net realisable value in AASB 2 or value in use in AASB 136.

In addition, for financial reporting purposes, fair value measurements are categorised into Level 1, 2 or 3 based on the degree to which the inputs to the fair value measurements are observable and the significance of the inputs to the fair value measurement in its entirety, which are described as follows:

- Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Law Society of Western Australia can access at the measurement date;
- Level 2 inputs are inputs, other than quoted prices included within Level 1, that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly; and
- Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

Notes to the Financial Statements

4. Critical accounting judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Law Society of Western Australia's accounting policies, which are described in note 3, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources.

Estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods in the revision affects both current and future periods.

4.1 Key sources of estimation uncertainty

The key assumptions concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the end of the reporting period, that may have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below or elsewhere in the financial statements:

Useful lives of property, plant and equipment

As described above, management reviews the estimated useful lives of property, plant and equipment at the end of each reporting period. There has been no change to the estimated useful lives of property, plant and equipment in the current financial year.

Valuation of building

The Law Society of Western Australia's premises on 160 St Georges Terrace are measured and reported at fair value.

In October 2022, Council approved a change to the revaluation policy whereby an independent financial reporting valuation of the building will now be conducted every four years provided that the annual consideration of property market conditions does not indicate any significant change.

The last valuation of the premises was undertaken by Opteon Property Group Pty Ltd on 30 June 2022, in accordance with applicable financial reporting standards, namely *AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement*.

Based on an assessment of current property market conditions at 30 June 2024 no indication of impairment was found.

Notes to the Financial Statements

5. Revenue and Income

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Revenue from contracts with customers		
Member subscriptions	2,753,406	2,574,546
Membership services and activities	301,372	197,585
CPD programme and education	647,056	344,761
Marketing and promotion	223,701	251,136
Finance and administration services	807,669	723,297
Total revenue from contracts with customers	4,733,204	4,091,325
Other revenue		
Other revenue	622,840	459,530
Total revenue	5,356,044	4,550,854
Income		
Grants	133,000	209,245
Total income	133,000	209,245
Total revenue and income	5,489,044	4,760,099

6. Trade and other receivables

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Current		
Trade debtors	296,027	43,405
Accrued income	33,753	21,755
Other receivables	13,864	24,046
	343,644	89,206

Notes to the Financial Statements

7. Property, plant and equipment

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<i>Carrying amounts of:</i>		
Building	3,420,000	3,510,000
Plant and equipment	267,500	307,675
	3,687,500	3,817,675

	Building at fair value	Plant and equipment at cost	Total
Balance at 30 June 2023			
Cost or valuation	3,600,000	2,281,354	5,881,354
Accumulated depreciation	(90,000)	(1,973,679)	(2,063,679)
	3,510,000	307,675	3,817,675
Balance at 30 June 2024			
Cost or valuation	3,600,000	2,327,130	5,927,130
Accumulated depreciation	(180,000)	(2,059,630)	(2,239,630)
	3,420,000	267,500	3,687,500

The following useful lives are used in the calculation of depreciation.

- Plant and Equipment 4-11 years
- Buildings 40 years

Reconciliation of Property, Plant and Equipment	Building at fair value	Plant and equipment at cost	Total
Balance as at 1 July 2023			
Cost or valuation	3,600,000	2,281,354	5,881,354
Write Off		-	-
Acquisitions	-	45,776	45,776
Elimination of accumulated depreciation on asset revaluation	-	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2024	3,600,000	2,327,130	5,927,130
Accumulated depreciation			
Balance as at 1 July 2023	(90,000)	(1,973,679)	(2,063,679)
Depreciation	(90,000)	(85,951)	(175,951)
Elimination of accumulated depreciation on asset revaluation	-	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2024	(180,000)	(2,059,630)	(2,239,630)

Notes to the Financial Statements

7. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

7.1 Measurement techniques of revalued amounts

Based on an assessment of current property market conditions at 30 June 2024, no indication of asset impairment was found. As such, the fair value as at 30 June 2024 of the Law Society of Western Australia's premises remains consistent with the value determined by Opteon Property Group Pty Ltd for 30 June 2022, less depreciation. This valuation was prepared using the income approach – capitalisation method in accordance with the International Valuation Standards 2018 and AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*.

8. Intangibles

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Carrying amounts of:		
Trademark	15,735	19,580
	15,735	19,580
	Trademark	
Balance at 30 June 2023		
Cost	74,916	
Accumulated amortisation	(55,336)	
	19,580	
Balance at 30 June 2024		
Cost	74,916	
Accumulated amortisation	(59,181)	
	15,735	

Trademarks are amortised over an estimated useful life of 10 years.

9. Trade and other payables

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current		
Trade creditors	20,358	35,907
Accrued expenses	16,100	16,167
Other payables	554,204	483,231
	590,662	535,305

Notes to the Financial Statements

10. Provisions

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Current		
Employee benefits	349,520	306,305
Non-current		
Employee benefits	9,835	13,393
	359,355	319,698

11. Borrowings

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Current		
Bank loan secured at amortised cost	10,000	-
Non-current		
Bank loan secured at amortised cost	-	10,000
	10,000	10,000

The Law Society of Western Australia's loan facility is secured by level 4 and part of level 5, 160 St Georges Terrace, PERTH WA 6000 and a general security interest over the assets and undertakings of the Law Society of Western Australia. This loan facility was renewed in December 2019 for a further 5 years to December 2024. The loan facility limit was varied in December 2022 to reduce the limit to \$500,000 (30 June 2022: \$1,831,500). The interest expense on the facility for the year ending 30 June 2024 is \$584 (30 June 2023 was \$435).

The Law Society of Western Australia has a letter of credit totaling \$150,000 (30 June 2023: \$160,000) of which nil (30 June 2023: \$150,000) has been used as at 30 June 2024, for a Transaction Negotiation Authority (TNA) guarantee provided by the bank to all other banks, that payroll related payments will be met.

12. Retained Surplus

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Balance at the beginning of the year	3,977,187	3,741,584
Surplus for the year	723,377	235,603
Balance at the end of year	4,700,564	3,977,187

Notes to the Financial Statements

13. Financing

13.1 Cash and cash equivalents

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and in banks, net of outstanding bank overdrafts. Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period as shown in the statement of cash flows can be reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Cash and cash equivalents	2,858,774	2,571,435
	2,858,774	2,571,435

13.2 Other financial assets

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Term Deposits	700,000	-
	700,000	-

(a) These represent bank term deposits with original maturities of more than 3 months.

13.3 Reconciliation of profit for the year to net cash flows from operating activities

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Surplus for the year	723,377	235,603
(Gain) on the revaluation of properties	-	-
Interest expenses	738	734
Depreciation and amortisation of non-current assets	188,427	203,047
	912,542	439,384
Movements in working capital		
Decrease/(increase) in trade receivables	(254,438)	(5,658)
(Decrease)/increase in other assets	(910)	(597)
(Decrease)/increase in trade and other payables	55,356	(38,988)
(Decrease)/Increase in provisions	39,657	(25,214)
(Decrease)/increase in revenue in advance	290,420	277,893
Cash (used in) operations	130,085	207,436
Net cash generated by operating activities	1,042,627	646,820

Notes to the Financial Statements

13. Financing (continued)

13.4 Reconciliation of liabilities arising from financing activities

Changes in the Law Society of Western Australia's liabilities arising from financing activities are shown in the table below. Liabilities arising from financing activities are those for which cash flows were, or future cash flows will be classified in the statement of cash flows as cash flows from financing activities.

	Balance as at 1 July 2023	Financing cash flows	Balance as at 30 June 2024
Borrowings (note 11)	10,000	-	10,000
	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,000</u>

14. Financial instruments disclosures

(a) Financial instruments

The financial instruments of the Law Society of Western Australia comprise:

- Cash and cash equivalents;
- Term deposits;
- Trade and other receivables;
- Trade and other payables.
- Borrowings

(b) Fair value of financial instruments

The carrying amounts of each of the financial instruments have been presented within the Statement of Financial Position at 30 June 2024.

In the opinion of Management, the carrying amount of financial instruments not measured at fair value closely approximate their fair value.

(c) Credit risk

Credit risk refers to the risk that the financial institutions (for cash and cash equivalents) and counterparties (for trade and other receivables) may default on their obligations to honour their commitments.

The maximum exposure to credit risk is limited to the carrying amount of cash and cash equivalents, and trade and other receivables noted in the statement of financial position at 30 June 2024.

The Law Society of Western Australia does not consider credit risk to be significant on account of the following factors:

- Cash and cash equivalents are held with the banking institutions that are subject to prudential regulations; and
- A significant portion of income relates to receivables from membership income which is paid upfront with no risk of default;

(d) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Law Society of Western Australia would not be able to meet its obligations to trade and other payables on account of the lack of available cash balance. The Law Society of Western Australia manages the risk through preparation of periodic budgets and holding cash reserves to meet those obligations on time.

Notes to the Financial Statements

14. Financial instruments disclosures (continued)

The maturity profile of the Law Society of Western Australia's trade and other payables and borrowings are:

	2024 Up to 6 months	2024 > 12 months	2024 Total	2023 Up to 6 months	2023 > 12 months	2023 Total
Trade and other payables	590,662	-	590,662	535,305	-	535,305
Borrowings	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
Total	600,662	0	600,662	535,305	10,000	545,305

(e) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risks refer to the variability in future cash flows of the Law Society of Western Australia on account of the changes in market interest rates. The following financial instruments are impacted by interest rate risks:

- Cash and cash equivalents items;
- Borrowings;

The sensitivity of the financial instruments to 0.25% change in market interest rate are:

	2024 Carrying amount	2024 Sensitivity	2023 Carrying amount	2023 Sensitivity
Cash and cash equivalents	2,858,774	7,147	2,571,435	6,429
Term Deposit	700,000	1,750	-	-
Borrowings	10,000	25	10,000	25
Total	3,568,774	8,922	2,581,435	6,454

Notes to the Financial Statements

15. Related parties disclosures

During the financial year, and in the periods specified below, the following members served in the Council of the Law Society of Western Australia.

Members who served
1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023
Ante Golem
Paula Wilkinson
Gary Mack
Rebecca Lee
Ben Bullock
Brett Davies
Angie Gimisis
June Kenny
Judy McLean
Kim Morrison
Kellie Woods
Terry Palmer SC (resigned 24 July 2023)
Michael Ryan
Daniel Dyer-Smith
Tyler Greatrix

Members who served
1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024
Paula Wilkinson
Gary Mack
Judy McLean
Rebecca Lee
Ben Bullock
Angie Gimisis
Mark Hemery
June Kenny
Aleks Miller
Kim Morrison
Kellie Woods
Michael Ryan
Jessica Henderson (resigned in July 2024)
Bec Rees
Souzi Clifford
Ashton Hardstaff

Notes to the Financial Statements

15. Related parties disclosures (continued)

Transactions between the Law Society of Western Australia and councillor related entities

Other than the President who receives a presidential honorarium, no member of Council receives directly or indirectly any fees, bonuses or other remuneration. The total honorarium paid in the financial year ending 30 June 2024 was \$135,931 (30 June 2023: \$132,253).

During the reporting period, legal services were provided to the Law Society of Western Australia, under normal commercial terms and conditions. For the period ending 30 June 2024 nil fees for legal services were paid to firms of which Councillors were partners, employees and consultants (30 June 2023: nil).

The Law Society of Western Australia received income from firms of which Council members are partners, employees and consultants. The following types of fees were received from all parties under the same terms and conditions as other members of the Law Society of Western Australia:

- membership fees;
- registration fees for Continuing Professional Developments and membership events.

Transactions between the Law Society of Western Australia and Law Mutual (WA)

During the current financial year, Law Mutual (WA) paid the Law Society of Western Australia administration, consulting and management services on a cost recovery basis amounting to \$446,457 (30 June 2023: \$377,565) which includes the recovery of a percentage of certain key management personnel's compensation paid by the Law Society of Western Australia. Law Mutual (WA) also paid the Law Society of Western Australia rent and outgoings on normal commercial terms and conditions amounting to \$169,428 (30 June 2023: \$169,680).

At 30 June 2024, Law Mutual (WA) had a debit balance of \$241,100 with the Law Society of Western Australia (30 June 2023: \$2,285 debit balance with the Law Society of Western Australia).

Transactions between the Law Society of Western Australia and Old Court House Law Museum

During the current financial year, Old Court House Law Museum paid the Law Society of Western Australia administration fees as on charge expenses for staff employment costs \$166,500.

At 30 June 2024, Old Court House Law Museum had a debit balance of \$43,482 (30 June 2023: \$11,756 debit balance) with the Law Society of Western Australia.

Transactions between the Law Society of Western Australia and the Law Society Public Purposes Trust Fund

In the 2023-24 financial year, the Law Society of Western Australia received grants payments from the Public Purposes Trust Fund for the following activities:

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Francis Burt Law Education Programme	103,000	177,000
Law Week	30,000	30,000
	133,000	207,000

The Public Purposes Trust Fund paid \$168,440 (2023: \$167,276) to the Law Society of Western Australia for administration, consulting and management services on normal commercial terms and conditions.

Notes to the Financial Statements

15. Related parties disclosures (continued)

At 30 June 2024, no monies were owed by the Public Purposes Trust Fund to the Law Society of Western Australia (30 June 2023: \$Nil).

Key management personnel compensation

The key management personnel at the Law Society of Western Australia comprise the senior management group. The gross compensation including statutory superannuation paid to these key management personnel during the year ending 30 June 2024 was \$956,495 (30 June 2023: \$923,906).

16. Leases

The Law Society of Western Australia leases a photocopier for a period of 4 years, expiring in December 2024.

Amounts recognised in profit or loss

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Expenses relating to short term leases	-	-
Interest on lease liabilities	154	299
Depreciation on right-of-use assets	8,631	8,630
Total amount recognised in profit and loss	8,785	8,929

Right-of-use assets

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Opening Balance	12,946	21,576
Additions to right-of-use assets	-	-
Depreciation charge for the year	(8,631)	(8,630)
Closing balance at end of year	4,315	12,946

17. Remuneration of auditor

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Audit of the financial statements - William Buck/KPMG	23,000	23,250
	23,000	23,250

18. Subsequent events

There has not been any matter or circumstance, which has arisen since 30 June 2024 that has significantly affected or may significantly affect, the operations of the Law Society of Western Australia, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Law Society of Western Australia in future financial years.

Statement by Council

In the opinion of the Council of the Law Society of Western Australia

- a. The Law Society of Western Australia is not publicly accountable;
- b. The financial statements and notes that are set out in pages 2 to 21 are in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)* and the Law Society of Western Australia's Constitution, including
 - i. Giving a true and fair view of the Law Society of Western Australia's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its performance, for the financial year ended on that date; and
 - ii. Complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosure Requirements.
- c. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Law Society of Western Australia will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed on behalf of and in accordance with a resolution of the Council.



23/10/2024

Paula Wilkinson
President

Date



23/10/2024

Judy McLean
Junior Vice President/Treasurer

Date

Independent auditor's report to the members of Law Society of Western Australia Inc

Report on the audit of the financial report



Our opinion on the financial report

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Law Society of Western Australia (the "Entity"), presents fairly, in all material respects:

- the financial position of the Entity as at 30 June 2024, and
- its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended

in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (applicable to Tier 2 Entities) and the *Associations Incorporations Act 2015 (WA)*.

What was audited?

We have audited the financial report of the Entity, which comprises:

- the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024,
- the statement of profit or loss and other income for the year then ended,
- the statement of changes in equity for the year then ended,
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended,
- notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, and
- the declaration by those charged with governance.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report* section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

Those charged with governance are responsible for the Other Information. The Other Information comprises the information included in the Entity's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Other Matters

The financial report of Law Society of Western Australia for the period ended 30 June 2023, were audited by the predecessor auditing firm whose opinion, dated 26 October 2023 was unmodified.

Responsibilities of the Law Society Council for the financial report

The Council Members are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (applicable to Tier 2 Entities) and the Associations Incorporated Act 2015 (WA), and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Council Members are responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at:

https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

William Buck

William Buck Audit (WA) Pty Ltd
ABN 67 125 012 124

Amar Nathwani

Amar Nathwani
Director
Dated this 23rd day of October 2024

Auditor's Independence Declaration under Division 5 of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)

To the Council of the Law Society of Western Australia

As auditor for the audit of the Law Society of Western Australia for the year ended 30 June 2024, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)* in relation to the audit; and
- no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

William Buck

William Buck Audit (WA) Pty Ltd
ABN 67 125 012 124

Amar Nathwani

Amar Nathwani

Director

Dated this 23rd day of October 2024



The Law Society of Western Australia

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