

Reconciliation Action Plan



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The Society launched a Reconciliation Action Plan at the annual dinner on 23 August 2014. Reconciliation Action Plans, or RAPs, are an initiative of Reconciliation Australia.

The program was developed after the 40th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum - a defining moment in our nation's history, which saw 90 % of eligible Australians voting to count Aboriginal people in the

national census, and to grant the Commonwealth the power to make specific laws in respect of Aboriginal people.

The Society's RAP provides a framework to contribute towards reconciliation by developing business practices that are aimed at improving the well-being and quality of life of Indigenous Australians.

The Legal Profession in the Territory has a long history of working in collaboration with Indigenous groups and their supporters, with all of us continuing to nurture these relationships and celebrate success. However, the Society realises we have a lot to learn and our RAP is an opportunity to create new ideas and opportunities.

The actions outlined in our RAP support our quest for reconciliation. It is designed to continue past efforts and to provide structure for contributing to reconciliation through relationships, respect, education and other opportunities.

The image shows the cover of the 'Law Society Northern Territory Reconciliation Action Plan 2014-2015'. The cover features a vibrant, abstract design with wavy lines and dots in shades of brown, orange, and white. The text on the cover reads: 'LAW SOCIETY NORTHERN TERRITORY reconciliation action plan 2014-2015'. At the bottom left, there is a logo for 'Reconciliation ACTION PLAN REFLECT RAP' and the 'LAW SOCIETY NORTHERN TERRITORY' logo.

LAW SOCIETY NORTHERN TERRITORY
reconciliation action plan
2014-2015



Pro Bono

The Society thanks those practitioners that have registered to provide pro-bono assistance. Applications are assessed by a panel and those that are eligible on financial and merits criteria are sent to the register in the hope that someone is available to assist. There is no obligation and frequently the assistance that applicants are eligible for is limited by the panel.

The Society continues to receive inquiries, and unfortunately there are a number of eligible applicants that have not been assisted as no-one on the register were available. You can join the register at any time and we encourage practitioners to check with their employer to ensure they are able to provide this much needed service to the community.

Renewal of Practising Certificates

I congratulate the profession and the secretariat the Society processed in excess of 500 renewals. Each year we review our systems and process to ensure we are providing the greatest assistance to ensure this process runs as smoothly as possible. We work to ensure practitioners achieve renewal by the due date.

Despite this each year a number of practitioners fail to renew during the currency of their practising certificate. This can have dire consequences for practitioners as it impacts on professional indemnity insurance, entitlement to engage in legal practice and clients.

If you have completed the form and failed to provide payment, or to failed to provide your completed CPD declaration, then your



Djapirri Mununggirriti from Reconciliation Australia officially launches the Law Society's Reconciliation Action Plan.

application is non-compliant. The secretariat will contact practitioners to advise them of any outstanding matters.

Unfortunately the *Legal Profession Act* does not provide for renewal after 30 June, except in limited circumstances. However, if your renewal application is subsequently complete then the secretariat may process it as an "application" and any PC issued will be effective from the date of processing.

The Society may only accept renewals after 30 June if it is satisfied that the delay was caused by reasons beyond the control of the applicant, or other special circumstances exist, warranting acceptance of the application. In those circumstances, the Society must issue a practising certificate effective 1 July.

There is no specific form for advising the Society about the special circumstances and applications for renewal cannot be accepted after six months from 30 June.

The Society endeavours to assist practitioners with the renewal process to ensure renewal by 30 June each year. The Society is grateful for your suggestions about additional assistance the Society can provide.

Australian Solicitors Conduct Rules, Northern Territory Bar Association Rules

The Council of the Society has approved the consultation on the Australian Solicitors Conduct Rules and Northern Territory Bar Association Rules. Feedback on these rules is invited from all members of the profession and the broader community in line with the rule making power under the *Legal Profession Act*. Do not hesitate to contact me via email with your comments, no matter how brief.

CPD survey results

The CPD survey results are back and 103 (18%) members of the profession responded. This is a fantastic response, and a mere 14 more responses and this would be 20% of the profession. Interestingly, an overwhelming majority of respondents chose the hard-copy form over the optional online survey.

The demographic breakdown of respondents mirrored the profession both age, areas of practice and geographic location.

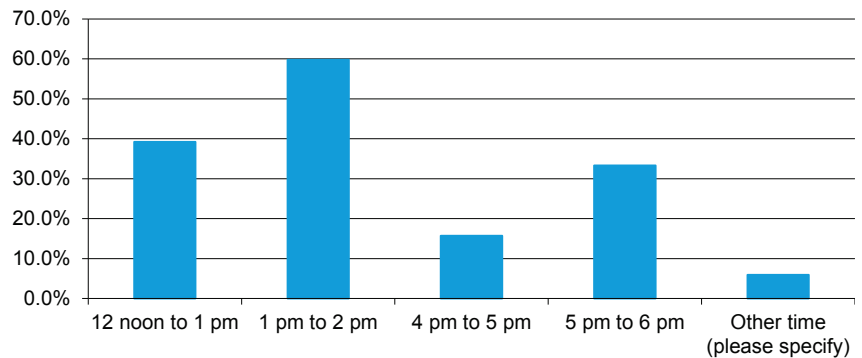
- 50% of respondents were over 10 years' experience.
- Over 81% preferred not to use social media.
- 89% of respondents preferred face to face seminars.
- The Society's CPD program appears to be hitting its mark with 85% of respondents indicated they were satisfied to very satisfied!

We are reviewing the comments and suggestions made. This will be important benchmark information and hopefully we can maintain this level of satisfaction into the future.

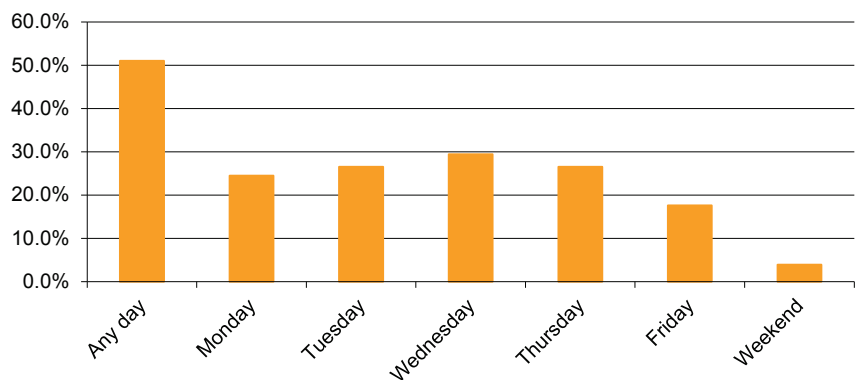
Whilst a national and Northern Territory focus on reduction in red tape the profession will no-doubt be aware that the Society has passed through one of the busier times for legal professional regulation.

Until we meet again. ●

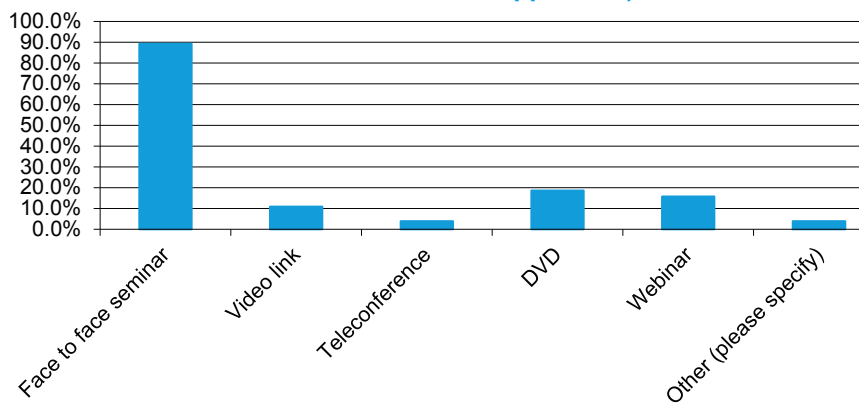
What time of day best suits you to attend a one hour CPD seminar? (please select more than one if applicable):



Which day/days of the week best suit you? (please select more than one if applicable):



What is your preferred type of CPD activity? (please select more than one if applicable):



Would you use any of the following social media for alerts or notifications about upcoming CPDs? (please select more than one if applicable):

