



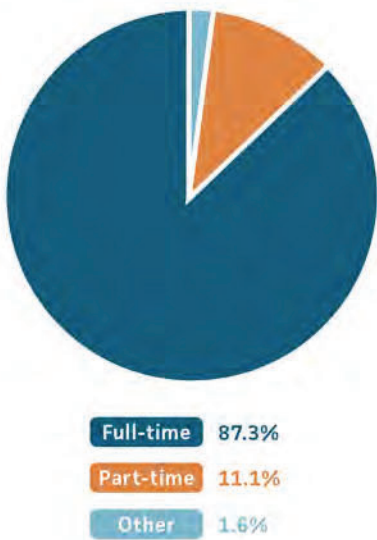
# INSIGHT INTO THE SOCIETY'S MEMBERSHIP & PRACTITIONER EMPLOYMENT

as at October 2016

## INCOME BRACKET <sup>125</sup>



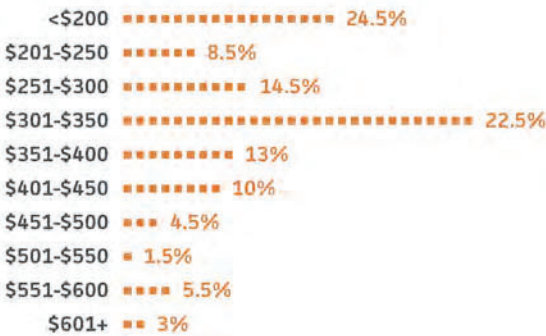
## EMPLOYMENT STATUS <sup>126</sup>



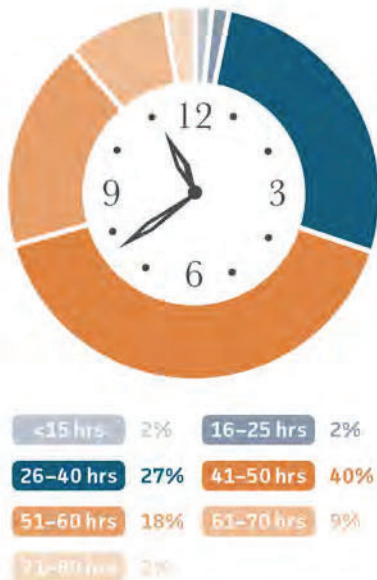
## WORK BILLED AT AN HOURLY RATE <sup>126</sup>



## HOURLY RATE <sup>70</sup>



## HOURS WORKED PER WEEK <sup>126</sup>



## CONSIDERED LEAVING/ CEASING PRACTICE AS A LAWYER <sup>126</sup>



Yes	60%	No	37%
Prefer not to answer	3%		

## REASONS PROVIDED <sup>101</sup>

Family reasons	12%
Physical illness	2%
Mental illness	1%
Financial reasons	5%
Lack of opportunity	7%
Lack of career enjoyment	17%
Prefer not to answer	19%
Other	11%

## WHAT YOU'VE TOLD US

In August and September 2016 the Society undertook a survey of its members to gather information about the employment and income of members.

131 members responded to the survey which represents around 23% of the Society's membership. The majority of members who participated in the survey were female (60%) which is reflective of the general numbers of female practitioners compared to male.

The survey responses provide valuable insight into the working arrangements for the legal profession in the Northern Territory. Full-time employment is overwhelmingly more common

that part-time employment (87% compared to 11%). Only 4% of survey participants work less than 25 hours per week. The survey results may reflect that fewer practitioners are seeking part-time employment in the Northern Territory or that there are fewer workplaces prepared to offer part-time employment as an option. The Society has a *Celebrating Diversity Strategy* and this information will feed into the work that the Society does in addressing barriers that may exist for practitioners seeking to access flexible work practices, including part-time employment.

It would come as little surprise that most respondents to the survey work more than a standard 38 hour week. More than half of the members who responded work between 41 and 60 hours per week, a further 11% reported working 61 to 80 hours per week.

However it seems that working those longer hours doesn't necessarily bring mega bucks. More than a quarter of the respondents (26%) earned less than \$75 000 per annum. Just fewer than 40% of survey responses reported earning between \$75 000 and \$125 000 per annum. As at May 2016 the Australian Bureau of Statistics reported that the average weekly cash earning of an adult in full-time employment in the Northern Territory was \$1782.20, which would calculate out to an annum income of \$92 674.40. This suggests that legal practitioners in the Northern Territory are generally earning an average income, or for a reasonable percentage of the profession, a below average income.

39% of survey respondents stated that their work is billed at an hourly rate. This is consistent with the Society's data about the number of practitioners in private practice compared to government or other sectors. Half of the members of the profession that responded charge

an hourly rate between \$250 and \$400. This information is helpful to the Society when dealing with members of the public enquiring about accessing legal services generally and dealing with queries to the Society about legal costs.

A significant number of survey respondents admitted to having considered leaving the profession at some time. A variety of reasons were given for this but family reasons (12%) and a lack of career enjoyment (17%) were the two most common reasons. It is notable that 19% of respondents preferred not to provide a reason about why they had thought about leaving the profession.

The Society appreciates the time taken by members of the local profession to complete its survey. As can be seen, the information is useful to the Society in understanding some aspects of the nature of practice in the Territory and the experiences of members of the profession in respect to their employment.

## OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH THE SOCIETY'S LEVEL OF SERVICE <sup>119</sup>



Somewhat satisfied	15%
Satisfied	47%
Very satisfied	32%
Extremely satisfied	6%