

CALD Council Meeting

John Ford Senate Room

Bond University

14 University Drive, Robina

Friday, 20 March 2026

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	OL
Professor Belinda Bennett, Head of School and Dean	School of Law and Justice, University of Newcastle	IP
Professor Sharon Mascher, Dean	UWA Law School, The University of Western Australia	OL
Professor Maree Sainsbury, Dean	Canberra Law School, University of Canberra	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
Associate Professor Amanda Alexander, Interim Dean	Thomas More Law School Australian Catholic University	OL
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	OL
Professor Joshua Aston, Associate Dean of Law	School of Business and Law, Edith Cowan University	OL
Professor Jurgen Brohmer, Dean	School of Law and Criminology, Murdoch University	OL
Professor Diana Bowman, Dean	School of Law, RMIT University	IP
Professor Judith McNamara, Dean	Adelaide Law School, The University of Adelaide	IP
Professor Alpana Roy, Head of School	School of Law, University of New England	IP
Associate Professor Alex Pelizzon (representing 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	OL
Professor Patrick Emerton, Dean	Deakin School of Law, Deakin University	OL
Professor Cassandra Sharp, Interim Dean (representing 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
Professor Liz Campbell (representing Professor Steven Vaughan, Dean)	Faculty of Law, Monash University	IP
Professor Michelle Foster, Dean	Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne	IP
Professor Gino Dal Pont, Dean and Head of School	School of Law, University of Tasmania	OL
Professor David Carter, National 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	OL
Professor David Heilpern, Dean	Faculty of Business, Law and Arts, Southern Cross University	IP
Professor Lidia Xynas, Dean of Law	Victoria Law School, Victoria University	OL
Professor Lorne Neudorf, Dean	LaTrobe Law School, LaTrobe University	IP

Associate Professor Natania Locke, Interim Dean of Law	School of Business, Law and Entrepreneurship, Swinburne University	IP
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
Professor Noeleen McNamara, Dean	School of Law and Justice, University of Southern QLD	IP
Professor Rita Shackel (representing Professor Fleur Johns, Dean)	Sydney Law School, University of Sydney	IP

Apologies

Name	Law School	Delegate Attending
Professor Fleur Johns	Sydney Law School, University of Sydney	Yes
Professor Steven Vaughan	Monash Law School, Monash University	Yes
Professor Tim Peters, Dean	School of Law and Society, University of the Sunshine Coast	Yes
Professor Tony Connolly, Dean	ANU College of Law, Australian National University	No
Professor Ryan Ross,	ANU, Australian National University	OL

Guests

Name	Law School	Attendance
Associate Professor Judith Marychurch, LEAD Co-Chair	Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne	OL
Professor Rachael Field	Faculty of Law, Bond University	IP
Stephen Bray, CEO	Legal Services Council	OL
Justice Francois Kunc	Legal Services Council	OL
Ella Howard	Legal Services Council	OL

Secretariat

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

Agenda Details

Agenda Item		Details	To Do
A. Welcome	A01	Welcome to Law Deans and delegates NJ welcomed all Council members to Bond University and delivered an Acknowledgement of Country.	
B. Formal matters	B01	Apologies and housekeeping Apologies for the meeting were noted along with general housekeeping.	
	B02	Approval of CALD Council Minutes of Meeting The Minutes of the CALD Council Meeting held on 19 November 2025 were approved. Noting of CALD Executive Minutes of Meetings The Minutes of the CALD Executive Meetings held on 12 December 2025, and 13 February 2026 were accepted and noted.	
	B03	The agenda was approved.	
C. Executive reports	C01	CALD Co-Chairs <u>Welcome to new CALD Members</u>	

Agenda Item	Details	To Do
	NJ welcomed all new Law Deans to CALD. <u>ALAA Conference and Gala Dinner</u> The July CALD Council meeting will be hosted by Melbourne Law School in conjunction with the 2026 ALAA Conference. CALD will sponsor the ALAA Conference Gala Dinner, during which the CALD Academic Awards will be presented. NJ extended thanks to Professor Michelle Foster for hosting both the conference and the Council meeting. <u>CALD Executive Vacancy – Vice Chair Legal Research</u> A vacancy has arisen for the position of Vice Chair Research. The Executive recommended Professor Michelle Foster (Dean of Law, University of Melbourne) for the position. NJ moved that Professor Foster be appointed; Professor Alpana Roy seconded. The motion passed. <u>Declaration on Research (DORA)</u> NJ confirmed that CALD has formally signed DORA, in line with the decision made at the November 2025 Council meeting. Information regarding this can be found on the CALD website.	CALD to formally write to Professor Foster confirming the appointment.

Guest Presentation	C02	Presentation by Justice Francois Kunc and Stephen Bray (LACC/LSC) re proposed changes to PLT and the Accreditation Standards A joint presentation was provided on the proposed changes to Practical Legal Training (PLT) and the Accreditation Standards, planned for implementation by 2028. Key points included: Issues Identified with Current PLT • Graduates are not consistently perceived as practice ready. • PLT is viewed as too long and expensive. • Essential practical and interpersonal skills (e.g., communication, drafting, negotiation) are inconsistently taught. • The exceptions to these findings are in Tasmania and Western Australia. Proposed PLT Model • Four weeks of coursework focused on core knowledge and skills. • 15 days of work experience. • Post Admission Legal Training (PALT): 15 hours per year for the first two years of practice. Proposed Changes to Law Degrees • Practical knowledge and skills to be embedded within the Priestley 11 and assessed as part of the curriculum. • Skills include communication, client relationships, collaboration, negotiation, and drafting of court documents.	CALD EO to distribute LACC presentation slides.
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		• These requirements will be integrated into the Accreditation Standards. Justice Kunc noted that LACC and LSC will meet next week to approve the national discussion paper. A consultation paper will follow and will be distributed to all CALD members for feedback. Council Discussion – Key Concerns • The 2028 implementation timeline poses major structural challenges. • Additional workload implications for academics. • Reduced time for doctrinal content in an already crowded curriculum. • Whether the required new skills taught will be graded or assessed on a pass/fail basis. • The effects of these changes on current law students. The Council agreed that CALD should provide a collective response, noting geographical and institutional diversity. The NSW Law Deans will draft an initial response for NJ and TW to review and will also write separately to the NSW LPAB.	Professor Andrew Lynch to share response by NSW deans to NSW changes. CALD Exec to draft CALD response to LACC/LSC Consultation Paper.
	C03	Deputy Chair No further updates.	
	C04	Vice Chair Legal Education No further updates.	

	C05	Vice Chair First Peoples Partnership (FPP) SM reported progress by the FPP on the development of the Best Practice Guide for indigenising the law curriculum and fostering culturally safe learning spaces. The Council was also advised that as part of the professional development session for the CALD July meeting, Nerita Waight, CEO at the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (VALS) will present to members on the First Nations Cultural Capability Framework that the VALS is involved with. In response to a query from Council, SM reiterated that the FPP portfolio is limited to Australia (not New Zealand).	
	C06	Vice Chair International <u>Affiliated Membership Proposals for NZ Law Deans</u> A draft proposal for affiliated membership has been circulated for discussion. The CALD Co-Chairs will write to the NZ Law Commission and NZ Law Deans to present the proposal and gain feedback with the intend the proposal will be brought to the July 2026 Council meeting for formal approval. New Zealand Deans will be invited to attend the July meeting. <u>Indonesian Law Deans Visit</u> Regarding the Australian/Indonesian Law Deans relationship, CALD needs to start planning to host the Indonesian Law Deans in July 2027, ideally aligned with the ALAA Conference and CALD Council meeting. CR will seek funding from DFAT for this purpose. Council members were reminded that the objectives of the	CALD Co-Chairs to write to NZ Law Commission and Law Deans. CALD Executive to begin planning for the visit in 2027.

		relationship are to strengthen academic collaboration and explore student mobility opportunities.	
	C07	Treasurer Report The 2025 Financial Report and ACNC Statement were tabled for approval. A motion to approve the reports were moved by RB, seconded by CR, and passed. The reports will be finalised and submitted to Liston Newton.	EO to finalise documents for submission.
D. Discussion	D01	LACC / LSC update – Further discussion Discussion noted under Item C02.	
	D02	Funding for CALD projects Expressions of Interest have been invited for the Graduate Tracking Project which is intended to update the earlier work by Christopher Roper. Funding of up to \$100,000 is available from CALD. Members were encouraged to promote the EOI widely to their staff. It was noted that the current deadline of 17 April 2026 may require adjustment.	
	D03	CALD Executive Appointments As noted in Item C01.	

	D04	Trauma-Informed Practice into Legal Education Professor Rita Shackel (University of Sydney) presented on integrating trauma informed practice within legal education. Key points: • Significant work already exists in the context of violence and survivor experiences. • Law graduates are not adequately trained to recognise or respond to trauma. • Establishing a common understanding is essential. • Participation of law schools will be on an opt in basis. Members shared existing initiatives at their law schools and will forward these to Professor Shackel for information.	Council members to share relevant initiatives with Professor Shackel.
	D05	Membership request The Council discussed a membership request from Professor Michael Adams, Dean at the Australian International School of Management and Commerce (AISMC) – a non-university law school. Council noted: • CALD’s Constitution restricts membership to university law schools. • The interests of university law schools and RTOs differ substantially. The membership request was rejected by majority vote.	Co-Chairs to respond to Professor Adams.

		A proposal for affiliated membership (non-voting) was also rejected (supported by two members only).	
	D06	CALD Constitution Amendments The Council discussed the proposed revised amendments to the Constitution, and approved the following amendments: • Clause 7.4: Revised wording confirming serving Deans as members - passed. • Clause 8: Change withdrawn. • Clause 9: Law Deans cease to be members when they have resigned - passed. • Clause 11.1: Grammar correction - passed. • Clause 13.2: No change required; July meeting agenda to serve as Notice of Meeting. • Clause 16.1: Confirming the Law Dean as the member - passed. • Clause 16.2: Option 1 (representatives have voting rights) - passed. • Clause 28.1: Option 2 (Directors include Co-Chairs, Deputy Chair, Treasurer) - passed. • Clause 29.1: Update of portfolios - passed. • Clause 30.4: Grammar correction - passed. • Clause 30.6: Punctuation correction - passed. • Clause 33: Reflecting prior approval for expenditure up to \$15,000 - passed. • Clause 36.1: Updated to “at least three Board meetings...” - passed.	Constitution to be updated to reflect these changes.

E. Guest Presentation	E01	Law Education Associate Deans (LEAD) Network Associate Professor Judith Marychurch provided an update on LEAD initiatives, including: • Responses to proposed Accreditation Standards revisions • LEAD Peer Review Program • Analysis of recent ALEA cycles • Recognition of Associate Professor Judith Marychurch and Associate Professor Kelley Burton, recipients of the 2025 CAULTT and HERDSA Awards JM will recirculate desktop research on Accreditation Standards.	
F. Professional Development	F01	IBA Wellness – Updated Guidelines Professors Rachael Field and Emma Jones presented updated IBA Wellness Guidelines which CALD had adopted previously. The presentation will be shared with all Council members who will consider how they may implement these guidelines.	CALD website to be updated to reflect the updated Guidelines.
G. Correspondence for noting	G01	• Justice Gagelar to Professor Nick James re the 2025 Legal Convention. • 260217 CALD to ALAA re sponsorship for the ALAA Gala Dinner. • 260312 Email to Professor James from IMC Law School regarding probability of CALD Membership.	
H. Other business	H01		

I. Next meeting	I01	The next CALD Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, 1 July 2026 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne, in conjunction with the ALAA Conference.	
J. Close of meeting		The meeting closed at 3:00 pm	

Distribution list: all Council members and representatives