

Statistics from NSW

The Law Society of NSW surveys its membership annually at the time of issuing practising certificates and the results from this survey have recently been published.

This year's questions related to gender, nature of employment, dominant areas of practice, perceived growth areas, Internet access and income. 63% of the profession responded, giving a good sample of circumstances in the NSW profession.

75% of respondents were in private legal practice, with 9% working as corporate lawyers and 11% involved in governmental legal work. Of the respondents 31% of males but only 8% of females described themselves as partners. Correspondingly, relatively high proportions of the female respondents worked as lawyers in the corporate and government sectors (11% and 16% respectively)

52% worked in Sydney city with 24% in the suburbs and a further 12% in regional centres.

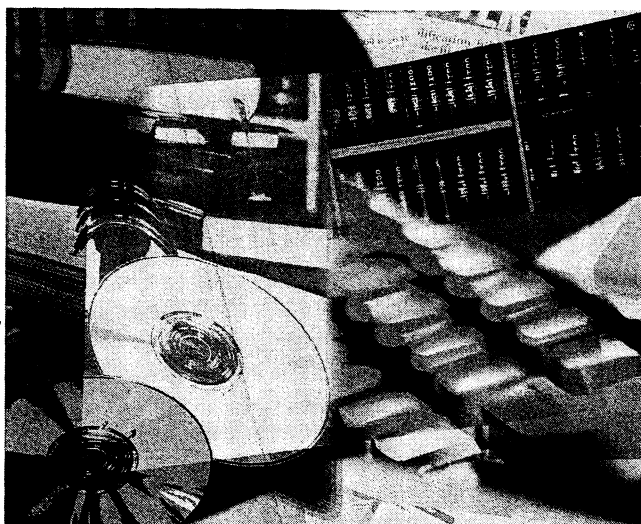
Although most respondents declared themselves to be in full-time work, the percentage of females who worked part-time (17%) was almost three times as high as males (6%).

Interestingly, almost 5% of those who said they worked part-time reported working more than 35 hours per week.

The most often reported specialty was conveyancing/real property, where 36% of all respondents spent at least one quarter of their time. Civil litigation, commercial law and personal injury were the next three most common categories.

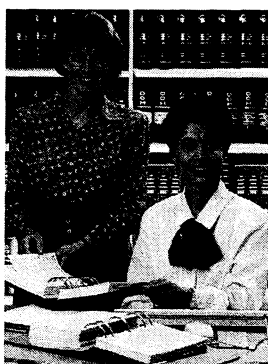
The trend toward use of modern communication techniques via connection to the Internet was most prevalent in the large and very large city firms and 36% of respondents reported having access to the Internet at work.

Questions on income produced some interesting results, most notable being that 41% earn less than \$50,000 pa (real take home pay, after expenses, but before tax). At the other end of the scale, 19% of respondents in both public and private practice earned more than \$100,000 pa. 24% of men but only 8% of women respondents were in this category.



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