

Features and Benefits of the Uniform Law Scheme

<p>Benefits for governments, the legal profession and consumers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Uniform Law (UL) contributes to significant micro-economic reform that benefits governments, the legal profession and consumers • Harmonisation of the regulation of the legal profession creates a seamless national legal market • A national legal profession furthers Australia's participation in the international demand for legal services • The Legal Services Council (LSC) is becoming an expert advisory body to governments on legal regulation • The LSC's Admissions Committee determines consistent policies and procedures for admission of Australian and foreign lawyers; the content of academic and practical legal education, and the importation of legal expertise from overseas, in consultation with Admission authorities • Legal profession has an entrenched place in the co-regulatory scheme • Law practices benefit from a common framework • Consumers benefit from strengthened protections and faster resolution of disputes and complaints • The Australian Legal Profession Register will allow consumers to search for legal practitioner details
<p>Regulatory autonomy remains for State and Territory</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supreme Courts' admission and supervisory roles unchanged • Local regulatory bodies continue unchanged • State Application Acts provide for local machinery and regulatory arrangements
<p>A common framework applies to regulation of the legal profession</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing Committee (SC) of Attorneys General oversees the framework and LSC • The Uniform Law is the same in all participating jurisdictions • An Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) provides for arrangements between participating States • Admission Rules are broadly the same everywhere • Common Continuing Professional Development, Practice and Conduct Rules apply in all participating jurisdictions • Uniform General Rules replace most legal profession regulations • The LSC and Admissions Committee can be expanded to accommodate new participating jurisdictions
<p>Light touch overarching structure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LSC is a high-level policy and rule making body and is not involved in individual cases • Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation oversees dispute resolution and discipline functions of Designated Local Regulatory Authorities (DLRAs)
<p>Low cost of governance and operations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost of the LSC, Commissioner and secretariat are low • The notional cost of the Scheme is \$20–30 pa per legal practitioner • The current LSC budget for FY 2020-2021 is \$1.7m
<p>A collaborative approach promotes best practice and efficiencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UL framework encourages collaboration between DLRAs to identify and promote agreed best practice • Continuous improvement saves time and costs
<p>In-built consultation requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All participating Attorneys General are members of the Standing Committee • The IGA requires consultation on Uniform Law changes • Mandated 30+ day consultation periods for rule changes • The LSC and Commissioner hold regular DLRA liaison meetings and an annual UL Summit