



News and updates

KELLIE GRAINGER CEO, Law Society NT

The Society's Annual Report for 2018/19 has been published and can be found on the Society's website. I encourage you to take a moment to read about the hard work of the Society's many committees as well as statistics about the various regulatory functions of the Society—see how many practising certificates were issued last financial year, the number of complaints and enquiries received and trust account compliance.

The recent publication of the *2018 National Profile of Solicitors* also gives us an opportunity to compare the make-up of the NT profession with other Australian jurisdictions—take a moment to read the article on page 13 to see where we stand in the big picture.

Following the adoption of the new constitution for the Society in November 2017 work has been underway to update the governance document for the NT Young Lawyers (NTYL). When the NTYL came under the Society's umbrella many years ago a Standing Order was adopted to provide for its structure and governance. Over the last year the Society's Governance Committee has been working with the Executive Committee of the NTYL to review and update this document and re-make it as a By Law under the current constitution. This work is almost complete and we are working toward having the new By Law in place in time for the start of next year.

The Secretariat has welcomed a new member of staff, with Patrick Berends joining us as our new Complaints Investigator. The creation of the new Complaints Investigator role last year was part of the re-focusing of the Society's resources to ensure that complaints can be considered and dealt with in a timely fashion. Whilst there will be a period of time before the full benefit of this change is felt, and visible in our annual reported data, we are striving for the more timely resolution of complaints.

As another year draws to a close it's an opportune time to reflect on the changes facing the profession. The profession is experiencing the benefits and challenges of technology and the need to adapt and utilise technology to make us more efficient and effective (but not redundant!). There are cultural issues within the profession that we must face and deal with—sexual harassment and bullying being

two that have emerged on the national stage as needing a new approach to effect change to make the profession a better and safer workspace for all. The Society continues to explore how it can best serve the profession in addressing these concerns.

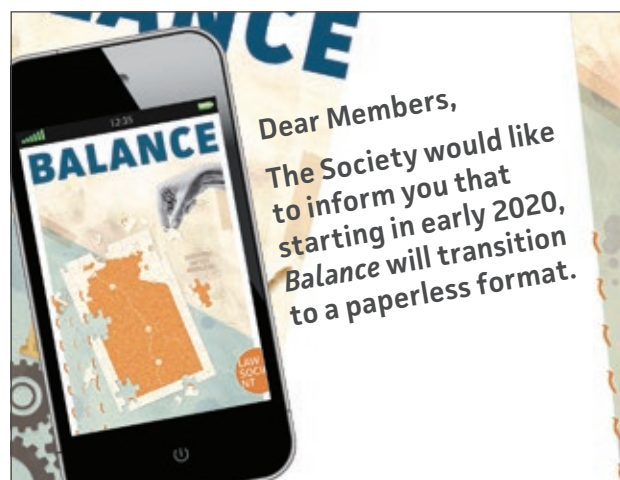
The Society is also facing its own changes. The end of this year will see the Society in new premises (more information to come about that). It will also see the final edition of *Balance* as a printed copy delivered to your letterbox each quarter. We are moving with the times and next year our quarterly journal will be published electronically. We hope that you will embrace this new format and it will make reading *Balance* more accessible—just think you'll be able to read it whenever and wherever you are.

As busy as we get with Christmas fast approaching I hope you have the opportunity to pause and reflect on the year that has been, and contemplate the year that is to come and the opportunities that may be waiting just around the corner.

And finally, from the Secretariat we wish all our members a happy and safe festive season. ■

Contact Kellie

I can be contacted through the Society or via email:
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Law Society NT recent advocacy activities

Submissions

General Order Police Custody

12/07/19, NT Police Commissioner

Joint Law Society NT & Law Council of Australia letter:

Use and management of police informers

17/07/19, NT Police Commissioner

Expenditure on Children in the Northern Territory

24/07/19, Productivity Commission

Review of the *Guardianship of Adults Act 2016*

9/08/19, Attorney-General

Review of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1999*

25/08/19, Department of the Attorney-General and Justice

Statute law revisions and Repeals Bill 2019

4/09/19, Social Policy Scrutiny Committee

Modern Award for Early Career Lawyers in Private Practice

10/09/19, Law Council of Australia

Religious Freedom Draft Expose Bills

13/09/19, Law Council of Australia

Options for improving family violence competency of legal practitioners

23/09/19, Department of the Attorney-General and Justice

Re-drafting academic requirements for admission

30/09/19, Law Council of Australia

Firearms Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

8/10/19, Economic Policy Scrutiny Committee

Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

8/10/19, Social Policy Scrutiny Committee

Sex Industry Bill 2019

8/10/19, Economic Policy Scrutiny Committee

Pre Budget Submission – funding and CLC resourcing

11/10/19, Law Council of Australia

Conferences and forums attended

National Indigenous Legal Conference

13-14/09/19

National Indigenous Legal Conference Gala Dinner and Awards night

14/09/19

National PII Risk Managers meeting

16/09/19

National Golden Gavel

6/09/19

Conference of Law Societies meeting

13/09/19

Law Council of Australia meeting

14/09/19

National Ethics Solicitors Forum

20/09/19

Northern Territory Legislation

Introduced

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Amendment Bill 2019	19/09/19
Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019	19/09/19
Local Government Bill 2019	18/09/19
Firearms Legislation Amendment Bill 2019	18/09/19
Sex Industry Bill 2019	18/09/19
Mental Health and Related Services Amendment Bill 2019	18/09/19
Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Amendment Bill 2019	14/08/19
Water Further Amendment Bill 2019	14/08/19
Statute Law Revision and Repeals Bill 2019	14/08/19
Transport Legislation Amendment Bill 2019	7/08/19
Burial and Cremation Bill 2019	7/08/19

Passed

Environment Protection Bill 2019*	19/09/19
Electoral Legislation Further Amendment Bill 2019	18/09/19
Youth Justice and Related Legislation Amendment Bill 2019*	17/09/19
Education and Care Services (National Uniform Legislation) Amendment Bill 2019	15/08/19
Construction Contracts (Security of Payments) Legislation Amendment Bill 2019*	14/08/19
Liquor Bill 2019*	13/08/19
Hemp Industry Bill 2019	8/08/19
Water Legislation Miscellaneous Amendments Bill 2019*	7/08/19
Integrity and Accountability Legislation Amendment Bill 2019	6/08/19
Care and Protection of Children Amendment Bill 2019*	6/08/19

* Amendments made.

Sourced 2.57 pm, 27 September 2019 from:
legislation.nt.gov.au/en/LegislationPortal/Bills/By-Session