

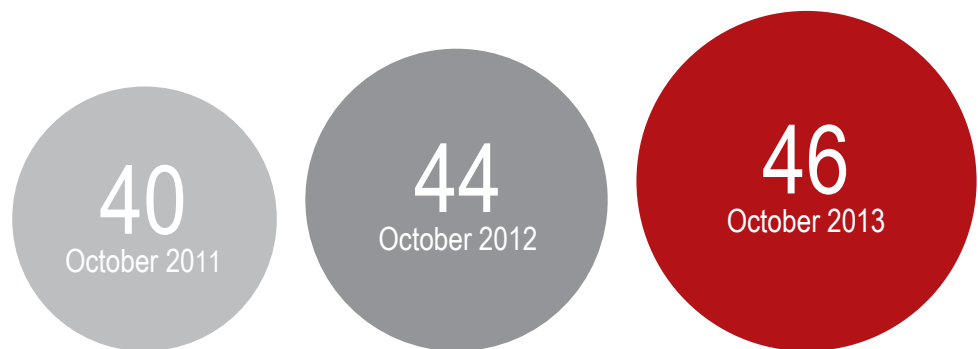


A snapshot of the Northern Territory

Practitioners registered in the Northern Territory



Barristers registered in the Northern Territory



Practitioners who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander



New Practitioners admitted to the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory



Figure 1





n Territory Legal Profession

Lawyers by age and gender

	Age in years												NA	Total
	<24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75>		
Male														
Oct 2013	1	19	37	29	25	25	34	36	22	15	7	3	1	254
Oct 2012	2	23	37	27	26	24	31	39	26	15	5	3	0	258
Oct 2011	1	20	33	19	22	25	29	31	18	9	3	1	3	214
Female														
Oct 2013	1	48	60	37	37	40	16	16	2	4	0	1	0	262
Oct 2012	3	39	69	42	38	31	16	15	4	4	1	1	0	263
Oct 2011	8	64	59	40	28	24	14	12	5	2	1	1	4	262

Figure 2 : Lawyers in the Northern Territory by age and gender

Statistics collected by the Law Society Northern Territory (the Society) for legal practitioners registered in the Northern Territory as at 1 October for each of the past three years, indicate that there has been an overall increase of just over nine percent in the number of practitioner registered with the Society. This may be attributed to male practitioners, as female practitioner numbers have remained static at 262 during this time. There was a marked increase of 45 practitioners in 2012, followed by a negligible drop of just five in 2013, bringing the total to 516.

Barristers

There has been a modest increase of six practitioners going to the bar over the three year snapshot, which equates to a 15% increase overall. The 46 barristers as a whole, currently make up just under nine percent of the legal profession in the Northern Territory.

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

The number of practitioners who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander fell by one, or ten percent. The practitioners in this

category account for less than two percent of the profession in the Territory.

New Practitioners admitted to the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory

The number of new practitioners admitted to the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory took a dramatic 22.5% drop in 2012, but has since stabilised just above the 2011 level at 43 for the 2013 year.



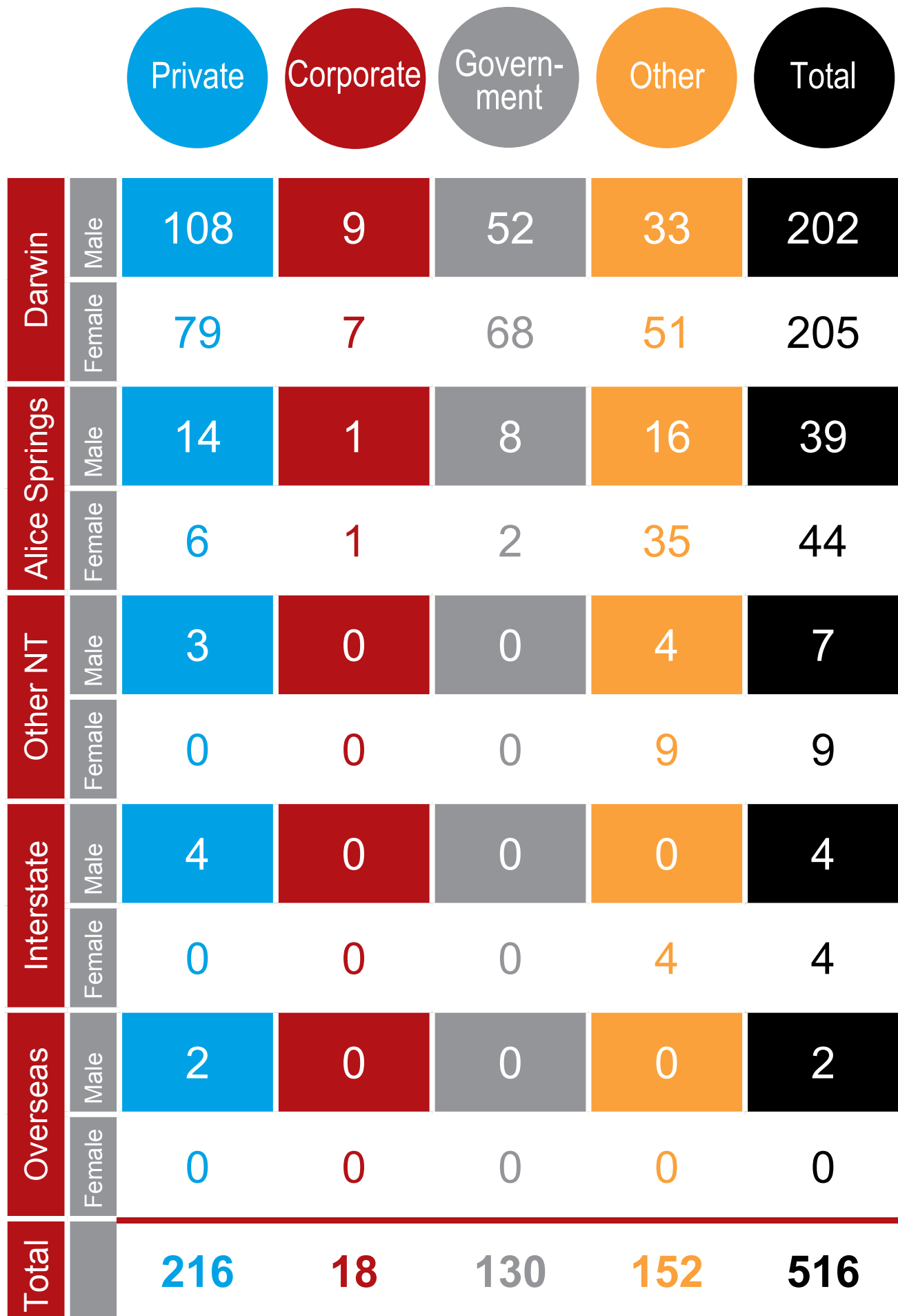


Figure 3 : Distribution of lawyers in the Northern Territory by location, gender and legal entity



Practitioners by Age and Gender

A greater number of female than male legal practitioners have consistently held practising certificates in the Northern Territory over the three year period. This may buck the national trend; but only just.

As *Figure 2* indicates, you will see that this is particularly noticeable in the 25 - 29 and 30 - 34 year age brackets, which would indicate that two to three times as many women than men are entering the profession.

Whereas, consistent with the trend of previous years, the number of male practitioners has remained fairly stable up until retirement age, the low retention rate of female practitioners is another story.

The percentage of female practitioners has decreased significantly in the 35 - 39 year age group. and then again in the 45 - 49 and 50 - 54 year age groups. Whilst in October 2013 women accounted for 62 percent of the profession in the 30 - 34 age group, they accounted for only 32 percent of the 50 - 54 age group.

Location of practice

Figure 3 shows that the vast majority of lawyers (just under 79 percent) who hold Northern Territory practising certificates are based in the Darwin and Palmerston area. The female to male ratio is evenly balanced.

This is followed by practitioners based in Alice Springs, who account for over 16 percent of the Northern Territory profession, with a slightly higher ratio of female practitioners.

Type of Legal Entity

Private Practice

As indicated in *Figure 3*, the majority of practitioners, 42

percent, work in private practice, although interestingly this is not the case for female practitioners located in Alice Springs.

Other

The next highest category is 'Other' which encompasses the Community Legal Centres (CLE's) such as the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency, the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service and the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission.

The CLE's account for 29.5 percent of the Northern Territory legal profession as a whole; comprising the majority. i.e. 61 percent of the profession in Alice Springs and 20.5 percent in the Darwin and Palmerston area.

The CLEs do attract a considerably higher ratio of female to male practitioners, and this is where the majority of female practitioners based in Alice Springs may be found.

Female practitioners also account for all of the practitioners based in other Northern Territory locations and interstate.

Government

Government employed lawyers, includes those practitioners serving in the Air Force, Army and Navy. Here female lawyers dominate the scene.

Corporate

Lawyers engaged by large corporations in the Northern Territory, as to be expected, are predominantly based in Darwin, with the remaining two situated in Alice Springs.

The Law Council of Australia has recently published its National Attrition and Re-engagement Study (NARS) Report which investigates and analysing the drivers for attrition of women from the legal profession in Australia and may be found at www.lawcouncil.asn.au/. ●

We are an established law firm with a national property practice that is looking to obtain a metropolitan presence in the Northern Territory.

Our current clients include government, corporates and private individuals.

We are looking to purchase a law firm that predominantly practices in property and conveyancing or an established conveyancing practice in Darwin that has a strong client and/or referral base.

It would be necessary to retain at least one experienced property lawyer/conveyancer for a minimum period of two years and relevant support staff.

All responses received will be treated confidentially.

Email expressions of interest to:
conveyancingacquisition@gmail.com

