



# News and updates



**CAITLIN WEATHERBY-FELL** Secretary, NTWLA

## CPD lunchbox series

### Career tips and pointers

On Friday 2 August 2019, a group of female practitioners gathered together at the Local Court to learn tips and tricks from some of the best—Her Honour Judge Armitage (Local Court), Seranie Gamble (Director of Law Reform, Territory Families), and Caroline Heske (Senior Policy Lawyer, Department of the Attorney-General and Justice). With our speakers giving tips about and sharing experiences of changing fields of practise, moving between practising and non-practising roles, and the never-ending search for ‘balance’, we attendees were captivated from start to finish. We heard from women who are planners and women who have ‘fallen’ into opportunities as they’ve arisen—an excellent exercise in acknowledging that there are many positive, and individual, paths for us to follow.

From Her Honour, we learnt that you are as efficient, capable and confident as all others—so don’t hide the effort that you’re putting into your work! Importantly, we also learned that our careers do not typically run in a straight line, with the consequence being that we should expose ourselves to different opportunities and not be afraid to take the side-tracks. And very critically, we discussed the fact that biscuits are not meals, so we must nourish our bodies accordingly!

From Seranie, we learnt that having mentors and role models outside of your immediate space to provide tips and guidance is essential—it is they, who along with yourself, will assist you to be true and honest, as well as genuine in what you can achieve. Along with our other speakers, we were reminded of the importance of having limits and boundaries to avoid burn-out and becoming that ‘blow-in’ lawyer—a critical task of working within the Territory! Seranie also encouraged us to not be afraid to seek out opportunities and put ourselves forward—fantastic advice for women who so often peg ourselves below our capacity.

From Caroline, we learnt that if you do the job that you’ve got well, it makes an impression—and down the line, these people will likely be willing to recommend you for other opportunities. Speaking of opportunities, we were encouraged to get into volunteering and/or side hustles—options will come through your involvement! We discussed ensuring stability in your role as a parent, and reflected on previous discussions from Her Honour about not being able to have it all—but by being proud of our choices, we can be fulfilled! More broadly, we reflected on the continuing inequality within society about the role of mothers and fathers, and the perceptions of different work—an ever-present issue.

NTWLA thanks our three superstar speakers for their time and openness, as well as the Local Court for use of the space. Stay tuned for more in the NTWLA CPD series in 2019 and into 2020!

