

# News and updates

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As the year draws to a close it is an opportune time to touch on recent activities of the Society and a hint of things to come in the New Year.

Thank you to the many members of the profession who completed the Society's recent survey. We are currently collating the data from the survey results and will report about it in a future edition of Balance. The survey was an invaluable opportunity for the Society to gather feedback from the profession about the operation of the Society and its engagement with members. It also provided a unique opportunity to source information to develop a better profile of the local profession by collecting data ranging from income earned by practitioners to the hours being worked. Information of this nature will assist the Society in its advocacy on behalf of the profession into the future.

The Society has continued to monitor the implementation of the uniform law in Victoria and New South Wales. Thought has been given to undertaking a consultation process about the possible adoption of the *Australian Solicitors Conduct Rules* (ASCR) as professional rules in the Northern Territory. We are one of the few jurisdictions that has not yet adopted the ASCR (Western Australia and Tasmania are the others that have not yet adopted). The Law Council of Australia is presently undertaking a review of the ASCR and the Society has concluded that it would be preferable to defer taking any steps in respect of the ASCR until that review is complete. It is envisaged that a discussion paper will be released by the Law Council of Australia as part of the review process and the Society will be seeking the input of the profession.

A number of our members will have had the opportunity to visit the Society's offices since our move in 2014 either for a CPD seminar, a meeting or a function. The ability to host our CPD seminars onsite was a key benefit of the new space. We are now progressing our CPD delivery by fitting out our premises with videoconferencing style facilities to enable us to share some of our CPD seminars with other locations. Providing a variety of relevant and topical CPDs to our regional members has been a goal under the Society's Strategic Plan for 2013–16. We expect that the equipment will be installed at the Society's premises prior to the end of this year and be operational by early next year. This will be welcome news to our practitioners in Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

Regrettably the Secretariat recently bid farewell to our Events Coordinator Pam Jaenke. Pam would be well-known to many members of the profession as the person toiling away at our CPD seminars and various events and functions to ensure they always ran seamlessly. Pam will be missed at the Secretariat and we wish her the best in her new endeavours.

As the year winds down the Secretariat will take a moment to reflect on the busy year we leave behind and the prospect of fresh opportunities and ventures that next year might bring.

From all the staff at the Society we wish you and your families a safe festive period and may the New Year be a happy and prosperous one for you.