

LAW ADMISSIONS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE¹

STATEMENT ON DURATION OF LEGAL STUDIES

The Uniform Admission Rules and the Admission Rules of several jurisdictions require an applicant for admission to the legal profession to have successfully completed an academic course in law "which includes the equivalent of three years' full-time study of law" and also includes the 11 prescribed academic areas of knowledge.

The body responsible for assessing and accrediting academic courses preparing applicants for admission to the legal profession in each jurisdiction (the **Admitting Authority**) considers that the requirement refers to three calendar years. A law course that can be completed in fewer than three years may be accredited, however, if the relevant law school satisfies the Admitting Authority that the course is, indeed, the equivalent of a three calendar year full-time course undertaken at the relevant law school, in terms of the breadth and depth of its content, the teaching methods to be employed and the assessment criteria and methodology.

Students who aspire to be admitted to the legal profession in Australia are advised to take this into account when planning their law course – particularly if they plan to undertake a postgraduate JD or equivalent qualification.

¹ LACC's Charter is approved by the Council of Chief Justices which also appoints its Chairman. LACC is not, however, a Committee of the Council, nor does it act on the Council's behalf.