Annual Report
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Office bearers

Executive
Tass Liveris, President
Candice Maclean, Vice-President
Jeff Collins, Treasurer
Josine Wynberg, Secretary

Councillors
Emma Farnell
Maria Savvas
Sally Bolton
David Woodroffe
Emma Schulz
Suzi Kapetas

Representatives
Tony Whitelum, Alice Springs Representative
Mark O’Reilly, Alice Springs Alternate Representative
David Alderman, NT Bar Association Representative
Hugh Bond, Young Lawyers Representative
Peter Clayton, Young Lawyers Representative
Dominic Gomez, Young Lawyers Alternate Representative
Jenna Dennison, Young Lawyers Alternate Representative

Secretariat
Megan Lawton, Chief Executive Officer
Julie Davis, Corporate Services Manager
Kellie Grainger, Manager Regulatory Services
Marian Wilson, Senior Policy Lawyer
Lily North, Executive Assistant and Pro Bono Coordinator
Bella Basilides, Professional Development Officer
Dagmar Brautigam, Finance Officer
Danielle Sawyer, Licensing Officer
Pam Jaenke, Administration Officer Regulation and Events Coordinator
Yvette Buffon, Administration Support Officer and Publications Officer
Ella King, Reception and Administration Assistant
Mission statement

The Law Society Northern Territory promotes the interests of its members and the public by providing leadership in a time of change and by:

• Facilitating and improving the delivery of fair, economic and efficient legal services;
• Enhancing access to justice, improving the law and maintaining individual rights;
• Being accountable for and maintaining the highest standards of professional conduct; and
• Representing and promoting the Northern Territory legal profession and the legal services it provides to the community.

Vision  The pre-eminent voice supporting and advancing the legal profession in the Northern Territory.

Values  Integrity, accountability and excellence.
I started my first year as president with immediate feelings of responsibility, privilege and impending challenge. 2015 threw many important issues and challenges at the Society and notwithstanding the adjustments that were required through moving to new premises and a change of leadership, 2015 has been a very successful year.

I acknowledge my predecessor, Peggy Cheong and congratulate her on an extremely successful and stable 3 years as president. Peggy has remained on some of the Society’s committees and during the year she has been very generous to me with her time. She has been an invaluable sounding board for me at any time I’ve needed her. I am very thankful for this and her assistance has made transitioning into the role of president much easier for me than it would have otherwise been.

I thank all of the staff at the Secretariat for their tireless work in running the day-to-day activities of the Society. Under the guidance and leadership of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Megan Lawton, the Secretariat is a structured and united group of people who perform their tasks with dedication.

In particular, Ms Lawton has been pivotal in enhancing the processes of the Society and in advocating and pursuing issues of importance to the Northern Territory legal profession both locally and nationally. As president and CEO, Ms Lawton and I have worked hard together in developing a successful relationship and in identifying and implementing strategies in advancing the interests of the Territory legal profession.

I would also like to thank the Society’s Corporate Services Manager (CSM) Julie Davis, who along with the Treasurer monitors the Society’s budget and spending and plays a key role in the Society’s annual funding submission. I also thank and acknowledge the work of the Manager Regulatory Services, Kellie Grainger, who works tirelessly as a member of many of the Society’s committees, in complaints, ethics and disciplinary matters, as well as in supervising licensing, CPD and trust accounts.

All of the staff at the Society have exceeded expectations in what has been an extremely busy and active year and on behalf of all of the members I thank each and every one of them. I also thank the members of the Council for their hard work and commitment in this very demanding and challenging year.

As a new president, I am a member of many of the Society’s committees. I chair the Society’s Legal Practice, Social Justice, PII and CDU/CPD committees; I am a member of the Ethics Committee, the RAP Implementation Committee and the PPT Allocations Committee. I am also a member of the Funds Management Committee and the NT Law Reform Committee.

Although the Society is a statutory body, it was immediately and plainly apparent to me that it is a membership organisation at the core and that the volunteer contribution of the membership through Committees and other means is absolutely vital to the Society’s success. I thank the many volunteers from all over the Territory for giving up their time and expertise to what are sometimes difficult and thankless tasks, often requiring attention in very short order. The ongoing contribution of the membership without question enhances the quality of the Society’s input in consultations and discussions. Without the efforts of our volunteers, the Society would not be able to produce the volume or high standard of submissions it makes to government and other bodies.
In my first year as president I became a Director of the Law Council of Australia (LCA). I have attended various LCA directors meetings during the year, as well as the meetings of the Conference of Law Societies. I was also appointed a member of the LCA’s Finance and Risk Committee and during the year I attended meetings over telephone or on Zoom video conferencing from time-to-time. As an LCA Director, I enjoyed the opportunity to work with Duncan McConnel as the 2015 LCA President. The Northern Territory legal profession is very proud of Mr McConnel’s achievements in becoming LCA President and on behalf of the Society I congratulate him on an impressive and successful presidency, during which he fiercely and strategically advocated on important issues affecting the rule of law both domestically and internationally.

“I would particularly like to thank the Chief Justice for continuing to meet with the Society on a regular basis. The Chief Justice and I have picked up where he and Ms Cheong left off to ensure the continuation of relations between the Society and the Supreme Court.”

Another important issue at the LCA level in 2015 was the advancement of diversity strategies throughout jurisdictions and in particular arising from the LCA’s National Attrition and Re-engagement Survey. It was greatly pleasing to see the Society not only keeping pace with developments in this important area of diversity but in some instances being a leader, including the Council approving the Society’s Celebrating Diversity Strategy on 30 April 2015.

Nationally, the major development in 2015 was the commencement of the uniform law in New South Wales and Victoria on 1 July 2015. The uniform law harmonises the legal services market in New South Wales and Victoria and so applies to a combined approximately 66% of the nation’s legal practitioners. The reforms amalgamate the regulatory system of those states in areas such as admission to the legal profession, practising certificates, trust accounts, continuing professional development, complaints and discipline procedures and costs and disclosure requirements.

The Northern Territory has not made any commitments to join the uniform law for a range of reasons including concerns about the cost and whether the scheme provides a workable fit for the Territory. However, all non-participating jurisdictions will be required to monitor and manage uniform law issues into the future and I expect the uniform law to remain very prominently on the agenda in 2016.

I also enjoyed working to implement the strategic goals set by the Council in November 2014, being in developing and enhancing the delivery of CPD, in enhancing communication and management of relationships and in enhancing service delivery and engagement with the regions.

The Society’s new premises was officially opened on 11 March 2015 by the Attorney-General, Hon. John Elferink MLA. The new premises offers greater security than the previous premises, as well as a larger, better-configured space. The large meeting and conference room in the new premises has become the Society’s general CPD presentation room and brings the additional advantages of a cost saving and enabling practitioners to visit the Society’s premises and interact with Secretariat staff. In advancing the 2015 goals, I was also involved in strategies including:

- Joining the CPD/CDU Committee and becoming the chairperson mid-term, following the resignation of Mark O’Reilly as chairperson due to increasing work commitments (although thankfully, Mr O’Reilly continues to be a member of the Committee).
- Working closely with the Secretariat staff concerning setting targets for CPD and implementing strategies towards those targets. These include financial and attendance targets, CPD content targets and the delivery of CPD outside of Darwin.
- Meeting with and visiting practitioners from the regions, including Katherine, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek.
- Meeting regularly with the Attorney-General.
- Meeting with other government officeholders, independent MLAs, the Speaker and members of the opposition from time-to-time as appropriate.
- Engaging with the judiciary, including regular meetings with the Chief Justice.
- Meeting with other stakeholders such as the Corrections Commissioner, Charles Darwin University, Northern Territory Women Lawyers’ Association, Criminal Lawyers Association of the Northern Territory, Northern Territory Bar Association and the Northern Territory Young Lawyers Committee.
- Establishing and managing relationships with media outlets.

I would particularly like to thank the Chief Justice for continuing to meet with the Society on a regular basis. The Chief Justice and I have picked up where he and Ms Cheong left off to ensure the continuation of relations between the Society and the Supreme Court. Equally,
I thank the Attorney-General and his advisors for continuing to meet with the Society. In 2015, the Attorney and I have established a good relationship that enables respectful and productive dialogue to take place on a wide array of matters and issues. I thank the Attorney for maintaining these discussions with the Society since I became president and for continuing to acknowledge that although our views might not always align, we are still able to have meaningful debate with open minds.

2015 has been an active year for law reform at both Territory and federal levels. The law reforms have been both procedural and substantive and have significantly changed legal practice. These reforms have included the commencement of the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal and the continual expansion of its jurisdiction, reforms to the lower courts including increasing the jurisdiction of the Local Court from $100,000 to $250,000 and changes to summary procedure and sentencing. Other key areas of legislative reform have included in the workers compensation legislation and the Society has made contributions to consultations on issues such as the academic pre-requisites for admission to the profession and the uniform law rules. The Society and committees, in particular the Social Justice and Legal Practice Committees have had a lot of work to do in 2015 considering and advising on these changes.

At a federal level in February, the Territory said farewell to Judge Harland of the Federal Circuit Court who returned to Melbourne and in late July welcomed Judge Tony Young as a judge of the court. The court sits in a stylishly refurbished Court 8 at the Supreme Court and has an equally stylish and modern registry on the ground floor.

The Opening of the Legal Year in February attracted record numbers in both Darwin and Alice Springs. I thank our CEO for her work in securing Julian Burnside AO QC as the keynote speaker. Following the Opening of the Legal Year, Law Week was again a huge success and was well-supported by the community and the profession. The Society is grateful for the assistance of the profession and others who participated in Law Week events, particularly the community legal education sector.

Law Week was very successful, if not controversial, after Justice Hiley declared the Senior v Junior debate a draw. The Society promoted the Law Week Cricket Match this year as an inclusive family event and included activities for the children, a clown and a face painter, all of which was an enormous success to the many children who came to the game. We have already booked those services to come again in 2016.

I am afraid though that the elephant in the room is that the President’s XI was defeated by the Chief Justice’s XI, who were just too good on the day. I am really sorry to you all. However, it was a proud day fielding a professionally and geographically diverse team and for Rex Wild QC to be presented with an award in thanks and recognition of his commitment to diversity and the key roles he has played over many years in organising events such as the cricket game. The inaugural player of the match award, named in honour of Rex Wild QC, was awarded to Michelle Duggan from the President’s XI side.

“The Opening of the Legal Year in February attracted record numbers in both Darwin and Alice Springs.”

In Mr McConnel’s LCA presidential year, the Northern Territory was privileged to host the LCA Directors and Conference of Law Societies for the June quarterly meeting. It is a rare and less usual occurrence for these meetings to be held away from the east coast. My thanks go to the Secretariat for the seamless and professional way these meetings were organised and implemented. The plaudits for the work of the Society from around Australia and New Zealand continued to roll in well after the conferences closed and are testament to the huge amount of work done by a small Society so close to the end of the financial year and during the busier than usual period of practicing certificate renewals. The Society’s Annual Dinner was brought forward to coincide with these meetings, which was a truly magnificent Top End dry season evening at Pee Wee’s on the Point. I thank everyone at the Society, in particular Pam Jaenke, for making this time such a great success.

In addition to the law reform issues I referred to earlier, social justice and access to justice issues have consumed a lot of time at Committee and Council level. These include:

- In the government’s alcohol policy, where the work continues and where some success has been achieved, including amendments to the mandatory alcohol rehabilitation scheme in-line with Society submissions.
- Imprisonment, including Indigenous imprisonment and strategies to reduce prisoner numbers through preventing offending and re-offending.
- Issues for the legal profession arising from the opening of the Darwin Correctional Centre.
- Youth detention issues, including housing juvenile offenders at the old Berrimah Prison and the naming and shaming of youth.
- Legal assistance funding campaigns at both federal and Territory levels, including legal aid rates to the private profession.
- Court-based issues such as the calculation of the rate per unit in the Supreme Court, the increasing Supreme Court fees and the fixing of civil trial windows in 2016.

The Territory was privileged to host the LCA Directors and Conference of Law Societies for the June quarterly meeting.
Such is the nature of legal practice that many of these challenges will continue well into the 2016 year. With general elections due in 2016 at both federal and Territory levels, the interest and intrigue in how policy is developed will also no doubt remain. Government funding of legal services and broader access to justice issues will continue to be in the forefront of the Society’s work, together with the issues that arise through the implementation of government policy. I wish the Society’s next Council, staff and Secretariat well in working together to meet these forthcoming challenges.

For myself, I hope to be a part of it all for another year. The Society undertakes important and challenging work and the last year has been a great privilege and one of my proudest career achievements. It has been challenging, testing and a period of great learning and development for me. I have enjoyed every day of it and I hope to be able to continue to build on the foundations that have been set over the past year into the next year.

I want to thank everyone around me and especially those close to me for their unfailing assistance, support and wise counsel over the year, as I have worked my way through issue after issue, guided and influenced by the objective to support and advance the legal profession in the Northern Territory.

Tass Liveris
President

“For myself, I hope to be a part of it all for another year. The Society undertakes important and challenging work and the last year has been a great privilege and one of my proudest career achievements.”
The audited financial statements for the 2014/15 year show the Society recorded a net surplus of $12,863. Accumulated members’ funds have increased from $846,318 in 2013/14 to $859,181 in 2014/15. This result includes considerable write-off of furniture, fixtures and fittings associated with the move to the new premises at Level 3, 9 Cavenagh Street.
The Council considers the move to Cavenagh Street provides the best opportunity for the Society to achieve its strategic goals with regard to CPD while at the same time facilitating an important nexus with its stakeholders. In making its decision to select the new premises, Council considered a number of factors. In addition to meeting the identified key criteria for a long-term tenancy, the Cavenagh Street premises also provided an existing fit-out ideal for the size and structure of the Secretariat. The Society was also able to create the CPD seminar room and the interview room. This provided the Society with a cost saving of well over $100,000. More importantly, despite the increased rent the move provided the Society with facilities it had not previously been able to offer its members.

To fund the relocation Council allocated an amount of $119,687 of which some $76,513 was spent. The remaining $43,174 will be applied to finalising alterations to the new facilities in 2015/16.

The Society in 2016 faces the challenge of containing expenses and increasing efficiency so that funding calls on the Legal Practitioners Fidelity Fund are maintained within capacity. The Funds Management Committee has advised that they expect reduced returns on investments due to the volatile market conditions.

Jeff Collins
Treasurer
Chief Executive Officer’s report

The Society continues to work towards the goals of the 2013–16 Strategic Plan, including advocating with influence and promoting the fundamental principles of a just society and the administration of justice. Additionally, the Society adopted 3 key strategies on which to focus on in 2014/15. Highlights of the financial year include the release of 3 major publications: the Reconciliation Action Plan, the Indigenous Protocols for Lawyers Second Edition and the Society’s Celebrating Diversity Strategy.

Celebrating volunteers Volunteers from the law sector have given a total of 494 hours over the 2014/15 financial year, contributing to the Society’s regulatory functions and law reform. The Society thanks its volunteers for their continued support.

Advocating with influence Advocacy and influence is in-part reflected by the Society’s communications. The Society continues to maintain productive relationships with key stakeholders and has broadened its focus, meeting regularly with business, government agencies and others.

Media releases During the 2014/15 period, 16 media releases were published by the Society.

Mentions in Parliament The 2014/15 period saw 74 mentions in the NT Legislative Assembly. This compares considerably with the past 4 years which have been fewer than 20; with 66 mentions in the 2009/10 financial year reflecting advocacy on the Care and Protection review.

Mental health and wellbeing Expenditure on ‘LawCare’ delivered by EASA to members and their family has continued to increase and has exceeded budget. This is a positive result.

Engagement/service delivery to the regions The Society continues to host 3 events in Alice Springs: Opening of the Legal Year; Law Week and Christmas Drinks. These events have been well attended.

Celebrating collegiality The Society’s mental health strategy saw its third and final year. The fourth mental health week was celebrated during October 2014.

Social media Commencement on Twitter and Facebook in 2012 has continued to grow over the past year. The Society’s Twitter account currently has 760 followers, up from 524. Both the Chief Executive Officer and the President joined Twitter, achieving 336 and 136 followers respectively. Social media is an important tool to spread the message about the Society’s advocacy and to engage with members about upcoming events or professional development seminars.
Celebrating diversity In April 2015, the Celebrating Diversity Strategy which identifies numerous activities and opportunities to encourage diversity in the local profession and within the Society was embraced. Within a 2015 census, the Society saw female practitioners at 264 (52%) of the total profession (512) which is a significant milestone. Total practitioners: 512

1 Female 264, 2 Male 248

The analysis of the Society Council and committees saw that females are well represented at 47% of the Council and 55% of committees overall. Eight out of 11 committees (including Council) have equal if not greater representation from women.

Barristers Female barristers have increased over the years. As at 30 June they represented 22% of barristers. There is no readily available data to compare with other jurisdictions.

- **2015:** of the 45 barristers,
  10 are female (1 female QC) representing 22%
- **2014:** of the 48 barristers,
  7 were female representing 15%
- **2013:** of the 49 barristers,
  8 were female (1 female QC) representing 16%
- **2012:** of the 43 barristers,
  7 were female representing 16%

Secure stakeholder confidence in the Society The Society continues its commitment to quality improvement in 2014/15. The revision and amendment of the forms and policies of the Society continue on an almost seamless calendar. The Society continues to benefit from member feedback in relation to the Society’s activities.

Reconciliation Action Plan At the Law Society’s Annual Dinner on the 23 August 2014, the Society’s then-President, Ms Peggy Cheong, released the Society’s first Reconciliation Action Plan. In the 2014/15 period the Society’s commitment to reconciliation has seen expenditure and in-kind support applied to the objectives. The Society has supported initiatives such as the Language and the Law Conference II and made a donation to the Koowarta Scholarship. A highlight has been the Second Edition of Indigenous Protocols for Lawyers which was launched on the 13 May 2015 during Law Week.

Looking forward The Society remains a proudly self-funded, self-regulating profession in a world where this model is under increasing threat. Whilst self-regulation of a small profession presents many challenges, and 2014/15 saw some of the most challenging yet, we should continue to be proud that members are prepared to volunteer their time for this important work, sometimes in the face of significant personal cost.

The coming year presents an opportunity to focus on the operations of the Society to streamline communications with members and to continue to be responsive. I take this opportunity to thank the Council and the staff of the Secretariat for their continued dedication to the organisation’s goals and objectives. Additionally, I thank the members of the various committees for their contribution to the work of the Society.

I am proud to oversee the operations of an organisation that continues to achieve the support of so many.

Megan Lawton
Chief Executive Officer
Corporate Governance 2014 saw the ACNC portal merged with the Australian Taxation Office. From the user’s perspective, there was little else that changed and we continue to meet the reporting obligations as a not-for-profit.

SuperStream standard is part of the government’s Super Reform package to provide a consistent, reliable electronic method of transacting superannuation data and payments. Although not compulsory for the Society until 30 June 2016, we elected to move to SuperStream compliance early to take advantage of the efficiency it provided.

Premises The Secretariat moved premises to Level 3, 9 Cavenagh Street in November 2014. After an initial settling in period, the focus was on maximising the flexibility and use of the new facilities in-line with the Society’s strategic goal to be the pre-eminent provider of CPD. Anticipated benefits of the onsite seminar space include increased efficiency of Secretariat resources, increased opportunity to interact and provide services to members and increased interaction with stakeholders.

Staff In 2014/15 we welcomed new staff, Pam Jaenke, Yvette Buffon and Ella King to the Secretariat team. Pam has taken on coordination of events and CPD seminars, Yvette coordinates many of the Society’s publication for outsourcing of various aspects as well as undertaking other essential administrative tasks and Ella has come on board as part-time receptionist and administration assistant.

I am very grateful for the Society’s investment in my professional development in the form of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, Director’s Course which I completed in September 2014.

Infrastructure The server replacement was installed in July 2014 along with a suite of upgraded software and although we experienced initial teething issues, there have been many beneficial flow on effects and the upgraded software is fully operational.

Sponsorship The Society successfully secured a two-year sponsorship agreement with legalsuper for the CPD program for the 2015–16 period. This partnership provides legalsuper with regular exposure to the profession and their support brings an additional benefit to members.

Marsh Pty Ltd continues to sponsor Law Week and this year supported the family activities arranged for the Marsh Law Week Cricket Match. Feedback on this event was very positive and we look forward to building on this success with the support of Marsh Pty Ltd.

Julie Davis GAICD
Corporate Services Manager
Alice Springs Representative

At the Opening of the Legal Year in February, Chief Justice Riley referred to two things of great significance to Alice Springs.

One was again his condemnation of the federal cuts to Indigenous Legal Aid. A significant proportion of legal practitioners in Alice Springs practise in not-for-profit organisations which cater largely for Aboriginal clients. It is important that those organisations are properly funded to deliver high-quality representation. The cuts were a direct threat to our community. Thankfully, in no small way due to the efforts of the law societies across the nation, the cuts were reversed but much work is still required.

The second significant issue was the Northern Territory Government’s commitment to a new Supreme Court building in Alice Springs. The long overdue upgrade to the Alice Springs Law Courts has now commenced and is expected to be finished in early 2016.

Events:
• The Opening of the Legal Year was well-attended and the speech by Julian Burnside AO QC certainly sparked discussion.

• In conjunction with the Opening of the Legal Year, there was the launch of the Indigenous Protocols for Lawyers, Second Edition at the Chifley Resort. There was a very different Welcome to Country by Alice icon Betty Pearce.

• Law Week activities were well attended with the Sentencing Forum being particularly attended by the public.

There were many CPD opportunities throughout the year with interesting presenters which allowed local practitioners to fulfil their CPD requirements. Many thanks to the Law Society on behalf of local practitioners for the opportunities to attend quality presentations in person.

Through events organised by the Law Society, the local profession can mix in a relaxed atmosphere and get to know each other which has many benefits, not just for us but also for our clients.

Tony Whitelum
Alice Springs Representative

“Thanks to Mark O’Reilly, the Alice Springs Alternate Representative.”
The object of the Information Act (the Act) is to create a right of a person to access information relating to the functions of a public sector organisation but also personal information held by public sector organisations, and includes a right to correct personal information.

The Act includes exemptions for certain information. In addition, the Act sets standards for the retention of records and requires the annual report of the public sector organisations to make statements regarding compliance with the Act.

Pursuant to s646 the Legal Profession Act 2006 (LPA) the Society is a public sector organisation under the Information Act. The LPA expressly states that this includes a reference to Council.

Importantly, sections 46 and 49 of the Act state that information is exempt under section 44 if it prejudices the investigation of a breach or possible breach of the law (whether generally or in a particular case) or discloses information about a proceeding or other matter before a body such as the Society which is established under the LPA and has quasi-judicial functions.

Under Section 11 of the Act, a public sector organisation must publish a statement about its structure and functions, the types of information usually held by it, a description of the organisation’s procedures for providing access to its information and a description of the organisation’s procedures for correcting information.

Information concerning the organisation and functions of the Society can be found:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th><a href="http://www.lawsocietynt.asn.au">www.lawsocietynt.asn.au</a></th>
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</thead>
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Procedures for providing access to information

Documents available

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Documents available</th>
<th>The following documents are available for inspection or purchase on request:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brochures</td>
<td>No charge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Report</td>
<td>Free / $55.00 for the purchase of a hard copy of the report</td>
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<td>Balance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little Red Book of Advocacy</td>
<td>$20.00 plus $5.00 postage and handling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy statements</td>
<td>No charge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous Protocols for Lawyers Second Edition</td>
<td>No charge</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Administrative arrangements for access to information

General inquiries and requests for access to documents may be made in person, by telephone or in writing addressed to the CEO of the Society. Parties to a current or past complaint such as the complainant or the practitioner should address inquiries to the Manager Regulatory Services. The Society is open weekdays between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm.

Access under the Information Act

For a party seeking access under the Information Act application forms may be obtained from the Office of the Information Commissioner website at www.privacy.nt.gov.au or by contacting the CEO of the Society.
Information held by the Law Society Northern Territory

The Society holds information in the following categories:

- Information relating to inquiries and complaints investigations against legal practitioners. This information includes: complaints; correspondence and consultations with complainants and the subject of the complaint including other parties to any proceedings; and other information sources such as background material, records of conversation, analysis and advice and reports.

- Information relating to the Society’s role as an advocate on legal issues and on behalf of the profession and legal reform. This includes information stored by subject research and background materials relating to submissions to inquiries or comments on policy or legislation.

- Information relating to the Society’s management of the Secretariat, including personnel, contracting and financial records and information about asset management. This includes various membership activities such as events and publications and information relating to other entities for which the Society provides administrative secretariat services.

- Information relating to the Society’s licensing and other regulatory functions such as practitioner registration files; firm and trust account records; and in relation to the continuing professional development functions.

- Information relating to the work of the Society’s advisory committees and the Council including minutes of such meetings.

The following are specific types of information held by the Society:

**Administrative and policy files** The Society maintains files of correspondence and other documents, indexed by subject matter, on issues concerning office administration and management. There are records on a wide range of policy and general questions concerning the functions and powers of the Society. Access to information held on these files may be provided depending on the content of the relevant documents. Charges may also apply (see Procedures for providing access to information above).

**Practitioner, firm, trust account files** The Society maintains an electronic database of legal practitioners, law firms and trust account information as required by the LPA. This is complemented by paper files.

The Society also maintains electronic and hard copy records of firm and trust account information as required by the LPA. Access to the information on these files is generally restricted depending on who is seeking the information.

**Complaint files** The Society keeps files of documents relating to each written complaint made under the LPA and records of telephone inquiries regarding complaints. The files are indexed in several ways, including the complainant’s name and the practitioner subject of the complaint. The Society maintains a computer-based register of all complaints and inquiries. A paper-based file is also maintained. On completion of inquiries, complaint files or documents are stored in the Darwin office. Access to the information on these files is generally restricted depending on who is seeking the information.

**Legal opinions** The Society maintains a copy of legal opinions it has obtained. These opinions cover issues arising during the investigation of complaints and matters before courts or tribunals such as the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal and issues involving the Society’s functions and powers.

“The Society has a range of information available to the public and the legal profession. The material details the functions of the Society and provides a guide to making complaints, Continuing Professional Development and rules of professional conduct.”

**Information sheets** The Society has a range of information available to the public and the legal profession. The material details the functions of the Society and provides a guide to making complaints, CPD and rules of professional conduct. Some printed copies of these brochures are available free of charge from the Society’s office and some are available for downloading from the Society’s website.
Agendas, minutes and reports The Society's Council minutes are maintained in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Act and are available for inspection by officers of the Society free of charge. Minutes of any general meeting of the Society are available for inspection by members at the Society's office free of charge. Minutes of the Society's advisory committees are available for inspection by members of those committees and Council. Minutes of meetings of the Executive are available for inspection by the Council. Minutes of Council meetings are not generally available for inspection but limited access may be given to resolutions of Council in relation to regulatory matters relating to the party requesting the information.

Manuals and guidelines The Society has various policies and procedural information for use by Secretariat employees relating to employment and operational processes. Access to information contained in these manuals may be provided depending on the content of the relevant documents. Charges may also apply (see Procedures for providing access to information above).

Publications The Society publishes a journal, Balance, to members and subscribers 4 times per year. Past editions may be obtained from the Society subject to availability and will be charged according to the cover price. The Society also publishes an e-newsletter called Practitioner. Copies of the current Annual Report and some previous Annual Reports are available for downloading from the Society’s website at www.lawsocietynt.asn.au. Some printed copies of the current Annual Reports are available free of charge soon after publication (subject to availability).

Disclosure of information

The LPA expressly prohibits disclosure of information obtained for the purpose of an investigation or certain information obtained in the course of carrying out the regulatory functions under the LPA. Information the Society holds may be disclosed:

• As required by law, or

• On request, for example, in relation to information sought by a complainant about the investigation of his or her own complaint, where the documents are routine, an ongoing investigation will not be prejudiced and there is no other interest likely to be adversely affected by disclosure, and the information is not personal information as defined in the Act.
## Register of submissions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>SUBMISSION TO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15.07.2014</td>
<td>Proportionate Liability Act Model Provisions</td>
<td>Department of Attorney-General and Justice</td>
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<td>15.07.2014</td>
<td>Senate Inquiry into Recognition of Foreign Marriages Bill 2014</td>
<td>Law Council of Australia</td>
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<td>20.07.2014</td>
<td>Local Court Bill</td>
<td>Department of Attorney-General and Justice</td>
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<td>22.07.2014</td>
<td>Proposed Changes to National Security Laws</td>
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<td>Commissioner’s Guideline – Stamp Duty and Cancelled and Rescinded Conveyances</td>
<td>Department of Treasury and Finance</td>
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<td>Migration Amendment (Protection and Other Measures) Bill</td>
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<td>Federal Government Inquiry into Domestic Violence Policy Factors</td>
<td>Senate Standing Committee Finance and Public Administration References Committee</td>
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<td>Correctional Services Regulation</td>
<td>Department of Correctional Services</td>
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<td>Review of Report on Mandatory Alcohol Treatment Act</td>
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<td>Corrections – Transportation</td>
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<td>Anti-Discrimination Amendment Bill</td>
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<td>Funding Cuts to ATSILS</td>
<td>Commonwealth Attorney-General</td>
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<td>Lands Titles – Increase in Fees</td>
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<td>Termination of Units Plans and Unit Title Schemes Bill 2014</td>
<td>Department of Attorney-General and Justice</td>
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<td>17.10.2014</td>
<td>Commercial Arbitration (National Uniform Legislation)</td>
<td>Department of Attorney-General and Justice</td>
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<td>Rights and Responsibilities – AHRC</td>
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<tr>
<td>31.10.2014</td>
<td>Constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples</td>
<td>Senate Joint Select Committee on Constitution Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People</td>
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<td>Abolition of Corporation and Markets Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Department of the Attorney-General and Justice, Law Council of Australia</td>
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<td>Exposure Draft of the ASIC Amendment (Corporations and Markets Advisory Committee) Bill 2014</td>
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<td>Reform of Political Donations NSW</td>
<td>Department of Premier and Cabinet</td>
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<td>Uniform Legal Profession – Barristers Rules</td>
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<td>Practice Direction 1 of 2015</td>
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<td>21.02.2015</td>
<td>Consultation RIS – NIIS</td>
<td>Commonwealth Treasury</td>
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<td>Body Worn Video Documentation</td>
<td>NT Police</td>
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<td>17.03.2015</td>
<td>Senate Inquiry into Access to Legal Assistance Services</td>
<td>Law Council of Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>19.03.2015</td>
<td>Consultation Draft of Version 3 Model Operating Requirements and Participation Rules</td>
<td>Australian Registrars’ National Electronic Conveyancing Council</td>
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<td>Return to Work Bill</td>
<td>The Hon. Minister Styles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.03.2015</td>
<td>Review of Admission Requirements</td>
<td>Law Council of Australia</td>
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<td>30.03.2015</td>
<td>Return to Work Act Amendments</td>
<td>The Hon. Minister Styles</td>
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<td>30.03.2015</td>
<td>Review of Academic Requirements for Admission</td>
<td>Legal Practitioners’ Admission Board</td>
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<td>31.03.2015</td>
<td>Reconciliation Action Plan</td>
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<td>31.03.2015</td>
<td>Reconciliation Action Plan</td>
<td>JANA</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Reconciliation Action Plan</td>
<td>Telco Searches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE</td>
<td>TOPIC</td>
<td>SUBMISSION TO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>International Treaty Against Nuclear Weapons</td>
<td>Australian Red Cross</td>
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<td>15.04.2015</td>
<td>Issues Paper – Central Bond Holding Scheme</td>
<td>Department of Attorney-General and Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>20.04.2015</td>
<td>Behaviour of Corrections Officers</td>
<td>The Hon. Minister Elferink MLA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.04.2015</td>
<td>Supreme Court Listings 2016</td>
<td>The Hon. Chief Justice Riley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.05.2015</td>
<td>Senate Inquiry into Violence Abuse and Neglect Against People with a Disability</td>
<td>Law Council of Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>04.06.2015</td>
<td>Identification of Youth Offenders</td>
<td>The Hon. Minister Elferink MLA</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.06.2015</td>
<td>Identification of Youth Offenders</td>
<td>Information Commissioner</td>
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## Council attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CURRENT/PRIOR POSITION</th>
<th>ATTENDANCE</th>
<th>POSSIBLE TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peggy Cheong</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tass Liveris</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candice Maclean</td>
<td>Vice-President</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josine Wynberg</td>
<td>Secretary as of AGM</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cecil Black</td>
<td>Secretary until AGM</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Collins</td>
<td>Treasurer as of AGM</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tass Liveris</td>
<td>Treasurer until AGM</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark O’Reilly</td>
<td>Alice Springs Rep until AGM</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony Whitelum</td>
<td>Alice Springs Alt Rep until AGM</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony Whitelum</td>
<td>Alice Springs Rep from AGM</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark O’Reilly</td>
<td>Alice Springs Alt Rep from AGM</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacque Palavra</td>
<td>Councillor until AGM</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josine Wynberg</td>
<td>Councillor until AGM</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Collins</td>
<td>Councillor until AGM</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sally Bolton</td>
<td>Councillor from AGM</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emma Schulz</td>
<td>Councillor from AGM</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suzi Kapetas</td>
<td>Councillor from AGM</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Woodroffe</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emma Farnell</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maria Savvas</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Alderman</td>
<td>NTBA Rep</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Clayton</td>
<td>NTYL Rep until Jan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jenna Dennison</td>
<td>NTYL Alt Rep until Jan</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hugh Bond</td>
<td>NTYL Rep</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominic Gomez</td>
<td>NTYL Alt Rep</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
- There were 11 ordinary meetings and 1 special meeting from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.
- AGM date: 29 October 2014 [new Council elected].
- Alt Reps are permitted to attend but are only required in the absence of the Rep.

### Meeting dates for the 2014/15 financial year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 September 2014</td>
<td>29 January 2015</td>
<td>30 April 2015</td>
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The Pro Bono Clearing House (PBCH) has seen successful outcomes for eligible pro bono applicants in 2014/15. For the first year since 2011, the PBCH has successfully referred all eligible applications. This is a remarkable achievement for the PBCH and its volunteers.

Reflecting on these statistics, the successful placement of applications can be attributed to the rise in volunteers and the reduction in pro bono applications for the 2014/15 year. We are pleased to report 10% of the NT legal profession, who can participate in the scheme, are volunteers of the PBCH*. We are hopeful these numbers will continue to grow in the coming year.

The PBCH received a total of 27 enquiries throughout the year. Most enquiries were from individuals who were unaware of other legal services available. Only 2 enquiries transpired into actual applications. This indicates that the legal assistance services available are being utilised appropriately for individuals that require assistance.

During the 2014/15 year the PBCH received a total of 14 applications, 3 of which did not meet the eligibility criteria. The 2014/15 year saw an 8% rise in immigration matters which may be attributed to changes to the Migration Act 1958 (Cth). The PBCH would like to give a special thanks to Mr Carl O’Connor who continues to assist the PBCH with migration matters. Wills and probate matters were up from the previous year while civil and employment law matters remained the same.

The PBCH would like to acknowledge the individual practitioners who have assisted with eligible pro bono applications and furthermore would like to thank the dedicated practitioners on the panel that continue to assist with assessing applications.

The PBCH gratefully acknowledges the following individuals for their contribution throughout the year:

- Ben O’Loughlin
- Brad Mortimer
- Bruce Taylor
- Cathy Spurr
- Duncan McConnel
- Emma Farnell
- James Burke
- Joanne Sivyer
- Kaliopi Hourdas
- Karen Christopher
- Kevin Kadirgamar
- Mark Thomas
- Merran Short
- Ron Lawford
- Rosemary Jacob
- Ryan Sanders
- Simon Lee
- Tarryn Brown
- Judge Tony Young

The PBCH will be working hard to continue to build the register of volunteers to ensure the needs of the community are met.

Lily North
Executive Assistant and Pro Bono Coordinator

*10% excludes government practitioners as they do not hold indemnity insurance and are unable to volunteer under this program.
Opening of the Legal Year 2015

The Nitmiluk Room at Parliament House was the venue for the Darwin lunch to celebrate the Opening of the Legal Year on Thursday 5 February.

The Hon Chief Justice Trevor Riley addressed the audience prior to the address by keynote speaker, Mr Julian Burnside AO QC. Also welcomed was a special guest from Timor Leste, Judge Deolindo dos Santos of the Court of Appeal.

The Alice Springs practitioners and their partners were invited to attend a dinner held in the Gumtree Room of the Chifley Resort on Friday 6 February. A record number of guests were addressed by The Hon Chief Justice and Mr Burnside AO QC during a very enjoyable dinner event.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Alice Springs Attendance</th>
<th>Alice Springs Ticket Price</th>
<th>Darwin Attendance</th>
<th>Darwin Ticket Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>$100*/$110</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>$120*/$130</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>$105</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>$120/$130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>$125</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>$87</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>56</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<td>$89</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>$85</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Early Bird special price.

“A record number of guests were addressed by The Hon Chief Justice and Mr Burnside AO QC during a very enjoyable dinner event.”

A very successful dinner equalling last year’s attendance was held in the Gumtree Room, Chifley Resort, Alice Springs on Friday 15 May. This year the keynote speaker was Mr Kon Karapanagiotidis OAM, Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. In addition to being well-supported by Alice Springs practitioners, also in attendance was the Hon Chief Justice Trevor Riley, Law Society President Tass Liveris and Law Society Chief Executive Officer Megan Lawton.

Darwin practitioners attended a lunch at the Darwin Hilton on Thursday 14 May. Mr Karapanagiotidis OAM was also the guest speaker at this event and spoke with passion about the plight of refugees and the work of the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.

The Marsh Law Week Cricket Match was again held at Gardens Oval on Sunday 17 May with quite a large number of vocal and supportive spectators attending. Competition was fierce between the President’s XI and the Chief Justice’s XI with the winner this year being a very happy and some may say relieved Chief Justice’s XI, who with their win, ensured the President’s XI didn’t achieve a hat trick. This year’s cricket match was a real family event with the children enjoying face painting and entertainment. A special and well-deserved award was presented to Rex Wild QC for his outstanding contribution to the collegiality of the NT legal profession.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Alice Springs Attendance</th>
<th>Alice Springs Ticket Price</th>
<th>Marsh Sponsorship</th>
<th>Darwin Attendance</th>
<th>Darwin Ticket Price</th>
<th>Marsh Sponsorship</th>
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<tr>
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<td>29</td>
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<td>$1,000</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>$120*/$130</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>29</td>
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<td>$500</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>$110 / $120</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>$85</td>
<td>$1,100</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>$110</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>$85</td>
<td>$700</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>$95</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>$85</td>
<td>$700</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>$95</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>$86</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>$88</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>$335</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>$86</td>
<td>$1,950</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Early Bird special price.

**Community Legal Education Network, Professional Development Workshop** The 2015 Northern Territory Community Legal Education (CLE) Professional Development Workshop was held during Law Week in Darwin with over 50 participants from around the Territory sharing ideas on effective design, delivery, content and evaluation of CLE. This Law week event was organised by the NT CLE Network and supported by the Law Society Northern Territory Public Purposes Trust, as well as sponsorship from Minter Ellison, Ashurst and NT Legal Aid. Participants were exposed to a wide range of approaches to delivery of education both face-to-face and using multimedia. Content updates were heard from experts in areas as diverse as domestic violence, consumer law, child protection, remote tenancy and representatives from a range of partners in education, health and police participated and shared strategies for community legal education.
Annual Dinner

Under a clear star lit night with fantastic views of the lights of Darwin, an extremely enjoyable Annual Dinner was held on the lawn at Pee Wee’s on the Point on Friday 26 June. The Dinner this year was held earlier than usual to coincide with the Law Council of Australia’s Director’s Meeting. This was a wonderful opportunity for Darwin’s Duncan McConnel, President of the LCA and the Law Society Northern Territory to showcase to our interstate counterparts some of the best aspects of Darwin—outdoor living, friendship and hospitality. Because the 2015 Annual Dinner was brought forward, there were two Annual Dinners held during the 2014/15 financial year. The 2014 Annual Dinner was held at Sky City Casino. Live entertainment ensured guests danced and had a great night.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Ticket Price</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<td>120</td>
<td>Pee Wees</td>
<td>Background music, no sponsorship or gifts</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$154/$165</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>Sky City</td>
<td>Live entertainment, no sponsorship or gifts</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>$154 / $164</td>
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<td>Pee Wees</td>
<td>Live entertainment, Telco Cable Searches sponsorship, no gifts</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$130</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>Pee Wees</td>
<td>No sponsorship, entertainment or gifts</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>Cornucopia</td>
<td>String quartet, $10pp gifts, and $4,000 sponsorship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$140</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>Cornucopia</td>
<td>String quartet, $10pp gifts, and $1,000 sponsorship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Early Bird special price.

Another successful members’ Christmas Drinks function was held at the Novotel Atrium in December 2014. Details of Alice Springs events are contained in the report by the Alice Springs Representative.

Other events

**Celebration of the life of Barbara Bradshaw** The Society, joined with Robert and Mary Bradshaw, in a celebration of the life of the Society’s previous Chief Executive Officer Barbara Bradshaw, at a memorial ceremony at the Cornucopia Museum Café on Tuesday 2 December 2014. Alastair Shields, Barbara’s daughter Mary, Michael Grant QC, Duncan McConnel and Karen Dempsey from Breast Cancer Network, all spoke of Barbara’s commitment to her family and the legal profession.

**Mental Health Week 2014** Practitioners were given the opportunity to attend and participate in numerous events during Mental Health Week which was held 6–10 October 2014 with the theme of Understanding and building resilience for lawyers.

Events included Tai Chi, a CPD entitled The Zen of Stress presented by Dr David Chapman, the ever popular walk led by the Hon Chief Justice Trevor Riley and culminated with the Mental Health Breakfast on World Mental Health Day at Elan Hotel with guest speaker Marie Jepson, Director of the Tristan Jepson Memorial Foundation.

**LawCare counselling** The LawCare counselling service, delivered by EASA, has been in place for four years now and is increasingly accessed by members. The Society is alert to the high incidence of stress and depression within the legal profession and believes that LawCare is a very important initiative to have in place for its members.

**Corporate partnership** Again we extend our gratitude to Marsh Pty Ltd for their continued sponsorship and support of Law Week, the Society and Telco Cable Searches.

**Pam Jaenke**
Administration Officer Regulation and Events Coordinator
Law Society Northern Territory
Council roll of honour

1968
Ronald John Withnall (President)
Alexander Robert Rorrison (Vice-President)
Richard G. Kemp (Secretary)
Penelope Holmes (Treasurer)
Godfrey Fo Hall
(Alice Springs Representative)
George William Cridland
Richard Keller
Peter Massie
Jim Williams

1969
Alexander Robert Rorrison (President)
Brian St Leger Kelly (Vice-President)
Richard G. Kemp (Secretary)
Cecil Albert Black (Treasurer)
Ian McClelland Barker
(Alice Spring Representative)
Graeme Innes-Ker MacNish
Michael Ward
Jim Williams
Keith Williamson

1970
Ian McClelland Barker (President)
Brian St Leger Kelly (Vice-President)
Richard G. Kemp (Secretary)
Thomas Ian Pauling (Treasurer)
Graeme Innes-Ker MacNish
Walter Arnold Raby
Alexander Robert Rorrison
Jim Williams
Nerolie Phyllis Withnall

1971
Ian McClelland Barker (President)
Thomas Ian Pauling (Vice-President)
Allan Michael O’Neil (Secretary)
Nerolie Phyllis Withnall (Treasurer)
Brian Frank Martin
(Alice Springs Representative)
Kenneth Arnold Conway
Peter Donald James
Graeme Innes-Ker MacNish
Alexander Robert Rorrison

1972
Ian McClelland Barker (President)
Brian Frank Martin (Vice-President)
Dean Mildren (Secretary)
Nerolie Phyllis Withnall (Treasurer)
Brian Frank Martin
(Alice Springs Representative)
Peter Donald James
Alisdair McGregor
Allan Michael O’Neil
Alexander Robert Rorrison
Alexander Henty Silvester

1973
Dean Mildren (President)
Gregory Reginald James (Vice-President)
Peter Donald James (Secretary)
Allan Michael O’Neil (Treasurer)
Brian Frank Martin
(Alice Springs Representative)
Ian McClelland Barker
Paul Anthony Edward Everingham
Janice Montes McFarlane
Clement John O’Sullivan
Michael Winter

1974
Dean Mildren (President)
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Pamela Noel Gray (Secretary)
Janice Montes McFarlane (Treasurer)
Brian Frank Martin
(Alice Springs Representative)
Ian McClelland Barker
Paul Anthony Edward Everingham
Allan Michael O’Neil
Clement John O’Sullivan

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(President)
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Brian Frank Martin
(Alice Springs Representative)
Hugh Burton Bradley
Narendra Manubhai Patel
Gordon Charles Pelletier
John Bascomb Waters

1976
Paul Anthony Edward Everingham
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John Peluso (Secretary)
Patrick Loftus (Treasurer)
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Narendra Manubhai Patel
John Bascomb Waters

1977
John Peluso (Secretary)

1978
Nerolie Phyllis Withnall (President)
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Ian McClelland Barker
John Michael George
Michael David Andrew Maurice
Trevor John Riley

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Graham Eric Hiley
Athol Geoffrey James
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Geoffrey Robert Clark (Secretary)
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Terence Francis Coulehan
Graham Eric Hiley
Robert Andrew Kimber
Brian Edward McMillan
1981
Terence Francis Coulehan (President)
Peter William Walker (Vice-President)
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Kim Latrobe Graves (Treasurer)
John Edward Reeves
(Alice Springs Representative)
Graham Eric Hiley
Robert Andrew Kimber
Brian Edward McMillan
Gordon Charles Pelletier
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Danny Charles Masters
(Provisional Councillor)

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John Edward Reeves
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Philip Michael Hamblin
Graham Eric Hiley
Margaret Patricia Lyons
Allan Michael O’Neil

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Hugh Burton Bradley (President)
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Allan Michael O’Neil
Kim Latrobe Graves
Maxwell Ferris Horton
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Kevin Maxwell Curnow
Michael James Gillooly
Neil Raymond Halfpenny
Graham Eric Hiley
Colin Rodney McDonald

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(Vice-President)
Michael James Gillooly (Secretary)
Kim Latrobe Graves (Treasurer)
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Kevin Maxwell Curnow
Richard Grant Giles
Patrick Loftus
John McCormack
John Russell Munn

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Patrick Loftus
Peter Donald McNab
John Edward Reeves
Peter John Butler Tiffin

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Richard Grant Giles (President)
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Kim Latrobe Graves (Treasurer)
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Roy David Ellis
Peter Donald James
Kym Pelham Livesley
Peter Donald McNab
Peter John Butler Tiffin

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Ian Leslie Gray
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Stephen Roger Southwood
John Thomas Stewart
Daynor Wilmott Easom Trigg

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Leanne May Robertson

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Peter John Butler Tiffin
Janet Denise Trier

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James Thomas Moore
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Duncan Charles McConnel
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Domenico Conidi (Alice Springs Alternate)
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Jennifer Hardy (Replacement Councillor)

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Ian Leonard Read
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Cameron Samuel Ernest Ford/VACANT (Councillor)
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Ruth Ellen Brebner (Councillor)
Marcus Andreas Spazzapan (Councillor)
Caroline Elizabeth Bicheno (Councillor)
Kate Alexandra Kensell (Councillor)
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Gottlieb Thomas Svikart (Alice Springs Alternate Representative)
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Fiona Levene Hussin (Councillor)
Melanie Jane Warbrooke (Councillor)
Kevin Francis Banbury (Councillor)
Margaret Catherine Orwin (Councillor)
Julian Quentin Johnson (Councillor)
Jared Nathaniel Sharp (Replacement Councillor)
Nicholas Ryan Johansen (Young Lawyers Representative)
Donna Irene Lynette Storey (Young Lawyers Alternate Representative)
David Graham Alderman (NT Bar Association Representative)

2011
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Peggy Siew Meng Cheong (Vice-President)
Nigel James Browne (Treasurer)
Candice Louise Maclean (Secretary)
Ashley Graham Dewell (Alice Springs Representative)
Mark Gerard O’Reilly (Alice Springs Alternate Representative)
Duncan Charles McConnel (Councillor)
Fiona Levene Hussin (Councillor)
Margaret Catherine Orwin (Councillor)
Anastasis Andrew Liveris (Councillor)
Ashley James Marsh (Councillor)
Jared Nathaniel Sharp (Replacement Councillor)
Donna Irene Lynette Storey (Young Lawyers Representative)
Nicholas Ryan Johansen (Young Lawyers Alternate Representative)
David Graham Alderman (NT Bar Association Representative)

2012
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Nigel James Browne (Secretary)
Anastasis Andrew Liveris (Treasurer)
Mark Gerard O’Reilly (Alice Springs Representative)
Anthony Ross Whitelum (Alice Springs Alternate Representative)
Duncan Charles McConnel (Councillor)
Fiona Levene Hussin (Councillor)
Margaret Catherine Orwin (Councillor)
Bruce Cameron Taylor (Councillor)

2013
Peggy Siew Meng Cheong (President)
Peggy Siew Meng Cheong (President)
Candice Louise Maclean (Vice-President)
Nigel James Browne (Secretary)
Anastasis Andrew Liveris (Treasurer)
Mark Gerard O’Reilly (Alice Springs Representative)
Anthony Ross Whitelum (Alice Springs Alternate Representative)
Duncan Charles McConnel (Councillor)
Fiona Levene Hussin (Councillor)
Maria Savvas (Councillor)
Jared Nathaniel Sharp (Councillor)
Cecil Albert Black (Councillor)
Jeffrey David Collins (Councillor)
Emma Jane Farnell (Young Lawyers Representative)
Imogen Clare Taylor (Young Lawyers Alternate Representative)
David Graham Alderman (NT Bar Association Representative)

2014
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Peggy Siew Meng Cheong (President)
Candice Louise Maclean (Vice-President)
Cecil Albert Black (Secretary)
Anastasis Andrew Liveris (Treasurer)
Mark Gerard O’Reilly (Alice Springs Representative)
Anthony Ross Whitelum (Alice Springs Alternate Representative)
Maria Savvas (Councillor)
Emma Jane Farnell (Councillor)
Jeffrey David Collins (Councillor)
Zaklina Bernadette Palavra (Councillor)
Josine Marie Wynberg (Councillor)
Ronald David Todd Woodroffe (Councillor)
Suzi Anastasia Kapetas (Councillor)
Hugh Marcus Bond (Young Lawyers Representative)
Dominic Paul Gomez (Young Lawyers Alternate Representative)

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Josine Marie Wynberg (Secretary)
Jeffrey David Collins (Treasurer)
David Graham Alderman (NT Bar Association Representative)
Anthony Ross Whitelum (Alice Springs Representative)
Mark Gerard O’Reilly (Alice Springs Alternate Representative)
Sally Joan Bolton (Councillor)
Emma Jane Farnell (Councillor)
Maria Savvas (Councillor)
Emma Nicole Schulz (Councillor)
Ronald David Todd Woodroffe (Councillor)
Suzi Anastasia Kapetas (Councillor)
Hugh Marcus Bond (Young Lawyers Representative)
Dominic Paul Gomez (Young Lawyers Alternate Representative)
Professional conduct

Complaints

The 2014/15 year saw a 40% increase in the number of complaints received as compared to the previous year. This saw the number of complaints return to almost the same number as received in 2012/13 (31 complaints) but still well-below the high point reached in 2011/12 (44 complaints).

The number of complaints made by the opposing party or third parties increased and during 2014/15 complaints received from these sources was equivalent to the number of complaints received from or on behalf of clients.

One-third of the complaints received were in relation to sole practitioners. Sole practitioners represent 82.6% of law practices in the Northern Territory. Principals and employed solicitors made up just over a quarter of the complaints received and less than 10% of complaints received (a total of 3 complaints) were made against barristers.

A total of 20 practitioners were the subject of complaints received during the 2014/15 year, which represents 3.75% of the profession (as at 1 October 2014 there were 533 NT practising certificate holders).

During the 2014/15 year the percentage of complaints relating to criminal law and family law matters increased compared to the previous year and these two areas of law made up more than 55% of the complaints received. There has been a substantial drop in the percentage of complaints arising from civil litigation matters (from 34.78% last year to 16% this year).
Complaints received by area of law

1 Civil litigation 5 (16%), 2 Commercial 1 (3%), 3 Conveyancing 1 (3%), 4 Criminal litigation 9 (28%), 5 Family law 9 (28%), 6 Practice - general 4 (13%), 7 Probate 1 (3%), 8 Workers compensation 1 (3%), 9 Other 1 (3%). **Total 32 (100%)**

Complaints by contact type

1 Complaint 32 (25%), 2 Enquiry 91 (71%), 3 Consumer Dispute 5 (4%). **Total 128 (100%)**

Complaints by practitioner type

1 Barrister 3 (9%), 2 Principal 5 (15%), 3 Non-principal 4 (12%), 4 Sole practitioner 11 (33%), 5 Government 5 (15%), 6 Other 5 (15%). **Total 33 (100%)**

Complaints by complainant type

1 Individual/consumer 13 (41%), 2 Third party 5 (16%), 3 Other party 8 (25%), 4 LSNT 3 (9%), 5 Other 3 (9%). **Total 32 (100%)**
The Society upheld one complaint during 2014/15 and dealt with it summarily pursuant to section 499 of the Legal Profession Act 2006. One complaint was withdrawn and the remainder of the complaints were dismissed. More than 50% of the complaints finalised during 2014/15 were summarily dismissed, that is without an investigation. Complaints were summarily dismissed for a variety of reasons including:

- NonResponsiveness from the complainant to requests for further information.

- Complaints that were made more than 3 years after the alleged conduct and the Society was not satisfied of the matters required by section 473 of the Legal Profession Act 2006.

- Complaints that lacked substance—largely these were complaints made against the lawyer representing the other party in litigation or complaints where the allegation could not amount to unprofessional conduct as defined in the Act.

Performance criteria

Section 557 of the Legal Profession Act 2006 requires the Society to set performance criteria relating to the handling of complaints under Chapter 4 of the Act and to report against that performance criteria each year. The Society has currently set as the performance criteria that 75% of complaints received be concluded by the Society within 1 year of receipt of the complaint.

This performance criteria is assessed as against complaints finalised during the 2014/15 year. During that period 74% of the complaints finalised were finalised within a year from the date of receipt of the complaint.

The matters finalised in 2014/15 that took more than a year resulted in 4 complaints that were not substantiated (2 were dismissed by Council and 2 were dismissed summarily) and 1 complaint that was dealt with summarily by the Society (pursuant to section 499) with the imposition of a private reprimand.

Factors that impacted on finalising complaints within the performance criteria included delays arising from a complainant requiring substantial additional time to provide documents to deal with a preliminary issue in the complaint, delays with practitioners’ responses to the complaint investigation and deferral of a complaint investigation pending litigation on foot.

On average complaints that were finalised during the 2014/15 year took 310 days, a similar timeframe to the average during the 2013/14 year of 316 days.
Consumer disputes: The Society dealt with less consumer disputes during the 2014/15 year (down from 10 in 2013/14 to 5). Two matters later resulted in a separate formal conduct complaint by the client about related or unrelated issues.

As with last year, a concern about lack of responsiveness from the legal practitioner was the most notable cause of consumer disputes.

Enquiries: For the second year in a row there was a steady increase in the number of enquiries the Society received, 91 in 2014/15 compared to 79 in 2013/14. Seven of these enquiries later resulted in the Society receiving a formal complaint from the enquirer.

Disciplinary Tribunal: No new matters were referred to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal (the Tribunal) during the 2014/15 year. Two matters were dealt with by the Tribunal with a finding of unsatisfactory professional conduct against one practitioner and findings of unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct against another practitioner. The Society withdrew two of its disciplinary applications against one practitioner following a resolution reached with the practitioner. The Society has one disciplinary application initiated during the 2013/14 year still pending before the Tribunal.

Outcomes

1. Dismissed s478 11 (58%),
2. Dismissed s498 6 (32%),
3. Withdrawn 1 (5%),
4. Dealt with summarily s499 1 (5%).

Total 19 (100%)

There were no appeals initiated either by a complainant or a legal practitioner during the 2014/15 year against any of the Society’s decisions during the year to dismiss a complaint or to summarily deal with a complaint pursuant to section 499 of the Legal Profession Act 2006.

Kellie Grainger
Manager Regulatory Services

1. Urbis, 2014 Law Society National Profile, April 2015,
2. Ibid, page 2
Trust accounts

The Manager Regulatory Services continues to have oversight of trust account supervision.

Entrusted funds held by account type

1 Total general trust monies as at 31 March 2015 $28,159,537.63,
2 Total controlled monies as at 31 March 2015 $7,717,882.93

Compliance and notifications The Society has this year pursued ongoing system reviews to assist in the compliance processes for annual trust account notifications from law practices. This resulted in the Society achieving by 9 July 2015 full compliance with the requirement that all law practices (including barristers who are sole practitioners) provide the Society with an Annual Declaration Part A regarding whether or not they have received or held trust monies during the 2014/15 trust account year which ended on 31 March 2015.

The Society is continuing to work with law practices about compliance with other annual reporting obligations. Non-compliance with trust accounting obligations, including the annual reporting obligations, can result in a conduct investigation for the principal or principals of a law practice.

Investigations The Society has sought out suitably qualified candidates locally and interstate for individual appointments to undertake trust account investigations as required, particularly in relation to identified concerns arising from conduct complaints or routine trust notifications from law practices (or lack thereof).

Barristers and law practices with trust accounts

1 Barristers with trust accounts 1,
2 Barristers without trust accounts 47,
3 Law practices with trust accounts 54,
4 Law practice without trust accounts 16.
External examinations The Society has continued to utilise an annual renewal process for the designation of appropriately qualified persons to be appointed as external examiners. The eligibility requirements continue to be reviewed and considered by the Society.

For the current trust account period (commencing 1 April 2015) there were 16 designated external examiners. The Society also consented to the appointment of 13 external examiner assistants.

Trust accounts in the jurisdiction There were 55 law practices operating a general trust accounts including 1 barrister as at 30 June 2015, up slightly from 52 as at 30 June 2014.

During the year, 9 law practices operated controlled money accounts—a similar level to last year (10 law practices).

Reporting of irregularities The Society received a total of 41 notifications from 13 law practices of identified irregularities with trust money or trust records during the 2014/15 year. More than half of the irregularities arose from clients directly depositing trust money to law practices’ office bank accounts. Staff members of law practices were the next largest source of irregularities (27%) and generally these irregularities arose from errors with record keeping or erroneously depositing trust money to the office account.

Kellie Grainger
Manager Regulatory Services

Irregularities initiated by
1 Bank 1 (2%), 2 Client 21 (51%), 3 Practitioner 7 (17%), 4 Staff member 11 (27%), 5 Other party 1 (2%). Total 41 (100%)

Identified irregularities by type
1 Trust money in office account 23 (56%), 2 Non-trust money in trust account 5 (12%), 3 Incorrect payment out of trust 4 (10%), 4 Incorrect ledger posting 4 (10%), 5 Other 5 (12%). Total 41 (100%)
Continuing Professional Development

The Society continues to be the pre-eminent provider of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) delivering 58 CPD events in 2014/15 to over 1,152 attendees. The Society is pleased to deliver CPD events from its own premises and reducing the costs of delivery, giving practitioners more opportunities to meet their commitment to CPD.

The Society achieved a professional and diverse program that was delivered across the Territory with particular emphasis on Northern Territory content unlikely to be available from other providers.

Important highlights of 2014/15:

- 2014/15 saw a decline in average attendance to 20 per CPD compared with 26 in the prior year. Further analysis is required to understand this trend, however the Society remains committed to delivering a broad range of content, skill levels and competencies.

- The Society delivered a total of 58 CPD events in 2014/15 compared to 57 for 2013/14. Over the past 5 years the maximum has been 66 events and the minimum 46.

- The Society delivered a total of 76.5 CPD units. Over the past 5 years the maximum has been 99 in 2012/13 with the minimum of 72 in 2013/14.

- Society aims to reduce the call on the Fidelity Fund to deliver the CPD program and to that end, a minimum price of $80 per hour is set for events up to 4.5 hours (4.5 points).

Events of longer duration are discretionary with minimum $400. In 2014/15 major CPDS were:

- Family Law Conference 7.5 hours $462 (excl GST) – 57 attendees
- One Day CPD Intensive 6 hours $440 (excl GST) – 24 attendees
- Advocacy Workshop 10 hours $450 (excl GST)* – 39 attendees

These prices compare favourably with the market where events charge in excess of $1,200 for a 10-point event.

The Society is indebted to many that provide time and resources to delivering the program. Particular thanks is extended to Judge Peter Cole, the Federal Circuit Court and Federal Court; the Local Court; Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission and North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency. This is not an exhaustive list. Importantly thanks also go to Bella Basilides, the Secretariat and the CPD Committee that continue to devise and deliver a high-quality and comprehensive spectrum of CPD.

Sponsorship of the CPD program is provided by legalsuper; their support is greatly appreciated by the Society and its members.

Megan Lawton
Chief Executive Officer

* Note: Held in 2013/14 not 2014/15 period.
We would like to thank...

Ben Grimes
Bev Clark
Brenda Monaghan
Brianna Bell
Bruce Taylor
Cecil Black
Claire Wyatt
Cheryl Richardson
David Morris
Deborah Noll
Dr Danial Kelly
Dr David Chapman
Dr Geoffrey M. Boyce
Dr John Lowndes CM
Dr Joe McIntyre
Dr Paul Pers
Felicity Gerry QC
Graham Nicholson
Greg Phelps
James G. Gaykamangu
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Jane LeMessurier
Jane Lloyd
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Jon Tippett QC
Jonathan Kneebone
Judge Alexandra Harland
Judge David Dunkley
Judge Giles Coakes
Judge Janet Terry
Judge Peter Cole
Judge Stephen Scarlett
Judge Stuart Roberts
Judge Tony Young
Kellie Grainger
Ken Parish
Kevin Stephens
Kon Karapanagiotidis OAM
Kris Norrington
Koulla Roussos
Lyma Nguyen
Marie Jepson
Mark O'Reilly
Mark Thomas
Markus Spazzapan
Meredith Dickson
Melissa Yates
Merran Short
Michael O'Donnell
Nick Gaudion
Nick Johansen
Patrick McIntyre
Paul Maher
Peggy Cheong
Peter Fanning
Peter Hanlon
Professor Ned Aughterson
Rebekah O’Meagher
Rennie Anderson
Rex Wild QC
Russell Goldflam
Sabrineh Ardalan
Sara Lane
Saverio Scriva
Suzie Gye
Stuart Teicher
Sue Harrington
Terri Mottershead
The Hon John Elferink MLA
The Hon Chief Justice Trevor Riley
The Hon Justice Christine Dawe
The Hon Justice Graham Hiley
The Hon Justice Robert Benjamin
The Hon Justice Victoria Bennett
Tony Whitelum
Verity Brown
Vernon Sawers
Wade Roper
The Northern Territory Young Lawyers (NTYL) Committee has been active in 2015 in putting on a number of key events for the profession, with the goal of providing support to young lawyers in the Territory and showcasing their talents.

Outlined below are the main activities for NTYL in 2015 so far.

**Welcome Drinks: 6 March 2015** NTYL hosted its welcome drinks for the coming year, at Viva La Vida. There was a fantastic turnout and it was great for several new arrivals in Darwin to get to know the profession.

**Legal Forum on Capital Punishment: 24 March 2015** Presented by Felicity Gerry QC, NTYL hosted a Legal Forum on Capital Punishment. Ms Gerry’s presentation discussed the notion that many drug traffickers may have been coerced into their course of conduct by threats and intimidation from more powerful drug dealers.

**Lunch and Learn with Riley CJ and Blokland J: 9 April 2015** Chief Justice Riley and Justice Blokland met with a number of enthusiastic young lawyers to have an informal conversation with their Honours over a light lunch. The conversation covered a range of matters, from technical aspects of advocacy, to matters of ethics and professional responsibility, and to client management and other core skills.

**The Great Debate: 11 May 2015** To celebrate the start of Law Week, NTYL hosted the annual Great Debate. Three junior lawyers were pitted up against three senior lawyers to debate the topic ‘young lawyers do it better’. The seniors, who had the affirmative case, were comprised of Michael Grant QC, Peggy Cheong and Duncan McConnell, while the juniors were comprised of Courtney Grant, Kate Bulling and Peter Clayton. The event ran smoothly and was highly entertaining.

**Welcome to the Dry Drinks: 17 July 2015** NTYL hosted a dry season drinks at night il Lido, with the Darwin Waterfront as our backdrop. There was a great turnout and a delightful evening was had by all, particularly the winners of the wine raffle.

**NTYL Handbook for New Practitioners** Thanks to a generous grant from the Law Society Public Purposes Trust, the NTYL are currently in the process of preparing a handbook for new practitioners. It is hoped that the handbook will provide some guidance for new lawyers in all areas, with practice management suggestions and practical tips. We plan to finalise it by the end of the year.

Hugh Bond
President NTYL
Committee membership terms of reference

**Ethics Committee** considers the reports of investigators and makes recommendations to Council and the CEO.

**Chairperson:** Peggy Cheong  
**Members:** Tass Liveris, Caitlyn Perry (community representative), David Alderman, Eileen Terrill, Kerry Sibley, Margaret Romeo, Peter Mariotto, Jeff Collins, Duncan McConnel, Eliza Collier  
**Secretariat:** Kellie Grainger, Megan Lawton

**CPD/CDU Committee** supervises and directs the delivery of the CPD program, considers CPD rules and regulation and comments on legal education issues.

**Chairperson:** Mark O'Reilly*, Tass Liveris  
**Members:** Mark O'Reilly, Kerry Sibley, Cecil Black*, Emma Farnell, Candice Maclean, Georgia McMaster, Ryan Sanders, Melissa Dunn, Lauren Macaulay, Lyma Nguyen, Sall Forrest, Stephanie Campbell, Andrew George  
**Secretariat:** Kellie Grainger, Megan Lawton, Bella Basilides

**Professional Indemnity Committee** considers all issues relating to the Professional Indemnity Insurance Scheme in the Northern Territory.

**Chairperson:** Peggy Cheong*, Tass Liveris  
**Members:** Candice Maclean, Duncan McConnel, Maria Savvas, Peggy Cheong  
**Secretariat:** Julie Davis, Megan Lawton

**Commercial Law Committee** considers all areas of law and legislative reform relevant to the practice of a commercial lawyer at a local and national level.

**Chairperson:** Lyn Bennett  
**Members:** Brett Midena, Gordon Berner, Guy Riley, Richard Henschke, Emma Farnell, Pipina Papazoglou, Daniel Kelly  
**Secretariat:** Megan Lawton

**Family Law Committee** considers all matters relevant to family law practices.

**Chairperson:** Megan Lawton  
**Members:** Diana Elliott, Sally Bolton, Eileen Terrill, Clara Mills, Tracey Marris, Jaquie Palavra, John Stirk, Mark O’Reilly, Rowena Petrenas, Matthew Strong, Tessa Czislowki, Penny Johnston, Stuart Barr  
**Secretariat:** Kellie Grainger, Megan Lawton

**Legal Practice Committee** considers all areas of legal practice excluding commercial law and family law matters including alternate dispute resolution.

**Chairperson:** Peggy Cheong*, Tass Liveris  
**Members:** Candice Maclean, Peggy Cheong, Duncan McConnel, David Alderman, Melissa Dunn, Ben O’Loughlin, Jeff Collins, Brad Mortimer  
**Secretariat:** Kellie Grainger, Megan Lawton, Marian Wilson

**Social Justice Committee** incorporates the work of the Indigenous Legal Issues Committee and the Criminal Justice Committee and considers all issues relating to social justice issues at a local and national level.

**Chairperson:** Peggy Cheong*, Tass Liveris  
**Members:** Peggy Cheong, Jared Sharp, Lisa Coffey, Tony Whitelum, Russell Goldflam, Seranie Gamble, Vicki Toong*, Madeleine Rowley, Mr Roy*, Sally Sievers, Brenda Monaghan, Jeff Collins, Adam Harwood, Clare McKenzie  
**Secretariat:** Megan Lawton, Lily North, Marian Wilson

**Reconciliation Action Plan Committee** works to deliver the outcomes of the Law Society’s Reconciliation Action Plan.

**Chairperson:** Fiona Hussin*, David Woodroffe  
**Members:** Tass Liveris, Seranie Gamble, Peggy Cheong, David Woodroffe, Jared Sharp, John Rawnsley, Hannah Roe*, Tanya Pass, Natasha O’Connell, Trish Rigby, Kirsten Campbell*  
**Secretariat:** Megan Lawton, Marian Wilson

*Committee members that have resigned during the year. Committee appointments are for one year but members may be re-appointed. Appointment/removal of members is by resolution of Council. Committees Charter approved and available on the Society’s website.
The Society provides a Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) Scheme pursuant to the *Legal Profession Act* (Act). The PII Committee is responsible for Society policy in relation to the PII Scheme and obtaining a policy of insurance each year.

A separate Claims Management Committee considers information about the source and progress of claims to assist the Society’s risk management measures; importantly, effective information barriers are in place to maintain confidentiality and separation from the Society’s regulatory and oversight functions.

“The 2014/15 year brought several challenges for the PII Committee’s consideration.”

On 3 December 2014, the federal government publically released the Productivity Commission’s report into access to justice arrangements, which recommended an independent national review of PII requirements for the legal profession. The Commission recommended the review look at:

- Whether current restrictions on competition are in the best interests of consumers of legal services;
- Whether existing minimum standards are consistent with principles of good regulatory practice; and
- Whether existing institutional arrangements are best-suited to the provision of insurance, given the varying functions institutions play in each jurisdiction.

![PII historical premiums](chart)

The total premium payable on a per practitioner basis for those firms with a risk management discount over the past 10 years.
On 1 July 2015 the uniform law commenced in New South Wales and Victoria, bringing substantial changes to the regulatory system of those jurisdictions and highlighting the challenge of jurisdiction based policies.

Another important Committee achievement was the ‘Exemptions Policy’ approved by Council on 30 April 2015. This policy is used in the determination of exemption applications and was first applied to applications for exemption in the 2015/16 year. Exemptions must be sought each year and exemption in one year does not guarantee exemption in the following year. The policy:

- Ensures that applications for exemption are determined with consistency and fairness;
- Ensures that exemptions are granted in accordance with the Act and the Regulations.
- Details the principles to be applied and the basis upon which the Society may exempt legal practitioners from the requirement to be insured under the Act;

The Committee secured a competitive premium for the 2015/16 renewal, retaining insurance with QBE Insurance Australia; ultimately an increase of approximately 7% per practitioner was achieved. In recommending continued insurance with QBE, the Committee considered alternative providers, global insurance trends, fluctuations in the number of practitioners and the claims history. This is a great outcome in all of the circumstances and was made possible by the tireless efforts and expertise of the Society’s broker, Marsh Pty Ltd, and in particular by the NT Executive Cheryl Richardson.

Marsh continues to provide valuable assistance and advice throughout the renewal process to the Society and the profession and with their assistance, the Society secured the best possible deal in the prevailing market conditions.

2015 marks a significant milestone in the relationship between the Society and Marsh achieving 20 years of successful partnership. Over this time, Marsh assisted the Society to face challenges such as the collapse of HIH Insurance and this enduring commitment is greatly appreciated by the Society and the profession generally. We look forward to many more successful years in the future.

In the future the PII Committee will continue to assist the Society in responding to:

- The sustainability of the Scheme;
- The national appetite for deregulation of PII schemes;
- The adequacy of protection of the public;
- Emerging trends and alternative models; and
- The impact of the uniform law on PII.

The Committee will continue to monitor and contribute to these national conversations. I thank all of the members of the Committee for their detailed consideration of these issues in the past year and look forward to this work continuing into 2016.

Tass Liveris
Chairperson
The Law Society Public Purposes Trust (PPT) calls for applications for grants twice per year in January and July by advertising in the NT News and Centralian Advocate. All applications are considered in the context of the following objects:

1. To advance the education of the community, and any section of it, with respect to the law;
2. To advance the collection, assessment and dissemination to the community, and any section of it, of information relating to the law;
3. To improve the access of the community, and any section of it, to legal services;
4. To improve the quality, standard and effectiveness of legal services available to the community or any section of it; and
5. To protect any member of the community using or seeking to use legal services.

The Society thanks outgoing Allocations Committee member Jacquie Palavra for her valuable contribution and welcomes incoming member Josine Wynberg. Josine joined ongoing members Alastair Shields and Tass Liveris to appraise the 28 grant applications which were received during the year for funding totalling $1,133,442. For 2014/15, the Northern Territory Attorney-General, the Hon. John Elferink MLA, approved a total of $834,248 in grants as set out in the attached table.

Dagmar Brautigam
Secretary
PPT Approved Grants 14/15

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<th>Project</th>
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<td>Barkley Youth Services</td>
<td>Remote Court Support Services to 11–20 year olds.</td>
<td>$45,455</td>
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<td>NAAJA</td>
<td>Pilot program – peer influence to divert young people from the legal system</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
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<td>Aboriginal Resource &amp; Development Services</td>
<td>English – Yolngu Matha legal dictionary.</td>
<td>$49,975</td>
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<td>Multicultural Youth NT</td>
<td>Asylum Seeker Community Education Project</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>AustLII Foundation Ltd</td>
<td>Electronic Northern Territory Law Handbook via AustLII website.</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italk Library</td>
<td>Multimedia resource relating to rights in police custody.</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law Society Northern Territory</td>
<td>Opening of the Legal Year 2015 and 2016</td>
<td>$12,970</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Territory Council for Human Rights Education</td>
<td>Teaching resources and skills for public education in International Humanitarian Law.</td>
<td>$20,950</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service</td>
<td>Youth Justice Advocacy Program</td>
<td>$19,995</td>
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<td>Law Society Northern Territory</td>
<td>Little Red Book of Advocacy 2nd edition</td>
<td>$10,897</td>
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<td>Law Society Northern Territory</td>
<td>Law Week 2015</td>
<td>$22,415</td>
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<td>Northern Territory Young Lawyers</td>
<td>Young Lawyers Handbook</td>
<td>$1,090</td>
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<td>Northern Territory Community Legal Education Network</td>
<td>Plain language online legal information portal</td>
<td>$87,700</td>
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<td>Central Australian Women’s Legal Service</td>
<td>Educational video resource regarding domestic and family violence and child protection.</td>
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<td>Darwin Asylum Seeker Support and Advocacy Network</td>
<td>Asylum Seeker Legal Advocacy Education Project</td>
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<td>Pro Bono program sessions in Northern Territory</td>
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<td>Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission</td>
<td>Culturally appropriate legal education kit re legal system, laws affecting Indigenous people in town camps and communities.</td>
<td>$71,086</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Defenders Office (NT) Inc.</td>
<td>Operational funding</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency</td>
<td>Legal education workshops in Darwin and remote communities, videos, documentaries exploring key issues.</td>
<td>$80,852</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law Society Northern Territory</td>
<td>Language and the Law II Conference</td>
<td>$12,273</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dept. of the Legislative Assembly</td>
<td>Careers in Law’ forum for school students</td>
<td>$974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total 14/15 Grants</strong>                                                   **</td>
<td>$834,248</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Commercial Law Committee

On behalf of the Society I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretariat and the members of the Committee for their efforts throughout the year. This year again found the Committee less busy than has been the case is recent years.

**Contract of Sale** The Committee continues its review of the current Law Society approved Contract of Sale used in most residential conveyancing transactions in the Northern Territory to accommodate changes in legislation which occurred since it was last adopted. Our previous expectation that we would have achieved this in this financial year has not been fulfilled, but we expect to have the amended version approved by the Registrar in the forthcoming months.

**National E-Conveyancing Scheme** The Commercial Law Committee has again continued its contribution to the Law Council’s working group in the development of the documents and processes necessary to operate the National E-Conveyancing Scheme. The Scheme has now been in operation in some other states for a short while, at preliminary levels, and will continue to be expanded in its capacity and into other jurisdictions over the coming years. It is still not yet known when the Northern Territory will join the Scheme.

**Model Uniform Torrens Title System** There is nothing further to report on this as various jurisdictions have expressed the desire not to progress the proposal until e-conveyancing is more bedded down.

**Business tenancies** The Northern Territory Government has reported that the existing Act will be repealed only after a code of conduct has been structured and put in place. We have been given no timescale for this to be done.

**Unit title legislative reforms** Again, the drafts of the proposed unit title reforms are still on the drawing board within government, but the year has seen the commencement on 1 January 2015 of the Termination of Units Plans and Unit Title Schemes Act, which represents a truly valiant attempt by the Northern Territory Government to grapple with issues which are still beyond the reach of other jurisdictions, both in Australia and overseas. The Act provides a process for termination of unit title schemes which by reason of age, condition or other factors have, in the opinion of a required majority of owners, reached the end of their practical usefulness as currently operating. Time will tell as to the extent to which the legislation will be utilised by unit owners desirous of redevelopment of sites in the NT, but the stepping stones have been laid for those seeking a new path to resolution of conflicting interests in such matters. It will be interesting to monitor the progress of somewhat similar legislation which has been tabled for discussion now in NSW and probably in other jurisdictions in due course. Always a pleasure to see a small jurisdiction such as the Northern Territory blazing a trail which others may follow.

My thanks, as always, to my Committee. We would prefer to be more challenged by property and commercial matters than we have been in the last couple of years but perhaps the new year will bring to us matters of interest.

Lyn Bennett
Chairperson
Family Law Committee

The Society’s important work on developing guidelines for legal practitioners working in the care and protection jurisdiction has continued. The members of the Family Law Committee and the working group have contributed many hours of work to progress the Protocols for Legal Representatives engaged under the Care and Protection of Children Act (NT).

Consultation with members of the Family Law Committee and a small working group continued throughout the year along with engagement with stakeholders such as the Department of Children and Families and magistrates practising in this area. The protocols are designed to assist by outlining the practical, legal and ethical obligations of legal representatives acting for children in the Northern Territory Local Court. The protocols are close to being finalised and the Society hopes to publish them in the coming year.

The Society’s Family Law Conference refresher has now become an annual event. In 2015 it expanded to a one and a half-day conference, the ‘Start at the Top’ Family Law Conference. The Society is grateful for the continued support of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia and the Family Law Court who generously facilitate a number of judicial officers attending and presenting at the conference. Planning for the 2016 conference is already underway. The Family Law Committee is taking an active role in developing the conference program and sourcing presenters. Their insight and support is invaluable and will contribute to making the conference useful and informative to family lawyers across the NT and attractive to interstate colleagues.

We express particular thanks to Judge Peter Cole of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia for his energetic and innovative role in the conference.

Throughout the year, the Family Law Committee considered a variety of access to justice issues impacting on the family law arena including access to family law clients in custody and their participation in proceedings, delivery of court services to regional areas, access for practitioners to safe and appropriate facilities at court and significant increases to court fees. The members of the Family Law Committee have assisted and supported the Society’s advocacy on these important issues for Northern Territory residents.

Membership of the Committee has fluctuated during the year and a number of new committee members have recently been recruited to bolster the committee numbers.

I take this opportunity to thank the members of the Family Law Committee for their time and valued contribution to the Society’s work.

Megan Lawton
Chairperson
In 2015, the Legal Practice Committee has continued to meet bimonthly. I thank all of the members of the Legal Practice Committee, who as volunteers have made substantial contributions to the work of this committee throughout the year.

At both Territory and federal levels, there has been substantial law reform in the past 12 months and much of this has been within the scope of the Committee’s functions. In 2015, members of the Committee have considered and made submissions on a wide range of both substantive and procedural matters in the area of legal practice. These include:

- Submissions to the Legal Services Council, Law Council of Australia and the Australian Bar Association concerning the uniform law and the draft general rules as well as the rules of legal practice, legal professional conduct and continuing professional development, as well as consideration of consequential matters arising from the commencement of the uniform law in New South Wales and Victoria on 1 July 2015.

- A submission to the Supreme Court concerning the calculation of the rate per unit for solicitors under the Supreme Court Rules.

- Submissions to government in relation to the amendments to the Local Court Act, which included increasing the jurisdictional limit of the Local Court from $100,000 to $250,000.

- Consideration of case flow management in the Local Court, including in relation to settlement conferences and mediations.

- Consideration of the reforms of the lower courts and tribunals more broadly, including the commencement of the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NTCAT) and the ongoing expansion of NTCAT’s jurisdiction.

- Organising and attending user consultations with NTCAT.

- Consideration of the reforms to summary procedures.

- A submission to the Supreme Court in relation to the fixing of the 2016 civil trial windows.

- Consideration of increases in the Supreme Court fees from 1 July 2015.

- Consideration of strategies about the rate of legal aid payable to the private profession.

- Submissions in relation to the academic pre-requisites for admission to the profession i.e. the Priestley 11 discussion.

- Meetings and consultations with costs assessors.

- Submissions in relation to the reforms to the Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act.

- Participation in various court users groups.

These have all been very important issues which in many instances will effect significant change in legal practice. Many of these issues will continue to be relevantly considered by the Committee as the reforms continue to take shape and are implemented, particularly in relation to the amendments to jurisdiction and the changes to procedure.

The Committee will continue to monitor developments in these areas and make submissions as appropriate. Practitioners will be required to become familiar with the impact of these changes on their practices and the commencement dates for legislation, as well as any consequential or other practice directions that may result.

Tass Liveris
Chairperson
The Committee plays an important role in the Law Society’s work. It brings together practitioners from a range of practice areas, functions and other demographics to consider social justice and access to justice issues in the Northern Territory.

The Committee provides advice and makes recommendations to the Society in relation to social justice and access to justice issues. The Society’s Pro Bono Clearing House (PBCH) also reports to and is a crucial part of the Committee. I thank Lily North for her great and important work as the Society’s Pro Bono Coordinator. I also thank all of the members of this Committee, which meets monthly, for their commitment. This year, the Committee welcomed the Information Commissioner and an officer of the Children’s Commissioner to the Committee as observers. The Committee also enjoys the ongoing participation of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, in addition to extremely diverse practitioner involvement from across the Territory.

Legal practitioners in the Northern Territory face unique challenges in representing clients and the Society plays an important role in supporting practitioners. Whilst the work of the Committee can extend to all practice areas, the work of the Committee this year has had a large focus on imprisonment, Indigenous and asylum seeker issues, as well as the huge output achieved by Ms North and the PBCH. In 2015, the work of the Committee has included:

• Consideration of the Northern Territory government’s paperless arrest scheme.

• Ongoing issues with the expansion of the prison numbers in the Northern Territory, both in the juvenile and adult population. For a long time, the Northern Territory has housed the greatest number of prisoners per 100,000 of the population in the country. Additionally, the ratio of Indigenous prisoners in the Northern Territory far exceeds the national averages and these numbers continue to grow. The Northern Territory prison population numbers are of great concern to the Committee and it takes a keen interest in advocating for strategies that are designed to reduce prisoner numbers through preventing offending and reducing recidivism, rather than through a justice system that is geared towards imprisonment as a response to criminal activity.

• In 2014, the new Darwin Correctional Centre opened and this brought fresh challenges to the profession. The Committee has been actively engaged in considering concerns and issues at the new prison, including entry screening, the obtaining of biometric data, privacy, file searches, cell searches and the preservation of legal professional privilege in mail and other areas. The Society has been regularly meeting with the Department of Corrections in relation to these issues and has been instrumental in achieving some positive outcomes in a strategic and targeted way.

• Youth detention issues, including housing juvenile offenders at the old Berrimah Prison and the naming and shaming of youth.

• Changes to police procedures, such as trialling the use of body-worn cameras.

• The ongoing consideration of the wide range of access to justice issues for people in immigration detention in the Northern Territory. Kon Karapanagiotidis OAM, the CEO of the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, was the Society’s guest speaker at the Law Week celebrations in Darwin and Alice Springs. Audiences at the Society’s events were able to listen to Mr Karapanagiotidis OAM speak passionately about his views on what the future direction of Australian asylum seeker policy should be.

• The Society is represented on the Law Council of Australia’s access to justice, Indigenous issues, criminal law and human rights committees. I thank each of the representatives on these committees for the important work they have done and continue to do in advancing the Northern Territory’s interests in these national groups.

The Committee will continue to progress these issues in the forthcoming year, together with any new issues which may arise.

Tass Liveris
Chairperson
The Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Committee had a very busy year, starting with preparing and settling on a Reconciliation Action Plan.

The RAP was launched at the Society’s Annual Dinner in August 2014 by Ms Djapirri Mununggirritj, an Aboriginal Elder from Reconciliation Australia along with traditional dancers from the One Mob dancers.

Having a RAP has allowed the Society to reflect upon its practices and procedures and to identify ways in which it can develop better relationships while exploring our sphere of influence.

The following outlines some of the key achievements of the Society thanks to the RAP Committee; but is by no means exhaustive:

• Finalised and launched the Second Edition of Indigenous Protocols for Lawyers;

• Developed Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country Protocols which were adopted by Council;

• Sponsored both the National Indigenous Legal Conference, and the Language and the Law II Conference;

• Increased its consultation with various Aboriginal organisations and increased Aboriginal participation on several of its committees;

• Invested in various Aboriginal owned or made products and services;

• Discussed our RAP with our key sponsors; Marsh, Telco, legalsuper, JANA and Coleman’s Printing;

• Recognised the achievements of Indigenous legal practitioners and students in articles featuring in the Balance Magazine;

• Celebrated National Reconciliation Week;

• Celebrated NAIDOC week;

• Ran a number of social media campaigns and a competition;

• Hosted the Law Council of Australia Directors with an important introduction to customary law;

• Hosted a number of CPD presentations in Darwin and Alice Springs that particularly related to issues affecting Aboriginal people.

Our congratulations and thanks go out to our RAP Committee members.

Megan Lawton
Chief Executive Officer
Secretariat

CEO Unit

Megan Lawton
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

The Legal Profession Act creates the position of CEO of the Society. Pursuant to s641 of the LPA the CEO is, subject to the directions of the Council, responsible for the day-to-day management of the Society’s affairs. Pursuant to the LPA the CEO has roles as public or principal officer under the Associations Act and Ombudsman Act. The CEO is a member of the Funds Management Committee. In general terms, the CEO is responsible for developing and overseeing the implementation and reporting against the strategic plan of the Society and particularly developing and maintaining relationships with stakeholders. The CEO is responsible for the Society’s advocacy including oversight of submissions and representing the profession on various committees and working groups.

Yvette Buffon
Administration Support Officer and Publications Officer (ASO)

The ASO provides general administrative assistance to the Secretariat. The ASO is charged with collating content and overseeing the publication for the Society’s Balance magazine and oversight of templates. The position also assists with setting up meetings and events and general administrative services.

Marian Wilson
Senior Policy Lawyer (SPL)

The SPL supports the Society’s advocacy work by undertaking research and preparing submissions and reports on behalf of the Society. The SPL participates in various committees, providing executive support and research. The SPL participates in many Law Council of Australia national networks and represents the Society in other forums. The SPL is responsible for the publication of the Society’s e-newsletter, Practitioner.

Lily North
Executive Assistant and Pro Bono Coordinator (EA)

This role provides administrative support to the CEO and to the Corporate Services Manager. The role is responsible for executive support to the Council, Executive and other committees including meetings, calendar and travel. The role has primary responsibility for preparation of meeting materials including agenda, minutes and action items.

The Pro Bono Coordinator oversees the processing and reporting of applications to the Pro Bono Clearing House and manages the pro bono register.

Corporate Services Unit

Julie Davis
Corporate Services Manager (CSM)

The CSM is responsible for the finances and financial records of the Law Society Northern Territory, the Law Society Public Purposes Trust, Northern Territory Council of Law Reporting Inc., and the Legal Practitioners’ Fidelity Fund and participates in various committees. The role includes management of human and administrative resources, delivery of services to Council and members, oversight of IT and other office systems. Additionally, the role undertakes the functions of Secretary of the Legal Practitioners Fidelity Fund and minute secretary to the Executive.

Dagmar Brautigam
Finance Officer (FO)

The FO provides bookkeeping and payroll services to the Corporate Services Unit in relation to the accounts of the Society, Legal Practitioners’ Fidelity Fund, Law Society Public Purposes Trust and Northern Territory Council of Law Reporting and is also Secretary of the Law Society Public Purposes Trust.

Ella King
Reception and Administration Assistant (RAA)

The part-time RAA deals with general enquiries from members and the public and provides general information, attends to daily incoming and outgoing mail services. The position assists the Secretariat with administrative duties including but not limited to filing, data entry and undertaking special projects as required.
Regulatory Services Unit

Kellie Grainger
Manager Regulatory Services (MRS)

The MRS develops policy documents and guidelines relating to professional standards of legal practitioners. The MRS has management oversight of regulation, licensing and professional development. The MRS investigates complaints against legal practitioners and has the role of in-house Counsel. The MRS also prepares advice to the Council of the Society on the *Legal Profession Act* and comparative penalties. The MRS provides regulatory oversight of the management of trust accounts under the *Legal Profession Act 2006* and Regulations including external examination of trust accounts.

Danielle Sawyer
Licensing Officer (LO)

The LO has primary responsibility for the processing and administration of practising certificates and provides information to practitioners and members of the public in relation to legal practice in the Northern Territory as well as membership and general queries. The position also provides secretariat support to the Legal Practitioners Admission Board. The LO provides assistance to the MRS and maintains operational databases.

Bella Basilides
Professional Development Officer (PDO)

The PDO is the coordinator of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Program for the Society, in-line with the *Legal Profession Act 2006*. The role liaises with the CPD Committee to organise speakers, venues, videoconferencing and promotions. The role deals with member questions, management and record keeping of attendance and performs random audits of practitioners’ CPD declarations.

Pam Jaenke
Administration Officer Regulation and Events Coordinator (AOR)

The AOR provides administration support to the Regulatory Services Unit. This role includes maintaining the complaints database and reporting system while also providing administrative assistance to the PDO. The AOR also provides secretariat support to the Society’s CPD and Ethics Committees.

The Events Coordinator has oversight over the Society’s events and functions including CPDs.
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<tr>
<td>Notes to the financial statements</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statement by Council</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent audit report</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOTE</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
<th>2014 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>950,108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>90,489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepayments</td>
<td></td>
<td>999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1,041,596</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property, plant and equipment</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>95,042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intangible assets</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6,531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total non-current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>101,573</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1,143,169</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payables</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>98,078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unexpended funds</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>44,030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee benefits</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>52,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>194,452</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee benefits</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>89,536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>283,988</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>859,181</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MEMBERS EQUITY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated funds</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>859,181</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The notes on pages 6 to 11 are an integral part of these financial statements.
Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income
For the year ended 30 June 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOTE</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
<th>2014 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INCOME</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee expenses</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2,125,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation and amortisation</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,121,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td>26,311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENSES</td>
<td></td>
<td>921,528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer (to) unexpended funds</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>(44,030)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus for the year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other comprehensive income for the period</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total comprehensive income for the period</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The notes on pages 6 to 11 are an integral part of these financial statements.
Statement of changes in equity
for the year ended 30 June 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ACCUMULATED FUNDS $</th>
<th>TOTAL EQUITY $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BALANCE AT 1 JULY 2013</td>
<td>819,099</td>
<td>819,099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total comprehensive income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus for the year</td>
<td>27,219</td>
<td>27,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total comprehensive income for the year</strong></td>
<td>27,219</td>
<td>27,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2014</td>
<td>846,318</td>
<td>846,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALANCE AT 1 JULY 2014</td>
<td>846,318</td>
<td>846,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total comprehensive income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus for the year</td>
<td>12,863</td>
<td>12,863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total comprehensive income for the year</strong></td>
<td>12,863</td>
<td>12,863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2015</td>
<td>859,181</td>
<td>859,181</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Statement of cash flows

**As at 30 June 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash receipts from LPFF, PPT members and customers</td>
<td>1,984,535</td>
<td>1,729,316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash paid to suppliers and employees</td>
<td>(2,007,486)</td>
<td>(1,835,386)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash generated (used in)/from operations</td>
<td>(22,951)</td>
<td>(106,070)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash (used in)/from operating activities</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>(22,951)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest received</td>
<td>19,626</td>
<td>32,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisition of property, plant and equipment</td>
<td>(67,584)</td>
<td>(28,243)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash from /(used in) investing activities</strong></td>
<td>(47,958)</td>
<td>4,720</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash from/(used in) financing activities</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents</strong></td>
<td>(70,909)</td>
<td>(101,350)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Cash and cash equivalents at 1 July | 1,021,017 | 1,122,367 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June | 4 | 950,108 | 1,021,017 |

The notes on pages 6 to 11 are an integral part of these financial statements.
**Notes to the financial statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2015

1 **REPORTING ENTITY**

Law Society Northern Territory (the “Society”) is an entity domiciled in Australia. The address of the Society’s registered office is Level 3, 9 Cavenagh St, Darwin, NT 0800. The Society is a not-for-profit entity.

The Society has a dual role to act as both a regulatory body for the profession and a representative body for members. The Society is responsible for maintaining professional standards and hearing complaints against practitioners and also to represent the interests of the legal profession to the government, media, business and general community, and to professional organisations.

In the opinion of the Council, the Society is not a reporting entity because there are unlikely to exist users who are unable to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy all of their information needs. The financial statements of the Society have been prepared as a special purpose financial report for distribution to the members and the funding body to meet the requirements of the *Legal Profession Act* and the Society’s Constitution and Rules.

2 **BASIS OF PREPARATION**

(a) **Statement of compliance**

The special purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Legal Profession Act* and the Society’s Constitution and Rules and the recognition, measurement and classification aspects of all applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AASBs) adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB).

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis of accounting including the historical cost convention and the going concern assumption.

The accounting policies used in the preparation of this report, as described below, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Society’s Constitution and Rules and are, in the opinion of the Council, appropriate to meet the needs of members.

The specific accounting policies described in Note 3, which are consistent with the previous period have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report:

(b) **Basis of measurement**

The financial report is presented in Australian dollars and has been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

(c) **Use of estimates and judgements**

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other source. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The Society has consistently applied these accounting policies.

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and in any future period affected. The accounting polices set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in the financial report.
3 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The significant accounting policies which have been adopted in the preparation of these accounts are:

(a) Income tax
No provision has been made in the accounts for a tax liability. On 1 July 2001, the Society was endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as an income tax exempt body.

(b) Revenue
Income from the sale of goods and rendering of services is recognised in the income statement when the significant risks and ownership have been transferred to the buyer.

(c) Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash balances and term deposits.

(d) Receivables
The collectability of debts is assessed at reporting date and specific allowance is made for any doubtful accounts.

(e) Property, plant and equipment
Items of property, plant and equipment are recorded at cost and are depreciated as outlined below.

Items of property, plant and equipment are depreciated over their estimated useful lives in years. The reducing balance method of depreciation is used.

Any gain/loss on disposal of an item of property plant and equipment is recognised in the statement of profit or loss.

(f) Intangible assets
Intangible assets that are acquired by the Society, which have finite useful lives, are measured at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Amortisation is recognised in profit or loss on a reducing balance method over the estimated useful lives of the intangible assets from the date that they are available for use.

(g) Payables
Payables are stated at cost.

(h) Operating leases
Payments made under operating leases are expensed on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

(i) Employee entitlements
The provision for employee entitlements relates to amounts expected to be paid to employees for annual leave and long service leave and is based on legal and contractual entitlements and leave utilisation. The policy is to provide for long service leave after 3 years of service. Expected wage rates are used in the calculation of the provisions.

(j) Legal Practitioners Fidelity Funds
The Fidelity Fund grants comprises of funds received from the Legal Practitioners Fidelity Fund to meet the costs and expenses incurred by the Society in administering the Legal Profession Act.

Funds received from the Fidelity Fund are recognised as income in the year of receipt. Unexpended funds at year-end are reflected in the balance sheet as a liability, as these will usually be returned to the Fidelity Fund unless other arrangements have been agreed with the Funds Management Committee.
# Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
<th>2014 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank (Overdraft)</td>
<td>77,532</td>
<td>61,601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term deposits</td>
<td>872,576</td>
<td>959,416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>950,108</td>
<td>1,021,017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities

Cash flows from operating activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surplus for the year</th>
<th>12,863</th>
<th>27,219</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adjustments for:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>18,085</td>
<td>30,512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amortisation of intangible assets</td>
<td>8,226</td>
<td>2,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss on disposals of property plant and equipment</td>
<td>49,541</td>
<td>11,676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>(19,626)</td>
<td>(28,919)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in trade and other receivables</td>
<td>(46,042)</td>
<td>(2,282)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in trade and other payables</td>
<td>(73,206)</td>
<td>(189,372)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in provisions and employee benefits</td>
<td>22,323</td>
<td>46,578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash (used in)/ generated from operating activities</strong></td>
<td>(22,951)</td>
<td>(106,070)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net cash (used in)/ from operating activities | (22,951) | (106,070) |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5 INCOME</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
<th>2014 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fidelity funds</td>
<td>1,773,972</td>
<td>1,590,396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>351,888</td>
<td>366,681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td>2,125,860</td>
<td>1,957,077</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6 RECEIVABLES</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
<th>2014 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Debtors</td>
<td>65,627</td>
<td>17,608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued income</td>
<td>2,672</td>
<td>3,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security deposit</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GST receivable</td>
<td>21,890</td>
<td>16,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security Deposit Beagle House</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7,145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>90,489</td>
<td>44,447</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
<th>2014 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plant and equipment – at cost</td>
<td>108,700</td>
<td>106,381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>(58,128)</td>
<td>(60,338)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total at cost</strong></td>
<td>50,572</td>
<td>46,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and fittings – at cost</td>
<td>46,763</td>
<td>66,924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>(12,769)</td>
<td>(44,643)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total at cost</strong></td>
<td>33,994</td>
<td>22,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital renovations</td>
<td>10,662</td>
<td>51,339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>(186)</td>
<td>(24,613)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total non-current assets - at net book value</strong></td>
<td>95,042</td>
<td>95,050</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Plant and equipment reconciliation*

| | 2015 $ | 2014 $ |
| Carrying amount at beginning of year | 46,043 | 59,638 |
| Additions                           | 23,853 | 17,936 |
| Disposals                           | (4,561)| (10,553)|
| Adjustments/ Transfers during the year to intangible asset | - | 318 |
| Depreciation                        | (14,763)| (21,296)|
| Carrying amount at end of year      | 50,572 | 46,043 |
## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2015

### 7 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

#### Furniture and fittings reconciliation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015 $</th>
<th>2014 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carrying amount at beginning of year</td>
<td>22,281</td>
<td>26,579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions</td>
<td>33,069</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposals</td>
<td>(18,220)</td>
<td>(945)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>(3,136)</td>
<td>(3,353)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrying amount at end of year</td>
<td>33,994</td>
<td>22,281</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Capital renovations reconciliation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015 $</th>
<th>2014 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carrying amount at beginning of year</td>
<td>26,726</td>
<td>32,589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions</td>
<td>10,662</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposals</td>
<td>(26,726)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>(186)</td>
<td>(5,863)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrying amount at end of year</td>
<td>10,476</td>
<td>26,726</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 8 INTANGIBLE ASSETS

#### Software, website and database development – at cost

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015 $</th>
<th>2014 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carrying amount at beginning of year</td>
<td>65,941</td>
<td>70,091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Accumulated amortisation</td>
<td>(59,410)</td>
<td>(55,300)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6,531</td>
<td>14,791</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Intangible assets reconciliation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015 $</th>
<th>2014 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carrying amount at beginning of year</td>
<td>14,791</td>
<td>7,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposals/ write-offs</td>
<td>(34)</td>
<td>(198)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustments/ Transfers during the year from plant and equipment</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(318)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amortisation</td>
<td>(8,226)</td>
<td>(2,818)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrying amount at end of year</td>
<td>6,531</td>
<td>14,791</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9</th>
<th>PAYABLES</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
<th>2014 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trade creditors and other payables</td>
<td>51,920</td>
<td>58,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PAYG Tax clearing account</td>
<td>19,152</td>
<td>19,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Accrued charges</td>
<td>12,303</td>
<td>14,573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social club</td>
<td>2,211</td>
<td>1,433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Others</td>
<td>12,492</td>
<td>2,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>98,078</strong></td>
<td><strong>95,627</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10</th>
<th>UNEXPENDED FUNDS</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
<th>2014 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Balance as at beginning of year</td>
<td>119,687</td>
<td>316,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Funds received during the year</td>
<td>1,729,942</td>
<td>1,274,149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Funds expended</td>
<td>(1,805,599)</td>
<td>(1,470,709)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Balance at end of year</td>
<td>44,030</td>
<td>119,687</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11</th>
<th>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
<th>2014 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Current</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual leave</td>
<td>52,344</td>
<td>59,235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Non-current</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Long service leave</td>
<td>89,536</td>
<td>60,322</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12</th>
<th>AUDITORS’ REMUNERATION</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
<th>2014 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Audit and review of the financial statements</td>
<td>5,500</td>
<td>4,982</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Statement by Council

In the opinion of the Council of Law Society Northern Territory:

(a) the Society is not a reporting entity; and

(b) the financial statements, as set out on pages 2 to 11, being a special purpose financial report, are drawn up so as to present fairly the state of affairs of Law Society Northern Territory as at 30 June 2014 and the results of the Society for the financial year ended on that date in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1;

(c) the accounts of the Society have been properly prepared and are in accordance with the books of the account of the Society; and

(d) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Society will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

We confirm as follows:

(a) The name of each Council member during the relevant financial year were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tass Liveris</td>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candice Maclean</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josine Wynberg</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Collins</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Savvas</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Woodroffe</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma Farnell</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma Schulz</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suzi Kapetas</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sally Bolton</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony Whitelum</td>
<td>Alice Spring Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark O’Reilly</td>
<td>Alice Springs Alternate Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Alderman</td>
<td>NTBA Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hugh Bond</td>
<td>NTYL Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominic Gomez</td>
<td>NTYL Alternate Representative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) The principal activities of the Society during the relevant financial year were:

Carrying out the duties and functions as prescribed in the Legal Profession Act (2006).

(c) The net surplus of the Society for the relevant financial year was $12,863.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Council of the Society:

[Signature]

President

[Signature]

Treasurer

Dated at Darwin 15 day of September 2015.
Independent audit report

to the Council of Law Society Northern Territory

We have audited the accompanying special purpose financial report of Law Society Northern Territory ("the Society"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2015, the statement of profit and loss and other comprehensive income for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes, and the Statement by Council.


The Society’s Council is responsible for the preparation of the special purpose financial report, and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements are appropriate to meet the reporting requirements of the Legal Profession Act and the Society’s Constitution and Rules and are appropriate to meet the needs of the Society. The Society’s Council is also responsible for such controls as the Council determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor’s Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including the assessments of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Society’s preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society’s internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Council, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit we have met the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Auditor’s Opinion

In our opinion, the special purpose financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Law Society Northern Territory as of 30 June 2015 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared to assist Law Society Northern Territory to meet the reporting requirements of the Legal Profession Act and the Society’s Constitution and Rules. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Merit Partners

Merit Partners

DARWIN
25 September 2015

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