

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 Victoria, NSW 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 six monthly reports to the SC in July and January The LSC Chair and CEO met with the Victorian Attorney-General on 18 September The 2018-19 Annual Reports were tabled in the NSW and Victorian Parliaments in November and distributed in December The CEO met with Department representatives on 3 October, 5 December (LSC Summit), 24 February, 17 March and 5 May, 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"> The CEO has met regularly with DLRAAs and stakeholders in NSW, Victoria and WA including formal meetings on 17 October, 5 December (UL Summit), 23 March and 14 May
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 December, the CEO approved a report on the compliance of NPJs' professional indemnity policies with the UGRs 78-79 to cover NPJ legal practitioners practising in UL jurisdictions The Council, Chair and CEO have continued to engage with NPJs to encourage their participation in the UL scheme, as opportunities arise South Australia (SA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In July, the Chair and CEO met the President, CEO of the Law Society of SA (LSSA) and the SA Legal Profession Conduct Commissioner In November, the Chair and CEO met with the SA Attorney-General In May, the CEO participated in the LSSA Uniform Law Forum with the SA Attorney-General, LSSA President and CEO, and SA Legal Services Commissioner Other jurisdictions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In October, the CEO met with representatives from Queensland, Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory and Tasmania at the Conference of Regulatory Officers to discuss the UL scheme
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, Victorian and NSW Departments Justice about WA joining the UL scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 17 September, the <i>Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Amendment Act 2019</i> (Vic) received Royal Assent The Chair and CEO met with members of the LPBWA and LSWA in October, December and January WA stakeholders were consulted on UL issues in accordance with the IGA and attended the UL Summit on 5 December

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular liaison with the Legal Practice Board of WA (LPBWA), the Law Society of WA (LSWA) and the WA Bar Association Convene meetings between WA, NSW and Victoria stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In January, the LSC convened a WA UL Project Committee including WA, Victorian and NSW legal regulators to support and assist the process of the WA joining the UL scheme. The Committee has met and developed a project plan to be implemented in 2020/2021
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 February, the MIS Rules final report was endorsed by the Council and forwarded to the SC in March
First Priority Amendments to the Uniform Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise the First Priority UL Amendments project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In April, the Council considered 34 amendments to the UL and recommended changes to the SC
Registration of foreign lawyers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Part 3.4 UL to include foreign lawyers working in-house and in government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed amendments to s 70 in Part 3.4 of the UL are included in the First Priority Amendments to the UL
2.3 Recommend Uniform Law Rules and Guidelines changes, as appropriate	
Australian Solicitors Conduct Rules <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 May, the Council considered the LCA draft report on the ASCRs review under s 427(5)(a) and has consulted with DLRAs about the proposed changes
Indexation Uniform General Rule (UGR)	<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
First Priority Amendments to UL Rules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise the First Priority Amendment Project in relation to the Uniform Rules. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In November, the SC approved nine amendments to the Uniform Rules recommended by the LSC pursuant s 419 of the UL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal Profession Uniform General Amendment (Miscellaneous) Rule 2019 Legal Profession Uniform Continuing Professional Development (Barristers) Amendment (CPD Activity) Rule 2019
E-Conveyancing and use of the PEXA source account	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LSC maintains a watching brief on e-conveyancing and the work of the Australian Registrars National Electronic Conveyancing
2.4 Undertake Uniform Law projects	

<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"> A three-year review of the UL database on complaints and admissions data was undertaken in November, in consultation with all DLRAs, and led to enhancements in the reporting process
<p>Australian Legal Profession Register (ALPR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an electronic register of legal practitioner details in the UL States 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ALPR was launched by the LSC on 5 December with legal practitioner data from NSW and Victoria Data from WA will be included after WA joins the UL
<p>2.5 Support the Admissions Committee (AC)</p>	
<p>2.5.1 Assist the AC to review the Uniform Admission Rules (UARs)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admission of foreign lawyers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In October, the AC considered an amendment to the UARs to guide admission authorities about admission of foreign lawyers, without necessary recourse to educational equivalence testing. Further consultation is underway
<p>2.5.2 Provide policy, technical and administrative support</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage Admission Committee (AC) appointments, meetings and support Members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hon Emmett AJA was reappointed by the SC until 30 June 2022 Stuart Clarke AM (LCA nominee) and Dr Elizabeth Boros (ABA nominee) were re-appointed until 30 June 2021 The Hon David Habersberger QC, Deputy Chair of the Victorian Legal Admissions Board and the Hon Justice Patricia Henry NSW Supreme Court were appointed until 30 June 2022 The Hon Justice Rene Le Miere, Senior Judge of the Supreme Court of Western Australia, joined the AC as an observer from 19 March 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide secretarial support for Law Admissions Consultative Committee (LACC) to achieve national consistency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In November, the Chair of the AC was appointed to chair LACC by the Council of Chief Justices of Australia and New Zealand The LSC provided secretarial support to two LACC meetings in 2020
<p>GOAL 3: BUILD AWARENESS OF THE BENEFITS OF THE UNIFORM LAW</p>	
<p>Priority actions</p>	<p>Work undertaken/completed</p>
<p>3.1 Provide stakeholders, legal practitioners and consumers with timely and accurate information about the Uniform Law Scheme</p>	
<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 14 highlights on UL proposals, consultations and the Council's activities The LSC updated website information sheets about the UL and published new information sheets on <i>Legal Technological Innovation and the UL</i> and <i>The ALPR – getting help with a legal problem</i>
<p>3.2 Enhance the profile of the LSC and the Admissions Committee in the legal profession</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with the legal profession to discuss the role 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In October, the CEO gave a presentation on the AC at the 20th meeting of Administrators of Australasian Law Admitting Authorities

<p>of the LSC and AC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular meetings with stakeholders to discuss the LSC, AC and the UL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In April, a Notice of Revocation of External Examiner Appointment was developed in consultation with the DLRAs See 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4 above
<p>3.3 Promote the Uniform Law Scheme in non-participating jurisdictions (NPJs)</p>	
<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 bi-monthly meetings on 9 August, 14 October and 2 April See 1.3 above
<p>3.4 Identify, develop and realise opportunities to raise awareness of the Uniform Law scheme</p>	
<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 Submit UL articles to relevant publications Monitor media re UL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LSC website regularly publicises changes to the UL, Rules, current and recent consultations and other developments LSC newsletters were published quarterly in 2019 and 2020 On 5 December, a LSC media release announced the launch of the ALPR Relevant media articles are posted to the LSC's media page
<p>GOAL 4: CONTINUE TO ADMINISTER A WELL-GOVERNED ORGANISATION</p>	
<p>Priority actions</p>	<p>Work undertaken/completed</p>
<p>4.1 Support the Council and the Audit and Risk Committee</p>	
<p>4.1.1 Legal Services Council</p>	
<p>Effectively support the LSC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrange five Council meetings Undertake policy development and implementation Provide administrative support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat supported Council meetings on 18 September, 27 November, 25 February and 7 May with comprehensive briefing papers, oral presentations and invited speakers
<p>4.1.2 Audit and Risk Committee (ARC)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convene three meetings per year Review the risk management framework, annual financial statements, compliance with financial management and system certification, legislative compliance Review and recommend a triennial operating budget to the LSC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat supported ARC meetings on 26 July, 17 September and 25 February Draft consolidated FY2018-19 financial statements were reviewed by the ARC and forwarded to the NSW Audit Office Prior to 30 June, the ARC reviewed all governance documents and monitored financial management in accordance with the triennial budget, as approved by the SC

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 2018-2019 Annual Reports were distributed in December to key stakeholders and published on the LSC's website
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor and review the LSC triennial operating budgets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LSC's Triennial Budget FY2019-21 was approved by the SC on 10 September 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comply with all NSW Audit Office requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NSW Audit Office's requirements for FY2018-19 were met, resulting in unqualified audits for the LSC and Commissioner
4.3 Review and implement the LSC's governance and business arrangements	
4.3.1 Annual review and update of LSC's governance documents	
<p>LSC's governance documents include Governance Manual; Business Continuity Plan; Risk Register; Privacy Management Plan; Assets Register</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All LSC documents were reviewed in January and endorsed by the LSC Audit and Risk Committee in February The Business Continuity Plan was amended in March due to COVID-19
4.3.2 Monitor service support arrangements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor the Corporate Services Agreement (CSA) arrangements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CSA was updated in August to reflect the new Department of Communities and Justice structure
4.4 Foster a productive and collegiate workplace	
4.4.1 Encourage effective teamwork and staff development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct team meetings Monitor effective work distribution Collaborate on policy proposals Establish a WHS Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team meetings ensured effective work allocation and collaboration The CEO and policy officers met regularly to discuss priorities The LSC participates on the NSW Trustee and Guardian WHS Committee
4.4.2 Train and develop staff to maximise their potential	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Settle performance agreements and conduct reviews Support staff training/development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance agreements were settled in June and reviews conducted in December and July Relevant staff training was identified and undertaken