

CALD Council Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

Host: University of New South Wales

National Press Club of Australia, 16 National Circuit, Barton, ACT, 2600

Wednesday 19 November 2025

10:00am – 3:00pm AEDT (In Person and Via Teams)

Attendees (IP = In Person, OL = Online)

Co-Chair and CALD Executive

Name	Law School	Attendance Mode
Professor Nick James, Executive Dean	Faculty of Law, Bond University	IP
Professor Catherine Renshaw, Dean	School of Law, Western Sydney University	IP
Professor Therese Wilson, Dean of Law and Head of School	Griffith Law School, Griffith University	IP
Professor Belinda Bennett, Head of School and Dean	School of Law and Justice, University of Newcastle	OL
Professor Sharon Mascher, Dean	UWA Law School, The University of Western Australia	OL
Professor Jonathan Crowe, Dean and Head of School	School of Law and Justice, University of Southern Queensland	IP
Professor Rick Bigwood, Head of School	TC Beirne School of Law, University of Queensland	IP

Members or their nominees

Name	Law School	Attendance Mode
Professor Tony Connolly, Dean	ANU College of Law, Australian National University	OL
Associate Professor Kunle Ola, Interim Dean	Thomas More Law School Australian Catholic University	IP
Professor Alan Berman, Dean of Law	Faculty of Arts & Society, Law, Charles Darwin University	IP
Professor Stephen Colbran, Dean of Law	School of Business and Law, CQUniversity Australia	OL

Professor Robert Cunningham, Dean and Head of School	Curtin Law School, Curtin University	IP
Professor Joshua Aston, Dean	School of Business and Law, Edith Cowan University	OL
Associate Professor Sonia Walker, Dean	School of Law and Criminology, Murdoch University	OL
Professor Lola Akin Ojelabi, Head of Department (Law)	Graduate School of Business and Law, RMIT University	IP
Professor Judith McNamara, Dean	Adelaide Law School, The University of Adelaide	OL
Professor Alpana Roy, Head of School	School of Law, University of New England	IP
Professor Vicki Waye, Dean	UniSA Justice & Society, University of South Australia	OL
Professor Tim Peters, Dean	School of Law and Society, University of the Sunshine Coast	IP
Dr Carmel O'Neill, Acting Head of Law	College of Business, Law and Governance, James Cook University	IP
Professor Marilyn McMahon, Dean	Deakin School of Law, Deakin University	OL
Professor Dilan Thampapillai, Dean	School of Law, University of Wollongong	IP
Professor Andrew Lynch, Dean	School of Law & Justice, UNSW	IP
Professor Lise Barry, Dean	Macquarie Law School, Macquarie University	IP
Marilyn Pittard, Associate Dean of Engagement (representing Professor Steven Vaughan, Dean)	Faculty of Law, Monash University	OL
Professor Michelle Foster, Dean	Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne	OL
Professor Gino Dal Pont, Dean and Head of School	School of Law, University of Tasmania	OL
Professor Rupert Johnson, Head of School	Faculty of Arts, Science, Law and Business, University of Notre Dame	OL
Dr Duane Aslett, Director	Centre for Law and Justice, Charles Sturt University	IP
John Orr (representing Professor David Heilpern, Dean)	Faculty of Business, Law and Arts, Southern Cross University	OL
Professor Lidia Xynas, Dean of Law	Victoria Law School, Victoria University	OL
Professor Lorne Neudorf, Dean	LaTrobe Law School, LaTrobe University	IP
Natania Locke, Acting Dean	School of Business, Law and Entrepreneurship, Swinburne University	IP
Dr Samantha Kontra, Flinders Law Teaching Program Director (attending on behalf of Professor Tania Leiman, Dean of Law)	College of Business, Government and Law, Flinders University	OL
Professor Tracey Booth, Acting Dean	UTS	OL
Professor Amanda Kennedy, Head	School of Law, Queensland University of Technology	IP
Associate Professor Ryan Goss, Head	ANU Law School, Australian National University	OL
Associate Professor Jeanne Huang (representing Professor Fleur Johns, Dean)	Sydney Law School, University of Sydney	IP
Dr Andrew Henderson (representing Professor Maree Sainsbury, Dean)	Canberra Law School, University of Canberra	IP

Apologies

Name	Law School	Delegate Attending
Professor Tania Leiman, Dean of Law	College of Business, Government and Law, Finders University	Yes
Professor Steven Vaughan, Dean	Faculty of Law, Monash University	Yes
Professor Fleur Johns, Dean	Sydney Law School, University of Sydney	Yes
Professor Michelle Foster, Dean	Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne	No
Professor David Heilpern, Dean	Faculty of Business, Law and Arts, Southern Cross University	Yes
Professor Maree Sainsbury, Dean	Canberra Law School, University of Canberra	Yes

Guests

Name	Law School	Attendance
Susan Abrams, Solicitor	Australian Association of Collaborative Professionals	OL
Bernie Bolger, President	Australian Association of Collaborative Professionals	OL
William Massey, President	Australian Law Students Association	IP
Alex Burns, Education	Australian Law Students Association	IP

Secretariat

Name	Law School	Attendance
Ms Nadia Singh	Bond University CALD EO	IP

Agenda Details

Agenda Item		Details	Action
A. Welcome	A01	Welcome to Law Deans and delegates Professor Nick James (NJ) extended a welcome to all CALD members. Professor Andrew Lynch delivered an acknowledgement of Country. NJ moved a motion of gratitude to UNSW for generously hosting the CALD Council meeting. The motion was passed.	
B. Formal matters	B01	Apologies and housekeeping CALD EO, Nadia Singh (NS), noted apologies for the meeting.	
	B02	Approval of CALD Council Minutes of Meeting NJ put forward a motion that the Council approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2025. Professor Rick Bigwood and Professor Jon Crowe seconded the motion. The Minutes were approved. Noting of CALD Executive Minutes of Meetings The Minutes of the CALD Executive meetings held on Friday, 22 August 2025 and Friday, 10 October 2025 were accepted and noted.	
	B03	The current agenda was approved.	

Agenda Item		Details	Action
C. Executive reports	C01	CALD Co-Chairs <i>Welcome to new CALD Members</i> NJ welcomed all new CALD members and reiterated the role of CALD as an opportunity for all Law Deans to come together to share information, collaborate, and support each other as needed. <i>2026 CALD Meeting Calendar and Hosts</i> The 2026 CALD meeting calendar outlining the dates for Council and Executive meetings in 2026 was provided to members. NJ noted that the Council meeting scheduled for 20 March 2026 will be hosted by Bond University on the Gold Coast and that the 1 July 2026 Council meeting will be hosted by the University of Melbourne to align with the ALAA Conference. He asked for expressions of interest for a university to host the November 2026 Council meeting. <i>Update re 'Australian Legal Education 2030 and Beyond (ALE2030AB)'</i> NJ provided background and an update on the project 'Australian Legal Education 2030 and Beyond' (ALE2030AB). He reported that this project is still paused due to other priorities by the stakeholder – primarily PLT. He noted that discussions are intended to reconvene in early 2026. <i>ALSA 2025 Conference</i> Professor Therese Wilson (TW) provided an update on the 2025 ALSA Conference that she attended in July. She reported that the student body was engaged in discussion which covered AI, career readiness, the role of law schools and managing controversial topics. A major concern was the possibility of students being falsely accused of cheating due to AI. TW reiterated that the relationship with ALSA was an important one to maintain to ensure that the student voice is heard by CALD.	Members to diarise 2026 CALD Council dates.

Agenda Item		Details	Action
		<i>Australian Legal Convention 2025</i> The Australian Legal Convention 2025 is scheduled to be held this week in Canberra. NJ spoke about the confusion regarding the fact that many of the Law Deans were not invited even though a 'save the date' was initially distributed to CALD members. The Council meeting was scheduled in Canberra to align with the Legal Convention. Professor Alan Bergman provided information about his discussions with his Chief Justice which ultimately resulted in an apology from Chief Justice Gageler offering a limited number of tickets to the Convention for CALD members.	
	C02	Deputy Chair Professor Belinda Bennett (BB) reiterated that it was good to have clarity regarding the Australian Legal Convention and otherwise had no other matters to report.	
	C03	Vice Chair Legal Education Professor Maree Sainsbury (MS) was an apology for the meeting. She provided a written update on the Legal Education portfolio. NJ noted that the recent survey undertaken by LEAD regarding the Accreditation Standards provided some high value information about how the Priestley subjects are delivered at various law schools. The survey was completed by 24 law schools (via the Associate Deans Learning and Teaching) and shows that many of the law schools surveyed have moved away from the traditional delivery model of a 2-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial. NJ formally congratulated LEAD Co-Chairs Judith Marychurch and Kelley Burton for winning the Council of Australasian University Leadership in Learning and Teaching (CAULLT) and Higher Education Research and Development of Society of Australasian (HERDSA) Award for Outstanding Leadership in Research and Development in Higher Education for their establishment and administration of the Australian Legal Education Awards.	

Agenda Item		Details	Action
	C04	Vice Chair Research Professor Jon Crowe (JC) reported that he had met with the Co-Chairs of LADRN (Niloufer Selvadui and Andrew Choo) who would like to propose that CALD sign up to the San Francisco Declaration of Research Assessment (DORA). DORA recognises the need to improve the ways in which the output of scholarly research is evaluated. It covers all scholarly disciplines and all key stakeholders including funders, publishers, professional societies, institutions and researchers. There is an alignment with the CALD Statement on Legal Research. The Council discussed the utility and relevance of DORA to the discipline of law. TW queried whether signing the Declaration would bind CALD to other expectations. JC confirmed that this was not his understanding and that a statement from CALD would not be necessary. No members spoke against CALD signing the Declaration. NJ moved that CALD sign the Declaration of Research Assessment and Professor Rick Bigwood (RB) seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.	JC to sign DORA on behalf of CALD.
	C05	Vice Chair First Peoples Partnership Professor Sharon Mascher (SM) reported that she had no updates but looked forward to discussing the proposal from FPP on the use of CALD funds.	
	C06	Vice Chair International <i>Report on the CALD delegation to Indonesia</i> Professor Catherine Renshaw (CR) updated the Council on the recent visit by a delegation of Australian law deans to Indonesia and the meeting at the Australian Embassy in Jakarta with Indonesian Law Deans. The intent was to establish contacts and educational exchanges and to understand the legal education landscape in Indonesia. The Australian deans also met with representatives from the Australia-Indonesian Partnership for Justice Phase 3 (AIPJ3).	CR to follow up on discussions with DFAT regarding support and sponsorship for a follow up meeting in 2027 and biennially thereafter.

Agenda Item		Details	Action
		The Australian Embassy hosted the meetings and was extremely supportive. CR has recently met with the Australian Ambassador who was supportive of the idea to arrange further meetings on a biennial basis which will rotate between Australia and Indonesia. It was noted that there is no similar association like CALD in Indonesia. In principle the Council supports the idea of hosting a biennial meeting with the Indonesia Law Deans. CR will report back to CALD once she had further discussions with DFAT. <i>Relationship with New Zealand Law Deans</i> NJ proposed that CALD do more to formalise the relationship with the New Zealand Law Deans. CR suggested that CALD consider affiliated CALD membership for the NZ Law Deans. TW reported that she had been contacted by Professor Petra Butler, Executive Dean at the Faculty of Law, University of Canterbury advising that the NZ Law Deans were interested in joining CALD. CR agreed to follow up with Petra. It was agreed that while it would be premature to bring NZ law schools into CALD (and become the Council of Australasian Law Deans) we could formalise the relationship with NZ law deans including inviting them to attend CALD meetings.	CR to follow up with Petra Butler. CALD Executive to draft a proposal for formal relationship with the NZ Deans.
	C07	Treasurer RB provided an update to the Council regarding the financial position of CALD. He reported that 2026 subscriptions will be issued in mid-January 2026 and that CALD has engaged Liston Newton to compile the mandatory 2025 financial reports.	

D. Discussion	D01	Update re LACC and LSC NJ reminded members regarding the role of the Law Admissions Consultative Committee (LACC) and the Legal Service Council (LSC). NJ is currently a member of LACC. The LSC includes a Law Dean from one of the relevant LSC jurisdictions and currently this is BB. The two most pressing issues on the LACC/LSC agenda are a) the review of the Accreditation Standards for Australian Law Courses and 2) the review of Practical Legal Training (PLT). <u>Accreditation Standards for Australian Law Courses</u> LACC/LSC is about to release the latest draft of the proposed amendments to the Accreditation Standards, and law schools will be invited to respond by March 2026. The proposed changes include the following: • Introduction of a new Standard 4.1 (The delivery of the law course) to confirm flexibility to deliver a law course fully or partially online • Clarification of the teaching methods that may count towards the 36 hours of teaching for a Priestley 11 subject at Standard 4.5 (Content of the law course) • Introduction of a new requirement at Standard 4.6 (Teaching of the law course and active learning) so at least 18 hours of the 36 hours for each Priestley 11 subject must involve active learning and/or direct interaction • Introduction of a new requirement at Standard 4.7 (Assessing and understanding competence) that at least 50% of all assessments for a Priestley 11 subject be invigilated • Introduction of new guidance at Standard 4.3 (The duration of the law course) to require that intensive and block delivery models for Priestley 11 subjects may only be used where the law school satisfies the admitting authority that it is appropriate in all the circumstances, and • Other minor revisions. It was clarified that law schools will have to offer 18 hours of active learning/direct interaction but do not need to ensure that ALL law students complete the 18 hours, i.e. attendance records will not need to be maintained.	
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	It was queried whether listening to recordings by students were considered compliant. NJ reported if the student has the option of attending a class and watching the recording later – this should meet the requirement. It was queried whether students will need to be identified based on their mode of study (i.e.: online or in-person) when graduating. NJ responded that in Australia this is not currently a requirement. NJ clarified that the proposed changes to block teaching will stipulate that reducing a subject to 6 weeks or less is not prohibited but is left to the local admission authorities to approve the program. NJ reported that the consultation period will close in March 2026. In May 2026, the Committee will approve the revised standards for publication in July 2026. If the new Standards are adopted these would commence in 2028. Members agreed that CALD should submit a coordinated response to the call for feedback. <u>PLT Proposals</u> NJ provided background on PLACC/LSC’s current review of the PLT Standards in response to calls for a greater emphasis upon practice-readiness, He also outlined the recent developments in NSW. AL reported that all NSW PLT providers must ensure that from January 2026, PLT intensives are to be delivered face-to-face for a minimum of 15 days. The NSW proposal is that PLT will require only 15 days’ work experience for students’ post-admission students will have to undertake much more substantial CPD for the first two years. There are also proposals to embed more practical skills development in the LLB/JD. There was substantial discussion about the implications of the NSW changes for other jurisdictions and the national scheme generally. The LACC/LSC survey of the national profession (except for NSW) is currently underway. The NSW proposals will be tabled at LACC/LSC in February by which time the outcomes of the LACC/LSC survey should be known. CALD members are asked to assist in sharing the LACC/LSC survey to maximise the response rate.	CALD EO to prepare email to all Law Deans explaining how individual responses will be collected and collated before submission to LACC/LSC.
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E. Discussion	E01	CALD Academic Awards NJ updated the Council regarding the new award scheme which will now be called the <i>CALD Academic Awards</i>. (They were initially called the Australian Academic Legal Awards, but the committee decided that this would create too much confusion with the Australasian Academic Legal Association (ALAA).) NJ described the structure and administration of the Awards as well as the new Awards pages on the CALD website. The CALD Academic Awards will be launched in the next couple of weeks.	EO to work with the Awards Committee to launch the CALD Academic Awards for 2026 by late Nov / early Dec.
	E02	Funding for CALD projects TW reported that as a follow up to previous discussions on the use of CALD funds, three funding proposals have been put together for discussion and approval: 1. A proposal from the First Peoples Partnership Working Party to develop a best practice guide to indigenising the law curriculum. 2. A proposal that research be undertaken on the use of generative AI regarding maintaining integrity in assessment alongside teaching students the skills that will be used in practice. 3. A proposal that a longitudinal study on graduate outcomes be undertaken. It was noted that there is no current data regarding law graduate career destinations. The proposed budget was queried. ○ It was queried whether 1st years could be included in the study. CR noted that she is happy to cost this out. TW explained that the CALD Exec had resolved that project proposals should be for research ideas generally and not for funding to be given to specific law schools or research teams. If CALD decides that a specific project proposal has merit, it will then issue a call to all law schools for EOIs to ensure all law schools have the opportunity to apply for the funding. The exception is where a project proposal is submitted by LEAD, LADRN or the FPPWP – in those cases it is appropriate that the research be undertaken by the network submitting the project proposal. The FPPWP proposal was approved by the Council.	EO to notify the FPPWP that their proposal has been approved. CALD Executive to call for EOIs for the other two projects.

		In regard to the graduate outcomes and generative AI study, CALD will invite expressions of interest from legal academics in all Australian law schools to undertake the research.	
	E03	CALD Executive Appointments <i>CALD Vice Chair Legal Education</i> NJ moved that Professor Maree Sainsbury (MS) be formally appointed as CALD Vice Chair Legal Education. TW seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by Council. <i>CALD Co-Chair</i> TW noted that NJ's second 2-year term as Co-Chair has come to an end and that he is willing to be reappointed for another two years. She invited expressions of interest in the position of which there were none. NJ left the room while the Council discussed the re-appointment, which given that it would be for a third consecutive term would be unusual. TW acknowledged NJ's outstanding leadership, engagement and hard work in the role, and the need for stability during what is a time of disruption for the sector. The Council appointed NJ for another two-year term as Co-Chair.	EO to notify MS and update the CALD records.
	E04	CALD Constitution Amendments This agenda item was moved to the March 2026 Council meeting due to a lack of time.	EO to add to the March 2026 Council agenda.
F. Guest Presentation	F01	Australian Law Students Association ALSA President William Massey and Education Vice-President Alex Burns delivered a presentation to Council members on the various initiatives that ALSA have planned for 2025/2026.	

		William reiterated that ALSA would like to work closely with law schools and would welcome support from law schools to host and/or promote various ALSO initiatives.	
G. Professional Development	G01	Dispute Resolution Bernie Bolger, President and Susan Abrams from the Australian Association of Collaborative Professionals (AACP) delivered a presentation to the Council on collaborative approaches to dispute resolution.	
H. Correspondence for noting	H01	• 250704 CALD to Professor Butler • 250704 CALD to Catherine Webber • CALD to LSC re nomination of CALD representative to LS • 250721 CALD to LSC re CALD new nomination to LSC based on updated request • 250714 CALD to Liston Newton re new appointment of Treasurer • 250721 CALD to FAL Lawyers advising of changes to CALD Executive for action with ASIC • 250818 CALD to LADRN Chairs regarding change in Vice Chair Legal Research • 250818 CALD to LEAD Chair regarding change in Vice Chair Legal Education • 251105 Correspondence to CALD from the Isolated Children's Parent's Association	
I. Other business	I01	NJ acknowledged that this would be the final CALD meeting for Professor Vicki Waye, Dean at the University of South Australia, and thanked Professor Waye for her contributions to CALD over the years. NJ officially welcomed Adelaide University as a member of CALD, and thanks Professor Judith McNamara for agreeing to host the November 2026 CALD meeting.	
J. Next meeting	J01	2026 March Council Meeting • Friday 20 March 2026 hosted by Bond University, Gold Coast. • Council Dinner to be held on Thursday 19 March 2026 from 6:00pm. Details TBC.	

Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 3:00 pm.

Distribution list: all Council members and representatives