ANNUAL REPORT OF COMMITTEES 2022



THE LAW SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES



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CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Alternative Dispute Resolution	3
Business Law	4
Children's Legal Issues	5
Criminal Law	6
Diversity and Inclusion	8
Elder Law, Capacity and Succession	9
Employment Law	10
Environmental Planning and Developme	ent 11
Family Law	12
Government Solicitors	14
Human Rights	15
Indigenous Issues	16
In-house Corporate Lawyers	17
Injury Compensation	18
Litigation Law and Practice	20
Privacy and Data Law	21
Property Law	22
Public Law	24
Revenue NSW / Law Society Liaison	25
Rural Issues	26
Joint submissions	Inside back cover

INTRODUCTION

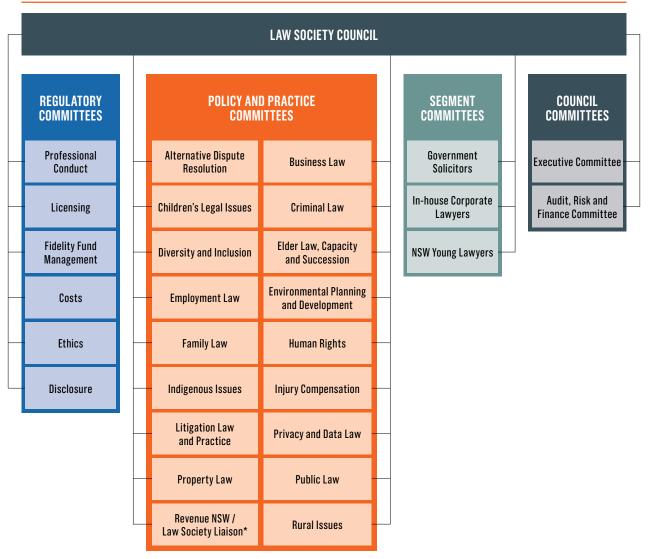
The Law Society's committees are committees of the Council with powers, authorities and tasks delegated by the Council. They are established as a source of expert advice and assistance to Council, the Law Society and the profession and are convened annually on the basis of need.

The Committee's functions vary somewhat from committee to committee but, typically, are as follows:

- a source of policy proposals and reform initiatives
- a forum for consideration of practical issues and resolution of problems

- a review body and commentator (in relation to legislation, discussion papers, reports, etc)
- a monitor of practice standards and advocate for ongoing training and skills development
- a liaison body

Committees have an important role, and the way in which they perform is integral to the professionalism of Council's decision making and the performance of the Law Society as a whole. Members' participation is welcomed and is critical to the success of committees.



* Liaison committee

Law Society Committees

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

2021 membership: Z. Kekeff (Chair), G. Ulman (Deputy Chair), P. Argy, A. Boyd-Boland, B. Bryant, G. Carabetta, K. David, G. Ettinger, G. Fabiani, P. Farrell, N. Flaskas, R. Hughes, Judge L. Levy, P. Lewis, A. Lopes De Lima, J. McDermott, B. McGrath, H. Nandni, T. Peisley, C. Peterson, C. Seil, G. Strazzeri, M. Ziegler, N. Harvey (Policy Lawyer).

2022 membership: G. Ulman (Chair), M. Ziegler (Deputy Chair), P. Argy, A. Bhattacharjee, A. Boyd-Boland, K. David, G. Ettinger, G. Fabiani, P. Farrell, N. Flaskas, N. Geikie, R. Hughes, Z. Kekeff, S. Kendall, M. Kofman, Judge L. Levy, P. Lewis, A. Lopes De Lima, P. Lorraine, J. McDermott, J. Robb, C. Seil, N. Harvey (Policy Lawyer).

Functions

The role of this Committee is to represent the Law Society and its members on policy and practice issues arising in relation to all types of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).

The Committee's priorities include:

- Developing and commenting on law reform and legal policy proposals (including preparing submissions, and liaising with government and other stakeholders in this process)
- Educating the legal profession about changes to the law and the application of ADR, and providing guidance on practice and other issues
- Exchanging information about issues arising in legal practice (such as recent case law) that may indicate a legal policy issue or concern

Committee priority issues for 2022

The Committee identified the following priority issues for 2022:

- Promoting the benefits of all types of ADR including arbitration and expert determination
- A review of the *Civil Dispute Resolution Act 2011* (Cth) and a consideration as to whether mandatory pre-litigation mediation in New South Wales (NSW) is appropriate
- To encourage the use of ADR clauses to the profession and to liaise with other stakeholders and professional bodies, such as chartered accountants, regarding the use of ADR, and invite these representatives to meet with the Committee
- The globalisation of dispute resolution, and efforts to improve cross-border enforcement including the Singapore Convention

Activities

The Committee carried out the following activities during the year under review:

- Committee members attended the Resolution Institute Conference, 'Resilience and Reinvention: Dispute Resolution During a Crisis and Beyond', which was held 15–16 July 2021
- The Committee monitored the Singapore Convention on Mediation, particularly noting Australia becoming a signatory on 30 September 2021
- The Mediator Standards Board (MSB) Annual General Meeting was held on 27 October 2021 and the Committee put forward a member for election to the MSB Board
- On 16 March 2022 guest speaker, Mr Michael Miller, Director, Mediation Services, NSW Small Business Commission addressed the Committee
- Committee members attended the NSW Supreme Court of NSW to observe a Judicial Settlement Conference facilitated by The Honourable Justice Hallen
- The Committee is undertaking a review of current dispute resolution model clauses with a view to publishing updated material for the profession to use
- On 23 June 2022, the Committee hosted a joint ADR CPD Event with the NSW Bar Association. The event was a moderated debate arguing the case for and against mandatory pre-litigation mediation in NSW.

The Committee contributed to the following submission during the year under review:

• Addressing the legal needs of the missing middle: Position Paper

The Committee also contributed to the following joint submission during the year under review:

• The Law Council of Australia's Federal Election Platform

BUSINESS LAW

2021 membership: A. Cerny (Chair), T. Russell (Deputy Chair), S. Ajitkumar, M. Bush, A. Care, J. Hsu, T. Hunter, O. Kubyk, M. Lo, K. McLean, T. Masters, T. Mierendorff, M. Milnes, B. Roe, L. Serafim, R. Snowden, J. Stathis, L. Booth (Policy Lawyer).

2022 membership: A. Cerny (Chair), T. Masters (Deputy Chair), S. Brown, A. Daquinag, P. Harrison, M. Lo, V. Manalo, K. McLean, T. Mierendorff, D. Newhouse, B. Roe, L. Serafim, D. Smith, K. Smith, R. Snowden, J. Stathis, T. Stevensen, H. Tang, L. Booth (Policy Lawyer).

Functions

The role of this Committee is to represent the Law Society and its members on policy and practice issues arising in relation to business law. Without limiting the Committee's area of review, subcommittees have been convened for the following specific areas, which fall within the Committee's consideration:

- Competition and Consumer Law
- Contract Law
- Corporations
- Financial Services
- Insolvency
- Intellectual property
- Taxation.

The Committee's priorities include:

- Developing and commenting on law reform and legal policy proposals (including preparing submissions, and liaising with government and other stakeholders in this process)
- Educating the legal profession about changes to the law, and providing guidance on practice and other issues
- Exchanging information about issues arising in legal practice (such as recent case law) that may indicate a legal policy issue or concern

Committee priority issues for 2022

The Committee identified the following priority issues for 2022:

- Responding to consultations initiated by the NSW and Commonwealth Treasury, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, and the Department of Customer Service
- Corporate governance

- Monitoring continuing competition and consumer law reform
- Monitoring tax law and practice developments, including legal practitioners' interactions with the Australian Taxation Office

Activities

The Committee carried out the following activities during the year under review:

- Participated in a stakeholder roundtable meeting with Treasury representatives to discuss reforms to the Foreign Investment Review Framework
- Participated on an expert Panel convened by the NSW Treasury to advise on draft legislation for the new property tax option for First Home Buyers
- Collated nominations for the Takeovers Panel
- Participated in the Standards Australia Technical Committee QR 17 Organisational Governance AS 8001 Fraud and Corruption Control

The Committee contributed to the following submissions during the year under review:

- Enhancing Australia's foreign investment framework
- Evaluation of the 2021 foreign investment reforms
- Franchise Disclosure Register

- A common pathway for digital execution of statutory declarations and deeds
- Australian Taxation Office Legal Professional Privilege Protocol
- Duties Regulation 2022
- Jurisdictional limits of the District Court
- Property Tax
- Revenue Ruling regarding declarations and acknowledgments of trust in an agreement for sale
- Revenue Ruling regarding exemptions from surcharge for Australian based developers that are foreign persons
- Review of the Security Legislation Amendment (Critical Infrastructure Protection) Bill 2022
- Supporting business adoption of electronic invoicing
- The Law Council of Australia's Climate Change Policy
- The Law Council of Australia's Federal Election Platform
- Tranche II Building Reforms

CHILDREN'S LEGAL ISSUES

2021 membership: J. Wong (Chair), J. Irwin (Deputy Chair), C. Akthar (until July 2021), N. Callander, A. Choi (until September 2021), A. Christie-David, M. Dimech, L. Goodwin, S. Hargans, K. Hopgood, M. Inger, F. Kay, M. Loundar, N. Mekler, S. Niles, K. Phillips, Z. Robinson, C. Samuels, Magistrate T. Sheedy, G. Slack-Smith, J. Symons, A. Tang, A. Small (Policy Lawyer).

2022 membership: J. Wong (Chair), K. Hopgood (Deputy Chair) (June 2022), J. Irwin (Deputy Chair) (until May 2022), S. Bourne, B. Bowman,
R. Breckenridge, A. Christie-David, Z. De Re, J. Fing,
L. Goodwin, A. Hall, S. Hargans, M. Inger, K. Kelso,
E. Leong, M. Loundar, D. Neligan, S. Niles, K. Phillips,
Z. Robinson, K. Rowley, G. Slack-Smith, J. Symons (until April 2022), A. Tang, R. Ward, K. Williamson,
S. Lee (until April 2022) / N. Saad (from April 2022) (Policy Lawyers).

Functions

The role of this Committee is to represent the Law Society and its members on policy and practice issues arising in relation to children and child rights, both in the civil (including care and protection matters) and criminal contexts.

The Committee's priorities include:

- Developing and commenting on law reform and legal policy proposals (including preparing submissions, and liaising with government and other stakeholders in this process)
- Educating the legal profession about changes to the law, and providing guidance on practice and other issues
- Exchanging information about issues arising in legal practice (such as recent case law) that may indicate a legal policy issue or concern

Committee priority issues for 2022

The Committee identified the following priority issues for 2022:

- Reducing the number of young people in custody in NSW, including in relation to:
 - The review into the minimum age of criminal responsibility
 - Children on custodial remand, including cases of family crises or chronic homelessness

- The intersection of education, children in out of home care, and the criminal justice system in NSW
- The overrepresentation of Indigenous children in the NSW child protection and criminal justice systems
- Monitoring online safety legislation in relation to children and young people

Activities

The Committee carried out the following activities during the year under review:

- The Committee was represented on, and contributed to the work of, the: Children's Court Advisory Committee, Children's Court Care Working Group, Children's Court Subcommittee to develop a Practice Note for s85 of the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* (NSW), Children's Court *Family is Culture* Working Group, NSW Legal Assistance Forum *Doli Incapax* Working Group, and the Youth Justice Advisory Committee
- The Committee liaised with the NSW Department of Communities and Justice, the NSW Department of Education, Youth Justice NSW, Legal Aid NSW, the Children's Court of NSW, the NSW Police Force, and the office of the Advocate for Children and Young People on various matters in the civil (including care and protection matters) and criminal contexts

The Committee contributed to the following submissions during the year under review:

- Children (Detention Centres) Amendment (Warrants) Regulation 2022
- Consultation Paper on Implementing the Successor Plan to the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020
- Stronger Communities Legislation Amendment (Children) Bill 2021

- Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2013 NSW
- Draft National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children
- Family is Culture legislative review
- Open Justice Court and Tribunal Information: access, disclosure and publication
- Public health order fines and impact on vulnerable groups
- Suspect Targeting Management Plans
- The Law Council of Australia's Federal Election Platform

CRIMINAL LAW

2021 membership: A. Lumsden (Chair), M. Mantaj (Deputy Chair), C. Akthar (until July 2021), Deputy Chief Magistrate M. Allen, C. Bell, A. Bilias, P. Blake, V. Chan, P. Coady, E. Conditsis, D. Elston, D. Giddy, S. Hedberg, I. Hogan, R. Hoyles, J. Hunter, L. Kaban, H. Ketley, R. Leary, P. Musgrave, R. Ogden, J. Pheils, K. Saddington (until July 2021), J. Sanders, T. Spohr, J. Styles, J. Sutton, J. Wong, R. Geare (Policy Lawyer).

2022 membership: J. Sanders (Chair), M. Mantaj (Deputy Chair), C. Bell, A. Bilias, V. Chan, P. Coady, E. Conditsis, D. Elston, P. Gibson, D. Giddy, I. Hogan, R. Hoyles, J. Hunter, S. Ienna, C. Irani, L. Kaban, H. Ketley, J. Lewis, E. Liddell, S. Mason, J. Pheils, T. Spohr, J. Styles, J. Sutton, Deputy Chief Magistrate T. Tsavdaridis, J. Wong, R. Geare (Policy Lawyer).

Functions

The role of this Committee is to represent the Law Society and its members on policy and practice issues arising in relation to criminal law and to uphold the rule of law.

The role of the Criminal Law Committee is to review and comment on law and policy affecting criminal justice and to assist in the just and orderly development of the criminal law, having regard to:

- The interests of people affected by, and involved in, the criminal justice system
- The rights of people charged with criminal offences and the rights of people in custody
- The interests of intellectually disabled, mentally ill and other cognitively impaired people as they are affected by the criminal law
- The rights of Indigenous Australians

Committee priority issues for 2022

The Committee identified the following priority issues for 2022:

- The criminal justice response to COVID-19, including the impact on people in custody
- Local Court resourcing
- Mental health and cognitive impairment issues in the criminal justice system
- Incarceration rates, in particular Indigenous incarceration rates
- Reform of disclosure obligations

Activities

The Committee carried out the following activities during the year under review:

- The Committee was represented on, and contributed to the work of, the: District Court Criminal Business Committee, Court of Criminal Appeal User Group, Local Court COVID-19 Working Group, Corrective Services NSW Legal Practitioners Consultative Group, Child Sexual Offences Evidence Pilot Implementation Reference Group, Early Appropriate Guilty Pleas Working Group, Corrective Services NSW Legal eBrief Committee, and the Summary Offences Online project
- The Committee liaised with the NSW Department of Communities and Justice, NSW Bar Association, NSW Police Force, NSW Local Court, NSW District Court, Supreme Court of NSW, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (Cth and NSW), Legal Aid NSW, the Aboriginal Legal Service, NSW Young Lawyers, and Corrective Services NSW on various matters relevant to the criminal justice system

The Committee contributed to the following submissions during the year under review:

- Addressing delays in the Local Court
- Applications for non-urgent warrants via email
- Bail Act Monitoring Group
- Bail Amendment Bill 2022
- Child sexual abuse offence reference to 'unlawful sexual relationship'
- Coercive Control
- Court appearances during COVID-19 lockdown
- COVID-19 temporary provisions
- Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999 (NSW)
- Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Amendment Bill 2021
- Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive Control) Bill 2022
- Crimes Legislation Amendment (Sexual Consent Reforms) Bill 2021 (multiple submissions)
- Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 (multiple submissions)
- Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Regulation 2017 (multiple submissions)
- Criminal Procedure Legislation Amendment Bill 2021
- Drug Supply Prohibition Order Pilot Scheme
- Exposure Draft: Crimes and Other Legislation Amendment (Strengthening the Criminal Justice Response to Sexual Violence and other Measures) Bill 2022
- Federal parole
- Improving the implementation of the EAGP reforms
- Inquiry into the Road Transport Amendment (Medicinal Cannabis Exemptions from Offences) Bill 2021
- Jury reform
- Jury Regulation 2015

- Justice Miscellaneous Amendment Bill 2021
- New fee scale for High-Risk Offender matters
- Practice Note 23 Resumption of Jury Trials
- Proposal to publish Notices of Appeals and written submissions in appeals
- Provision of court transcripts in criminal matters
- Revised Practice Note 25
- Sections 322 and 326 of the Crimes Act 1900 (NSW)
- Sentencing practices for historical offences (multiple submissions)
- Voluntary assisted dying and offences relating to use of carriage service for suicide related material under the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth)

- Coronial Practice Note 3 of 2021: Case Management of mandatory inquests involving section 23 deaths
- Crimes Amendment (Prohibition of Nazi Symbols)
 Bill 2022
- Draft National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children
- E-scooter trial in NSW
- Evaluation of the Walama List pilot
- Model definition of family violence
- Policing in NSW during the COVID-19 pandemic: Operation Stay At Home
- Suspect Targeting Management Plans
- The Law Council of Australia's Federal Election Platform

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

2021 membership: R. MacSweeney (Chair), I. Luke (Deputy Chair), S. Ajitkumar, E. Allen, K. Brooker, G. Burke, J. Camden, J. Dawes, A. Drayton, Z. Edries, R. Grant, M. Gurlica, R. Haynes, K. Hong, D. Kelly, A. Lyras, H. McGonagle, S. Nachiappan, M. Nawaz, J. Parker, N. Parsons, K. Pender, I. Reiss, V. Roles, J. Skelton, N. Stewart, S. Lee (until October 2021) / S. Bathurst (from October 2021) (Policy Lawyers).

2022 membership: R. MacSweeney (Chair), I. Luke (Deputy Chair), K. Addo, E. Allen, K. Brooker, G. Burke, R. Cook, J. Dawes, M. Dawson, Z. Edries, M. Graczol, R. Grant, K. Hong, S. Ibrahim, R. Karim, D. Kelly, A. Khan, A. Lyras, A-J. Merrett, K. Pender, V. Roles, J. Skelton, T. Spirovski (from April 2022), N. Stewart, J. Tyrrell, J. Warner, M. Yelavich, S. Bathurst (Policy Lawyer).

Functions

The role of this Committee is to promote diversity, equality and inclusion in the legal profession, in particular by progressing initiatives to ensure the equality of opportunity for all members of the profession, regardless of race, ethnicity, heritage, gender, age, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status.

The Committee's priorities include:

- Developing and commenting on law reform and legal policy proposals (including preparing submissions, and liaising with government and other stakeholders in this process)
- Educating the legal profession about changes to the law, and providing guidance on practice and other issues
- Exchanging information about issues arising in legal practice (such as recent case law) that may indicate a legal policy issue or concern

Committee priority issues for 2022

The Committee identified the following priority issues for 2022:

- Supporting the implementation of initiatives that promote cultural diversity in the legal profession
- Developing initiatives and resources in line with the Committee's mission in relation to promoting a disability aware and culturally diverse legal profession

- Consideration of specific issues relating to the advancement of women, intersectionality, people with disability, LGBTQI+ and other minority groups in the legal profession and undertaking initiatives to create awareness and develop thought leadership on these issues within the legal profession
- Consideration of diversity-related issues that create barriers to entry into, and progression through, the legal profession
- Encouraging allyship in the legal profession and a commitment to achieving outcomes for diverse communities

Activities

The Committee carried out the following activities during the year under review:

- Updated the Law Society's 'Diversity and Inclusion in the Legal Profession: The Business Case'
- Published and launched the 'Cultural Diversity Guidance'
- Published and launched the 'Creating a Disability Inclusive Workplace Guidance'
- Committee members appeared on a panel event hosted by the Law Society to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- Liaised with the Women Lawyers Association of NSW, the Muslim Legal Network (NSW) and the Australian Asian Lawyers Association
- Committee members contributed a number of articles to the *Law Society Journal* on topics such LGBTIQ+ milestones in the legal profession

The Committee contributed to the following submission during the year under review:

• The Law Council of Australia's Equitable Briefing Policy

- Public Consultation to Progress Further *Respect@Work* Recommendations
- Reform of reasonable adjustment provisions in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth) following Sklavos v Australasian College of Dermatologists [2017] FCAFC 128
- Religious Discrimination Bills
- Sex Discrimination and Fair Work (Respect at Work) Amendment Bill 2021
- The Law Council of Australia's Federal Election Platform
- The Law Council of Australia's National Model Sexual Harassment Policy

ELDER LAW, CAPACITY AND SUCCESSION

2021 membership: J. McMillan (Chair), R. Neal (Deputy Chair), L. Absalom, J. Clarke, N. Darcy, M. Dixon, B. Hayward, G. Kirwan, A. Koumoukelis, R. Lewis, M. Lovelock, R. McCullagh, P. McGowan, A. McIntyre, D. Pickering, R. Pollard, M. Reid, N. Scanlon, A. Schiralli, J. Smythe, P. Vartuli, K. Whitley, S. Yoo, S. Hunt (Policy Lawyer).

2022 membership: J. McMillan (Chair), R. Neal (Deputy Chair), L. Absalom, E. Alabasinis (from May 2022), A. Britton, J. Clarke, D. Copeland, N. Darcy, M. Dixon, F. Fagan, B. Hayward, G. Kirwan, A. Koumoukelis, M. Lovelock, R. McCullagh, P. McGowan, A. McIntyre, R. MacSweeney (from May 2022), M. Money, K. Penfold, R. Pollard, A. Schiralli, L. To, P. Vartuli, K. Whitley, S. Yoo, S. Hunt (Policy Lawyer).

Functions

The role of this Committee is to represent the Law Society and its members on policy and practice issues arising in relation to elder, capacity and succession law.

The Committee's priorities include:

- Developing and commenting on law reform and legal policy proposals (including preparing submissions, and liaising with government and other stakeholders in this process)
- Educating the legal profession about changes to the law, and providing guidance on practice and other issues
- Exchanging information about issues arising in legal practice (such as recent case law) that may indicate a legal policy issue or concern

Committee priority issues for 2022

The Committee identified the following priority issues for 2022:

- Elder abuse awareness, prevention and mitigation
- Enduring appointments including guardianship, powers of attorney and financial management
- Accommodation designed for, or particularly affecting, older people, including the outcome of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety
- Succession law, including harmonisation across states and territories

Activities

The Committee carried out the following activities during the year under review:

- Engaged with the NSW Department of Communities and Justice regarding the clarification and continuation of measures introduced in response to COVID-19
- Engaged with the Law Council of Australia on national issues including responses to the Royal Commission on Aged Care Quality and Safety including Quality of Care Standards and the regulation of restrictive practices in aged care, banking practices relating to powers of attorney and deceased estates, as well as on promoting consistency across state and territory laws governing wills and estates and enduring documents
- Assisted the Supreme Court of NSW with operational aspects of the Succession List, including the development of a List of Independent Administrators
- Worked with the Ageing and Disability Commissioner on issues including remedies for victims of elder abuse arising through enduring powers of attorney
- Engaged with the Queensland Law Society on issues including inheritance according to Indigenous custom and practices
- Supported members' understanding of issues concerning elder law, estate planning and estate administration by developing Law Society website resources on topics including assessing a client's mental capacity and when to give an executor access to a client's will
- Worked with the CPD team to develop a program to educate practitioners on the legal, ethical and practice issues arising in elder law and succession law

The Committee contributed to the following submissions during the year under review:

- Banking processes and deceased estates (multiple submissions)
- Evaluation of the Aged Care Quality Standards
- NSW Trustee and Guardian fees and regulations
- Part 4.4 of the Succession Act 2006 (NSW)

- 2022–23 Pre-budget Submission
- A common pathway for digital execution of statutory declarations and deeds
- Changes to court fees
- Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2013 NSW
- Duties Regulation 2022
- Enduring Power of Attorney Law Reform
- Remote witnessing via audio-visual link
- The Law Council of Australia's Federal Election Platform
- Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

EMPLOYMENT LAW

2021 membership: B. Feltham (Co-Chair), N. Keats (Co-Chair), B. Akers, T. Angelopoulos, M. Byrnes, P. Costigan, M. Doherty, L. Forsyth, A. Grayson, C. Kerley, D. King, K. Lewis, D. McEvoy, H. Macken, D. Potts, S. Ramsay, C. Stebbing, W. Steenson, L. Taylor, M. Tuohy, A. Small (Policy Lawyer).

2022 membership: B. Feltham (Co-Chair), N. Keats (Co-Chair), T. Angelopoulos, M. Byrnes, P. Costigan, M. Dawson, M. Doherty, M. Doyle, A. Grayson, C. Kerley, D. King, K. Lewis, A. Lyras, D. McEvoy, H. Macken, S. Nachiappan, D. Potts, C. Stebbing, W. Steenson, M. Tuohy, S. Bathurst (until April 2022) / N. Saad (from April 2022) (Policy Lawyers).

Functions

The role of this Committee is to represent the Law Society and its members on policy and practice issues arising in relation to elder, capacity and succession law.

The Committee's priorities include:

- Developing and commenting on law reform and legal policy proposals (including preparing submissions, and liaising with government and other stakeholders in this process)
- Educating the legal profession about changes to the law, and providing guidance on practice and other issues
- Exchanging information about issues arising in legal practice (such as recent case law) that may indicate a legal policy issue or concern

Committee work for 2022

The Employment Law Committee considered policy and practice issues arising in relation to employment and industrial law, and, in particular, monitored practice issues in the Federal Court, the Federal Circuit Court, the Fair Work Commission and the Industrial Relations Commission.

Activities

The Committee carried out the following activities during the year under review:

- Participated in the Federal Court of Australia (Employment and Industrial Relations National Practice Area) User Group
- Participated in the Federal Circuit Court User Group Sydney Registry (Industrial Law)
- Participated in the NSW Industrial Relations Commission User Group

The Committee contributed to the following submissions during the year under review:

 Fair Work Commission – Online proceedings (multiple submissions)

- 'Equal access' costs amendment to the *Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986* (Cth)
- Federal anti-discrimination law reform
- Implementation of Recommendation 39 of the *Respect@ Work* Report
- Public Consultation to Progress Further *Respect@Work* Recommendations
- Religious Discrimination Bills
- Sex Discrimination and Fair Work (Respect at Work) Amendment Bill 2021
- The Law Council of Australia's Federal Election Platform
- The Law Council of Australia's National Model Sexual Harassment Policy
- Tools for Rural, Regional and Remote Practitioners and Law Practices

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

2021 membership: R. McCulloch (Chair), C. Drury (Deputy Chair), M. Bonanno, A. Cahill, B. Charlton, K. Huxley, R. James, A. Knox, J. Mitchell, P. Murray, A. Penklis, J. Schipp, J. Sheehan, N. Vella, P. Vergotis, L. Booth (Policy Lawyer).

2022 membership: R. McCulloch (Chair), A. Penklis (Deputy Chair), J. Amy, K. Blunden, M. Bonanno, R. Bullmore, A. Cahill, B. Charlton, R. Chick, K. Huxley, R. James, A. Knox, M. Macken, J. Mitchell (until February 2022), E. Ryan, J. Sheehan, M. Thomas, P. Vergotis, L. Booth (Policy Lawyer).

Functions

The role of this Committee is to represent the Law Society and its members on policy and practice issues arising in relation to planning and environmental law.

The Committee's priorities include:

- Developing and commenting on law reform and legal policy proposals (including preparing submissions, and liaising with government and other stakeholders in this process)
- Educating the legal profession about changes to the law, and providing guidance on practice and other issues
- Exchanging information about issues arising in legal practice (such as recent case law) that may indicate a legal policy issue or concern

Committee priority issues for 2022

The Committee identified the following priority issues for 2022:

- Consideration of the issues arising from the repeal of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 and its replacement with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021
- Appropriate public consultation on the introduction of legislative planning and related instruments, including State Environmental Planning Policies

Activities

The Committee carried out the following activities during the year under review:

- Participated in, and contributed to, the work of the Land and Environment Court Users Group
- Gave evidence before the Legislative Council Portfolio Committee No. 6 – Transport and Customer Service inquiry into the acquisition of land in relation to major transport projects
- Participated in a series of workshops convened by the Office of Local Government to develop regulations under the new *Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021* (NSW)

The Committee contributed to the following submissions during the year under review:

- A new approach to rezoning
- Acquisition of land in relation to major transport projects
- Design and Place State Environmental Planning Policy
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021
- Housing State Environmental Planning Policy
- Infrastructure and Education State Environmental Planning Policy amendments
- Large-Scale Solar Energy Guidelines
- Residential Apartment Buildings (Compliance and Enforcement Powers) Amendment (Building Work Levy) Regulation 2021

- 2022–23 Pre-budget Submission
- Fact sheet on the Biodiversity Values Map and Biocertification
- Strata Schemes Development Act 2015 (NSW)
- The Law Council of Australia's Climate Change Policy (multiple submissions)
- The Law Council of Australia's Federal Election Platform
- The NSW Independent Flood Inquiry

FAMILY LAW

2021 membership: C. Banks (Co-Chair), Z. Kekeff (Co-Chair), B. Bryant, C. Bryett, J. Burreket,
A. Colquhoun, P. Davis, J. Dawson, P. Doolan,
B. Hayward, M. Hayward, F. Hoad, Dr M. Livermore,
L. Longbottom, B. McGrath, L. Maitland,
M. Mastronardi, M. Meares, C. Oosterhoff,
D. Palethorpe, G. Thompson, M. Whitehead,
M. Worner, S. Hunt (Policy Lawyer).

2022 membership: C. Banks (Co-Chair), J. Dawson (Co-Chair), B. Bryant, J. Burreket, C. Christaki,
L. Coady, A. Colquhoun, P. Davis, M. Hayward,
J-L. Higgins, F. Hoad, K. Kearley, Dr M. Livermore,
B. McGrath, M. Mastronardi, M. Meares, J. Neo,
C. Oosterhoff, J. Smith, G. Thompson, M. Whitehead,
S. Yigit, S. Hunt (Policy Lawyer).

Functions

The role of this Committee is to represent the Law Society and its members on policy and practice issues arising in relation to family law issues in NSW.

The Committee's priorities include:

- Developing and commenting on law reform and legal policy proposals (including preparing submissions, and liaising with government and other stakeholders in this process)
- Educating the legal profession about changes to the law, and providing guidance on practice and other issues
- Exchanging information about issues arising in legal practice (such as recent case law) that may indicate a legal policy issue or concern

Committee priority issues for 2022

The Committee identified the following priority issues for 2022:

- Monitoring Government responses to the Australian Law Reform Commission review of the family law system and the Joint Select Committee for Australia's Family Law System, including identifying priorities and recommendations for implementation
- Advocating for adequate judicial resources and for workable processes in the courts in which family law matters are heard, in particular as regards prioritising the best interests of children
- Encouraging and promoting the use of alternative dispute resolution in family law, including encouraging the courts' uptake of the Law Society Family Law Settlement Service
- Advocating for better systemic responses to domestic and family violence in the context of family law, and for better access to legal representation, particularly in regional areas, including adequate legal aid funding
- Strengthening the Law Society's relationship with the Court and exploring further ways of working with the Court to help familiarise practitioners with Court operations and assist the Court to understand emerging practice issues

Activities

The Committee carried out the following activities during the year under review:

- Engaged with Senior Judicial Registrars and other court staff regarding court-based initiatives, including Family Dispute Resolution, the Lighthouse Project, the PPP500 List and Callover campaigns
- Worked with the CPD Department to host a webinar at which Senior Judicial Registrars discussed the operation of the new Court
- Worked with the Court on practice issues associated with responses to COVID-19, the impact of flooding in regional areas, judicial resourcing, inspection of subpoena material, applications for consent orders and dispute resolution
- Worked with the NSW Police Force in relation to responses to domestic violence complaints
- Supported members by developing and publishing on the Law Society's website guidance on working with clients affected by domestic and family violence
- Represented the Law Society at Greater Sydney Family Law Pathways Network events
- Represented the Law Society on a number of groups, including the Federal Circuit and Family Court Liaison Groups for the Sydney, Parramatta, Wollongong and Newcastle Registries

The Committee contributed to the following submissions during the year under review:

- Central Practice Direction Family Law Case
 Management
- Court Information sessions for practitioners
- COVID-19 Hearing Protocol
- Funding for grants of Legal Aid in family law matters
- Model definition of family violence
- Responses to Domestic Violence Complaints in Family Separation and Family Law Proceedings
- Winter Callover

- 2022–23 Pre-budget Submission
- Cost schedule to draft harmonised Family Law Rules
- COVID-19 special measures electronic subpoena inspection
- Draft National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–32
- Draft National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children
- Model definition of family violence
- Operationalising the National Strategic Framework for Information Sharing between the Family Law and Family Violence and Child Protection Systems
- State Revenue and Fines Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2022
- The Law Council of Australia's Federal Election Platform

GOVERNMENT SOLICITORS

2021 membership: R. MacSweeney (Chair), J. Wong (Deputy Chair), A. Abadee, S. Alden, A. Baril, D. Barker, H. Bell, K. Boyd, K. Brown, J. Camden, A. Duvall, G. Ettinger, M. Filippeli, M. Graczol, T. Haber, K. Harry, M. Keenan, J. Patterson, C. Ragusa, C. Samuels, M. Siciliano, J. Stathis, A. Thomas, J. Tozer, Dr A. Tsacalos, P. Vartuli, J. Windsor, N. Justen-Hoven (Policy Lawyer).

2022 membership: J. Wong (Chair), R. MacSweeney (Deputy Chair), S. Alden, K. Boyd, Capt. Ian Campbell (from March 2022), J. Camden, G. Ettinger, M. Filippeli, M. Graczol, T. Haber, K. Harry, Dr M. Keenan, C. Lithgow, S. Mclaughlan, K. Pastrovic, A. Railton (from May 2022), M. Siciliano, J. Stathis, A. Thomas, Dr A. Tsacalos, J. Tozer, P. Vartuli, K. Watts, J. Windsor, N. Justen-Hoven (Policy Lawyer).

Functions

The role of this Committee is to represent the Law Society and its members on policy and practice issues arising in relation to government solicitors.

The Committee's priorities include:

- Addressing issues relating to the practice of government solicitors (including preparing submissions, and liaising with government agencies and other stakeholders in this process)
- Supporting the development of networks between government solicitors in different agencies
- Educating government solicitors about changes to the law, and providing guidance on practice and other issues
- Exchanging information, sharing insights and commenting on issues arising in government solicitors' legal practice (such as recent case law or changes in policy) that are relevant to the practice of government solicitors

Committee priority issues for 2022

In addition to any matters referred to it by the Council, President or CEO from time to time, the Committee will have the following priority issues for 2022:

- Identifying initiatives to increase engagement with, and raise the profile of, government solicitors within the profession
- Maintaining and strengthening our existing relationships with other stakeholders, including government general counsel organisations at Local, State and Commonwealth level, and the In-House Corporate Lawyers Committee
- Advising on topics and speakers for the 2022 Government
 Solicitors Conference
- Promoting and managing the John Hennessy Legal Scholarship and the Michelle Crowther PSM Excellence Award
- Providing support as subject matter experts to assist with the execution of the membership strategy

Activities

The Committee carried out the following activities during the year under review:

- Provided advice and assistance for the Government Solicitors Conference and other relevant CPD activities
- Updated the following publications for government solicitors:
 - A government lawyer's guide to rules on ethical issues
 - Guide to ethical obligations of government lawyers for non-lawyer colleagues
 - New ways of working in the agile legal environment
- Promoted and administered the John Hennessy Legal Scholarship and the Michelle Crowther PSM Excellence Award
- Undertook a design thinking session to identify challenges faced by government solicitors at different points in their career
- Prepared articles for inclusion on the Government Solicitors Committee hub webpage and other Law Society publications
- Considered ethical and other practice issues raised by government solicitors through the Committee and its members

HUMAN RIGHTS

2021 membership: A. Mojtahedi (Chair), M. Nawaz (Deputy Chair), J. Abraham, W. Ahmed, S. Bowes, S. Bruck, Dr S. Calnan, S. Clarke, A. Drayton, S. Ek, F. Lay, J. Le, E. Leong, A. Levin, K. McKenzie, M. Markoulli, A. Newton, I. Reiss, A. Sage, A. Sinclair, A. Small (until October 2021) / S. Bathurst (from October 2021) (Policy Lawyers).

2022 membership: A. Mojtahedi (Chair), J. Tyrrell (Deputy Chair), W. Ahmed, Dr S. Calnan, S. Clarke, S. Dhillon, R. Dominguez, A. Drayton, S. Henderson, J. Le, E. Leong, A. Levin (from March 2022), K. McKenzie, M. Markoulli, A. O'Donoghue, S. Parsons, A. Pasternacki, N. Ruppert, A. Sage,

S. Seermaran, A. Sinclair, S. Bathurst (Policy Lawyer).

Functions

The role of this Committee is to represent the Law Society and its members on policy and practice issues arising in relation to the obligations of Australia and NSW under international and domestic human rights law, and to uphold the rule of law.

The Committee's priorities include:

- Developing and commenting on law reform and legal policy proposals (including preparing submissions, and liaising with government and other stakeholders in this process)
- Educating the legal profession about changes to the law, and providing guidance on practice and other issues
- Exchanging information about issues arising in legal practice (such as recent case law) that may indicate a legal policy issue or concern

Committee priority issues for 2022

The Committee identified the following priority issues for 2022:

- Advocacy for a NSW Human Rights Act and legal protections for human rights in NSW
- Disability advocacy in NSW, including in relation to the Disability Royal Commission
- · Housing and homelessness
- The treatment of asylum seekers
- Anti-discrimination law reform
- Climate change and human rights

Activities

The Committee carried out the following activities during the year under review:

Hosted a guest speaker from the Australia OPCAT

Network, Steven Caruana, to address the Committee on implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

• Liaised with the Law Council of Australia, Australian Lawyers for Human Rights, and the Human Rights for NSW Alliance

The Committee contributed to the following submissions during the year under review:

- Anti-Discrimination Amendment Bill 2021
- Australian Human Rights Commission's Development of a National Anti-Racism Framework
- Consultation on a Model for a National Compensation Scheme for Modern Slavery Survivors
- Final report of the Joint Select Committee on the Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020
- Inquiry into the provisions of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021
- Migration Amendment (Protecting Migrant Workers) Bill 2021 (multiple submissions)
- Next steps to improve Australia's settlement and integration of refugees
- NSW responses to modern slavery
- Parliamentary review of the *Counter-Terrorism* (*Temporary Exclusion Orders*) Act 2019 (Cth)

- 'Equal access' costs amendment to the Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986 (Cth)
- 2022-23 Pre-budget Submission
- Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2013 NSW
- Crimes Amendment (Prohibition of Nazi Symbols) Bill 2022
- Federal anti-discrimination law reform
- Implementation of Recommendation 39 of the *Respect@* Work Report
- Inquiry into the domestic application of the UNDRIP
- Public Consultation to Progress Further *Respect@Work* Recommendations
- · Public health order fines and impact on vulnerable groups
- Reform of reasonable adjustment provisions in the
 Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth) following Sklavos
 v Australasian College of Dermatologists [2017] FCAFC 128
- Religious Discrimination Bills
- Sex Discrimination and Fair Work (Respect at Work)
 Amendment Bill 2021
- The Law Council of Australia's Climate Change Policy
- The Law Council of Australia's Federal Election Platform

INDIGENOUS ISSUES

2021 membership: J. Behrendt (Chair), P. Mulroney (Deputy Chair), Z. Armytage, S. Bailey, E. Bastable,
B. Cansdale, D. Captain-Webb, R. Cook, A. Cregan,
S. Crellin, L. De Silva, B. Dufty, M. Dupuis, J. Fing,
M. Gleeson, M. Holden, J. Lovric, Dr T. McComsey,
M. Merritt, P. Mountain (until August 2021), B. Murray,
R. Sexton, J. Tyrell, T. Wallace, V. Kuek (Policy Lawyer).

2022 membership: J. Behrendt (Chair), D. Captain-Webb (Deputy Chair), Z. Armytage, B-J. Attard, S. Bailey, Dr S. Calnan, R. Cook, S. Crellin (until May 2022), Z. De Re, L. De Silva, B. Dufty, M. Dupuis, J. Fing, M. Gleeson, L. Holden, M. Holden, K. Hopgood (from May 2022), J. Lovric, Dr T. McComsey, P. Mulroney, B. Murray, P. Novotna, R. Sexton, K. Smith, V. Kuek (Policy Lawyer).

Functions

The role of this Committee is to represent the Law Society and its members on legal policy and practice issues arising in relation to Indigenous people in NSW.

The Committee's priorities include:

- Developing and commenting on law reform and legal policy proposals (includes preparing submissions, liaising with government and other stakeholders in this process)
- Educating the legal profession about changes to the law, and providing guidance on practice and other issues
- Exchanging information about issues arising in legal practice (such as recent case law) that may indicate a legal policy issue or concern

Committee priority issues for 2022

The Committee identified the following priority issues for 2022:

- Indigenous incarceration rates (including disability and cognitive impairment; sentencing and diversion; police accountability; and deaths in custody)
- Domestic and family violence, care and protection and family law
- Improving access to justice, including through Indigenous lists, Indigenous sentencing courts, funding for legal services to Indigenous people and targeted resources for the legal profession
- Aboriginal cultural heritage protection, Aboriginal land rights; native title; and natural resource management
- Consumer and civil law issues (including birth certificates and identity documents; access and engagement with education; housing; and financial services)
- Aboriginal self-determination, community empowerment and Aboriginal economic development (including reform pursuant to the Uluru Statement and Indigenous procurement policies)

Activities

The Committee carried out the following activities during the year under review:

- Participation in the NSW Legal Assistance Forum Closing the Gap Working Group
- Engagement with the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal consultative forum on Tenancy, Social Housing and Aboriginal matters
- Liaison with the Legal Profession Reconciliation Network
- Steering advice and oversight of the Law Society's Indigenous Reconciliation Strategic Plan 2019–2022
- Development and provision of the First Nations Speaker Series with the Judicial Commission of NSW and the Bar Association of NSW

The Committee contributed to the following submissions during the year under review:

- Collecting data on Indigenous status
- Extension of the Stolen Generations Reparations Scheme
- New family dispute resolution services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families
- Review of domestic violence provisions in the *Residential* Tenancies Act 2010 (NSW)
- Review of sunsetting legislative instruments of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth)
- State Coroner's Protocol: Supplementary arrangements applicable to section 23 deaths involving First Nations people

- 2022–23 Pre-budget Submission
- Coronial Practice Note 3 of 2021: Case management of mandatory inquests involving section 23 deaths
- Draft National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–32
- Draft National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children
- Evaluation of the Walama List pilot
- Family is Culture legislative review
- Inquiry into the domestic application of the UNDRIP
- Model definition of family violence
- Operationalising the National Strategic Framework for Information Sharing between the Family Law and Family Violence and Child Protection Systems
- Policing in NSW during the COVID-19 pandemic: Operation Stay At Home
- Public health order fines and impact on vulnerable groups
- The Law Council of Australia's Federal Election Platform

IN-HOUSE CORPORATE LAWYERS

2021 membership: R. Hunter (Chair), I. Luke (Deputy Chair), D. Bitsis, T. Csillag, A. Daquinag, K. Elali, K. Hinde, P. Housden, C. James, J. Moses, K. Murali, J. O'Shannassy, E. Papanikolaou, T. Swan, N. Justen-Hoven (Policy Lawyer).

2022 membership: R. Hunter (Chair), J. Moses (Deputy Chair), D. Bitsis, A. De Govrik, K. Elali, D. George, K. Hinde, P. Housden, E. Liondis, I. Luke, H. Makam, L. Mannering, K. Murali, E. Papanikolaou, T. Swan, C. Sylow, M. Tangonan, A. Von Konigsmark, N. Justen-Hoven (Policy Lawyer).

Functions

The role of this Committee is to represent the Law Society and its members on policy and practice issues arising in relation to in-house corporate lawyers.

The Committee's priorities include:

- Acting as thought leaders in providing guidance and support resources for in-house corporate lawyers throughout NSW
- Facilitating collaboration and knowledge sharing through the in-house corporate segment by hosting informative and innovative engagement opportunities

Committee priority issues for 2022

In addition to any matters referred to it by the Council, President or CEO from time to time, the Committee will have the following priority issues for 2022:

- Providing collaboration and knowledge sharing opportunities through identification and delivery of appropriate events, forums, and communications for in-house corporate lawyers
- Preparation of practitioner guidance and other resources on relevant and topical issues faced by in-house corporate lawyers
- Collaboration with other industry bodies to better support the in-house segment
- Exploring opportunities for the in-house segment to become more involved in pro-bono work
- Providing support as subject matter experts to assist with the execution of the membership strategy

Activities

The Committee carried out the following activities during the year under review:

- Drafted practical guidance on ethical issues faced by in-house counsel
- Held several forums for the in-house community
- Provided advice on the forums and other relevant CPD activities
- Considered ethical and other practice issues raised by corporate solicitors through the Committee and its members
- Undertook a design thinking session to identify challenges faced by government solicitors at different points in their career
- Created The Practice Network, an initiative of the Committee, to facilitate regular networking and knowledge sharing between sole/small team general counsels
- Redrafted cyber security resources to tailor them specifically for the in-house community

INJURY COMPENSATION

2021 membership: T. Concannon (Chair), L. Davidson (Deputy Chair), A. Abboud, F. Bellissimo, S. Butcher, A. Chan, G. Daley, G. Guest, S. Harris, I. Jones, C. Ktenas, A. Lopes De Lima, B. McAuley, P. Macken, R. May, A. Mulcahy, D. Potts, K. Toshack, M. Warton, D. Weng, R. Yousef, A-M. Boumerhe (until October 2021) / S. Bathurst (from October 2021) (Policy Lawyers).

2022 membership: T. Concannon (Chair), L. Davidson (Deputy Chair), A. Abboud, F. Bellissimo, S. Butcher, A. Chan, G. Daley (until May 2022), D. Ens, R. Galea, G. Guest, S. Harris, P. Hunt, I. Jones, K. Kennedy, C. Khoudair, C. Ktenas, A. Lopes De Lima, P. Macken, M. Manokarathas, R. May, A. Mulcahy, P. Ohm, D. Potts, T. Tancred, J. Thurgood, K. Toshack, D. Weng, R. Yousef, S. Bathurst (Policy Lawyer).

Functions

The role of this Committee is to represent the Law Society and its members on policy and practice issues arising in relation to injury compensation law.

The Committee's priorities include:

- Developing and commenting on law reform and legal policy proposals (including preparing submissions, and liaising with government and other stakeholders in this process)
- Educating the legal profession about changes to the law, and providing guidance on practice and other issues
- Exchanging information about issues arising in legal practice (such as recent case law) that may indicate a legal policy issue or concern

Committee priority issues for 2022

The Committee identified the following priority issues for 2022:

- Developing recommendations to better facilitate access to justice and legal services under the *Motor Accident Injuries Act 2017* (NSW)
- Contributing to the ongoing operation of the Personal Injury Commission
- Monitoring legal and policy issues in relation to the workers compensation scheme
- Monitoring and encouraging implementation of the Taylor Fry Review of legal support for people injured in the NSW CTP Scheme and the Clayton Utz/Deloitte Statutory review of the *Motor Accident Injuries Act 2017* (NSW)
- Contributing to the 2022 Review of the Independent Legal Assistance and Review Service and monitor legal costs in the workers compensation scheme
- Monitoring legal and policy developments in relation to the dust diseases scheme, autonomous vehicle regulation, and medico-legal, medical negligence and public liability issues
- Monitoring legal costs issues in Commonwealth / NSW redress schemes

Activities

The Committee carried out the following activities during the year under review:

- Represented the Law Society on, and contributed to the work of, the: Law Council Personal Injury and Compensation Committee; Personal Injury Commission Rules Committee; Personal Injury Commission Stakeholder Reference Group; NSW State Insurance Regulatory Authority (SIRA) Motor Accidents Legal Forum; and the PIAWE Reference Group
- Liaised with key stakeholders, including the NSW Bar Association, the Australian Lawyers Alliance, the Independent Review Office and SIRA

The Committee contributed to the following submissions during the year under review:

- Amendments to the *Personal Injury Commission Act 2020* (NSW)
- Consultation on the McDougall Review, COVID-19 and future opportunities for personal injury schemes
- Errors in Weekly Payments Discussion Paper
- Funding Approach federal jurisdiction matters
- Matters in the Personal Injury Commission that may be impacted by federal jurisdiction
- Medicare delays
- Operation of the Personal Injury Commission
- Post Implementation Review of the Authorised Health Practitioner Framework
- Pre-Injury Average Weekly Earnings post-implementation review
- Review of Part 1 of the Lifetime Support and Care Guidelines
- Review of the Motor Accident Guidelines version 8
- Review of the Rules of the Personal Injury Commission of New South Wales
- State Insurance and Care Legislation Amendment Bill 2022
- Statutory Review of the *Motor Accidents Injuries Act 2017* (NSW)
- The Independent Legal Assistance and Review Service
- The Law Council of Australia's Federal Election Platform
- Workers Compensation Amendment Bill 2021

- E-scooter trial in NSW
- Jurisdictional limits of the District Court
- Reform of the *Civil Liability Act 2002* (NSW) discount rate
- The Law Council of Australia's Federal Election Platform

LITIGATION LAW AND PRACTICE

2021 membership: E. Yamine (Chair), J. Ball (Deputy Chair), J. Bowker, S. Brodowski, K. David, S. Fernandez, P. Green, D. Hing, J. Howard, C. Hutchinson, G. Johnson, E. Keir, R. Kenna, M. Kofman, K. McLean, K. Martin, S. O'Connor, C. Peterson, J. Prowse, J. Robb, M. Stephens, T. Stern, P. Sutherland, S. Webber, P. Wiggins, M. Zraika (until September 2021), S. Lee (Policy Lawyer).

2022 membership: E. Yamine (Chair), S. Fernandez (Deputy Chair), S. Brodowski, K. David, P. Green, Magistrate M. Greenwood, A. Hack, D. Hing, J. Howard, C. Hutchinson, G. Johnson, E. Keir, R. Kenna, K. McLean, K. Martin, S. O'Connor, C. Peterson, J. Prowse, J. Robb, M. Stephens, P. Sutherland, J. Tyrrell, J. Warner, S. Webber, S. Willis, S. Lee (Policy Lawyer).

Functions

The role of this Committee is to represent the Law Society and its members on policy and practice issues arising in relation to civil litigation.

The Committee's priorities include:

- Developing and commenting on law reform and legal policy proposals (including preparing submissions, and liaising with government and other stakeholders in this process)
- Educating the legal profession about changes to the law, and providing guidance on practice and other issues
- Exchanging information about issues arising in legal practice (such as recent case law) that may indicate a legal policy issue or concern

Committee priority issues for 2022

The Committee identified the following priority issues for 2022:

- Liaising with the Government, courts and tribunals about issues affecting practitioners, including scale costs, cost assessment processes and court Practice Notes
- Monitoring developments and, where appropriate, advocating for consistency in relation to online courts and registries in Australian jurisdictions and overseas

• Recognising positive technological changes that have occurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and advocating for funding for permanent implementation in the civil court system

Activities

The Committee carried out the following activities during the year under review:

- Represented the Law Society on a number of court committees and User Groups, including the Supreme Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Steering Committee, Supreme Court Common Law (Civil) Users Group, Supreme Court Rules Committee, Uniform Rules Committee, District Court Civil Business Group, District Court Rules Committee, NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) Liaison Group and NCAT Home Building Consultative Forum
- Updated the list of practitioners willing to act in the role of independent solicitor in the execution of search orders (Anton Piller Orders)
- Revised and published the Uniform Civil Procedure Rules Guide

The Committee contributed to the following submissions during the year under review:

- Fixed scale costs for solicitor fees
- Jurisdictional limits of the District Court
- Local Court Civil Practice Note 1 (multiple submissions)
- Utilising Digital Technology in the Federal Court

- Australian Taxation Office Legal Professional Privilege Protocol
- Changes to court fees
- *Home Building Act 1989* (NSW) Review (multiple submissions)
- Home Building Compensation construction type definitions
- Jurisdictional limits of the District Court
- Open Justice Court and Tribunal Information: access, disclosure and publication
- Reform of the *Civil Liability Act 2002* (NSW) discount rate
- The Law Council of Australia's Federal Election Platform

PRIVACY AND DATA LAW

2021 membership: Professor P. Leonard (Chair until October 2021), G. Collins (Deputy Chair until October 2021), O. Ganopolsky (Co-Chair from October 2021), A. Jacquet (Co-Chair from October 2021), S. Blanks, H. Brown, A. Cerny, N. Commins, T. Csillag, R. Dagher, A. Drayton, M. Fai, K. Keogh, A. Kopsias, B. Liang, J. McAteer, S. McLaughlan, M. Meares, R. Muttusamy, S. Ng, L. Nicholson, M. O'Brien, S. O'Gorman, C. Sevil, K. Watts, R. Wilkins, A. Small (Policy Lawyer).

2022 membership: O. Ganopolsky (Co-Chair), A. Jacquet (Co-Chair), J. Amos, S. Blanks, T. Bowen, H. Brown, B. Cameron, A. Cerny, N. Commins, A. Drayton, A. Duvall, M. Fai, K. Keogh, Professor P. Leonard, B. Liang, J. McAteer, L. Mannering, S. McLaughlan, M. Meares, S. Ng, L. Nicholson, M. O'Brien, S. O'Gorman, A. Prigan, L. Sinclair, J. Skelton, R. Staltare, K. Watts, R. Wilkins, S. Lee (Policy Lawyer).

Functions

The role of this Committee is to represent the Law Society and its members on policy and practice issues arising in relation to privacy and data law.

The Committee's priorities include:

- Developing and commenting on law reform and legal policy proposals (including preparing submissions, and liaising with government and other stakeholders in this process)
- Educating the legal profession about changes to the law, and providing guidance on practice and other issues
- Exchanging information about issues arising in legal practice (such as recent case law) that may indicate a legal policy issue or concern

Committee priority issues for 2022

The Committee identified the following priority issues for 2022:

- Monitoring privacy issues that may arise, including from innovative uses of data, communications, artificial intelligence, including machine learning, and other technology
- Monitoring legal and policy developments in relation to privacy laws; access to data (private sector and government); the collection, retention and use of data; and data sharing and data linkage

- Developing proposals in relation to privacy laws; the regulation of the use of surveillance, facial recognition and data derived through surveillance in both the public and private sectors; and the regulation of the use of artificial intelligence, including machine learning
- Monitoring legal and policy developments in cyber risk, cyber security and business data governance; and develop proposals in relation to measures to mitigate and address risks
- Monitoring causes of action and remedies available to affected individuals, including alternative mechanisms such as codes and statements of principle

Activities

The Committee carried out the following activities during the year under review:

- Liaised with key stakeholders on privacy and data laws, including Federal Government agencies
- Hosted the Surveillance Devices Commissioner for NSW as a guest speaker
- Represented the Law Society on the NCAT Administrative and Equal Opportunity Division Consultation Forum

The Committee contributed to the following submissions during the year under review:

- Australia's National Data Security Action Plan
- Discussion Paper: Strengthening Australia's cyber security regulations and incentives
- Privacy Act review Discussion paper
- Vaccination certificates and the Service NSW application check in system

- Automated administrative decision-making
- Automated Decision Making and AI Regulation
- Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2013 NSW
- Open Justice Court and Tribunal Information: access, disclosure and publication
- Review of the Security Legislation Amendment (Critical Infrastructure Protection) Bill 2022
- Social Media (Anti-Trolling) Bill 2021 Exposure Draft Consultation
- Supporting business adoption of electronic invoicing
- The Law Council of Australia's Federal Election Platform
- Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

PROPERTY LAW

2021 membership: R. Harvey (Chair), C. Huegill (Deputy Chair), M. Andrews, E. Ashley, A. Cahill, G. Channell, J. Crittenden, M. Devitt, E. Di Stefano, D. Fitzclarence, J. Glowrey, R. Goncalves, M. Jebeile, T. McKibbin, J. McMillan, G. Maksimovic, B. Malone, G. Newton, M. Osborne, Dr S. Pallavicini, H. Robilliard, P. Rosier, D. Skapinker, S. Stott, M. Swan, W. van Ede, G. Lea (Policy Lawyer).

2022 membership: R. Harvey (Chair), C. Huegill (Deputy Chair), M. Andrews, E. Ashley, A. Cahill, G. Channell, J. Crittenden, M. Devitt, E. Di Stefano, D. Fitzclarence, C. Graves, C. Hagopian, L. Jackson, M. Jebeile, O. Kiely, T. McKibbin, J. McMillan, G. Maksimovic, B. Malone, G. Newton, M. Osborne, Dr S. Pallavicini, H. Robilliard, D. Skapinker, A. Stiles, S. Stott, M. Swan, G. Lea (Policy Lawyer).

Functions

The role of this Committee is to represent the Law Society and its members on policy and practice issues arising in relation to property law and conveyancing practice.

The Committee's priorities include:

- Developing and commenting on law reform and legal policy proposals (including preparing submissions, and liaising with government and other stakeholders in this process)
- Educating the legal profession about changes to the law, and providing guidance on practice and other issues
- Exchanging information about issues arising in legal practice (such as recent case law) that may indicate a legal policy issue or concern
- Where relevant, preparing and reviewing standard documentation for use by the profession (including contracts and leases)

Committee priority issues for 2022

The Committee identified the following priority issues for 2022:

- Participating in consultations regarding the interoperability of electronic lodgment networks.
- Responding to consultations initiated by the Office of the Registrar General, NSW Land Registry Services and the NSW Department of Customer Service, including statutory reviews of strata title legislation and the *Conveyancing (Sale of Land) Regulation 2017.*
- Participating in ongoing consultation with the Office of the Registrar General and NSW Land Registry Services in relation to the transition to digital survey plans.

Activities

The Committee carried out the following activities during the year under review:

- Participated in various roundtable discussions with NSW Fair Trading, including in relation to building reforms
- Participated in quarterly liaison meetings with NSW Land Registry Services and the Office of the Registrar General
- Participated in the National Interoperability Panel for interoperability in electronic conveyancing
- Participated in the Law Council of Australia's National Electronic Conveyancing System Committee
- Participated in consultation with NSW Land Registry Services and the Office of the Registrar General, including regarding the transition to digital survey plans
- Participated in consultation with NSW Land Registry Services, PEXA and the Office of the Registrar General regarding eConveyancing
- Participated in consultation with the NSW Treasury taskforce in relation to a possible property tax
- Determined several disputes under the Conveyancing Dispute Resolution Scheme

- ARNECC Terms of Reference Independent health checks and readiness assessments for national interoperability
- Community Land Management Regulation 2021 and Community Land Development Regulation 2021
- Consultation Draft Model Operating Requirements (Version 7)
- Consultation Draft Model Participation Rules (Version 7)
- Conveyancers Licensing Regulation 2021
- Decennial Liability Insurance Ministerial Advisory Panel
- Draft Guidance: Strata schemes electronic meetings of the owners corporation and strata committee meetings, voting and elections
- *Home Building Act 1989* (NSW) Review (multiple submissions)
- Information notices and certain registered dealings
- Inquiry into embedded networks in NSW
- Inquiry into the Electronic Conveyancing (Adoption of National Law) Amendment Bill 2022
- Interoperability Approach to Liability
- New annual reporting for strata schemes
- Property and Rating system upgrade (Central Coast Council)
- Public consultation on proposed Property and Stock Agents Regulation 2022

- Quantifying the impacts of moving to digital plans Cost-benefit analysis
- Residential Apartment Buildings (Compliance and Enforcement Powers) Act 2020 (NSW) – orders register
- Transitioning from Paper to Digital Survey Plans (multiple submissions)

- A common pathway for digital execution of statutory declarations and deeds
- Amendments to the *Electronic Conveyancing National Law*
- Change to process of charting reservations and conditions and exclusion of minerals on surveyors plans at registration
- Duties Regulation 2022
- Electronic Conveyancing (Adoption of National Law) Amendment Bill 2022
- Enduring Power of Attorney Law Reforms
- Fact sheet on the Biodiversity Values Map and Biocertification
- *Home Building Act 1989* (NSW) Review (multiple submissions)
- Home Building Compensation construction type definitions
- Interoperability Industry Code and Update Risk Matrix
- Model Operating Requirements version 7.1
- Option Form and Explanatory Notes
- Practitioner Resources Project surcharge purchaser duty
- Property Tax
- Remote witnessing via audio-visual link
- Revenue Ruling regarding declarations and acknowledgments of trust in an agreement for sale
- State Revenue and Fines Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2022
- Strata Schemes Development Act 2015 (NSW)
- Surcharge Purchaser Duty Guide
- The Law Council of Australia's Federal Election Platform
- Tranche II Building Reforms
- Trust accounting and interoperability

PUBLIC LAW

2021 membership: A. Chalk (Chair), A. Abadee (Deputy Chair), A. Baril, J. Boughey, A. Duvall, S. Ek, R. Heinrich, G. Johnson, Dr M. Keenan, Dr M. Landrigan, A. Mojtahedi, A. Moss, M. O'Brien, A. Rafter, A. Sapienza, H. Sims, K. Smith, M. Smyth, Dr A. Tsacalos, J. Windsor, A. Zekanovic, M. Zraika (until September 2021), V. Kuek (Policy Lawyer).

2022 membership: A. Chalk (Chair), G. Johnson (Deputy Chair), J. Boughey, A. Duvall, J. Farrell,
R. Heinrich, Dr M. Keenan, Dr M. Landrigan,
A. Mojtahedi, A. Moss, M. O'Brien, A. Reeve (from May 2022), E. Ryan, A. Sage, H. Sims, D. Smith, K. Smith,
M. Smyth, Dr A. Tsacalos, J. Windsor, A. Zekanovic,
V. Kuek (Policy Lawyer).

Functions

The role of this Committee is to represent the Law Society and its members on policy and practice issues arising in relation to rural NSW.

The Committee's priorities include, in relation to such matters:

- Developing and commenting on law reform and legal policy proposals (including preparing submissions, and liaising with government and other stakeholders in this process)
- Educating the legal profession about changes to the law, and providing guidance on practice and other issues
- Exchanging information about issues arising in legal practice (such as recent case law) that may indicate a legal policy issue or concern

Committee priority issues for 2022

The Committee identified the following priority issues for 2022:

- Identifying opportunities to improve review frameworks in relation to administrative decisions (e.g. greater provision of internal review, external merits review)
- Matters that affect the powers and independence of investigative and oversight bodies (e.g. ICAC, LECC)
- Reviewing the making and operation of COVID-19 related laws in NSW and other Australian jurisdictions
- The incorporation of evolving scientific understandings of human reasoning in the processes of judicial and administrative decision making

- The resilience of public institutions and the role of the rule of law (including the use of delegated powers, public access to the written law, and access to justice)
- The role of technology in administrative decision making These initiatives will be considered in the context of relevant international and national standards and frameworks.

Activities

The Committee carried out the following activities during the year under review:

- Liaised with Industry Professor Edward Santow on automated decision-making and public law, and hosted him as a speaker
- Liaised with the NSW Ombudsman's office on its report on the use of machine technology in administrative decision-making, and hosted Megan Smith, Legal Counsel, NSW Ombudsman's office, as a speaker

The Committee contributed to the following submissions during the year under review:

- COAG Legislation Amendment Bill 2021
- Draft Commonwealth Integrity Commission Bill 2020: "reasonable suspicion" thresholds
- Inquiry into constitutional reform and referendums
- Inquiry into the performance and integrity of Australia's administrative review system
- Inquiry into the Public Interest Disclosures Bill 2021
- Investigation of former judicial officers options paper

- Automated administrative decision-making
- Automated Decision Making and AI Regulation
- Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2013 NSW
- Inquiry into the domestic application of the UNDRIP
- Open Justice Court and Tribunal Information: access, disclosure and publication
- Policing in NSW during the COVID-19 pandemic: Operation Stay At Home
- Public health order fines and impact on vulnerable groups
- Religious Discrimination Bills
- Social Media (Anti-Trolling) Bill 2021 Exposure
 Draft Consultation
- The Law Council of Australia's Federal Election Platform (multiple submissions)

REVENUE NSW / LAW SOCIETY LIAISON

2021 membership: A. Boog (Co-Chair), C. Smythe (Co-Chair), S. Bazouni, M. Brewster, A. Chek, G. Chiert, F. Di Francesco, V. Donnelly, J. Dudley, A. Fernandez, J. Gharib, B. Hewitt, D. Lam, F. Lam (until September 2021), J. Lee, L. Lobo (from November 2021), R. Newey, R. Nguyen, T. Nguyen, M. Nowell, N. O'Reilly, S. Paterson, I. Phillips, L. Serafim, J. Shead, M. Telan, L. To, G. Vale, A. Zbaras (from September 2021), G. Lea (Policy Lawyer).

2022 membership: A. Chek (Co-Chair), C. Smythe (Co-Chair), A. Bailey, R. Barbour, M. Brewster, F. Di Francesco, V. Donnelly, J. Dudley, A. Fernandez, J. Gharib, B. Hewitt, A. Ianna, R. Kable, D. Lam, J. Lee, L. Lobo, R. Newey, R. Nguyen, T. Nguyen, M. Nowell, N. O'Reilly, S. Paterson, I. Phillips, M. Sealey, M. Telan, L. To, G. Vale, D. Wong, A. Zbaras, G. Lea (Policy Lawyer).

Functions

The role of this Committee is to represent the Law Society and its members on policy and practice issues arising in relation to state revenue issues in NSW.

Committee priority issues for 2022

The Committee's priorities include:

- Developing and commenting on law reform and legal policy proposals (including preparing submissions, and liaising with government and other stakeholders in this process)
- Educating the legal profession about changes to the law, and providing guidance on practice and other issues
- Exchanging information about issues arising in legal practice (such as recent case law) that may indicate a legal policy issue or concern

Activities

The Committee carried out the following activities during the year under review:

- Reviewed draft Revenue Rulings and Commissioner's Practice Notes
- Participated in consultation with the NSW Treasury taskforce in relation to a possible property tax

The Committee contributed to the following submissions during the year under review:

- Commissioner's Practice Note Exemption approval for foreign Australian-based developers
- Commissioner's Practice Note Interest and penalty tax
- Revenue Ruling Land used for primary production –
 Section 10AA Land Tax Management Act 1956 (NSW)

- Duties Regulation 2022
- Option Form and Explanatory Notes
- Practitioner Resources Project surcharge purchaser duty
- Property Tax
- Revenue Ruling regarding declarations and acknowledgments of trust in an agreement for sale
- Revenue Ruling regarding exemptions from surcharge for Australian based developers that are foreign persons
- State Revenue and Fines Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2022
- Surcharge Purchaser Duty Guide (multiple submissions)
- The Law Council of Australia's Federal Election Platform

RURAL ISSUES

2021 membership: J. Thurgood (Co-Chair), J. van der Plaat (Co-Chair), M. Anderson, R. Austin, C. Banks, S. Field, J. Goode, D. Heilpern, R. Jarratt, L. Kelly, P. Moffitt, S. Morgan, S. Nachiappan, G. Ryan, N. Scanlon, J. Spear, M. Twyford, S. Lee (Policy Lawyer).

2022 membership: G. Ryan (Co-Chair), J. Thurgood (Co-Chair), R. Austin, C. Banks, S. Field, J. Fletcher, J. Goode, R. Jarratt, S. Mason, P. Moffitt, S. Morgan, H. Quade, P. Robinson, N. Scanlon, J. Spear, J. van der Plaat, N. Willing, S. Lee (to April 2022) / N. Saad (from April 2022) (Policy Lawyers).

Functions

The role of this Committee is to represent the Law Society and its members on policy and practice issues arising in relation to rural NSW.

The Committee's priorities include:

- Developing and commenting on law reform and legal policy proposals (including preparing submissions, and liaising with government and other stakeholders in this process)
- Educating the legal profession about changes to the law, and providing guidance on practice and other issues
- Exchanging information about issues arising in legal practice (such as recent case law) that may indicate a legal policy issue or concern
- Where relevant, preparing and reviewing standard documentation for use by the profession (including contracts and leases)

Committee priority issues for 2022

The Committee identified the following priority issues for 2022:

- Better access to justice in rural, regional and remote (RRR) areas, including supporting the retention of electronic witnessing provisions, advocating for additional Magistrates, District Court Judges and improved Court rooms in RRR areas
- Monitoring legal issues in relation to resource regulation
- Identifying topics for the 2022 Rural Issues Conference
- Identifying and assisting in developing resources to better equip RRR legal practices to recruit and retain lawyers and promote the benefits of relocating to RRR areas

Activities

The Committee carried out the following activities during the year under review:

- Provided advice on topics and speakers for the Law Society of NSW 2022 Annual Conference
- Engaged with rural and remote practitioners in relation to access to justice issues
- Monitored a drought assistance package for practitioners assisting drought-affected clients

The Committee contributed to the following submissions during the year under review:

- NSW Animal Welfare Reform
- Regional Banking Taskforce Issues Paper
- Tool for Rural, Regional and Remote Practitioners and Law Practices

- 2022–23 Pre-budget Submission
- Change to process of charting reservations and conditions and exclusion of minerals on surveyors plans at registration
- The Law Council of Australia's Federal Election Platform
- The NSW Independent Flood Inquiry
- Tools for Rural, Regional and Remote Practitioners and Law Practices

JOINT SUBMISSIONS

made by the Law Society on behalf of more than one committee

- 2022–23 Pre-budget Submission
- A common pathway for digital execution of statutory declarations and deeds
- Amendments to the *Electronic Conveyancing National Law*
- Australian Taxation Office Legal Professional Privilege Protocol
- Authorised worker exemptions
- Automated administrative decision-making
- Automated Decision Making and AI Regulation
- Change to process of charting reservations and conditions and exclusion of minerals on surveyors plans at registration
- Changes to court fees
- Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2013 NSW
- Coronial Practice Note 3 of 2021: Case Management of mandatory inquests involving section 23 deaths
- Cost schedule to draft harmonised Family Law Rules
- COVID-19 special measures electronic subpoena inspection
- Crimes Amendment (Prohibition of Nazi Symbols)
 Bill 2022
- Draft National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–32
- Draft National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children
- Duties Regulation 2022
- Electronic Conveyancing (Adoption of National Law) Amendment Bill 2022
- Enduring Power of Attorney Law Reforms
- 'Equal access' costs amendment to the *Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986* (Cth)
- E-scooter trial in NSW
- Evaluation of the Walama List pilot
- Fact sheet on the Biodiversity Values Map and Biocertification
- Family is Culture legislative review
- Federal anti-discrimination law reform
- *Home Building Act 1989* (NSW) Review (multiple submissions)
- Home Building Compensation construction type definitions
- Impact of recent NSW floods on Court participants
- Implementation of Recommendation 39 of the *Respect@* Work Report
- Inquiry into the domestic application of the UNDRIP
- Interoperability Industry Code and Update Risk Matrix
- Jurisdictional limits of the District Court
- Model definition of family violence
- Model Operating Requirements version 7.1

- Open Justice Court and Tribunal Information: access, disclosure and publication
- Operationalising the National Strategic Framework for Information Sharing between the Family Law and Family Violence and Child Protection Systems
- Option Form and Explanatory Notes
- Policing in NSW during the COVID-19 pandemic: Operation Stay At Home3
- Practitioner Resources Project surcharge purchaser duty
- Property Tax
- Public Consultation to Progress Further Respect@Work
 Recommendations
- · Public health order fines and impact on vulnerable groups
- Reform of reasonable adjustment provisions in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth) following Sklavos v Australasian College of Dermatologists [2017] FCAFC 128 (multiple submissions)
- Reform of the *Civil Liability Act 2002* (NSW) discount rate
- Religious Discrimination Bills
- Remote witnessing via audio-visual link
- Revenue Ruling regarding declarations and acknowledgments of trust in an agreement for sale
- Revenue Ruling regarding exemptions from surcharge for Australian based developers that are foreign persons
- Review of the Security Legislation Amendment (Critical Infrastructure Protection) Bill 2022
- Sex Discrimination and Fair Work (Respect at Work) Amendment Bill 2021
- Social Media (Anti-Trolling) Bill 2021 Exposure Draft Consultation
- State Revenue and Fines Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2022
- Strata Schemes Development Act 2015 (NSW)
- Supporting business adoption of electronic invoicing
- Surcharge Purchaser Duty Guide
- Suspect Targeting Management Plans
- The Law Council of Australia's Climate Change Policy (multiple submissions)
- The Law Council of Australia's Federal Election Platform (multiple submissions)
- The Law Council of Australia's National Model Sexual Harassment Policy
- The NSW Independent Flood Inquiry
- Tools for Rural, Regional and Remote Practitioners and Law Practices
- Tranche II Building Reforms
- Trust accounting and interoperability
- Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

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