

News and updates

Kellie Grainger

CEO

Law Society Northern Territory



The Society is now well into its consultation about the review of the Society's Constitution and hopefully you will have attended one of our forums to discuss the proposed changes. The consultation period ends on 11 September so if you haven't already had a look at the proposed Constitution and provided your feedback, please go to the Member's Only section of the Society's website to find out what it's all about.

At a national level we are still waiting to see what changes the federal government will introduce about the application of the anti-money laundering and counter terrorism finance legislation to the legal profession. There are potentially significant implications for practitioners, particularly those in small to medium firms. Keep your eye on *The Practitioner* e-newsletter for updates about developments in this area.

The Law Society of New South Wales, with the assistance of information provided by the Society and other Australian law societies, has recently published the *National Profile of Solicitors 2016 Report*. This is the third profile report released about the profession and provides an opportunity to consider shifts in the legal profession over the past 5 years following the release of the first report in 2011. Interesting trends have emerged in the profession including the swing towards equal numbers of male and female practitioners, the aging of the profession and movement within the employment sectors. The Northern Territory emerged as a jurisdiction with a modest increase in the number of practitioners overall since 2011 but now with a higher percentage of female practitioners and the nation's highest representation of indigenous lawyers

as a percentage of the total number of practitioners in the jurisdiction. We also have a high percentage of newly admitted (1 year or less) practitioners. The report is available on the Society's website and is an interesting read.

It seems you can't open your news app or a newspaper at the moment without a story about government or large business affected by cyber-attacks. For legal professionals who must maintain high ethical standards, including the protection of clients' confidential information, the challenges of utilising technology to maximise efficiency but maintaining security of your business and client information are ever present. This can seem daunting or overwhelming for small and medium size law firms. The Law Council of Australia has developed a website, Cyber Precedent, specifically for the Australian legal profession with helpful factsheets and tools to assist practitioners in navigating cyber security risks. Check out the Cyber Precedent website (<http://lca.lawcouncil.asn.au/lawcouncil/cyber-precedent-essentials>) and take their cyber security quiz to test your knowledge.

Finally I am delighted to welcome the newest member of the Society's Secretariat, Aislinn McIntyre. Aislinn started as the Manager Regulatory Services in June. Find out more about Aislinn in the interview with her on page 18. Sadly however as one new team member joins us, another one is leaving. Rebecca Hamersley, Executive Assistant to our Corporate Services Manager and myself, has left to take up another exciting career opportunity. We wish Rebecca all the best in her new endeavours.