

# VLAB

VICTORIAN  
LEGAL  
ADMISSIONS  
BOARD



## ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18



Justice  
and Regulation



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The Victorian Legal Admissions Board (the Board) is a statutory body established under the *Legal Profession Uniform Law* (the Law) which determines the eligibility and suitability of persons seeking admission as Australian Lawyers. Admission of lawyers in Victoria is governed by the *Legal Profession Uniform Admission Rules 2015* (the Rules). The Board administers the appointment of Public Notaries in accordance with the *Public Notaries Act 2001*. The Board is also responsible for the accreditation of academic law courses and practical legal training providers.



## CHAIRMANS FORWARD

The operations of the Victorian Legal Admissions Board continue to grow strongly each financial year with admissions and foreign assessments steadily rising. There has been an increase of 17% in admissions in the current reporting period.

VLAB issued compliance certificates to 1589 applicants, 1012 (64%) female and 577 (36%) male.

The Chairman and CEO held 56 meetings with applicants and the Victorian Legal Admissions Committee convened 11 meetings to hear evidence from 42 applicants on whether to grant a compliance certificate.



The Hon. Bernard Teague AO

VLAC also conducted one special hearing in the Supreme Court. VLAB did not refuse to issue a compliance certificate to any applicant in the reporting period. Social security offences, academic misconduct and traffic, transit and other infringements remain consistent in suitability matters.

VLAB continues to be supported by its Committees: Victorian Legal Admissions Committee, Academic Course Appraisal Committee, Practical Legal Training Committee, Academic Qualification Committee, Overseas Assessment Committee and Secretariat Committee.

Victoria University and Melbourne Law School have been reaccredited for 5 years and reaccreditation reviews of La Trobe University and Deakin University will commence in the next reporting period.

The College of Law is currently undergoing reaccreditation on a national level.

VLAB is a driving force in IT technologies in areas such as cloud hosted admission and assessment solutions, artificial intelligence data analysis predictive methodologies and identity verification processes. VLAB is nationally vocal with respect to how admission processes can be streamlined and managed through better development of technologies and continue to actively share its experiences with other states.

VLAB and NSW LPAB continue to engage together to establish uniformity and transparency in the admission process. The common approach between VLAB and NSW LPAB to policy and practical issues establishes a common solution.

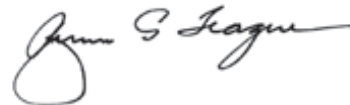
VLAB has worked over the past 12 months in conjunction with the NSW LPAB on the Legal Services Council data sharing project.

The Attorney-General's Office issued a directive that required VLAB to continually review its existing processes to ensure that risks were appropriately targeted, thereby minimising regulatory burden by way of complying with a settled Statement of Expectations. By end December 2017, VLAB complied in full with the issued deliverables in the Statement of Expectations.

The aim of the current Statement of Expectations is to look at greater efficiencies and effectiveness in the administration and enforcement of regulation.

Thank you to the Deputy Chairman, the Hon. David Habersberger QC and all members of VLAB and its Committees for their contribution.

I extend my thanks to all the Staff who work meticulously to provide support and assistance to VLAB and its Committees.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bernard Teague', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**The Honourable Bernard Teague AO**

# 1. STRUCTURE

## 1.1 Board, Committees and Staff

### 1.1.1 Victorian Legal Admissions Board

*Table 1: Victorian Legal Admissions Board*

Member	Appointment	Term
The Hon. Bernard Teague AO (Chair)	Person nominated by the Chief Justice	1 July 2015 to 30 June 2018
The Hon. David Habersberger QC (Deputy Chair)	Retired judge nominated by the Chief Justice	1 July 2015 to 30 June 2018
Dr Suzanne McNicol QC	Person nominated by the Victorian Bar	1 July 2015 to 30 June 2018
Ms Caroline Counsel	Person nominated by the Law Institute	1 July 2015 to 30 June 2018
Dr Magda Karagiannakis	Person nominated by the Attorney-General who has experience in the provisions of legal education	1 July 2015 to 30 June 2018

### 1.1.2 Victorian Legal Admissions Board – Qualification Sub-Committee

*Table 2: Qualification Sub-Committee*

Member
The Hon. Bernard Teague AO
The Hon. David Habersberger QC
Mrs Deborah Jones, CEO

### 1.1.3 Secretariat Committee

Under an Instrument of Delegation, the Board established the Secretariat Committee to facilitate efficient administrative decision making and enable the secretariat to effectively manage the day to day operations of the Board.

*Table 3: Secretariat Committee*

Member
The Hon. Bernard Teague AO
The Hon. David Habersberger QC
Mrs Deborah Jones, CEO

#### 1.1.4 Victorian Legal Admission Committee

Under an Instrument of Delegation, the Board established the Victorian Legal Admissions Committee (the Committee) to assess applicants for admission in Victoria and to grant Compliance Certificates under s19 of The Law.

*Table 4: Victorian Legal Admissions Committee*

Member
The Hon. Bernard Teague AO (Chair)
The Hon. David Habersberger QC (Deputy Chair)
Ms Jennifer Batrouney QC
Mr Ian Waller QC
Ms Kerri Judd QC to 30 June 2018
Mr Matthew Connock QC (now the Hon. Justice Connock) to 23 April 2018
Ms Aileen Ryan QC (now Her Honour Judge Ryan) to 4 September 2017
Ms Lisa Nichols QC
Mr Sam Hay
Dr Magda Karagiannakis
Ms Caroline Counsel
Mr Peter Holloway
Ms Maryjane Crabtree
Ms Mary Padbury
Mr John Mengolian
Ms Alison O'Brien



### 1.1.5 Academic Course Appraisal Committee

Under an Instrument of Delegation, the Board established the Academic Course Appraisal Committee (ACAC) to accredit, monitor and review academic law courses in Victoria.

*Table 5: Academic Course Appraisal Committee*

Member
Dr Elizabeth Boros (Chair)
Dr Ian Hardingham QC
Professor Breen Creighton
Professor Simon Evans
Dr Magda Karagiannakis

### 1.1.6 Practical Legal Training Committee

Under an Instrument of Delegation, the Board established the Practical Legal Training Committee (PLTC) to accredit, monitor and review practical legal training providers in Victoria.

*Table 6: Practical Legal Training Committee*

Member
Professor Sandford Clark AM (Chair)
Professor Adrian Evans
Professor Breen Creighton
Mr Hugh Murray
Dr Magda Karagiannakis

### 1.1.7 Overseas Application Committee

Under an Instrument of Delegation, the Board established the Overseas Applications Committee to assess the overseas qualifications of persons for the purpose of admission in Victoria.

*Table 7: Overseas Application Committee*



**Member**

Professor Sandford Clark AM

Mrs Deborah Jones, CEO

**1.1.8 Secretariat Support**

The Board and its Committees are supported by employees of Civil Justice, Department of Justice and Regulation.

*Table 8: Secretariat Support*

Staff Member	Position
Mrs Deborah Jones	Chief Executive Officer
Ms Kristen Murray	Principal Policy Officer
Mrs Maria Di Palma	Project Manager
Mrs Vanessa Wilde	Compliance Officer
Mrs Gayle Camilleri	Compliance Officer
Mrs Janette Ibarra	Compliance Officer
Mrs Irene Boltuc	Compliance Support Officer
Mrs Lisa Rozanitis	Administrative Support Officer



## 2. Admissions

The Supreme Court of Victoria may admit a person to the Australian legal profession as an Australian Lawyer if the person:

1. has attained the specified academic qualifications prerequisite;
2. has satisfactorily completed the specified practical legal training prerequisite; and
3. is a fit and proper person to be admitted to the Australian legal profession.

### 2.1 Online Applications

All applications for admission to the Victorian Legal Admissions Board must be made via the online application client portal. This has increased the effectiveness of processing applications with greater efficiencies than previously employed systems. The Board will consider an application for admission in Victoria as soon as an online application commences.

### 2.2 Admission Figures

The Board will assess and determine an application for a compliance certificate, and if satisfied of the eligibility and suitability of an applicant, the Board may issue the Supreme Court of Victoria with a compliance certificate in respect of the applicant.

During the period under review the Board issued compliance certificates to 1589 applicants, an increase of 17% when measured against the 2016-2017 reporting period of 1362 applicants.

- 1509 persons were admitted who held qualifications in law obtained wholly or partly in Australia.
- 80 persons obtained their academic qualifications in a foreign jurisdiction.
- 29 New Zealand practitioners were admitted under the Mutual Recognition principle.
- There were no Australian legal practitioners appointed as Public Notaries in the reporting period.

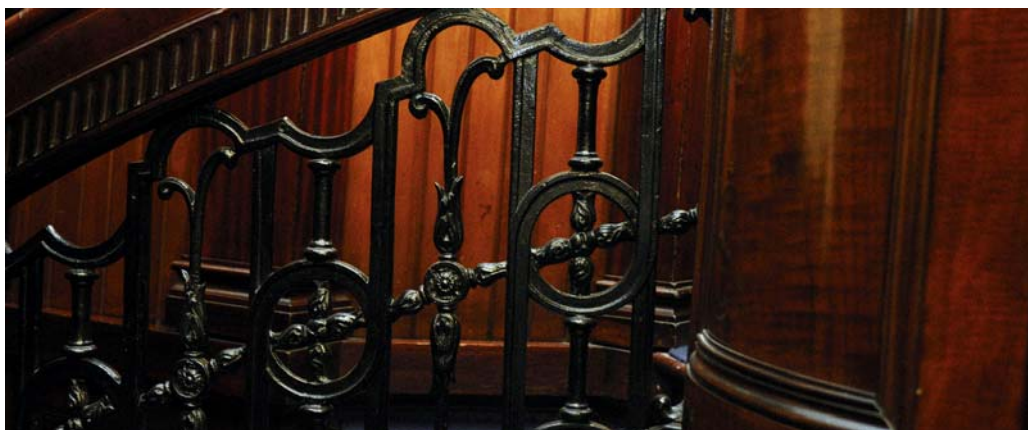
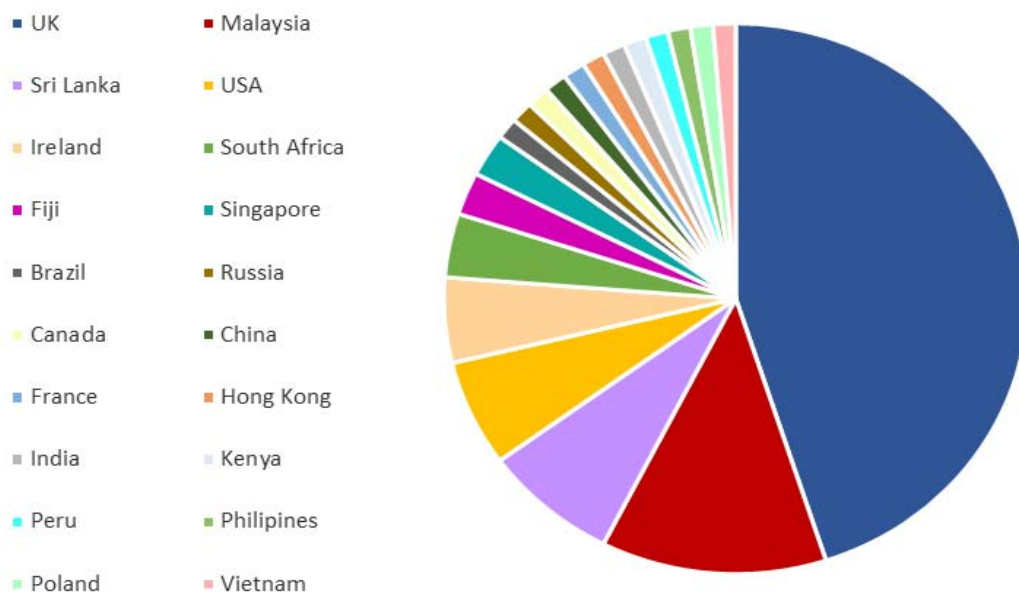


Table 9: Foreign Lawyers and Graduates

Country of Admission	Number	Country of Admission	Number
United Kingdom	36	China	1
Malaysia	10	France	1
Sri Lanka	6	Hong Kong	1
USA	5	India	1
Ireland	4	Kenya	1
South Africa	3	Peru	1
Fiji	2	Philippines	1
Singapore	2	Poland	1
Brazil	1	Russia	1
Canada	1	Vietnam	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>80</b>

Graph 1: Foreign Lawyers and Graduates

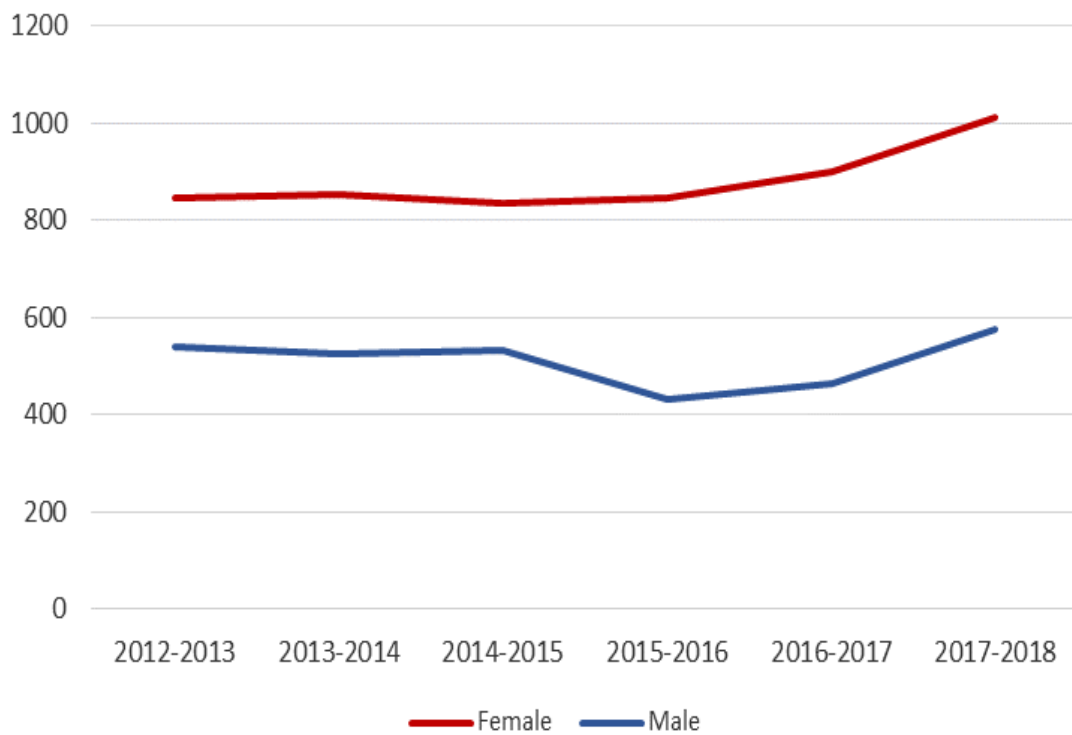


## 2.3 Gender Balance

Table 10: Breakdown of Gender Balance

Financial Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Females	848	853	837	845	899	1012
Males	541	526	533	432	463	577
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1389</b>	<b>1397</b>	<b>1370</b>	<b>1277</b>	<b>1362</b>	<b>1589</b>

Graph 2: Gender Breakdown

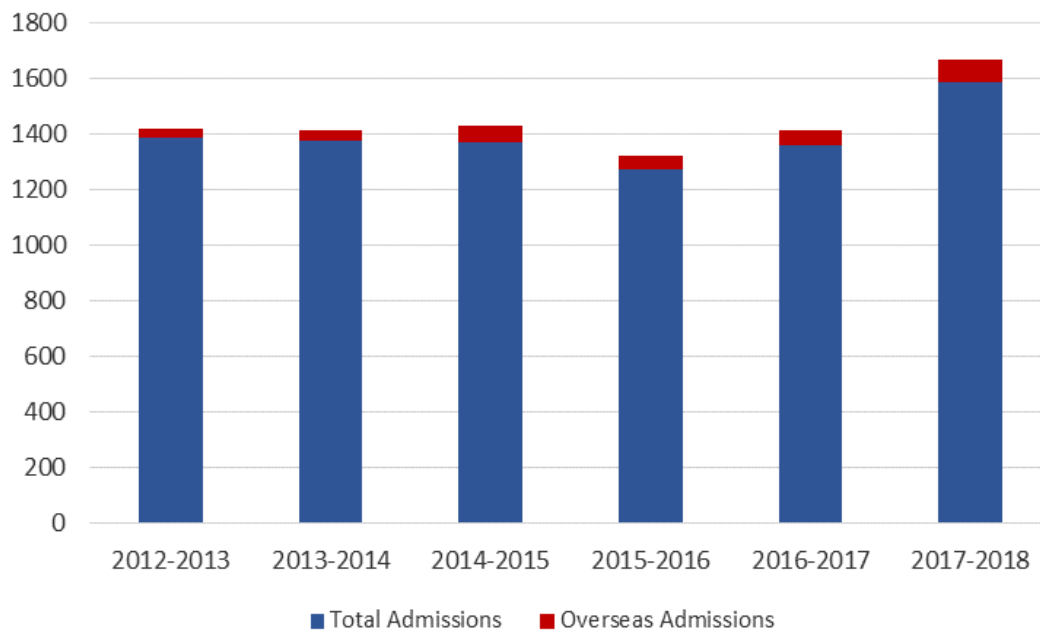


## 2.4 Total Admissions

Table 11: Admissions Including Overseas

Financial Year	Total Admissions	Overseas Admissions
2012-2013	1389	32
2013-2014	1379	37
2014-2015	1370	63
2015-2016	1277	49
2016-2017	1362	55
2017-2018	1589	80

Graph 3: Local Vs Overseas Admissions



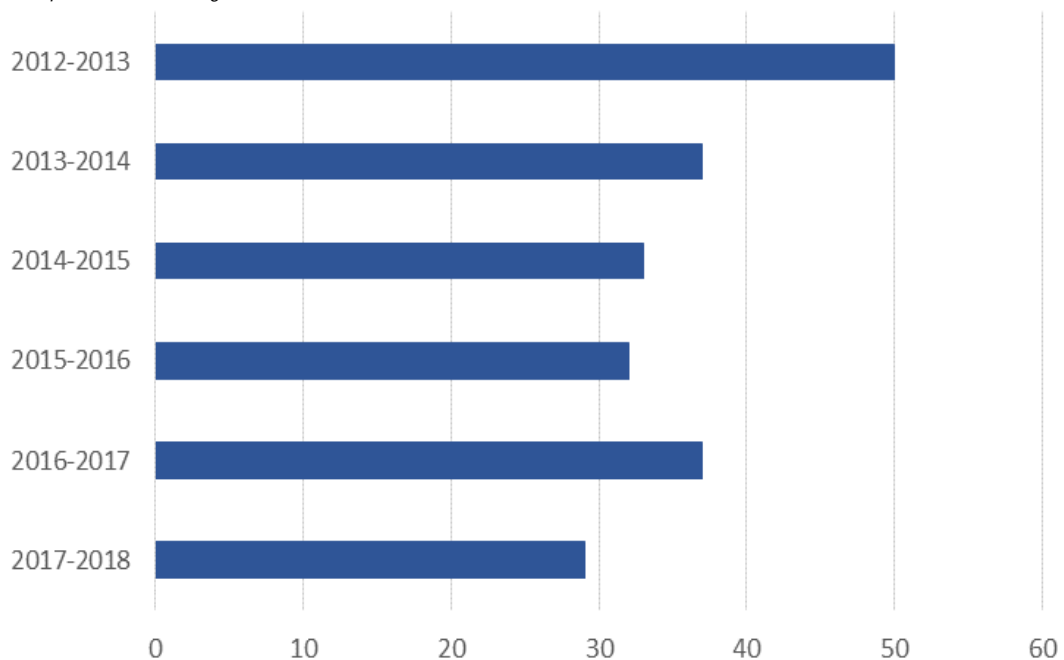
## 2.5 Mutual Recognition Admissions

There was a decrease of 21% in New Zealand practitioners admitted under the Mutual Recognition Principle (MRA) in the 2017-18 reporting period compared to the 2016-2017 period.

*Table 12: Mutual Recognition Admissions*

Financial Year	MRA Admissions
2012-2013	50
2013-2014	37
2014-2015	33
2015-2016	32
2016-2017	37
<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>29</b>

*Graph 4: Mutual Recognition Admissions*



### 3. OVERSEAS ASSESSMENTS

The Overseas Application Committee assesses foreign graduates and lawyers for admission and has regard to the Uniform Principles for Assessing Qualifications of Overseas Applicants for Admission to the Australian Legal Profession (Uniform Principles) prepared by the Law Admissions Consultative Committee (LACC).

The Board received 336 applications for assessment of overseas qualifications, an increase of 3% on the previous reporting period.

*Table 13: Number of Assessments*

Year	No. of Assessments	% from previous year
2014 - 2015	94	-
2015 - 2016	188	100% increase
2016 - 2017	316	59% increase
<b>2017 - 2018</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>3% increase</b>

#### 3.1 Jurisdictions

*Table 14: Breakdown of Assessments Received by Jurisdiction 2017 - 2018*

Country	No. of Assessments	Country	No. of Assessments
United Kingdom	113	Syria	2
India	52	Turkey	2
South Africa	23	Azerbaijan	1
Sri Lanka	21	Bangladesh	1
Pakistan	11	Canada	1
Hong Kong	9	Chile	1
Ireland	9	China	1
Malaysia	9	Columbia	1
United States	9	Cyprus	1
Philippines	7	Egypt	1
Nigeria	6	Ethiopia	1
Mauritius	5	Fiji	1
Singapore	5	Germany	1
Australia *	4	Indonesia	1
France	3	Italy	1



Country	No. of Assessments	Country	No. of Assessments
Israel	3	Iraq	1
Romania	3	Japan	1
Thailand	3	Kazakhstan	1
Iran	2	Kenya	1
Netherlands	2	Peru	1
New Zealand	2	Spain	1
Papua New Guinea	2	Sudan	1
Poland	2	Switzerland	1
Scotland	2	Ukraine	1
South Korea	2	Venezuela	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>336</b>

*Australia\* - Applicants who obtained their qualifications in Australia and were admitted upon return to their home country.*

#### **4. CONDITIONAL ASSESSMENTS AND ADMISSION**

Section 20 of the Law provides for recommendations that a foreign lawyer be admitted subject to conditions. The Board assessed 3 applications for conditional admission during this period, of these, 1 application was approved and 2 were refused as both applicants had no employment or supervisory arrangements in place in Australia.

#### **5. QUALIFICATION ASSESSMENTS**

Any person relying on qualifications completed more than 5 years prior to applying for a compliance certificate must seek an assessment from the Board. The Board undertook 47 qualification assessments including academic and practical legal training qualifications, of these 17 applicants were required to undertake further study/practical legal training.



## 6. SUPERVISED LEGAL TRAINING

Supervised legal training is a minimum 12-month period of supervised training under an eligible supervisor. During this time a trainee must acquire an appropriate understanding of, and competence in, each elements of the skills, values and practice areas set out in the Rules.

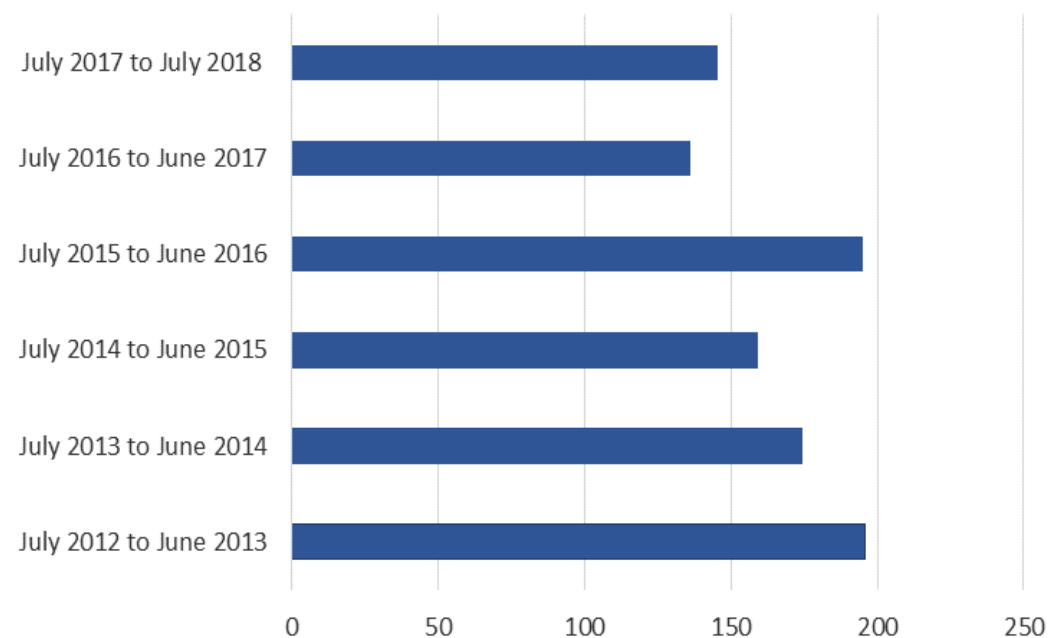
### 6.1 Trainees

The number of applicants undertaking supervised legal traineeships over the last six financial years are as follows:

*Table 15: Supervised Legal Trainees*

Financial Year	Number of Trainees
2012 - 2013	196
2013 - 2014	174
2014 - 2015	159
2015 - 2016	195
2016 - 2017	136
<b>2017 - 2018</b>	<b>145</b>

*Graph 5: Supervised Legal Trainees*

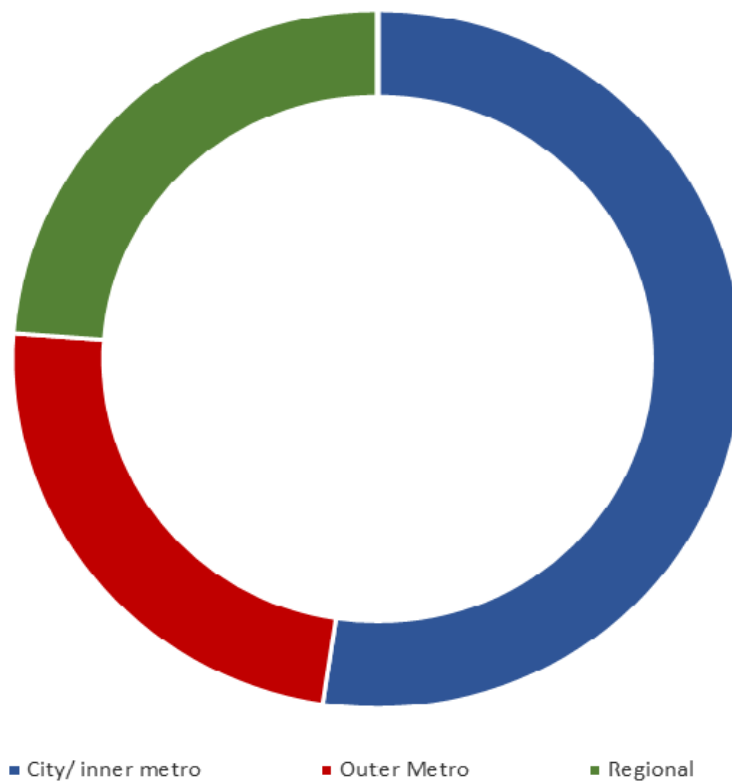


## 6.2 Breakdown of Firms

A total of 64 firms from locations throughout Victoria engaged a trainee in a supervised traineeship.

Of these, 34 firms were based in the Melbourne CBD and inner city suburbs with the remaining 30 divided between Melbourne metropolitan outer suburbs and regional areas.

*Graph 6: Breakdown of Firms*



## 7. CONCURRENT STUDY

The Rules provide for a practical legal training course to be undertaken concurrently with an academic qualification in law if the applicant has obtained prior permission from the Board. The applicant must have no more than two academic subjects to complete, neither of which are Priestley subjects.

The Board received 102 applications for consent to commence a practical legal training course prior to completion of a law degree. This is a decrease of 26% on the 2016-2017 figure of 139 applications.

## 8. ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

In the State of Victoria, eight academic institutions have been approved by the Board to provide academic law courses.

*Table 16: Approved Victorian Academic Institutions*

Academic Institution	Course
Australian Catholic University	<i>LLB</i>
Deakin University	<i>LLB, JD</i>
La Trobe University	<i>LLB, JD</i>
Monash University	<i>LLB, JD</i>
RMIT University	<i>JD</i>
Swinburne University of Technology	<i>Dual Award LLB &amp; Leo Cussen Centre for Law</i>
The University of Melbourne	<i>JD</i>
Victoria University	<i>LLB</i>




## 8.1 Academic Course Appraisal Committee

The Academic Course Appraisal Committee (ACAC) is a committee established by an instrument of delegation. ACAC was established to accredit, monitor and review academic law courses in Victoria, and to provide advice to the Board on such matters.

The following are the main activities ACAC engaged in during the reporting period.

- The Board commissioned ACAC to undertake an independent review to assess the performance of the University of Melbourne's Juris Doctor Law course, pursuant to Rule 7 and 8 of the Rules. The University of Melbourne agreed to participate in the review, which was conducted in part to gauge the effectiveness of draft LACC standards in setting out clear, tangible criteria against which law schools could be assessed. The outcome of the review was extremely positive and accordingly, ACAC agreed to reaccredit The University of Melbourne Juris Doctor Law course for a further five year period.


- ACAC considered a proposal from the College of Law and Justice at Victoria University to undertake a major reorganisation of the first year of its law degree. The main feature of the proposal was to introduce a block learning structure, whereby first year classes would be delivered by taking one subject after another in order, instead of by way of simultaneous delivery. ACAC was focused on ensuring that the first year model met the number of teaching hours required by LACC Accreditation Standards. Victoria University was able to satisfy ACAC that the block learning model was compliant with the Accreditation Standards and had the potential to maximise knowledge for students. The model was approved on the condition that Victoria University report to ACAC one year after its introduction.
- ACAC received and considered an application from Victoria University and Federation University for accreditation of a law course under Rule 7 of the Uniform Admission Rules. The subject of the application is a combined course leading to a Bachelor of Commerce (Law) awarded by Federation University and a Bachelor of Laws from Victoria University. The application if successful, would allow Federation University students who complete approved subjects within the Bachelor of Commerce (Law) degree to enter into the Victoria University Bachelor of Laws

degree via the graduate entry pathway and receive one year's advanced standing. The proposal remains under review.

Other activities undertaken during the reporting period include:

- Consideration and approval of a proposal by the University of Melbourne to combine the teaching of Legal Ethics and Dispute Resolution.
- Consideration and approval for a combined Juris Doctor program between the University of Melbourne and National University of Singapore.
- Discussions with Swinburne University of Technology regarding a proposal to develop a degree program which is specifically designed to assist foreign lawyers or law graduates to comply with the academic requirements for admission to the legal profession in Australia.
- Consideration and approval of a proposal by Victoria University to amend the Priestley 11 equivalent subject for Criminal Law and Procedure.
- Consideration and approval of a proposal by La Trobe University to change the mode of offering its law degree at the Bendigo campus, to enable students to complete the entire degree in Bendigo.
- Consideration and approval of a proposal by Monash University to introduce a blended learning approach into the delivery of subjects with Priestley 11 content.
- Consideration and approval of a proposal by RMIT University to make minor changes to the structure and content of its JD degree.
- Consideration of a report by Swinburne University of Technology on the performance of its professional experience program for the period November 2015 to November 2017.





## 9. PRACTICAL LEGAL TRAINING PROVIDERS

*Table 17: Approved Victorian Practical Training Institutions*

Practical Legal Training Provider Institution
Leo Cussen Centre for Law
The College of Law
Australian National University School of Legal Practice
Swinburne University of Technology – Dual Award LLB & Leo Cussen Centre for Law

The Practical Legal Training Committee (PLT Committee) is a committee established by an instrument of delegation. The PLT Committee accredits, monitors and reviews practical legal training providers in Victoria and provides advice to the Board on such matters.

The national review of the College of Law PLT course made significant progress during the 2017-18 financial year. It is the first time a combined review of PLT in different jurisdictions has been attempted by Australian admitting authorities. Governance of the review was provided by a national reference group, comprising members of eight admitting authorities from around Australia. The aim of a national approach is to ensure greater consistency and efficiency in the assessment of PLT across various jurisdictions. The review panel undertook the following activities:

- conducted site visits at three College of Law locations and met the Directors of PLT programs in every jurisdiction where it is offered;
- attended the College of Law Board of Governors retreat;
- met with the Board and spoke to key personnel of the College, including from interstate; and
- conducted consultations and focus groups with current and past students, judges, practitioners, law firms, and others.

In addition, the reference panel commissioned a survey of College of Law Graduates.

The review panel will submit its draft report to the national reference group early in the 2018-19 financial year. The PLT Committee will consider any recommendations made by the review panel concerning re-accreditation of the College of Law and associated matters.

Other activities undertaken by the PLT Committee during the reporting period included:

- Consideration of a proposal by the College of Law to redesign its Trust and Office Accounting part-program subject.
- Participation in discussion with the Law Admissions Consultative Committee's new PLT work experience rules and consultation around pre-requisites to PLT entry.



## 10. SUITABILITY

### 10.1 Victorian Legal Admissions Committee

The Committee determines whether an applicant for admission is of good reputation and character and a fit and proper person to be admitted to the Supreme Court of Victoria.

The Committee considers circumstances surrounding matters of suitability and determines whether an applicant is a fit and proper person for admission.

An applicant must provide a statutory declaration disclosing details of matters which may have bearing on his or her fitness and propriety.

The suitability will be reviewed and assessed as follows:

- approved without further consideration;
- further information required;
- attendance at a meeting with the Chairman and CEO; or
- the matter will be referred to a full meeting of the Committee. In some circumstances a special hearing will be required.

Applicants appearing before the Committee at times attend with legal representation or support person/s.

Special hearings are held in the Supreme Court. Counsel is engaged to assist the Committee to question the applicant and make formal submissions to the Committee. Witnesses give sworn evidence and a transcript of the hearing is prepared.

The Chairman and CEO met with 56 applicants who had significant disclosures. 14 of the 56 applicants were referred to a full meeting of the Committee to determine whether a compliance certificate should be issued. In addition, 28 applicants were referred directly to a full meeting. The Committee conducted 1 special hearing in the Supreme Court.



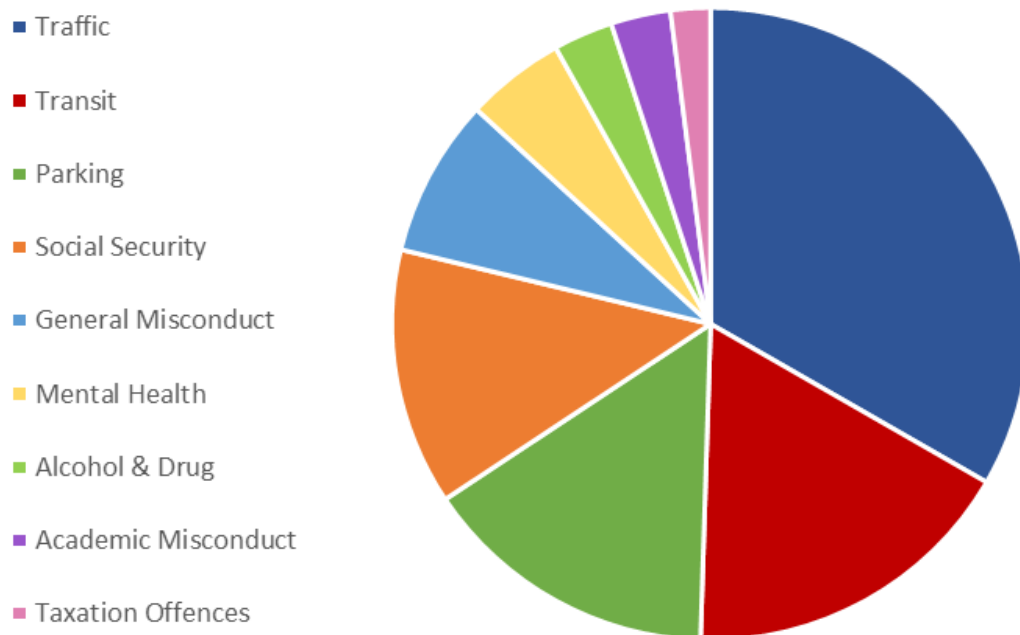
## 10.2 Disclosures

There were 2,066 disclosure types recorded. The percentage of applicants with disclosures increased with many applicants making more than one type of disclosure. Disclosure types and percentages are shown below.

*Table 18: Disclosure Types and Percentages*

Disclosure Type	%
Traffic Infringements	33%
Transit Infringements	17%
Parking Infringements	15%
Social Security Offences	13%
General Misconduct and Other Matters	8%
Addictions, Mental Health and Physical Conditions	5%
Alcohol, drug, intervention, AVO, Dishonesty	3%
Academic Misconduct	3%
Taxation Offences, Bankruptcy and Corporate Insolvency	2%

*Graph 7: Disclosures*



## 11. STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS

The Statement of Expectations (SOE), sets out the expectations of the Attorney General's office of the Victorian Legal Admissions Board's contribution to the Government's program to reduce red tape for businesses, not-for-profit organisations, government services providers and households, by promoting greater effectiveness and efficiency in the administration and enforcement of regulation. It also outlines the expectations on broader improvements of the Boards performance. The SOE outlines key governance and performance objectives and targets thus reducing its cost impact on businesses and the community.

### 11.1 2016 – 2017 Statement of Expectations Responses

The Victorian Legal Admissions Board has reported on the Attorney Generals Statement of Expectations in this reporting period. The four areas of improvements are as follows:

#### **Risk based strategies**

- To satisfy the expectation that the Board continually reviews its processes to ensure the minimisation of regulatory burden, there has been consultation between the Board and Legal Profession Admission Board of NSW (LPAB). It was recommended that Rule 18 of the Admission Rules be simplified no longer requiring an applicant who had lived overseas to obtain a police report from every jurisdiction resided. The amended rules require only an Australian Police Report. Foreign police reports are still requested though on a case-by-case basis thereby removing unnecessary application requirements.

#### **Timeliness**

- In recognition of the burden that paper-based admission systems place on applicants, the Board deployed an online admission process featuring three new technologies including an online client portal, a backend database and an online payment gateway. The exercise took two years of analyses, mapping, development and deployment of new processes and found it provided a much more efficient turnaround time for users with some applications processed in three days or less compared with previous averages of two months or more. Admission ceremonies are now booked out up to three months in advance. User feedback has been positive and encouraging for the Board to continue to strive for better technologies for its staff and stakeholders.

#### **Compliance related assistance and advice**

- Ongoing consultation between the Board and LPAB of an applicant's legal skills and relevant experience has enabled agreements to be reached on appropriate conditions with agreed interim procedures for admitting applicants relying on qualifications, skills and experience outside of Australia. There have been interim procedures published on the Victorian Legal Admissions Board's website and on twitter, which recommends a number of conditions which may assist the foreign

lawyer to adjust to practicing law in Australia. The appropriateness of the interim procedures will continue to be monitored and improved.

#### Clear and consistent regulatory activities

- The Board participated in the development of new standards for the accreditation and review of Australian law courses, under the auspice of the *Law Admissions Consultative Committee* (LACC). The standards provide greater certainty to law schools about the matters which an admitting authority will consider relevant when accrediting, monitoring or reaccrediting law courses, as well as developing principles for integrating academic and PLT courses. The primary purpose of the review is to apply the LACC standards to assess whether students have acquired and can demonstrate appropriate understanding and competence in each element of the academic areas of knowledge. The Board will also prepare a timetable for reviews of the law school and their approved law courses against the standards and continue to closely scrutinise applications by law schools to vary the content or delivery of their approved law courses.

## 12. LEGAL SERVICE COUNCIL DATA SHARING PROJECT

The Board has been working with the Legal Services Council (LSC) on Stage 2 of the LSC data sharing project (DSP) for the past 18 months. The Board is working in conjunction with the NSW Legal Profession Admission Board (LPAB) to ensure consistency of data. Continuous dialogue between LPAB and the Board aims to maintain uniformity of data provided by each authority as a viable method for promoting compliance with the Uniform Law and Rules.

The Victorian Legal Admissions Board are further enhancing the way in which it provides data through output reporting using SFTP (secure file transfer protocol). This method of file transfer will enable the Board to advance its reporting to LSC.

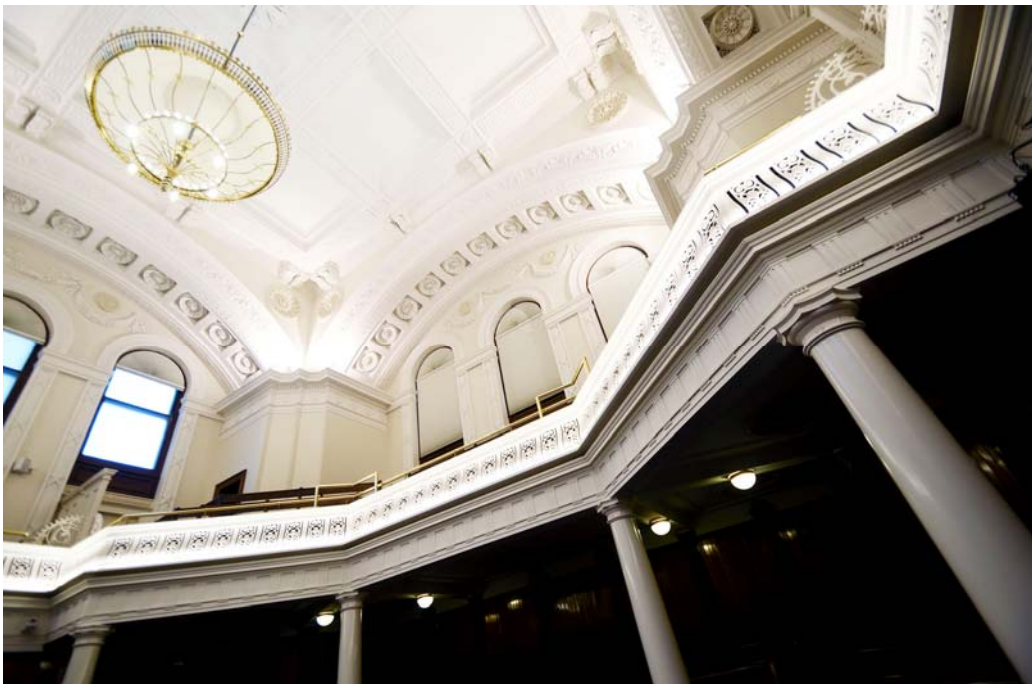


## **13. INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTING SYSTEM**

The international English language Testing System (IELTS) may be prescribed by the Board for foreign applicants as part of their assessment. If prescribed, applicants are required to obtain certain scores for listening, reading, writing and speaking.

Applicants must satisfy the Board that they have sufficient knowledge of written and spoken English to engage in legal practice. Applicants must comply with the English Language Proficiency requirement set out in the Uniform Principles. Applicants must obtain a minimum scores of 8.0 for writing, 7.5 for speaking and 7.0 for reading and listening within two years before the date on which an application for admission is made.

Recently the Board engaged with IELTS to partake in an online verification system to validate test results to maximise the prevention of fraudulently obtained test scores. This system allows the Board to confirm accuracy of reports and consistency of its policy in maintaining authenticity of documentation presented as part of an admissions pathway.

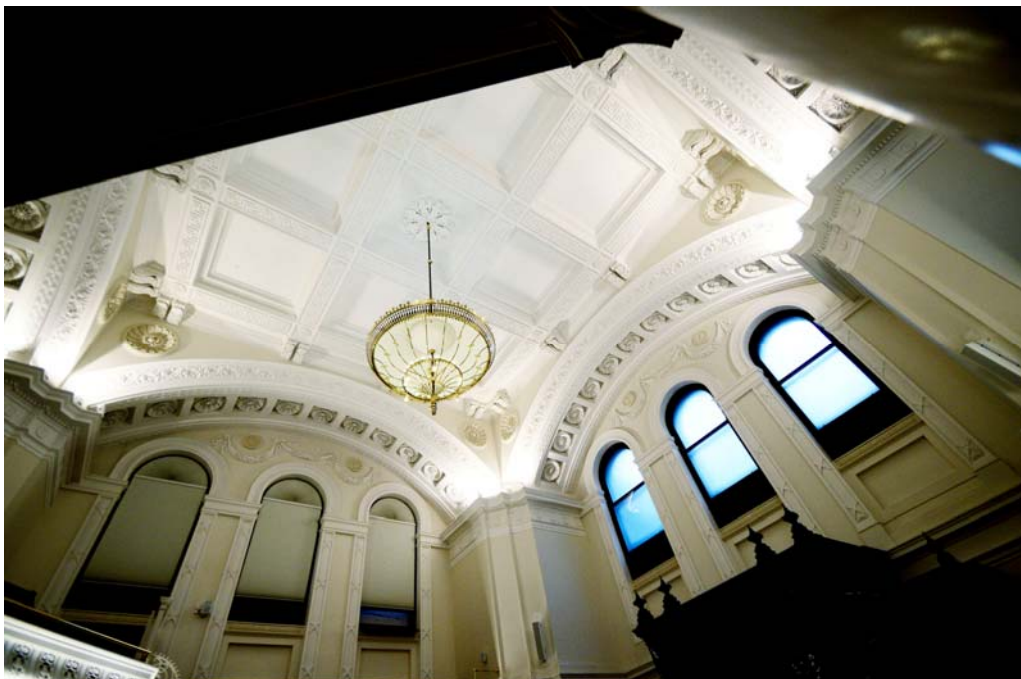


## 14. FUTURE TECHNOLOGY

The Board is working on the implementation of a software package to enable secretariat support staff to undertake analytics to better understand how to provide improved awareness to applicants for admission. Analysis in various matters such as academic institution, PLT institution or geography will assist in further training enhancements by way of outreach education.

The Board will continue to evolve its capability to deliver more efficient and effective application processes for applicants seeking admission to the Supreme Court of Victoria.

The Board is further committed to ensuring best practice in the regulation and accreditation practices of the legal profession.





## 15. GLOSSARY, ACRONYMS & RELEVANT LEGISLATION

### 15.1 Glossary

The Board	Victorian Legal Admissions Board
The Chairman	Chair of the Board
The Committee	Victorian Legal Admissions Committee
The Law	Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014
The Rules	Legal Profession Uniform Admission Rules 2015

### 15.2 Acronyms

ACAC	Academic Course Appraisal Committee
IELTS	International English Language Testing System
LACC	Law Admissions Consultative Committee
LPAB	Legal Profession Admission Board
LSC	Legal Services Council
MRA	Mutual Recognition Admissions
PLT	Practical Legal Training
SLT	Supervised Legal Training
VLAB	Victorian Legal Admissions Board
VLAC	Victorian Legal Admissions Committee

### 15.3 Relevant Legislation

- i. Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014
- ii. Public Notaries Act 2001
- iii. The Freedom of Information Act (Victoria) 1982
- iv. Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (Victoria) Act 1998
- v. Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (Commonwealth) Act 1997





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