

The background of the cover is a teal color with white line-art illustrations of various Western Australian native plants, including banksias, grevilleas, and acacias. A dark blue rectangular box is centered in the upper half, containing the title text. An orange horizontal line is positioned above the title.

Annual Report 2024/25



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

Contents

02	Who we are	45	Corporate governance
03	Our impact at a glance	46	Annual General Meeting
04	President's report	48	Executive and stakeholder meetings
06	Chief Executive Officer's report	49	Nominations to external boards
08	Governance	50	Life members
09	Our Council	51	Financial statements
10	Council 2024	52	Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income
11	Council 2025	53	Statement of financial position
12	Committees	54	Statement of changes in equity
16	An influential voice with policy submissions	55	Statement of cash flows
19	A year of impact	56	Notes to the financial statements
24	The year in review	72	Statement by Council
25	Influential voice	73	Auditor's Independence Declaration
32	Essential support	74	Independent Auditor's Report
36	Central point for connections		
43	Thank you!		
44	Thank you from the Old Court House Law Museum		

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 Society is a not-for-profit association dedicated to the representation of its members and to the enhancement of the legal profession.

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 its **mission statement**:

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

[Our Strategic Plan](#), which runs through to 30 June 2026, will ultimately be delivered through the achievement of three 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.

The Law Society
— OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA —
The voice of the legal profession in Western Australia

Our reach at a glance

The Law Society is a not-for-profit association dedicated to the representation of its members and to the enhancement of the legal profession.

Engagement with
our members



5,119

total members

Engagement with
the legal profession



10,950

attendees at CPD and
social events

Engagement with
the community



28,700

members of the public used
'Find a Lawyer' database for
legal assistance

Engagement via
digital platforms



143,000+

website visitors to
lawsocietywa.asn.au

You can read more details of our [year of impact](#).

President's report

Gary Mack



The legal profession is undergoing significant demographic change. According to the 2024 National Profile of Solicitors, the profession is expanding, becoming younger, more diverse and female. Almost half of all solicitors are now between the ages of 25 and 39, with the average age sitting at 42. In 2024 in Western Australia, women accounted for 56% of solicitors. These trends are having an impact on the culture and priorities of the legal workplace.

The Law Society as a member-based organisation must respond and adapt to the new demographic of lawyers to continue to add value and be relevant to our members, both professionally and personally. 2025, therefore, has seen the Law Society pivot on several fronts; particularly in how we communicate with our members, what we communicate about, and the services we offer, while at the same time retaining core activities and events that our members value.

In support of this endeavour, I have made it a priority during my Presidency to meet as many of our members as possible and to understand what they want from their Society now and into the future. Throughout the year, I have engaged with over 100 young practitioners to get a feel for the types of services they value most.

Wellness, work-life balance and a values driven workplace were amongst the top priorities. Support with wellbeing and mental health was particularly important for those working in small to mid-sized firms and those practising in criminal law and family law. In response, the Society has launched a new Health and Wellbeing Hub, which collates in one place a list of support services that WA practitioners can access should they need to.

This year I also embarked on a country circuit along with Society staff, meeting with practitioners in Albany, Geraldton and Margaret River.

This year I also embarked on a country circuit along with Society staff, meeting with practitioners in Albany, Geraldton and Margaret River. This was

a fantastic way to meet regional members and learn what they want and need from the Society. I would like to thank our colleagues at Francis Burt Chambers, who generously provided their time to deliver CPD sessions to complement the networking opportunities offered through these events.

I have also sought out opportunities to collaborate with and support our fellow legal associations.

This has involved meeting with the leaders of organisations such as Pride in Law, Community Legal WA, the Society of African Australian Lawyers Inc, the Asian Australian Lawyers Association and many more, as well as bringing these groups together for the first time during Law Week 2025 to discuss common issues and foster understanding.

Together, we can make the best use of our limited resources and strengthen our advocacy on behalf of the profession as a whole.

In relation to advocacy, the Society's key advocacy and justice initiatives were collated into a single election platform for the first time this year ahead of the state election. Our advocacy emphasised that an effective, efficient and fair legal and judicial system is an essential component of the rule of law in WA.

Focus was on six priorities that our members, through our Committees, emphasised as being of critical importance, including additional legal assistance services funding, improved court facilities, the establishment of a state Judicial Commission, a review of WA's Pro Bono Model Guidelines, Freedom of Information system improvements, and digital practice issues.

The single platform approach improved the effectiveness of our advocacy to the government, opposition and minority parties, resulting in cross-party support for many of our platform priorities.

One issue that I have advocated for strongly this year is an increase in the rate of remuneration paid to private practitioners undertaking Legal Aid work.

One issue that I have advocated for strongly this year is an increase in the rate of remuneration paid to private practitioners undertaking Legal Aid work. Despite the 2024 publication of Dr Warren Mundy's independent review of the National Legal Assistance Partnership 2020-2025 (NLAP), the rate of remuneration for practitioners who contract to Legal Aid to provide legal services on behalf of their clients is deplorably inadequate, barely covering the cost of practising let alone providing for a basic living.

Arguing for more money for lawyers is challenging given competing pressures on the government wallet, however the consequences of this lack of funding are far reaching, touching many aspects of our justice system. They include negative impacts on victims of assaults, sexual assaults and domestic violence due to delayed trials and cancelled regional circuits, as well as a lack of representation for vulnerable people across our society, including children and those in rural and remote communities. The Law Society will continue to advocate for an increase in remuneration rates to match the relevant jurisdictions' fee scales, as recommended by Dr Mundy.

Finally, without the dedication and commitment of the Law Society's CEO and her hardworking team, this year's achievements would not have occurred. I sincerely thank Kate Wellington and her staff for their significant contribution to this year's successes.

Chief Executive Officer's report

Kate Wellington



I joined the Law Society as CEO in January, following the long-term leadership of David Price who served the Society diligently for over 18 years. It is both a privilege and a responsibility to take the reins at such a pivotal moment for our profession and our organisation.

In my first six months, I have focused on listening – understanding your needs, concerns and expectations. A strong, relevant peak body must be shaped by the voices of its members and the wider profession. This annual report highlights the breadth of the Society's activities over the past year, but in this section I want to reflect on the power of listening, and how your feedback is defining our direction for the years ahead.

In my first six months, I have focused on listening – understanding your needs, concerns and expectations. A strong, relevant peak body must be shaped by the voices of its members and the wider profession.

Earlier this year, we invited you to share your views on how we are performing, what matters most to you, and how we can better support you in practice. Your responses were clear and instructive. Many of you are satisfied with the support you receive, but you also told us you want more: stronger advocacy, greater impact, and a Society that is modern, inclusive, and future-focused. That feedback is now guiding everything we do.

What you told us matters to you

- **Advocacy:** clear, focused advocacy on issues that directly affect your ability to practise.
- **Impact:** professional and credible representation, but also bolder, more innovative and more visible leadership.
- **Connection:** an organisation that is approachable, inclusive, and reflective of the profession's diversity.
- **Publications:** a user-friendly digital *Brief* supported by the return of a hardcopy edition.
- **Professional Development:** the high-quality content you value, expanded with more advanced options and year-round free CPD.
- **Wellbeing:** stronger support to help members manage stress, workload and balance in a demanding profession.
- **Future focus:** guidance on the opportunities and challenges ahead for lawyers in WA.
- **Regulation:** sharper advocacy to tackle systemic issues in regulation and secure reform for the benefit of lawyers, their clients and the justice system.

What we have done so far

We're not wasting any time in responding to your priorities. Already we have:

- Made CPD free year-round as part of membership, including CPD Online.
- Launched *Brief* online, with hardcopy editions returning from December.
- Successfully pressed the Legal Practice Board on systemic issues, contributing to the establishment of a parliamentary inquiry.
- Rekindled connections across the profession, through regional visits and collaboration with other legal organisations.
- Reviewed our committees to ensure sharper focus and stronger impact.
- Launched an Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing hub, and a Health and Wellbeing hub, with AI and Ethics hubs to follow.

What's next

We're just getting started. Over the next 12 months, you will see:

- A new program of events and conferences.
- An improved digital experience across our website, forms, and member portal.
- Advanced learning programs through our new Signature Learning series to deepen and extend professional development.
- More opportunities for engagement, collaboration and connection across the profession.

Looking forward

The Law Society is entering a new era – one that builds on the solid foundations of nearly 100 years of history and tradition, while promoting the innovation and inclusivity that will secure the profession's future.

The Law Society is entering a new era – one that builds on the solid foundations of nearly 100 years of history and tradition, while promoting the innovation and inclusivity that will secure the profession's future. Our vision is to be a strong, relevant and forward-looking advocate for the legal profession in Western Australia in tandem with being an association that provides high-quality, timely support to practitioners at all career stages and across all locations and modes of practice.

Thank you for your feedback, your trust, and your continued commitment to the Society. Together, we are shaping a profession that is modern, resilient and equipped for the challenges ahead.

Thank you also for your support during my first months as CEO. I feel a palpable enthusiasm amongst members for the journey toward an improved and more dynamic Law Society.



The Law  Society®
— OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA —
The voice of the legal profession in Western Australia

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 – one year
- Senior Vice President – one year
- Junior Vice President and Treasurer – one year
- Immediate Past President – one year
- Nine Ordinary Members – two years
- One Country Member – two years
- Three Junior Members – one year

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

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

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

The Council does this, in part, by delegating responsibility of the day-to-day operations of the 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 Society's constitution and policies, established by the Council.

Council sub-committees

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

- 1. Executive Committee** – The Executive Committee comprises the President, Senior Vice President, Junior Vice President and Treasurer, Immediate Past President, and one Ordinary Council member, who is appointed by the Executive for up to six 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 and Treasurer and, in addition to the Chair, comprises the President, Senior Vice President and a member of the 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 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 four current Council members (the fourth Council member being appointed in June 2025).

Law Society Council 2024

The Council of the Law Society of Western Australia for 2024 - 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024



Paula Wilkinson

President
Kim Wilson & Co



Gary Mack

Senior Vice President
Abacus Legal and Mediation



Judy McLean

Junior Vice President
and 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



Eric Heenan SC

Ordinary Member
Francis Burt Chambers
(joined August 2024)



Mark Hemery

Ordinary Member
Hotchkin Hanly Lawyers
(resigned October 2024)



Dr Jessica Henderson

Ordinary Member
Murray Chambers
(resigned July 2024)



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

Law Society Council 2025

The Council of the Law Society of Western Australia for 2025 - 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025



Gary Mack

President

Abacus Legal and Mediation



Judy McLean

Senior Vice President

Fremantle Community Legal Centre



Angie Gimisis

Junior Vice President
& Treasurer

Hall & Wilcox



Paula Wilkinson

Immediate Past President

Kim Wilson & Co

Council Ordinary, Country and Junior Members



Thomas Camp

Ordinary Member

Butcher Paull & Calder



Dr Michael Douglas

Ordinary Member

Francis Burt Chambers



Patricia Femia

Ordinary Member

State Solicitor's Office



Eric Heenan SC

Ordinary Member

Francis Burt Chambers



Joy Horwood

Ordinary Member

Francis Burt Chambers



Aleks Miller

Ordinary Member

State Solicitor's Office



Kim Morrison

Ordinary Member

O'Sullivan Davies Lawyers



Michael Stork

Ordinary Member

Stork Davies Legal Advisors



Kellie Woods

Ordinary Member

Francis Burt Chambers



Michael Ryan

Country Member

Mortlock Ryan and Co Pty Ltd



Isabel Inkster

Junior Member

State Solicitor's Office



Munashe Rusamo

Junior Member

Estrin Saul Lawyers



Charlotte Solomon

Junior Member

Legal Aid WA

Committees

The Law Society acknowledges with gratitude the valuable contributions of its committee members.

Serving on a committee offers members the opportunity to actively shape the Society's advocacy on law reform and policy, while also building professional networks within their areas of practice.

With 35 standing committees and 321 members, the Society's advocacy is guided by the insights and experience of practitioners from across a wide range of practice areas.

These committees reflect the diversity of the profession, from regional lawyers to young lawyers, and ensure that every perspective helps strengthen the rule of law at both state and federal levels.

Committee participation fosters a deeper understanding of specific areas of law and offers valuable insight into ongoing law reform within members' practice areas.



Access to Justice

Garth Tinsley (Chair)

Maryse Aranda, Kristen Ashton (observer – replaced August 2024) Rebecca Davey (resigned November 2024), Alana Dowley (ex officio), Lara Gotti, Mark Hemery, Catinca Hozoc-Martin, Sue Kee, Gary Mack, Greg McIntyre SC (Deputy Chair), Chelsea McKinney, Gregory Mohen, Karen O'Sullivan, Jesse Rutigliano (resigned May 2024), Nicholas Snare



Alternative Dispute Resolution

Scott Ellis (Chair)

Mark Blundell (resigned March 2025), Graham Castledine, Nicoletta Ciffolilli (resigned November 2024), Registrar Mark Fatharly (ex officio), Ante Golem (resigned December 2024), Roselina Kruize (resigned September 2024), Nathan Landis (resigned August 2024), Robert Lilley, Jesse Martino (resigned June 2025), Karene Primrose, Dr Pat Saraceni, Steven Standing (resigned April 2025), Greg Steinepreis, Her Honour Judge Natalie Whitby (resigned October 2024)



Accreditation

John Hockley (Chair)

Christopher Boyle (resigned February 2025), Dr Brett Davies, Professor Stephanie Fryer-Smith, Daniel Gill, Elizabeth Hynes (Deputy Chair), Denby Kerr, Judy McLean, Kim Morrison (resigned March 2025), Trevor O'Sullivan



Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Working Group

Craig Slater (Chair)

Ben Dickens (Deputy Chair), Libby Fulham (resigned June 2025), Fiona Halsey, Anthony Jarvis, Stephen Ramsay (ex-officio), Rob Scales, Kate Wellington



Administrative and Migration Law

Thomas Griffiths (Chair)

Claire Faulkner, Hamish Glenister, Munashe Rusamo (Deputy Chair), Rajesh Saharan, Martin Udall, Crawford York



Brief Editorial

Dr Michael Douglas (Editor)

Ryan Arndt, Gregory Boyle, Ben Bullock, Gad Coffie, Dr Jessica Henderson, Jason MacLaurin SC (resigned December 2024), The Honourable John McKechnie AO KC (resigned April 2025), Thomas Moorhead, Dr Pat Saraceni, Robert Scales, Andreas von Altenstadt



Commercial Law

Shane Stewart (Chair)

Andreas von Altenstadt, Ian Barnard, Michael Berkeley-Hill (resigned May 2025), Ben Bullock (resigned October 2024), Ashani Chawda (lapsed), Sonia Chee, Andrew Crean, Paul Evans, Tony Fifield, Robert French (Deputy Chair), Emma Garlett, Tyler Greatrex, Ashton Hardstaff (resigned December 2024), Maggie McGuinn, Steven Pynt, Rhian Richards (observer), Kassem Seedat (observer), Anthony van der Westhuizen, Tom Webb



Construction and Infrastructure

Amanda Sinclair (Chair)

Dan Dragovic, Elisabeth Edwards, Scott Ellis, James Healy, Tristan Iredell, Melissa Koo, Nathan Landis (resigned August 2024), Katherine Mead, Adrienne Parker (resigned July 2024), Christopher Ryder, Tom Webb, Belinda Wong



Costs

Sandra Costopoulos (Chair)

Daniel Coster, Russell Daily, David Davidson, Tony Fifield, David Garnsworthy (until September 2024), Richard Graham, James Gatti, Eric Heenan SC (ex officio), Anthony Hevron (observer), Amy Pascoe (Deputy Chair), Libby Smith, Murray Thornhill, Kellie Woods (ex officio)



Country Practitioners

Michael Ryan (Chair)

Peter Brindal, Simon Creek, Amelia Englert (Deputy Chair), Jenna Hampton (resigned June 2025), Jessica Henderson, Michelle Huber, Megan Lawler, Gary Mack (ex officio), Carolyn Riley (resigned August 2024), Yolanda Schuurmans, Kylie Sexton



Courts

Edward Greaves (Chair)

Charmian Barton (resigned April 2025), Lisa Briggs (ex officio), Rick Cullen, His Honour Magistrate Trevor Darge (ex officio), Acting Principal Registrar Danielle Davies (resigned April 2025), Shonelle Duthie, Paul Evans, Patricia Femia, Principal Registrar Leonie Forrest (ex officio), Angie Gimisis (resigned December 2024), Principal Registrar Prudence Griffin (ex officio), Angelina Gomez, Richard Graham (Deputy Chair), Shivaun Hughes (ex officio), Nathan Landis (resigned August 2024), Aaron McDonald, Principal Registrar Kate McDonald (resigned September 2024), 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 (resigned February 2025)



Criminal Law

David Davidson (Chair)

Ryan Arndt, Avril Bartlett, Clare Brennan, Michael Cashman, Anthony Elliot (observer), Karen Farley SC (Deputy Chair), Simone Fishbourne (ex officio), Patricia Femia (ex officio), Hamish Glenister, Teck John Ling, Judy McLean (ex officio), Carly Price, Brianna Rositano (resigned October 2024), Claire Rossi, Kirsten Scott, Nicholas Snare, Registrar Janet Whitbread (observer)



Education

Adam Levine (Chair)

Robert Bathurst, Thomas Coltrona (ex officio), Karen Farley SC (resigned April 2024), Fiona Halsey (Deputy Chair), Mark Hemery (ex officio), James McMillan (resigned November 2024), Julian Misso, Kim Morrison (resigned August 2024), Dr Pat Saraceni



Elder Law and Succession

Elizabeth Heenan (Chair)

Michelle Bennett, Jamie Blair, Sally Bruce (Deputy Chair), Emma Dodgson (resigned July 2024), Anthony Durand (resigned June 2024), Rob Durey, Fritha Gibbons, Daniel Gill, John Hockley, Amanda Liston (removed), Ross Mendonca, Ross McDougall, Robert Nash, Peter Nevin, Charlotte Solomon (ex officio), Morgan Solomon, Gabriel Wong, Kellie Woods, Nicole Woods, Janet Woollard (resigned January 2025)



Employee Relations

Cory Fogliani (Chair)

Elaine Buchanan, Elisha Butt, 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 Saharan, Daniel Stojanoski (resigned March 2025), Isabella Wilson (resigned March 2025)



Environment, Town Planning and Local Government

Denis McLeod (Chair)

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



Ethics

Fiona Stanton (Chair)

Michael Cashman, Gad Coffie, Professor Brett Davies, Paul Donovan, Paul Evans (Deputy Chair), Karen Farley SC (resigned July 2025), Sue Kee, Dr Andrew Lu AM, Ashley Macknay (PEC), Karene Primrose, Chris Robertson, Craig Slater, Glen Scott, Sukhwant Singh (resigned July 2024)



Family Law Accreditation Sub-Committee

Elizabeth Hynes (Chair)

Denby Kerr (Deputy Chair), Julia Mansfield, Paula Wilkinson, Trevor O'Sullivan, Kim Morrison (resigned March 2025)



Old Court House Law Museum Foundation

The Honourable Lindy Jenkins (Chair)

Sandy Anghie (Deputy Chair), Dr Toni Church, Catherine Fletcher, Ante Golem and Dr Andrew Lu AM



Joint Form of General Conditions for the Sale of Land

Frank Poeta (Chair)

Jolene Ashworth (resigned November 2024), Peter Beekink, Hendrik Bendtsen, Catherine Black, Anthony Davis, Marcus Easthope, Cath Hart (REIWA), Meagan Johnston, Tim Lane (REIWA), Ross McCallum (REIWA), Suzanne Brown (REIWA), Simon Moen, Joe White (REIWA), Peta Whyte



Human Rights and Equal Opportunity

Greg McIntyre SC (Chair)

Eli Bernstein, Milo Bronleigh (YLC), Matthew Giles, Janita King (resigned May 2024), Natasha Leedman, Kristen Scott (LCA EO Committee representative), Rabia Siddique (Deputy Chair), Carolyn Tan, Grace Ward, Katrina Williams, Belinda Wong



Indigenous Legal Issues

Greg McIntyre SC (Chair)

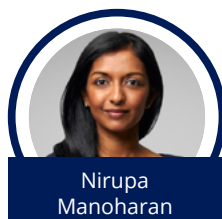
Tenaia Dickerson, Emma Garlett, Juanita Haynes, Aparna Jayasekera, June Kenny (resigned December 2024), Eloise Langoulant, Jenny McKenzie (Deputy Chair), Judy McLean (resigned March 2025), The Hon Robert Nicholson AO, His Honour Kevin Sleight, Charlotte Solomon (ex officio)



In-house/Government Lawyers

Zoran Vukojevic (Chair)

Avril Bartlett (resigned January 2024), Ben Bullock, Gad Coffie, Elizabeth Edwards (Deputy Chair), Sarah Forster, Angela Howie, Isabel Inkster (ex officio), Amanda Kailis (resigned June 2024), Kelli King, Karen La, Peter Le, Elizabeth Maynard, Diane Sinagra (resigned February 2024), Maya van den Driesen



Insolvency & Restructuring

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

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



Technology and Law

Michael Paterson (Chair)

Simone Basso, Eli Bernstein, Samuel Fiddian, Iain Freeman, Angelina Gomez, Christa Queern, David Stewart (resigned April 2024), Stephen van Heerden, Zoran Vukojevic



Joint Law Society / Women Lawyers (WLWA)

Libby Fulham (Chair)

Leanne Allison (WLWA - resigned March 2024), Simone Basso (resigned January 2025), Kitty Chen (resigned November 2024), Rachel Eaton (resigned July 2024), Lisa Guagliardo (WLWA), Catinca Hozoc-Martin, Emma Luck, Menka Orellana (WLWA), Elisha Rayner (WLWA), Anne Rowley, Kirsten Scott, Maya vanden Driesen



Mental Health and Wellbeing

Michael Berkeley-Hill (Chair)

David Davidson, Russell Daily, Libby Fulham, David Garnsworthy (until September 2024), Angie Gimisis (resigned December 2024), Jocelyn Lee (resigned December 2024), Professor Sharon Mascher (ex officio), Gabby Miocevic, Melissa Wishart (ex-officio), Sukhwant Singh (resigned July 2024), Julia Symons, Katherine Swann (resigned December 2024), Julia Wedlock, Danielle Wilson



Personal Injuries and Workers' Compensation

Joel Trigg (Chair)

Michelle Antunovich, Mark Civitella (Deputy Chair), Daniel Coster, Irena Ferraro, Asanka Gunasekera, Ian Murray (resigned January 2025), Vidal Pinckney-Hockless, Eleanor Scarff, Julia Wedlock, Kerry Wood



Professional Indemnity Insurance Management

Dudley Stow (Chair)

Jocelyne Boujos, Thomas Camp, Robert Evans, Peter Forbes, Angie Gimisis, Joy Horwood, Paula Wilkinson



Professional Standards Scheme

Vidal Pinckney-Hockless (Chair)

Jocelyne Boujos, Carolyn Moss, Kelly Zhang



Property Law

Marcus Easthope (Chair)

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



Quality Practice Standard

Craig Slater (Chair)

Erin Blight, Peter Liron (ex officio), Alyce Martin (resigned October 2024), Merrill MacNish, Andrew McGuinness, Julie Ots (ex officio), Kevin Chalklin



Taxation Law

David Murphy (Chair) (LCA)

Matthew Crowley, Humphry Faas (Deputy Chair) (LCA), Adrian Hanrahan (LCA), John Hockley (LCA), James McMillan (resigned November 2024), Robert Scales (LCA), Libby Smith (resigned May 2024), Daniel Taborsky (LCA), Zoran Vukojevic, Grahame Young (LCA)



Young Lawyers

Thomas Coltrona (Chair 2025)

Isabella Wilson (Deputy Chair 2024) Thomas Boyle, Emma Boogaardt, Milo Bronleigh, Kitty Chen, Ally Clark, Brooke Curley, Michelle Daniels, Daniel Dyer-Smith, Garrick Garvey, Catinca Hozoc-Martin, Phoebe Johnson, Mary-Kate Ledger (Deputy Chair 2025), Jesse Martino, Matthew Petriwskyj, Rebecca Rees, Lucas Roosendaal, Munashe Rusamo, Jacky Smith, Katherine Swann, Demi Swain (Chair 2024), Julia Symons, Dora van der Westhuyzen, Annie Williams



Wills and Estates Accreditation Advisory Sub-committee

Dr John Hockley (Chair)

Christopher Boyle (resigned February 2024), Sally Bruce, Dr Brett Davies, Bernadette Duell, Susan Fielding, Daniel Gill (Deputy Chair), Elizabeth Heenan, Robert Nash, Denby Kerr

An influential voice with policy submissions

In the 2024-25 financial year, the Law Society's committees contributed to over 40 policy paper submissions on key issues affecting the profession and the rule of law.

July – December 2024

- Family Domestic Violence Training Through Accreditation
- Public Leadership Statement: Position on Sexual Harassment and Discrimination
- Review of the Guardianship and Administration Act 1990
- Modernising of WA's Workers Compensation Laws: Proposed Costs Determination
- Australian Mediator Dispute Resolution System
- Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2022 – Contentious Business Determination Review
- Law Council of Australia Advocacy Response to Dr Mundy's National Legal Assistance Partnership Report
- Family Court Amendment (Commonwealth Reforms) Bill 2024
- Administrative Appeals Tribunal Practice Directions and Rules
- The Law Society/The Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (WA) Joint Submission to Attorney General in relation to Succession and Elder Law Reforms
- Endorsement of Law Firm Australia's Submission re Changes to the Criminal Code 1913 (WA)
- Ligature Point Minimisation
- Joint Review of the Use of Client Legal Privilege in Commonwealth Investigations
- Death of a Child in Banksia Hill Youth Detention Centre
- Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Amendment Bill 2024
- Review of the Separation Regime in Operating Requirements 5.6 Regarding Electronic Lodgment Operation Networks (ELNOS)
- Commonwealth Youth Justice and Incarceration Inquiry
- Council of Australian Law Deans Project-Australian Education 2030 and Beyond
- Feedback on Court Initiative Component of Management of Digital Evidence in Criminal Cases Project
- Law Council of Australia Submission relating to Eligibility Requirements for Registration with the Tax Practitioners Board
- Potential for Workcover Registered Elections to be invalid: *Neville v Choice One Pty Ltd* [2024] WASCA 104
- Feedback to Law Council of Australia on the Audit of the Design and Implementation of the Measuring What Matters Framework
- 2025 State Election Campaign
- Law Council of Australia Review of the Equitable Briefing Policy
- Joint Law Society/Law Council of Australia Letter re Youth Justice

January – July 2025

- AUSTRAC Consultation on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Reforms
- Changes of Trustee and Section 535 of the Criminal Code 1913 (WA)
- The Availability of Medicare Benefits for Medical Reports required for Administrative Appeals
- Workers Compensation and Injury Management Act 2023
- Availability of Medicare Benefits for Advance Health Directives and Voluntary Assisted Dying
- Transfer of Prisoners from Hakea Prison

- 2025 Review of Non-Contentious Business Determinations
- Review of the Guardianship and Administration Act 1990 (WA)
- Proposed WA Judicial Commission
- Supreme Court of Western Australia – Generative AI
- Draft Standard Costs Disclosure Forms for User Testing
- Proposed Regulations for Compensable Patients
- Statutory Reviews of Intestacy Legacies Under Section 14b(2)(a) of the Administration Act 1903 (WA)
- Federal Court of Australia - Generative AI

Detailed below are some key policy submission highlights.

Succession and elder law reform

The Society continues to advocate for important reforms in elder and succession law at a state and federal level. In August, the Society's Elder Law and Succession Committee and the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP) WA collaborated on a joint submission to the then state Attorney-General on pressing matters for reform in WA, including amendments to anti-ademption provisions and changes to enduring powers of attorney.

Between December and May, the Committee prepared a comprehensive submission to the Law Reform Commission of WA on the Commission's review of the Guardianship and Administration Act 1990 (WA). The submission included recommendations for crucial reform affecting enduring powers of attorney and guardianship, advance health directives, consent to medical research and the jurisdiction of the State Administrative Tribunal.

In the State Election Campaign, the Society called for legislative reform concerning wills for minors, the release of wills and the requirements to establish paternity. In March, the Committee wrote to the then State Minister for Health and Mental Health, calling for state government support for the inclusion of advance health directives and voluntary assisted dying consultations in the Medicare Benefit Schedule. In June, the Society contributed to Law Council of Australia submissions on the Human Tissues Laws Review and a draft pro-forma agreement for Granny Flat arrangements.

Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing (AML CTF) reforms

Major reforms to the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006 (Cth) and Australia's broader AML CTF regime were passed by Parliament in 2024 and will take effect for Australian legal practitioners in July 2026.

The Society has been an active advocate for many years, both directly and through the Law Council of Australia as a constituent body, in representing the interests of the profession in relation to the AML CTF legislative reforms.

In November 2024, the Society established an AML CTF Working Group which includes members with expertise in AML CTF, the Society CEO, and representation from the Legal Practice Board of Western Australia. The Working Group has provided valuable contributions to a number of Law Society submissions on aspects of the AML CTF regime, including compliance costs, suspicious matter reports, legal professional privilege, audits, and designated service definitions.

The Society is also a member of the LCA's AML CTF Working Group, AUSTRAC's Rules and Guidance Working Group, and AUSTRAC's Legal and Conveyancing Industry Forums.

Youth justice

The Society continues to advocate for reform of the youth justice system in Western Australia, including a full independent review, and made a number of submissions and media statements during the year, including in relation to the death of a child at Banksia Hill detention centre and with respect to the elimination of ligature points.

The Society advocates for the immediate closure of Unit 18 at Casuarina Prison, as it is unacceptable for children to be detained in an adult penitential facility.

Youth justice reform also comprised a key priority of our [2025 State Election Advocacy Campaign](#).

Generative AI

The first half of 2025 was a busy time for Society advocacy on the use and regulation of generative artificial intelligence (AI) in the legal profession. In March, the Supreme Court of Western Australia issued a consultation note on a proposed practice direction regulating the use of AI in litigation.

Between March and April, the Society commissioned a survey of the profession to ascertain the view of local legal practitioners.

128 anonymous responses were received across private practice, government and community legal centres. More than 50 per cent of the respondents confirmed they currently use AI tools in legal practice and over 90 per cent supported a formal practice direction from the Court. Respondents reported using AI for a range of tasks including legal research, drafting correspondence and court documents and practice management/administration. The survey responses informed the Society's submission to the Supreme Court in April calling for the courts to publish guidance encouraging the ethical and responsible use of AI tools in court proceedings.

In April, the Federal Court of Australia published a notice to the profession seeking views on the production of guidelines or a practice note in relation to the use of generative AI by practitioners and court users. In June, the Society made a submission to the Federal Court adapted for the federal jurisdiction, reiterating the call for courts to issue non-proscriptive guidance on the use of AI by all court users.

Work commenced on an AI hub for the Society website promoting guidelines and ethical considerations on the use of AI by legal practitioners. The Society's Technology and Law and Ethics Committees are developing resources for the hub, which will also include information for practitioners on the approach to AI adopted across the various state and federal courts and tribunals.

2025 State Election Campaign – Better Access to Justice for All Western Australians

In the lead up to the State Election in March 2025, the Society developed a comprehensive advocacy campaign informed by consultation with members, committees, key stakeholders, our Council and the wider profession between April and September 2024.

The campaign included 16 priority areas of advocacy focused on legislative and policy reforms which will help ensure everyone is treated fairly and equally before the law.

This includes a legal system that operates effectively and efficiently for the benefit of all, especially the most disadvantaged members of our community – children, victims of crime, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and members of the LGBTIQ+ community.

Priorities related to:

- Additional legal assistance services funding
- Improved court facilities, particularly in regional areas
- Establishment of a State Judicial Commission
- Review of the Pro Bono Model Guidelines
- Improvements to the Freedom of Information system
- Legislative reform to enable affidavits, statutory declarations and deeds to be witnessed electronically and by audiovisual links
- An independent review of the youth justice system
- Enhanced funding for early intervention strategies to support at-risk children
- Closure of Unit 18 and publication of a roadmap to youth justice reforms
- Enhanced funding for family and domestic violence services
- Repeal of mandatory sentencing laws
- Implementation of the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal deaths in custody
- Introduction of a Human Rights Act for WA
- Implementation of the recommendations of the WA Law Reform Commission in 2022 that legislative protections within the Equal Opportunity Act 1984 are extended
- Various legislative reforms relating to elder law
- Establishment of a WA Relationships Register

Commitments were received from political parties to support a number of our priorities, including the establishment of a State Judicial Commission, reform of the Guardianship and Administration Act, enhanced funding for Family and Domestic Violence prevention and response, and increased funding for youth diversion and bail support.

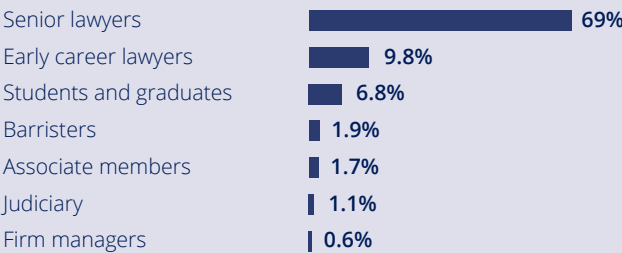


The Law  Society®
— OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA —
The voice of the legal profession in Western Australia

A year of impact

A year of impact

5,119 Members



Includes **13** honorary, **39** life members, and **33** on-leave members.



321

Members shaped the Law Society's advocacy by sitting on over 35 committees and contributing submissions to Council.



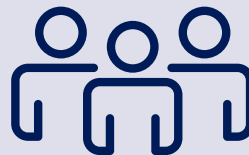
40

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



460

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



10,950

Attendances at CPD and social events.

Engagement with the legal profession

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



Continuing Professional Development



9,003

Total CPD attendances



56

Face-to-face seminars/
webinars



56

On-demand seminars



126

CPD presenters



legalsuper CPD Program sponsor



1,348

Participants attended **28** Law
Mutual risk management
workshops and seminars



2,424

Participants in the
Professional Standards
Scheme



1,947

People attended **15** Society
events



57

Accredited Family Law
Specialists



44

Firms accredited through the
Quality Practice Standard



115

Mentees paired with
mentors within in our **three**
mentoring programs

Engagement with the community



Find a Lawyer

28,700 members of the public used our Find a Lawyer website feature. The Find a Lawyer page was the third most viewed page on the Law Society website.



6,140

Young people educated on the legal profession by participating in the Francis Burt Law Education Program.



18,969

Total visitors to the Old Court House Law Museum.



1,474

Mock Trial student participants
120 school teams competed
120 legal professionals volunteered
590 students gained WACE accreditation.



Cluedunnit Kids

405

Students in **77** teams from **27** metro and regional schools.



153

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

Digital engagement with the community via social media followers

Law Society



3,300+



8,600+



300+

Profile created October 2024



143,000+

Website visitors



1.47M+

Website total traffic

Young Lawyers Committee



2,100+



3,900+



710+

Old Court House Law Museum



710+



190+

Profile created
December 2024



580+



10,200+

Website visitors



The Law  Society®
— OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA —
The voice of the legal profession in Western Australia

A year in review

Influential voice

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

The Law Society actively engages with key stakeholders to advocate on behalf of the legal profession, promote positive systemic change, and uphold the rule of law and access to justice. The Society also plays a vital role in fostering legal awareness and understanding within the community through the provision of legal education.

A voice in policy and advocacy

In 2024-25, we continued to play a leading role in shaping legal reform at both state and national levels. Our advocacy focused on areas with wide-reaching community impact, including elder and succession law, anti-money laundering reforms, youth justice, the regulation of artificial intelligence, and access to justice in the lead-up to the 2025 State Election.

Succession and elder law reform: protecting the rights of older Australians and modernising succession laws

We advanced key reforms through submissions to the State Attorney-General, the Law Reform Commission of WA, and the Minister for Health. Priorities included enduring powers of attorney, guardianship, advance health directives, wills for minors, and protections for older Australians. National contributions included input on human tissue laws and granny flat arrangements.

Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing (AML CTF) reforms: ensuring fair and practical AML CTF obligations

Ahead of new AML CTF obligations commencing in 2026, we have established a dedicated working group to guide submissions on compliance costs, professional privilege, and audits. Engagement with AUSTRAC, the Law Council of Australia, and industry forums ensured the profession's interests are well represented.

Youth justice: calling for safety, fairness and reform in youth detention

We continued to call for urgent reform of WA's youth justice system, including an independent review and the closure of Unit 18 at Casuarina Prison. Advocacy included submissions, media commentary, and State Election priorities, particularly in response to ongoing safety and welfare concerns for children in detention.

Generative AI and the State Election campaign: leading the conversation on technology and access to justice

We led engagement on the regulation of generative AI in legal practice, commissioning a profession-wide survey and making submissions to both the Supreme Court and Federal Court. In parallel, our 2025 State Election campaign advanced 16 priority reforms to improve access to justice, with political parties committing to key initiatives such as a State Judicial Commission, guardianship law reform, and enhanced funding for youth diversion and family and domestic violence services.

Read more information on our [advocacy](#).

A voice in the media

The effectiveness of our advocacy is enhanced through strategic communication with external stakeholders, including the media and via social media platforms. This approach is essential to ensuring the Society's advocacy and policy priorities achieve meaningful impact. We also maintain strong and constructive relationships with both state and national media outlets. Published articles include:

- [Too many desperately in need of legal aid](#) published in The West Australian on 9 September 2024
- [WA Law Society demands urgent action](#) published in the National Indigenous Times on 11 September 2024
- [WA Law Society 'cautiously' welcomes new youth prison](#) published in the National Indigenous Times 26 September 2024
- [Survivors, victims shortchanged by appalling courts](#) published in the Sunday Times on 16 February 2025

- [Domestic violence is at crisis point in Western Australia. Could this election bring change?](#) published in The West Australian 28 February 2025

You can view a full list of the Society's published articles, opinion pieces and media releases in our [Media centre](#).

Digital journal: *Brief*



www.briefonline.com.au; launching 31 July 2025

The Society's relationship with members included its bi-monthly official digital journal with the purpose of:

- Keeping members informed of current legal developments across all areas of practice
- Providing updates on legislative amendments and case note summaries for the benefit of members
- Offering in-depth analysis on complex or contentious legal issues
- Showcasing Law Society events and highlighting the essential support and services provided to members

Key articles in this financial year included:

- An exclusive interview with Jennifer Robinson: The inside story on the legal aspects of the Julian Assange case
- The Society's State Election advocacy campaign: Better access to justice for all Western Australians
- The potential challenges and risks of imposing a social media minimum age requirement on under-16s
- A 50-year retrospective of the Old Court House Law Museum

The Society extends its sincere appreciation to all contributors, both regular and ad hoc, whose articles have enriched *Brief* with diverse and robust content.

We also gratefully acknowledge the ongoing dedication of the *Brief* Editorial Committee and the significant effort it invests in producing each edition.

The final edition of the digital journal version of *Brief* was issued in April 2025. The journal will be evolving into a fully online website in the new financial year, with a launch date of the end of July 2025.

A voice in the community

The Society's reach extends beyond the legal profession to work with the 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, Education and Community Services, the Old Court House Law Museum, and the Find a Lawyer online referral service.

Law Week 2025



Law Week Long Lunch

Law Week was a standout success across Western Australia, with the Law Society promoting events hosted by organisations and the community which showcased the vital contributions of the legal profession in the community.

This year, Law Week united the broader profession in engaging with the public and community groups to strengthen understanding of access to justice, pathways to legal support, and pressing issues affecting both lawyers and the wider community. Under the theme 'Justice, Connection and Community', Law Week 2025 offered a diverse range of events that encouraged meaningful conversations and fostered collaboration, highlighting where collective action can drive positive change. Continue reading for further highlights.

Law Week Book Club



Acclaimed author Rick Morton joined the Law Week Book Club Forum via video link from Melbourne on 21 May, contributing to a compelling panel discussion centered on his latest work, *Mean Streak*.

The book delivers a powerful exposé of the robodebt scandal, which sent shockwaves through the public service and the upper echelons of government. Morton offered an unflinching, candid, and at times darkly humorous account of his experience writing the book, an account that has sparked significant discussion within the public sector.

Moderator Karess Dias, and panellists Kate Beaumont, Adam Sharpe, and Isabel Inkster provided an engaging and thought-provoking conversation that challenged, enlightened, and entertained. This evening could not have been possible without venue host sponsor Herbert Smith Freehills.

Law Week Long Lunch

A fitting finale to an outstanding 2025 Law Week, the Law Week Long Lunch, was held at Fraser's Kings Park on 23 May 2025.

Over 120 guests attended the event, which featured a compelling keynote address by

Professor Ed Santow on "The Future is Now: AI, Ethics and Innovation in the Legal Profession". The keynote was followed by an engaging chat between Professor Santow and Law Society CEO Kate Wellington, with thoughtful questions and discussion from the audience.

The event provided a reflective and forward-looking close to the week, marked by genuine curiosity about the impact of AI on the legal profession and a shared sense of optimism about the profession's ability to adapt and lead as these technologies become increasingly integrated into everyday life.

Law Access Walk for Justice: celebrating a decade of support

The tenth 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 nearly \$170,000 including a generous donation of \$50,000 from the McCusker Charitable Foundation and \$18,000 from university and corporate sponsors.

As part of the 10th anniversary celebration, they have released [this video](#) to commemorate the important milestone.

Law Access Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Society in the service of matching applicants for legal assistance to lawyers. This year the Society was pleased to donate \$50,000 to Law Access following members' approval at the 2024 AGM. The Society also provides in-kind support to Law Access including payroll, accounts and monthly reporting, marketing and communications and assisting with ad hoc events.

In this financial year, Law Access has referred 167 matters to lawyers, with approximately 4,342 pro bono hours worth an estimated \$1.6m.



Old Court House Law Museum: panel discussion



The Old Court House Law Museum: panel discussion

A sellout Law Week event was held at the Old Court House Law Museum on 20 May 2025, extending the interpretation of the Museum's special exhibition, *The Unfortunate Woman v Her Well-Respected Killer*. An expert panel discussed cultural stereotypes, and legal barriers present in 1876 and current times which enable violence to devalue the equity of women's safety.

Facilitated by Kate Wellington, the Society's CEO with panellists the Hon Lindy Jenkins, Dr Jennie Gray, Gail Beck OAM, and Mark O'Hare. The panel discussed sobering statistics, lived experience, legal and cultural barriers to justice and perpetrator focussed strategies for combatting gender violence in today's social media-driven society.

Community events across Law Week

The Law Week community calendar featured more than 30 events, encompassing educational seminars, fundraising initiatives, and networking receptions across a broad spectrum of legal and community interests. Some highlights:

- Legal Aid WA ran a very popular R U Legal? Webinar. It was the first time the webinar was hosted as a combined event for educators and parents/caregivers. A strong focus on online safety was a key theme
- The Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia held a presentation about their work, wins and challenges with firsthand stories from staff about the legal support, advocacy, and cultural strength driving justice for First Nations Peoples
- HHG Legal Group hosted 'A Day in the Life of a Lawyer' where seasoned practitioners and fresh graduates shared their experiences
- Her Honour Deputy Chief Magistrate Elizabeth Woods hosted a Q&A session at the Magistrates Court of Western Australia
- Subiaco Justice Centre hosted a very popular Quiz Night with prizes and an auction with all proceeds going to support the Centre
- Street Law Centre WA hosted an after-hours pop-up legal clinic with Street Doctor and an event in Mandurah
- Chill Wellness hosted a hands-on workshop specifically for legal practitioners, teaching simple, effective breathwork exercises drawn from both ancient traditions and modern science
- Cullen Macleod Lawyers hosted free 20 minute consultations for members of the public across Law Week
- Ruah Legal Services and Mental Health Law Centre presented a panel discussion entitled 'Working With and Examining Vulnerable Witnesses' which included insights on working with vulnerable witnesses and resources for clients with mental impairment.



Community event for Law Week



Law Week Long Lunch

An influential voice: Education and Community Services (ECS)

The ECS portfolio comprises the Francis Burt Law Education Program, the Mock Trial Competition and the Old Court House Law Museum. Together, these initiatives connect the Society with its members and the wider community to foster awareness, education, and engagement with the rule of law as a fundamental pillar of a civil society.

Francis Burt Law Education Program

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

Guided by the principle that a fundamental understanding of the law is essential for all individuals, the program delivers structured community legal education sessions from its base at the Old Court House Law Museum, the oldest building in the City of Perth.

The education team presents engaging and informative programs designed to make the legal system more accessible and relevant to everyday life through:

- Court visits
- Scripted mock trials
- Cluedunnit Kids competition
- Lawyer visits to schools
- Subsidised school visits program
- Professional development for teachers
- Educational resources

Operating at full capacity again this financial year, the program attracted strong participation in its community legal education tours.

Participants in the Court Visit Program had the opportunity do an empty court activity, to observe

real court proceedings in the Supreme, District and/or Magistrates Courts, and to engage in a scripted mock trial experience at the Museum. These visits are designed to enhance the Western Australian community's understanding of the law, legal principles, and the court system.

Over the course of the year, a total of 6,140 individuals took part in the Court Visits Program. School groups accounted for 94 per cent of participants, with 84 per cent representing secondary schools and 10 per cent primary schools.

To promote equitable access, the Subsidised School Visits Program enabled participation from schools with an Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) score of 1000 or below. Generously supported by Curtin Law School, the subsidy covers bus hire and/or tour fees. In 2024-25, 319 students across 12 groups from three metropolitan and regional schools benefited from this important access-to-justice initiative.

As part of our broader outreach efforts, volunteer lawyers partnered with the Program to deliver in-school legal education sessions. Seven schools across metropolitan and regional Western Australia participated, with lawyers engaging directly with 153 students.

An influential voice: the annual Mock Trial Competition

The Mock Trial Competition is an educational initiative of the Society, designed for secondary school students as part of its broader ECS program.

Held in a real courtroom setting, student teams take on the roles of barristers, instructing solicitors, witnesses, and court staff to present both sides of a fictional case before a mock trial



The Old Court House Law Museum



Mock Trial Competition

judge. Commencing at the start of Term 1 and running through to October, all participating teams compete in the first three rounds, held between March and July.

Round four and five are knockout rounds and conclude with a grand final.

The Mock Trial Competition is open to students enrolled in Year 10, 11 or 12.

Read more about the [2024 winners](#).

An influential voice: 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. Housed within this historic building is the Old Court House Law Museum, a non-profit institution offering free public access. Managed by the Society, the Museum maintains strong ties to the Western Australian courts and legal profession. It serves as a vital space for the community to engage in reflective discussions on justice and the rule of law in the state, both past and present.

This financial year, the Museum experienced record-breaking visitation of 18,969 visitors, demonstrating an increase of 56 per cent on last year. Of these visitors, 41 per cent were international, 38 per cent local, and 21 per cent interstate.

This significant increase in visitation is attributed to a full year of extended opening hours to six

days a week, including weekends. This also led to an increase in our volunteer base from 15 to 21.

Due to the ongoing generosity of donors, the Museum achieved significant progress in interpretation, collection management, digitisation, and conservation throughout the financial year. The Museum remains committed to enhancing the accessibility of its collections for 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: Following support from the Wright Burt Foundation to digitise Collection items relating to the Burt family, the Museum undertook a transcription and research project, to update collection information and publish the Burt family items which can be [viewed online](#). 10% of the collection was professionally photographed or scanned. Work is underway to digitise the entire collection.
- Conservation: The Museum has finished work with Conservator Hannah Hoffman to conserve a collection of 42 trial notebooks and letterbooks written by Chief Justice Archibald Paull Burt.
- Interpretation: 'The Unfortunate Woman v Her Well-Respected Killer: A Domestic Violence



The Old Court House Law Museum visitors

Trial in 1876' special exhibition was inspired by a significant manuscript in the Museum Collection. The Unfortunate Woman focuses on the Supreme Court criminal trials of Kenneth Brown, the father of Edith Cowan and a man from a well-respected settler family. Kenneth murdered his wife, Mary Ann on 3 January 1876. Due to a multitude of cultural and social issues as well as the structure of the colonial justice system at the time, it took three trials to find Kenneth Brown guilty of murder.

View further details on the [Museum and its achievements in 2024/25](#).

With gratitude to the Museum Foundation

Committee members for their advocacy and support:

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



An evening at The Old Court House Law Museum

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 WA legal practitioners. We deliver a comprehensive annual program of CPD seminars and learning events, which enable the profession to access vital learning opportunities whilst maintaining their CPD compliance with the Legal Practice Board.

This financial year, over 9,000 participants registered for 56 seminars and accessed 56 on-demand seminars through our CPD Online platform.

Receiving CPD Freedom subscription free of charge was an included essential offering this year 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. Over 2,000 members took advantage of this exclusive benefit.

Highlights from the 2024-2025 financial year included:

- Early 2025 saw the Law Society and ADHD WA partner to deliver a seminar series on attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in the legal industry. Over 350 practitioners attended the three-part series which explored how to understand ADHD, how to work with neurodiverse clients, and how to create a positive neurodiverse work environment.
- The highest attended seminar was *How to Time Record and Bill Ethically*, presented by Daniel Coster from Coster Lawyers. Over 430 practitioners tuned in to gain practical tips on ethical billing, handling cost disputes and avoiding conduct complaints.
- The Law Society delivered a six-part seminar series focused on building key skills in leadership, communication and performance. The seminar topics ranged from



how to make the most of diversity to how to be an effective leader and communicator.

CPD Signature Learning events for the profession included:

- **Practical Advocacy Weekend 2024** was held in September at the Perth Children's Court. Head Coaches Bill Keane SC and Anthony Crocker from Francis Burt Chambers guided participants using a practical learning model 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 the inclusion of voice and performance coaching, which supports successful courtroom advocacy. Expertly delivered by professional voice coach Julia Moody, the former Head of Voice at the WA Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) for over 20 years. Her session focused on courtroom performance, teaching participants to use their voice, space and equipment to effectively deliver their case.

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

- March 2025 saw practitioners from across the State come together for the **CPD Day for Country Practitioners** - an annual highlight of the CPD calendar. The event attracted more than 75 participants in total from across the state, with 22 practitioners attending in person to build greater support of Regional, Rural and Remote (RRR) practice. Topics included the

practical issues of being a country practitioner, ethics for country lawyers, trusts and family law in the regions, taxation and duty effective restructuring and mediation practice.

- We delivered a number of CPD sessions during **Law Week 2025**, including a keynote presentation during the Law Week Long Lunch on *The Future is Now: AI, Ethics and Innovation in the Legal Industry* delivered by Professor Ed Santow.

Also in the week, we hosted a panel discussion on 'how to get the most out of the mediator', prepared by the Law Society's ADR Committee and involving senior members of the legal profession and judiciary.

We concluded with a webinar on the 'use of messaging apps in Government business and the implications for an open and accountable Government' with the Western Australian Information Commissioner, Australian Information Commissioner, Auditor General of Western Australia, Director General of the National Archives of Australia, and a Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Sydney.

- Another sold out **Essentials of Advocacy and Negotiation Day** was held in June 2025. 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 to the opportunity to delve into the ethics surrounding advocacy. Nine 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** saw a 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 to deliver three sessions during the 2023/24 CPD year, and the final two sessions during 2024/25.

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

Mentoring programs

Offering support and sharing knowledge through the influence of mentoring can be powerful. The 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 programs:

- Law student mentoring program
- Practitioner mentoring program
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander law students' program

The Young Lawyers 2025 law student mentoring program paired 83 mentees with mentors this year. Young lawyers volunteered their time to participate and were introduced to their mentees at a launch event on 10 April.

The mentoring program for practitioners is available to practitioners of all levels of practice post admission.

This program runs from April 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 program.

19 mentees participated in the 2024 program, while 32 are participating in the 2025 program – the largest cohort in the history of the program. 22 new mentors were recruited and trained for the 2025 program. Feedback received thus far has been overwhelmingly positive, from mentors and mentees alike.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander law students' program is a bespoke mentoring program 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 Program.

Law Society accreditation

The Society delivered three accreditation programs to members as follows:

Quality Practice Standard (QPS)

QPS certification reflects excellence in legal practice management. This year 42 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 per cent discount for the first year on professional indemnity insurance premiums through Law Mutual, and a 5 per cent discount thereafter.

Family Law Specialist Accreditation

The Law Society also provides a Family Law Specialist Accreditation Program 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 57 Family Law Accredited Specialists in Western Australia. 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 biannual assessment program for Family Law Specialist Accreditation commenced in early 2025. There are 10 candidates undertaking the assessment.

Wills and Estates Specialist Accreditation

This year, the Society partnered with the Law Institute of Victoria (LIV) to deliver a pilot of the Wills and Estates Specialist Accreditation Program in 2025.

There are 15 candidates undertaking the Accreditation Program. Subject to the satisfactory

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

Mediator accreditation

The National Mediator Accreditation Scheme (NMAS) ran until the end of June 2025, at which time it was replaced by the Australian Mediator and Dispute Resolution Accreditation Standards (AMDRAS). The Society was a Recognised Mediation Accreditation Body under the NMAS and we are considering, based upon advice from the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, whether to continue an accreditation role under AMDRAS.

Professional Standards Scheme

The Society's third Scheme commenced on 1 July 2024 and is effective through to 30 June 2029.

In November 2024, feedback received on the Law Society's Annual Professional Standards Report (APSR) commended the Society for its review of the Professional Standards Scheme Integrated Risk and Compliance Framework, as well as the Professional Standards Liability Risk Register and Scheme Compliance Register.

The APSR is submitted to the Professional Standards Council each year to highlight key achievements with regards to consumer protection and improved occupational standards.

The Scheme closed the year with 2,424 participants as at 30 June 2025 with 228 new participants joining during the year.

Law Society Public Purposes Trust Fund

The Law Society Public Purposes Trust Fund 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

The new triennial cycle enabled funding for 24 successful recipients to provide vital services to the community.

This year's grant recipients include the Southwest

Community Legal Centre, Street Law Centre WA Inc and the MIDLAS Community Legal Centre.

Southwest Community Legal Centre will use funds to provide legal services and assistance to aid individuals most vulnerable or at risk of experiencing family violence.

Street Law is funded to provide legal services to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness state-wide and continue their community legal education program.

The MIDLAS Community Legal Centre is funded to provide legal services and legal education aimed at preventing elder abuse, safeguarding older people's rights, and support with legal issues such as family and domestic violence and financial hardship.

Find a Lawyer service: online search directory

Find a Lawyer is the Society's free online directory showcasing members from across Western Australia. The platform enables the public to search for lawyers by both location and area of practice, while also providing firms, with more than 50% of practitioners as Society members, with additional promotional opportunities.

Beyond online access, the community can contact the Society directly for assistance. Our staff are available to respond to enquiries and provide contact details for lawyers who best meet the caller's specific needs.

This financial year, more than 28,700 members of the public used our Find a Lawyer website service. The Find a Lawyer page was the third most viewed page on the Society's website.

Central point for connections

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

The Law Society plays a vital role in fostering connection and collaboration within the legal profession. Through a diverse range of events, forums and initiatives, the Society brings members of the profession together to share knowledge, build relationships and support one another both personally and professionally.

These opportunities for engagement, ranging from panel discussions and professional development sessions to networking events and wellbeing initiatives, are designed to promote collegiality, encourage cross-sector collaboration and strengthen the sense of community within the legal profession. By facilitating meaningful connections, the Society helps ensure that practitioners at all stages of their careers feel supported, informed, and part of a united professional network.

Strengthening connections via committees

Committees are the cornerstone of the Society and thousands of legal professionals have contributed to the Society's work by chairing or serving on its committees over the decades.

In this financial year, the Society maintained 35 active committees covering a wide range of legal areas, including access to justice, commercial law, and employee relations, as well as supporting specific cohorts including country practitioners and young lawyers. These committees provide members with opportunities to connect with peers, develop professional networks, and contribute to important policy work beyond their regular practice.

Committee participation also allows members to support law reform and policy development, while deepening their expertise in specific areas of law. This work continues to strengthen both the profession and the broader community.

Cultivating social connections

The Society hosted a diverse range of events and social gatherings throughout the financial year, offering valuable opportunities for members of the profession to connect beyond their professional obligations. These events encompassed social, sporting, and inspirational experiences, fostering engagement across the legal community.

Exclusive member event: off to the theatre

In partnership with Black Swan Theatre Company, the Society hosted a private members-only evening at the State Theatre Centre on Friday, 19 July, featuring a performance of Suzie Miller's *Prima Facie*. The event included a pre-show function with hospitality, a welcome address by Artistic Director Kate Champion, and access to discounted tickets for the performance.



YLC Panel; Elevating Junior Lawyer Workplace Standards



Gala Dinner 2024

Gala Dinner and Awards Evening: recognising excellence

The third Annual Gala Dinner and Awards Evening lit up Crown Towers on Friday, 6 September, drawing an enthusiastic crowd of nearly 450 guests. The evening offered a vibrant mix of connection, celebration, and recognition, as the outstanding achievements of nominees and award winners across the legal profession took centre stage.

David Davidson won Lawyer of the Year, Sophie Coffin won Emerging Lawyer of the Year and Adam Levine won the Law Access Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year.



Guests enjoying the Gala Dinner

Adding to the occasion, the event welcomed special guests from Law Societies around Australia, along with Directors of the Law Council of Australia, in Perth for national meetings.

Blackstone Society's Career Fair: alternative pathways

The Society's membership team and the YLC combined resources to participate in Blackstone Society's 'Beyond Commercial Careers Fair' held at UWA on Wednesday, 18 September. Spotlighting diverse career pathways, students and aspiring legal professional were encouraged to ask questions, discuss networking strategies and potential career pathways with Society representatives.

Young Lawyers Committee (YLC): panel on workplace standards

The Society's YLC brought together over 50 guests at Ashurst on Thursday, 26 September for a thought-provoking panel discussion on the theme 'Elevating Junior Lawyer Workplace Standards'. The evening sparked important conversations around the evolving legal landscape, with a respected panel sharing insights on recent changes to working conditions in WA's legal profession and the challenges junior lawyers continue to face.

With strong engagement from attendees, the YLC reaffirmed its commitment to driving ongoing



YLC Panel; Elevating Junior Lawyer Workplace Standards

dialogue and fostering a more supportive, inclusive, and sustainable profession for the next generation of lawyers.

Golden Gavel: an off-the-record rollick

Eight bold and witty speakers took to the stage at the annual YLC Golden Gavel Competition bringing energy, laughter, and a full house to the Ritz-Carlton. Over 240 young lawyers and legal professionals were in attendance on Friday, 25 October to watch them battle it out for cash prizes, with the coveted opportunity to represent WA at the National Competition in Victoria. The winner was Cohen Augustson, from King & Wood Mallesons with a hilarious speech: 'Navigating the firm hierarchy – who is my real boss – my secretary or the managing partner?'

The night was a celebration of sharp minds, quick humour, and the vibrant spirit of our younger legal community.

Judges included Society President Paula Wilkinson, the Hon Peter Quinlan, Chief Justice of Western Australia and Kim Lendich SC.



YLC: from courtroom to court side

The YLC kept the summer spirit alive with two standout sporting events that brought fun, friendly competition and plenty of team spirit to the legal community. In November 2024, 10 teams hit the courts for the annual mixed netball competition, battling it out across five rounds on both indoor and outdoor courts.

There can be only one winner and it was King & Wood Mallesons (for the first time since 2012). February 2025 followed with a high-energy mixed beach volleyball showdown, where teams served



YLC volleyball winners; Herbert Smith Freehills



Welcome to the Profession Breakfast

up some serious skill on the sand and Herbert Smith Freehills successfully defended their title. After both events, players and supporters relaxed over food and drinks, making the most of the warm weather and good company.

YLC: cheers to the year

A stylish end of the year sundowner was celebrated by the YLC at the chic Lawson Flats. Around 80 members of the legal profession came together on Thursday, 27 November to unwind, connect, and celebrate a successful 2024. The event also marked the conclusion of the Young Lawyer Mentoring Program, providing a perfect opportunity to acknowledge the mentors and mentees who made the year so impactful. Guests enjoyed great company, relaxed vibes, and a chance to reflect on the year's achievements as they looked ahead to 2025.

End of year celebration: honouring 2024 in style

The Society ushered in the festive season with a sparkling celebration at the Ritz-Carlton on Thursday, 5 December. Against the breathtaking backdrop of Elizabeth Quay, guests were serenaded by the lively jazz melodies of violinist Emily Gelineau and her quartet, filling the night with joyful rhythms. The evening included great food, laughter, and warm camaraderie, creating an unforgettable occasion for the legal profession to come together.

Sole Practitioner & Small Firm Network: going solo, together

The Art Collective WA was the inspiring venue where the Society launched the new Sole Practitioner and Small Firm Network on Thursday,

13 March. The intimate location buzzed with energy as practitioners from across the profession came together to connect, share, and support one another. Senior Vice President Judy McLean opened the event, championing the unique challenges and strengths of those navigating the legal world independently. The conversation flowed freely throughout the night, with guests exchanging personal stories, insights into solo practice, and exciting ideas for the future of the network. It was a powerful reminder that even when you go it alone, you're never truly on your own.

YLC: Welcome to the Profession breakfast

The annual breakfast was a celebration of fresh beginnings, as the newest members of the profession were officially welcomed into the legal community. Hosted by the YLC on Thursday, 3 April at The Westin, 201 enthusiastic delegates from across the legal landscape were brought together for the morning.

Guests were treated to an address from the Hon Justice Kate Glancy of the Supreme Court of Western Australia and President of the State Administrative Tribunal, that encouraged maintaining a good work life balance, friends in the profession, and pride in the path ahead.

YLC: Mentoring Program with record participation

The 2025 Law Student Mentoring Program officially launched on Thursday, 10 April with an energised and well-attended event hosted by the YLC. This year marks a significant milestone, with a record 75 mentor-mentee pairings, the highest number in the Program's history.

Attendees had the opportunity to connect for the first time and hear from guest speaker Sophie Coffin, Solicitor at Bennett – Litigation and Commercial Law, and the 2024 Law Society Emerging Lawyer of the Year. Sophie shared valuable insights on the importance of mentoring in the early stages of a legal career, setting a strong and inspiring tone for the year ahead.

Murdoch University Career Expo: exploring legal journeys

The YLC and the Society were pleased to attend the annual Murdoch Student Law Society Careers Expo on Thursday, 10 April, engaging with the next generation of legal professionals.

We were proud to return to this valuable event, which continues to be an excellent opportunity for meaningful interaction between students and members of the profession. Time was spent answering students' questions and offering insights into life in the legal profession.

We value the opportunity to support and inspire future lawyers as they take their first steps toward a career in law.

Perth Law Careers Fair: inspiring future lawyers

The Perth Law Careers Fair remains a key event for aspiring legal professionals, offering invaluable opportunities to connect with members of the profession. On Monday, 5 May, the Society's membership team maintained a strong presence at the Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre, with a dynamic and well-attended booth that attracted a diverse group of law students exploring their future in the legal field.

Throughout the day, YLC volunteers engaged in meaningful conversations with attendees, offering guidance on career pathways, opportunities for involvement in the profession, and insights into the Society's Law Student Mentoring Program. We are proud to play a role in supporting and encouraging the next generation of legal talent.

Legal Associations Forum: collaborating for a stronger profession

Law Week is a time to reflect on justice, connection, and community and these values were front and centre at the Legal Association Leaders Forum held on Monday, 19 May at Lawson Flats.



End of year celebration



Perth Careers Fair



Murdoch University Career Expo

Chaired by Law Society President Gary Mack and CEO Kate Wellington, the forum brought together leaders from across the legal sector to explore joint solutions to shared challenges. The event provided a valuable platform to discuss common goals, align on key priorities, and strengthen collaboration across organisations working to support the legal profession and the broader community.

YLC: Panel tackles tough conversations in law

More than 50 early career lawyers and members of the profession attended the Law Week YLC Panel and Networking Event on Thursday, 22 May, which focused on the theme *Tough Conversations in the WA Legal Profession*.

The panel offered thoughtful insights on aligning career choices with personal values, building strong support networks, and insights from careers built outside the traditional legal firm model. Speakers also emphasised treating mental health and time management as essential professional skills, which are critical in a profession where compassion fatigue and burnout are common challenges.

Staff connection: honouring story and culture

In celebration of National Reconciliation Week, the Society was honoured to host renowned artist and proud Yamatji woman, Loretta Egan, for a special cultural event on Wednesday, 4 June.

Loretta guided attendees through an engaging and reflective art experience, inviting them to share the stories of their families through painting. The session provided a meaningful opportunity to connect with Indigenous culture and storytelling in a creative and personal way.

We extend our sincere thanks to Loretta for generously sharing her art, insights, and stories, and for fostering a deeper understanding of connection and cultural expression within the legal community.

YLC: Beyond the magic circle careers night

This very popular annual event returned on Thursday, 26 June to a packed audience of law students, graduates, and early career lawyers eager to explore the breadth of opportunities within the legal profession.

The evening featured an inspiring panel of professionals who have forged unique paths across sectors such as academia, industrial relations, and beyond. Their insights offered a fresh perspective on the many directions a legal career can take, encouraging attendees to think beyond traditional roles and embrace the diverse possibilities the profession has to offer.

Education and Community Services: Mock Trial Competition

Thirty-eight years old and counting! The Society's long running Mock Trial Competition continues to thrive and deliver opportunities to future law students.



Beyond the magic circle careers night

This educational initiative, within the Society's Education and Community Services remit, engages secondary school students in simulated civil and criminal trials, where teams take on the roles of barristers, instructing solicitors, witnesses, and court staff. Each trial is adjudicated by a volunteer from the legal profession, either a lawyer or law student, acting as the judicial officer.

The Competition begins with three compulsory rounds held in the first half of the year. Based on performance, the top 16 teams advance to the finals series, which takes place in the latter half of the year.

2024 Mock Trial Competition winners:

The grand final, held in October, featured Bob Hawke College facing off against Santa Maria College and was presided over by the Chief Justice of Western Australia, the Hon Peter Quinlan.

The Grand Final case revolved around a character named Jeff Lebowski, an unmistakable nod to The Big Lebowski. Echoing the film's plot, the defence argued that police had apprehended the wrong 'dude'.

Bob Hawke College won the 2024 Mock Trial Competition, for the second consecutive year.

2025 Mock Trial Competition:

2025's competition saw 1,474 students in 120 teams from 60 schools across Perth and the South West compete in 180 mock trials.

56 volunteer lawyers, law students and associates took on the role of mock trial judges in rounds one to three (plus 35 volunteer advocacy coaches) in this year's competition.

The Mock Trial Competition would not be possible without the support of volunteer lawyers, law students and associates.

We are grateful to our Mock Trial Competition partners for supporting this Western Australian community legal education institution: Public Purposes Trust Fund, The Department of Justice, Francis Burt Chambers, Curtin University, The University of Western Australia and The University of Notre Dame Australia.

Education and Community Services: Cluedunnit Kids 2025

The Society's much loved Cluedunnit Kids program once again engaged Year 6 students across Western Australia in an entertaining legal education initiative.

The program invites students to solve a fictitious 'crime' applying legal and sentencing principles in a fun and imaginative way.

This year, 405 students formed 77 teams from 27 schools to submit highly creative responses. Entries included video interviews, songs, animations, dance performances, and physical displays such as detailed booklets, demonstrating both ingenuity and a very strong grasp of legal concepts.

Newman College and St Lawrence's Primary School Geraldton were announced as joint winners for 2025. We extend our thanks to the President of the Children's Court of Western Australia, His Hon Judge Hylton Quail, and Magistrate Kelly Thompson in Geraldton for facilitating access to the courts for the presentation of the awards in both Perth and Geraldton.

We also gratefully acknowledge the support of the Curtin Law School, WA Police and Legal Aid WA, whose ongoing contributions help ensure the continued success of this engaging and meaningful community legal education initiative.



Mock Trial Competition



Cluedunnit Kids

Thank you!

Our work supporting the legal profession wouldn't be possible without the generous engagement of our valued sponsors, advertisers, and partner organisations. Your contribution truly makes a difference.

Ashurt

Bennett – Litigation and Commercial Law

Cancer Council

Cat Haven

Circle Green

College of Law

Commonwealth Bank

Curtin University School of Law

Department of Communities

Department of Energy, Mines,
Industry Regulation and Safety

Department of Justice

Francis Burt Chambers

Hall & Wilcox

Herbert Smith Freehills

InfoTrack

Initiative Media

Leap

Legal Home Loans

Legal Practice Board of WA

legalsuper

Marsh

McKenna & Associates Legal Recruitment

MinterEllison

NobleOak Life Insurance

Public Purposes Trust

RSM

Shearn HR Legal

Smokeball

State Administrative Tribunal

Thomson Reuters

Univeristy of Notre Dame Australia

University of Western Australia

WA Police

Thank you from the Old Court House Law Museum

Making history – framing the future

Foundation donor

**WRIGHT BURT
FOUNDATION**
ALL FOR THE BETTER

Law firm donors



Bennett
LITIGATION AND COMMERCIAL LAW

Francis Burt | FRANCIS BURT CHAMBERS

SQUIRE
PATTON BOGGS

BRAND
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

Founding champions

- Sandy Anghie
- Ante Golem
- The Hon Dr Andrew Lu AM
- Anonymous x 2

Individuals and firms

- Susanne Ascott
- Louisa Bell
- Henry Boston OAM
- Peter Brindal
- Tony Chong
- Gilchrist Connell
- Dean Curtis
- Professor Brett Davies
- Danielle Davies
- Olivier David and Dr Bennie Ng
- Karen Farley SC
- Catherine Fletcher
- Hon Nicholas Hasluck AM
- Stephen Josland
- Dr Norman Jouppi
- Professor Geoffrey Lancaster AO and Hon Dr Andrew Lu AM
- James Mactaggart
- Maryka Mensink
- Pino and Christine Monaco
- Dr Narrelle Morris
- Jodie Moffat
- David Price
- Gavin Ryan
- Professor Ralph Simmonds
- Hon Justice Melanie Sloss
- Carolyn Thatcher SC
- Clare Thompson SC
- Nicholas van Hattem
- Walpole Leake Family
- Áine Whelan
- Anonymous x 11



Corporate governance

Annual General Meeting

The Society's Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday, 20 November.

Councillor Meeting Attendance 2024

1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024

Member	Council (Total 4)	Trustee of Law Mutual (Total 4)	Trustee of the Public Purposes Trust (Total 2)	Trustee for the Old Court House Law Museum Trust (Total 2)
Paula Wilkinson	4	4	2	2
Gary Mack	2	2	2	2
Judy McLean	3	3	1	1
Ante Golem	2	2	1	1
Ben Bullock	3	3	1	1
Thomas Camp	3	3	2	2
Angie Gimisis	3	3	2	2
Eric Heenan SC (from September 2024)	2	-	1	1
Mark Hemery (resigned October 2024)	-	-	-	-
June Kenny	3	3	2	2
Aleks Miller	3	4	2	2
Kim Morrison	4	4	2	2
Kellie Woods	3	3	2	2
Michael Ryan	3	3	1	1
Bec Rees	3	3	1	1
Souzi Clifford	3	3	0	0
Ashton Hardstaff	2	2	1	1

Councillor Meeting Attendance 2025

1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025

Member	Council (Total 4)	Trustee of Law Mutual (Total 4)	Trustee of the Public Purposes Trust (Total 1)	Trustee for the Old Court House Law Museum Trust (Total 1)
Gary Mack	4	4	1	1
Judy McLean	4	3	0	0
Angie Gimisis	4	4	1	1
Paula Wilkinson	2	2	0	0
Thomas Camp	4	3	0	1
Dr Michael Douglas	2	2	1	1
Patricia Femia	4	4	1	1
Eric Heenan SC	2	2	0	0
Joy Horwood	4	4	1	1
Aleks Miller	3	3	1	1
Kim Morrison	4	4	1	1
Michael Stork	4	4	1	1
Kellie Woods	1	1	0	0
Michael Ryan	2	2	0	0
Isabel Inkster	4	4	1	1
Munashe Rusamo	3	3	1	1
Charlotte Solomon	4	4	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

Angie Gimisis

1 May to 31 July 2024

Kellie Woods

1 August to 31 December 2024

Executive Appointed Councillors 2025

Kim Morrison

17 February to 30 June 2025

Executive and stakeholder meetings

Executive meetings 2024

- Chief Justice of Western Australia
- Chief Judge, Family Court of Western Australia and FLPA
- President, Children's Court
- Chief Judge, District Court of Western Australia
- Director General, Department of Justice
- Legal Practice Board

Other stakeholder meetings 2024

- Commissioners of Australian Human Rights Commission, National Children's Commission and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commission
- College of Law
- Legal Services Council
- State Solicitor
- Information Commissioner

Executive meetings 2025

- Chief Magistrate, Magistrates Court
- Chief Justice, Federal Court of Australia
- President, Children's Court
- Attorney General of Western Australia

Other stakeholder meetings 2025

- Leader, The Greens (WA)
- Shadow Attorney General
- Member for the East Metropolitan Region
- Information Commissioner
- Director General, Department of Justice
- Legal Aid WA
- WA Bar Association
- College of Law
- Women Lawyers of WA
- The Criminal Lawyers' Association of WA
- Asian Australian Lawyers Association
- Society of African Australian Lawyers Inc
- Australasian Legal Practice Management Association
- Association of Corporate Counsel (WA Division)
- Law Firms Australia
- Women's Legal Service WA
- Australian Pro Bono Centre
- Corporate Law Association of Perth
- Legal Practice Board of WA
- Solicitor General

Meetings listed in order of occurrence.

Nominations to external boards

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

Department of Justice – Takeovers Panel

Legal Aid Committee 2024-2025

State Records Advisory Committee

Appeal Costs Board

Western Australian Reproductive Technology Council

Law Council of Australia Governance Reform Working Group

Law Council of Australia Young Lawyers Committee

Life members

2024

Elizabeth Needham

David Price

2022

The Hon Rene Le Miere KC

Greg McIntyre SC

The Hon John McKechnie AO KC

Ted Sharp

Craig Slater

2020

Denis McLeod AM

2019

John Ley SC

2018

Kevin John Edwards AM

Cav. Maria Saraceni

The Hon Hylton Quail

2017

Robert Kronberger

2016

Susan Fielding

The Hon Kevin Parker AC RFD KC *

Chris Zelestis KC

2015

The Hon Carmel McLure AC KC

Steven Penglis SC

Clare Thompson SC

2014

Dudley Stow

2013

The Hon Antoinette Kennedy AO

The Hon Robert Nicholson AO KCSJ
FAAL

2012

His Excellency Malcolm McCusker AC
CVO KC, Governor of WA

The Hon Wayne Martin AC KC

The Hon Michael Murray AM QC *

The Hon Daryl Williams AM KC

2010

John Fiocco

Laurie Shervington

2009

Elizabeth Heenan

The Hon Justice Ken Martin KC

2008

John Gillett

David Garnsworthy *

2007

Michal Lewi AM

2005

The Hon John Chaney SC

Rick Cullen

2003

The Hon Sir John Lavan

2002

Gregory Boyle

Judy Eckert

The Hon Robert French AC

The Hon David Malcolm AC *

Robert Meadows KC *

The Hon 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 KC *

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 2025

	NOTE	2025 \$	2024 \$
Revenue and Income	5	6,047,572	5,489,044
Investment income		136,557	38,423
(Loss)/Gain on the revaluation of building		(300,000)	-
Governance expenses		(857,700)	(709,623)
Member services and advocacy services expenses		(2,546,620)	(2,181,149)
Community programmes expenses		(575,284)	(426,730)
Interest expenses		(1,282)	(738)
Finance and administration expenses		(2,030,121)	(1,485,850)
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year		(126,878)	723,377
Other comprehensive (loss)/income for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive (loss)/income for the year		(126,878)	723,377

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 2025

	NOTE	2025 \$	2024 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	13.1	3,499,642	2,858,774
Trade and other receivables	6	223,765	343,644
Other financial assets	13.2	700,000	700,000
Other assets		123,291	89,854
Total current assets		4,546,698	3,992,272
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	7	3,271,719	3,687,500
Right-of-use asset	16	20,343	4,315
Intangible assets	8	12,004	15,735
Total non-current assets		3,304,066	3,707,550
Total assets		7,850,764	7,699,822
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	9	579,038	590,662
Provisions	10	474,794	349,520
Borrowings	11	10,045	10,000
Lease Liability		5,656	4,442
Revenue in advance		2,146,410	2,034,799
Total current liabilities		3,215,943	2,989,423
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Borrowings	11	-	-
Provisions	10	46,136	9,834
Lease Liability		14,999	-
Total non-current liabilities		61,135	9,834
Total liabilities		3,277,077	2,999,257
Net assets		4,573,686	4,700,565
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Reserves		-	-
Retained surplus	12	4,573,686	4,700,564
Total members' funds		4,573,686	4,700,564

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 2025

	RETAINED SURPLUS \$	TOTAL \$
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 1 July 2024	4,700,564	4,700,564
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(126,878)	(126,878)
Total comprehensive (loss)/income for the year	(126,878)	(126,878)
Balance as at 30 June 2025	4,573,686	4,573,686

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 2025

	NOTE	2025 \$	2024 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Member subscriptions		3,376,413	3,308,294
Interest received		127,829	26,623
Receipts from other operating activities		3,615,544	2,830,204
Payments to suppliers and employees		(6,412,817)	(5,122,494)
Net cash generated by operating activities	13.3	706,969	1,042,627
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(57,261)	(45,776)
Payments to other financial assets		-	(700,000)
Payments for intangible assets		-	-
Net cash (used in)/generated by investing activities		(57,261)	(745,776)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Interest expenses		(550)	(584)
Payments for borrowings		45	-
Payments for right-of-use leases		(8,335)	(8,928)
Net cash used in financing activities		(8,840)	(9,512)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		640,868	287,339
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		2,858,774	2,571,435
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	13.1	3,499,642	2,858,774

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 2025.

3. Material accounting policy information

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 2025.

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.

A valuation of the premises was undertaken by Opteon Property Group Pty Ltd on 30 June 2025, in accordance with applicable financial reporting standards, namely *AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement*. It has been indicated that the value of the premises has decreased from \$3.60 million to \$3.03 million. This value has now been reflected in the financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

5. Revenue and Income

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Revenue from contracts with customers		
Member subscriptions	2,961,839	2,753,406
Membership services and activities	232,308	301,372
CPD programme and education	372,187	647,056
Marketing and promotion	234,486	223,701
Finance and administration services	1,061,066	807,669
Total revenue from contracts with customers	4,861,886	4,733,204
Other revenue		
Other revenue	1,009,186	622,840
Total revenue	5,871,072	5,356,044
Income		
Grants	176,500	133,000
Total income	176,500	133,000
Total revenue and income	6,047,572	5,489,044

6. Trade and other receivables

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Current		
Trade debtors	153,979	296,027
Accrued income	47,194	33,753
Other receivables	22,592	13,864
	223,765	343,644

Notes to the Financial Statements

7. Property, plant and equipment

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Carrying amounts of:		
Building	3,030,000	3,420,000
Plant and equipment	241,719	267,500
	3,271,719	3,687,500

	Building at fair value	Plant and equipment at cost	Total
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
Balance at 30 June 2025			
Cost or valuation	3,030,000	2,384,391	5,414,391
Accumulated depreciation	-	(2,142,672)	(2,142,672)
	3,030,000	241,719	3,271,719

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 2024			
Cost or valuation	3,600,000	2,327,130	5,927,130
Elimination of accumulated depreciation on asset revaluation	(270,000)	-	(270,000)
Acquisitions	-	57,261	57,261
Asset revaluation	(300,000)	-	(300,000)
Balance at 30 June 2025	3,030,000	2,384,391	5,414,391

Accumulated depreciation			
Balance as at 1 July 2024	(180,000)	(2,059,630)	(2,239,630)
Depreciation	(90,000)	(83,042)	(173,042)
Elimination of accumulated depreciation on asset revaluation	270,000	-	270,000
Balance at 30 June 2025	-	(2,142,672)	(2,142,672)

Notes to the Financial Statements

7. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

7.1 Measurement techniques of revalued amounts

Based on the valuation report prepared by Opteon Property Group Pty Ltd for 30 June 2025, the property value has decreased to \$3.03 million. 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

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Carrying amounts of:		
Trademark	12,004	15,735
	12,004	15,735
	Trademark	
Balance at 30 June 2024		
Cost	74,916	
Accumulated amortisation	(59,181)	
	15,735	
Balance at 30 June 2025		
Cost	74,916	
Accumulated amortisation	(62,912)	
	12,004	

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

9. Trade and other payables

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Current		
Trade creditors	81,741	20,358
Accrued expenses	16,650	16,100
Other payables	480,647	554,204
	579,038	590,662

Notes to the Financial Statements

10. Provisions

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Current		
Employee benefits	474,794	349,520
Non-current		
Employee benefits	46,136	9,835
	520,930	359,355

11. Borrowings

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Current		
Bank loan secured at amortised cost	10,045	10,000
	10,045	10,000

The Law Society of Western Australia's Bankwest loan facility was 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 fully repaid and refinanced in August 2024. A new CBA Better Business Loan account has been opened and is an unsecured loan. The total interest expense on the facilities for the year ending 30 June 2025 is \$550 (30 June 2024 was \$584).

12. Retained Surplus

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Balance at the beginning of the year	4,700,564	3,977,187
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(126,878)	723,377
Balance at the end of year	4,573,686	4,700,564

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.

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Cash and cash equivalents	3,499,642	2,858,774
	3,499,642	2,858,774

13.2 Other financial assets

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Term Deposits	700,000	700,000
	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

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(126,878)	723,377
Loss/(Gain) on the revaluation of building	300,000	-
Interest expenses	1,282	738
Depreciation and amortisation of non-current assets	184,561	188,427
	358,965	912,542
Movements in working capital		
Decrease/(increase) in trade receivables	119,879	(254,437)
(Decrease)/increase in other assets	(33,436)	(911)
(Decrease)/increase in trade and other payables	(11,624)	55,357
(Decrease)/Increase in provisions	161,575	39,657
(Decrease)/increase in revenue in advance	111,610	290,419
Cash (generated by/used in) operations	348,004	130,085
Net cash generated by operating activities	706,969	1,042,627

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 2024	Financing cash flows	Balance as at 30 June 2025
Borrowings (note 11)	10,000	45	10,045
	<u>10,000</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>10,045</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 2025.

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 2025.

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:

	2025 Up to 6 months	2025 > 12 months	2025 Total	2024 Up to 6 months	2024 > 12 months	2024 Total
Trade and other payables	579,038	-	579,038	590,662	-	590,662
Borrowings	10,045	-	10,045	10,000	-	10,000
Total	589,083	-	589,083	600,662	-	600,662

(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:

	2025 Carrying amount	2025 Sensitivity	2024 Carrying amount	2024 Sensitivity
Cash and cash equivalents	3,499,642	8,749	2,858,774	7,147
Term Deposit	700,000	1,750	700,000	1,750
Borrowings	10,045	25	10,000	25
Total	4,209,687	10,524	3,568,774	8,922

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	Members who served
1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024	1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025
Paula Wilkinson	Gary Mack
Gary Mack	Judy McLean
Judy McLean	Angie Gimisis
Ben Bullock	Thomas Camp
Angie Gimisis	Michael Douglas
Mark Hemery	Patricia Femia
June Kenny	Eric Heenan SC
Aleks Miller	Joy Horwood
Kim Morrison	Aleks Miller
Kellie Woods	Kim Morrison
Michael Ryan	Michael Stork
Jessica Henderson (resigned in July 2024)	Kellie Woods
Bec Rees	Michael Ryan
Souzi Clifford	Isabel Inkster
Ashton Hardstaff	Munashe Rusamo
	Charlotte Solomon

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 2025 was \$145,292 (30 June 2024: \$135,931).

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 2025 nil fees for legal services were paid to firms of which Councillors were partners, employees and consultants (30 June 2024: 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 \$691,325 (30 June 2024: \$446,457) 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 \$171,072 (30 June 2024: \$169,428).

At 30 June 2025, Law Mutual (WA) had a debit balance of \$96,895 with the Law Society of Western Australia (30 June 2024: \$241,100 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 \$232,016 (30 June 2024: \$133,813).

At 30 June 2025, Old Court House Law Museum had a debit balance of \$21,231 (30 June 2024: \$43,482 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 2024-25 financial year, the Law Society of Western Australia received grants payments from the Public Purposes Trust Fund for the following activities:

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Francis Burt Law Education Programme	146,500	103,000
Law Week	30,000	30,000
	176,500	133,000

The Public Purposes Trust Fund paid \$170,028 (2024: \$168,440) 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 2025, no monies were owed by the Public Purposes Trust Fund to the Law Society of Western Australia (30 June 2024: \$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 2025 was \$1,025,315 (30 June 2024: \$956,495).

16. Leases

The photocopier lease with Fuji Xerox Australia expired in December 2024. A new lease was signed with Rioch in November 2024. The lease term is 4 years lease and will expire in November 2028.

Amounts recognised in profit or loss

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Interest on lease liabilities	710	154
Depreciation on right-of-use assets	7,788	8,631
Total amount recognised in profit and loss	8,498	8,785

Right-of-use assets

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Opening Balance	4,315	12,946
Additions to right-of-use assets	23,816	-
Depreciation charge for the year	(7,788)	(8,631)
Closing balance at end of year	20,343	4,315

17. Remuneration of auditor

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Audit of the financial statements - William Buck	24,200	23,000
	24,200	23,000

18. Subsequent events

There has not been any matter or circumstance, which has arisen since 30 June 2025 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 2025 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.

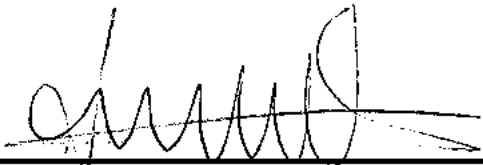
Signed on behalf of and in accordance with a resolution of the Council.



Gary Mack
President

29/10/25

Date



Angie Gimisis
Junior Vice President/Treasurer

29/10/25

Date

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 2025, 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

Deborah Chin

Deborah Chin
Director
Dated this 29th day of October 2025

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

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 2025, 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 2025,
- the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive 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 statement by council.

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.

Level 3, 15 Labouchere Road, South Perth WA 6151
PO Box 748, South Perth WA 6951

+61 8 6436 2888

wa.info@williambuck.com
williambuck.com

William Buck is an association of firms, each trading under the name of William Buck across Australia and New Zealand with affiliated offices worldwide.
Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.



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 2025 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.

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

Deborah Chin

Deborah Chin
Director
Dated this 29th day of October 2025

The Law Society of Western Australia

Level 4, 160 St Georges Terrace,
Perth Western Australia 6000

Postal Address: PO Box Z5345, Perth WA 6831

Phone: (08) 9324 8600

Email: info@lawsocietywa.asn.au

Website: lawsocietywa.asn.au

Follow Us

Law Society



Old Court House Law Museum



Young Lawyers Committee

