

PROGRESS AGAINST OUR STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2021

GOAL 1: ACHIEVE NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNIFORM LAW	
Priority actions	Work undertaken/completed
1.1 Work with the Standing Committee and Departments of Justice in NSW, Victoria and WA to achieve national implementation	
Standing Committee (SC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings and six-monthly reports Annual Reports NSW and Victorian Departments of Justice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings and regular liaison about policy matters and expansion of the Uniform Law (UL) scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LSC sent a six-monthly report to the SC in July. The 2019-20 Annual Reports were provided to the Victorian and NSW Parliaments and tabled on 10 and 17 December. The CEO met with Department representatives on 14 October and 29 October and the Secretariat regularly liaised with them about policy matters.
1.2 Continued engagement with the participating jurisdictions to collaborate on the operation of the Uniform Law	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular liaison with designated local regulatory authorities (DLRAs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In August and November, the CEO held DLRA meetings. The Secretariat regularly liaises with DLRAs about policy matters.
1.3 Continued engagement with the non-participating jurisdictions (NPJ) to understand their perspectives, address any issues and promote the Uniform Law	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular liaison with non-participating jurisdictions and stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In July, the Secretariat liaised with the Law Society of South Australia about the UL scheme. In this period, the COVID-19 pandemic and associated travel restrictions prevented planned visits to key stakeholders in the non-participating jurisdictions.
1.4 Support WA joining the Uniform Law scheme	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular liaison with the WA Solicitor General Regular liaison with the WA, NSW, and Victorian Departments of Justice Liaison with the Legal Practice Board of WA (LPBWA), the Law Society of WA (LSWA) and the WA Bar Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In July, September and November, the WA Solicitor General participated as an observer at LSC meetings. From July to December, the CEO continued discussions with the Executive Director of the LPBWA about issues relevant to WA joining the UL scheme. WA stakeholders were consulted on UL issues in accordance with the Intergovernmental Agreement.
GOAL 2: ENSURE THAT THE UNIFORM LAW SCHEME IS A RESPONSIVE REGULATORY REGIME FOR THE LEGAL PROFESSION IN AUSTRALIA	
Priority actions	Work undertaken/completed
2.1 Ensure the Uniform Law remains an effective regulatory regime	
2.2 Recommend Uniform Law changes, as appropriate	
Managed Investment Schemes (MIS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise the MIS Rules Review project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In July, the LSC published its Report on the Review of MIS Rules and invited submissions on revised guidance material in relation to s 258 of the UL and the MIS Rules.

<p>First Priority Amendments to the Uniform Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise the First Priority UL Amendments project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In September, the Standing Committee approved, in principle, 34 proposed amendments to the Uniform Law. The Secretariat is working with the Departments to progress the amendments.
<p>Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants (RCMPI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake public consultation on relevant recommendations Recommend any changes to the UL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LSC is considering the report and relevant recommendations of the RCMPPI, published in November, in consultation with the DLRAs, Departments and other stakeholders.
<p>2.3 Recommend Uniform Rules and Guidelines changes, as appropriate</p>	
<p>Australian Solicitors' Conduct Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the LCA's proposal to update the ASCRs and to harmonise relevant rules with the Bar Rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In September, the LSC approved amendments to the Legal Profession Uniform Law Australian Solicitors' Rules 2015 (Solicitors' Conduct Rules) proposed by the LCA. In November, the LSC approved the release of draft Rule 11A of the Solicitors' Conduct Rules for public consultation pursuant to s 427(5)(b) of the UL.
<p>Indexation Uniform General Rule (UGR)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FY 2020-21 indexed amounts, made pursuant to UGR 111A, came into effect on 1 July, as published on the LSC website.
<p>First Priority Amendments to UL Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise the First Priority Amendment Project in relation to the Uniform Rules. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The remaining amendments to the Uniform Rules are dependent on the proposed amendments to the UL referred to in item 2.2 above.
<p>Litigation funding schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake public consultation on the interim Legal Profession Uniform Amendment (Litigation Funding Scheme) Rule 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The interim Legal Profession Uniform Amendment (Litigation Funding Scheme) Rule 2020 commenced in August. A public consultation on the interim Rule will commence in early 2021.
<p>Interest rate payable on fidelity fund claims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review interest rate payable on fidelity fund claims 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In August, the LSC published a consultation paper seeking views on the interest rate payable on fidelity claims. In October, the LSC submitted the proposed Legal Profession Uniform Law General Amendment (Interest Rate) Rule 2020 to the Standing Committee for approval.
<p>2.4 Undertake Uniform Law projects</p>	
<p>Uniform Law Data Sharing Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor and review the effectiveness of reports generated from the UL database 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat continues to monitor and review the effectiveness of reports generated from the UL database, in consultation with the DLRAs.
<p>Australian Legal Profession Register (ALPR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an electronic register of legal practitioner details in the UL jurisdictions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ALPR, containing publicly available data about NSW and Victorian legal practitioners, has had over 5,500 views since its launch in December 2019.
<p>External Examiners' (EE) Course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a review of the EE Course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EE Working Group, which includes technical experts from the DLRAs, met in December.

2.5 Support the Admissions Committee (AC)	
2.5.1 Assist the AC to review the Uniform Admission Rules (UARs)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admission of foreign lawyers Removal of the word “fame” from UARs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In August and November, the Foreign Lawyer Working Group met to consider changes to the foreign lawyer admission provisions and processes.
2.5.2 Provide policy, technical and administrative support	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage Admission Committee (AC) appointments, three meetings per year and support members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat supported an AC meeting on 3 September.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide secretarial support for Law Admissions Consultative Committee (LACC) including three meetings per annum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat supported a LACC meeting on 3 September.
GOAL 3: BUILD AWARENESS OF THE BENEFITS OF THE UNIFORM LAW	
Priority actions	Work undertaken/completed
3.1 Provide stakeholders, legal practitioners and consumers with timely and accurate information about the Uniform Law Scheme	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly update the LSC website and advise stakeholders of UL developments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LSC website published five highlights on UL proposals, consultations and the LSC’s activities during this period. Information about the appointment of the new Chair and LSC members was published in November.
3.2 Enhance the profile of the LSC and the Admissions Committee in the legal profession	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with the legal profession to discuss the role of the LSC and AC Regular meetings with stakeholders to discuss the LSC, AC and the UL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In December, the LSC hosted its third annual UL Summit in Sydney attended (in person or via video-link) by the DLRA’s, LPBWA, and NSW and Victorian Departments. See 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4 above.
3.3 Promote the Uniform Law Scheme in non-participating jurisdictions (NPJs)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage and consult with stakeholders in NPJs about joining the UL scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CEO participated in the Australian legal regulators’ meetings in July and December. See 1.3 above.
3.4 Identify, develop and realise opportunities to raise awareness of the Uniform Law scheme	
<p>Strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use LSC website to consult and to advise of UL developments Publish a LSC quarterly newsletter Monitor media re UL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LSC website regularly publicises changes to the UL, Rules, consultations and other developments. In this period, there were 34,587 visits to the website. LSC newsletters have continued to be published quarterly, and a special edition was published in October to acknowledge the outgoing Chair and LSC members.

GOAL 4: CONTINUE TO ADMINISTER A WELL-GOVERNED ORGANISATION	
Priority actions	Work undertaken/completed
4.1 Support the LSC and the Audit and Risk Committee	
4.1.1 Legal Services Council	
Effectively support the LSC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene five LSC meetings per year • Undertake policy development and implementation • Provide administrative support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat supported LSC meetings on 30 July, 23 September and 25 November.
4.1.2 Audit and Risk Committee (ARC)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene a minimum of three meetings per year • Follow the ARC annual plan • Review and recommend a triennial budget to the LSC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat supported ARC meetings on 28 July and 16 September. • The LSC appointed LSC members Murray Baird and Elizabeth Harris to the ARC in November.
4.2 Comply with statutory reporting requirements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish Annual Reports for the LSC and Commissioner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2019-2020 Annual Reports are published on the LSC's website.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and review the LSC triennial budgets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LSC's triennial budget FY 2019-21 was approved by the SC on 10 September 2018.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with NSW Audit Office (AO) requirements and NSW applied statutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NSW AO requirements for FY 2019-20 were met, resulting in unqualified audits for the LSC and Commissioner.
4.3 Review and implement the LSC's governance and business arrangements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual review and update of LSC's governance documents • Monitor the Corporate Services Agreement (CSA) arrangements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LSC's governance documents will be reviewed and updated in January 2021. • The Secretariat continues to monitor the CSA arrangements.
4.4 Foster a productive and collegiate workplace	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage effective teamwork and staff development • Implement performance appraisal process including staff training/development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new Principal Policy Officer commenced in October. • The CEO and policy officers met regularly to discuss priorities. • Performance agreement reviews were conducted in July. • Relevant staff training was identified and undertaken.