

**TWENTY FIFTH REPORT OF THE**

**NEW ZEALAND**

**COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION**

**(from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015)**

LAID BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
PURSUANT TO  
SECTION 150 OF THE CROWN ENTITIES ACT 2004



**STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY**

**THE NEW ZEALAND COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2015**

The New Zealand Council of Legal Education (the Council) is responsible for preparation of the Financial Statements and Statement of Service Performance, and for the judgments used in the production of these statements.

The Council is also responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of internal control designed to provide reasonable assurance as to the integrity and reliability of financial reporting and non-financial reporting.

In the Council's opinion, the attached financial statements, the Statement of Service Performance, and the notes which should be read in conjunction with those statements, fairly reflect the operations of the Council of Legal Education for the year ended 31 December 2015 and the financial position of the Council at that date.

The Honourable Justice S France  
**Chairman**

Professor M Henaghan  
**Council Member**

29 April 2016



# NEW ZEALAND COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOR THE YEAR FROM 1 JANUARY 2015 TO 31 DECEMBER 2015

### 1. BACKGROUND

Between 1841 and 1930 legal education, and the requirements for admission to the profession in New Zealand, were the responsibility of the Judiciary of New Zealand pursuant to a number of Colonial Ordinances and Acts of Parliament, and prescribed in consecutive sets of Judges' Rules. After the establishment of the University of New Zealand in 1870 the practical implementation of the admission requirements was progressively delegated by the Judiciary to the University.

In 1925, a Royal Commission which had been commissioned to examine a number of matters relating to University education in New Zealand, recommended that – <sup>1</sup>

...a Council of Legal Education representative of the Judges, the leaders among practising barristers and solicitors, and the University teachers of law is the most satisfactory method for providing and for watching over a course of legal education which shall comply with the requirements of a good professional education, and at the same time satisfy the demand for a training which is strong enough on the practical side.

Accordingly in 1930 the Council of Legal Education was established.<sup>2</sup> The original Council consisted of six members: two judges of the Supreme Court, two representatives of the New Zealand Law Society, and two law professors or teachers from the University of New Zealand. The Council was given recommendatory powers for the purpose of enabling the University to discharge its functions, which concurrently with the establishment of the Council had been given the responsibility for prescribing and conducting the necessary legal qualifications and examinations.<sup>3</sup>

However, in 1961 the University of New Zealand was dissolved and the constituent Colleges established in their own right.

In order to preserve uniformity across law degrees, to maintain standards, and to secure input from representatives of all, rather than one particular category of stakeholder in legal education, the Council of Legal Education was reconstituted in 1961 as an independent statutory body<sup>4</sup> to take over the role of defining, prescribing and arranging for the provision of courses of study, including practical training, for those persons (from New Zealand and overseas) wishing to be admitted as barristers and solicitors, and generally to supervise legal education in New Zealand.

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<sup>1</sup> *University Education in New Zealand* (Royal Commission) (AJHR 1925, E-7A), page 45.

<sup>2</sup> New Zealand University Amendment Act 1930.

<sup>3</sup> Law Practitioners Amendment Act 1930.

<sup>4</sup> Law Practitioners Amendment Act 1961.

In 1961 the membership of the Council consisted of representatives from the Judiciary, the New Zealand Law Society, and the Law Schools. By 1982 membership had been extended to encompass a District Court Judge and law student representation, and by 1990 a non-lawyer member nominated by the Minister of Justice.

A major change to the operation and funding of the Council occurred in 1990 with the disestablishment of the University Grants Committee, as from 30 June of that year.<sup>5</sup>

The Council's activities had previously been carried out within the framework of the University Grants Committee and it had been a source of funding for the Council which was no longer available, although the Council was subsequently given the power to charge fees for its services, and also began to receive funding from the New Zealand Law Foundation pursuant to section 91F(2)(b)(ii)(B) of the Law Practitioners Act 1982.

The 1990 Amendment Act amended the Law Practitioners Act 1982. Some major consequences for the Council were –

- (a) It expanded the membership of the Council to strengthen the interests of the public without affecting the balance between academic and professional legal interests which had always been a characteristic of the Council.
- (b) It established the Council as a body corporate with perpetual succession, a common seal, and the rights, powers and privileges necessary to carry out its functions.
- (c) It established the basis for the Council to be subject to Part V of the Public Finance Act 1989 as if it were a Crown entity specified in the Fourth and Fifth Schedules to that Act.
- (d) It authorised the charging of fees for work done or services performed by the Council and for entry into the Council's examinations.
- (e) It made requirements of the Council as an employer, including consultation with the State Services Commission.
- (f) It set out the Council's financial responsibilities and exempted it from income tax.
- (g) It set out the Council's duty to report annually to the Minister of Justice.

The Lawyers and Conveyancers Act 2006 was passed in March 2006 and came into force on 1 August 2008.

The Council is covered by Part 8 of the Act. The Council was reconstituted with its current form and membership. Some changes were made to the Council's operations as noted below –

- (a) The Council was renamed the New Zealand Council of Legal Education.

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<sup>5</sup> Education Amendment Act 1990.

- (b) The functions and powers of the Council, whilst remaining essentially the same as in the 1982 Act, were enhanced and modernised to reflect current terminology and practices.
- (c) A new function was introduced into the Council's role namely responsibility for recognition of qualifications for the purposes of the principles set out in section 15 of the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1996.
- (d) The Act makes the Council responsible for making the final decision in respect of the assessment of applications of all overseas graduates and admitted practitioners.
- (e) The Act confirms that the Council may deliver courses itself, or arrange for the delivery of courses by other providers.
- (f) There is a specific power enabling the Council to license other providers of practical legal training.
- (g) The funding mechanism for the Council was changed and secured. Section 277 of the Act requires the New Zealand Law Society to levy practitioners annually to secure the necessary funding for the Council's operations.
- (h) With respect to the Institute of Professional Legal Studies, new provisions were included in the Act. Under these provisions the Council is statutorily required to maintain the Institute in its current form as a committee of Council. An express requirement was imposed on the Council to ensure that the Institute continues to provide practical legal training for candidates for admission as barristers and solicitors of the High Court.

## 2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

### APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL As at 31 December 2015

<b><u>Member</u></b>	<b><u>Nominated By</u></b>
The Honourable Justice S France (Chair)	Chief Justice
The Honourable Justice D Gendall	Chief Justice
Her Hon Judge MNE O'Dwyer	Chief District Court Judge
Ms S Callanan	New Zealand Law Society
Ms C Grice	New Zealand Law Society
Mr S Maling	New Zealand Law Society
Mr D Nolan	New Zealand Law Society
[Extraordinary Vacancy]*	New Zealand Law Society
Ms S Kalderimis	New Zealand Law Students Assoc
Mr S Woods	New Zealand Law Students Assoc
Ms J Langley JP	Minister of Justice

### EX OFFICIO-DEANS OF LAW FACULTIES/SCHOOLS

Professor A Stockley	Auckland University
Professor C Rickett	Auckland University of Technology
Associate Professor W Rumbles	Waikato University
Professor M Hickford	Victoria University of Wellington
Professor J Finn [Acting Dean of Law until Dec 2015]	Canterbury University
Professor U Cheer [Dean of Law from 1 January 2016]	Canterbury University
Professor M Henaghan	Otago University

\*Sitting Member resigned owing to appointment to Bench

## 3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chief Executive is responsible for discharging all responsibilities and duties required by the role pursuant to the Council's operations under Part 8 of the Lawyers and Conveyancers Act 2006.

The Chief Executive is statutorily responsible for the efficient operation of the organisation, including the Institute of Professional Legal Studies, and must ensure and promote compliance with all statutory obligations imposed on the Council.



The Chief Executive is responsible for ensuring that the Council's operations are conducted in a manner that conveys the highest personal, professional, and ethical standards, and conforms to standards and values expected of a public sector entity.

The Chief Executive of the Council is Rosemary Gordon, a Wellington lawyer.

Other staff in the Chief Executive's Office in 2015 included Senior Legal Officer Ruiping Ye, Credits and Operations Manager Breid Keating, Policy Adviser and NZLP Examination Academic Coordinator Catherine Iorns Magallanes, the Credits Consultant Professor AH Angelo, HR Advisor Anne Ratliff, Legal Officer Ann Heimbrodt, and Assistant Legal Officer Esther Pang.

#### 4. **MEETINGS**

The full Council met twice in 2015. The Annual meeting took place in April 2015 and the Second meeting in October 2015.

#### 5. **OVERALL WORK OF THE COUNCIL**

##### *Major Tasks*

The major tasks of the Council during the year in discharge of its functions in the Lawyers and Conveyancers Act 2006 were –

- maintaining the work of the Council;
- maintaining the work of the Institute (see section 18 on the Institute of Professional Legal Studies);
- meeting the requirements of the legal status of the Council;
- securing funding for the general work of the Council;
- maintaining the servicing arrangements for the Council; and
- ensuring the organisation and oversight of practical legal training in New Zealand.

##### *General Activities*

The Council is a regulatory body and is responsible for the regulation, quality and provision of legal training for those wishing to be admitted as barristers and solicitors to the profession in New Zealand.

These activities include –

- setting courses of study for the examination and practical legal training of persons wishing to be admitted as barristers and solicitors in New Zealand;

- providing, or arranging for the provision of, those courses of study;
- arranging for the moderation and assessment of those courses of study;
- assessment of qualifications particularly those of overseas law graduates and legal practitioners wishing to practise in New Zealand;
- arranging for the provision of research as necessary, and tendering advice on legal education;
- administering and conducting certain examinations.

To carry out its tasks in discharge of its functions set out in Lawyers and Conveyancers Act 2006, the Council maintained its general liaison with the Judiciary, the legal profession, the Universities and law students, and specifically undertook the activities detailed below.

## 6. PROVISION OF COURSES

### *Compulsory Law Subjects*

The Council prescribes the core curriculum for the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree and monitors these subjects through a moderation system.

The five compulsory subjects which are moderated are –

Law of Contracts  
 Law of Torts  
 Criminal Law  
 Public Law  
 Property Law (or Land Law, and Equity and Succession where Property Law is not offered.)

In respect of the above subjects the examination papers are drafted by a university teacher with the agreement of a moderator appointed by the Council. Moderation is also required for Legal Ethics which is a compulsory course for admission to the profession. A sixth Council prescribed core degree subject (Legal System) is not moderated owing to the introductory nature of the course and variations between courses.

The role of the moderator is threefold. The moderator ensures that the examination paper is of a satisfactory standard, and must be satisfied that there has been adequate coverage of the Council prescription. The moderator also ensures that the standard of examination is comparable between Law Schools.

The moderators are required to report each year to the Council on the moderation process in their subject area. The Reports provide valuable information for the Council on the examinations, and the courses generally in the compulsory subjects of the law degree, and also provide an opportunity for the Council to be informed of any administrative or substantive

difficulties, to take action to remedy any problems, and to ensure that the courses are generally taught in a manner which conforms to the Council's requirements.

It is also valuable for the Law Schools to receive an independent outside view on the operation of these courses particularly vis-à-vis other Universities. The moderation procedures also ensure fairness for students in that a uniform system is shown to be operating over all the compulsory subjects.

During 2015 in the course of administering the moderation system the Council, inter alia, approved the appointment of moderators from amongst legal practitioners nominated for their academic ability and legal experience, and members of the Judiciary. The Council received and analysed the moderators' reports. The Council revised the Moderators' and Examiners' Guidelines, and gave advice to the Universities and moderators on matters relating to the compulsory law subjects, and the Council's expectations in these areas.

### ***Subjects Compulsory for Admission***

During 1997 the Council introduced a requirement for all law students who completed their Bachelor of Laws, or Bachelor of Laws with Honours degrees after 31 July 2000 to pass a university course in legal ethics as a further requirement for admission. On 1 August 2008 the requirement was extended to all applicants for admission regardless of the completion date of their degree.

The course which is prescribed and moderated by the Council, has as its broad principles –

- an introduction to ethical analysis including an examination of various theories of ethics;
- the applicability of ethical analysis to legal practice;
- the principles of ethical conduct and the role and responsibilities of lawyers;
- the wider responsibilities of lawyers in the community.

The course was introduced in response to a report<sup>6</sup> which had recommended that courses in legal ethics be required at three levels of legal education: academic, vocational training and continuing education after admission to the profession. In New Zealand this was implemented by the Council by the introduction of the undergraduate university course in legal ethics which, while not a compulsory degree subject, is required for those students wishing to be admitted to the profession. The requirement was further implemented by the introduction of Ethics and Professional Responsibility components into the Council's Professional Legal Studies Course.

During 2015 the Council continued to monitor the subject, giving advice through the Chief Executive's Office, as required, to Law Schools' administrators and students, on the legal ethics requirement and its implementation.

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<sup>6</sup> WB Cotter QC and C Roper *Report on a Project on Education and Training in Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility for the Council of Legal Education and the New Zealand Law Society* (Wellington, 1996).

The Council also introduced the Legal Ethics requirement into its overseas qualification assessment system in 2001, and since that time it has also been a requirement for overseas law graduates and practitioners.

### ***Moderators***

Moderators during the year were –

Mr D Goddard QC	-	Law of Contract
The Honourable Justice Gilbert	-	Law of Torts
The Honourable Justice Robertson	-	Criminal Law
The Honourable Justice Fogarty	-	Public Law
Mr J Greenwood	-	Property Law
The Honourable Justice French	-	Legal Ethics

### ***Law Student Statistics***

Each year the Council collects statistics from the University Law Schools. The Statistics relate to the following areas –

#### **Graduates**

These statistics detail the number of law students graduating in the following degrees as at 31 December of the relevant year

- PhD
- Masters
- LLB (Honours)
- LLB

#### **Enrolments**

These statistics detail the number of students enrolled in various degrees for the relevant academic year.

The degrees are –

- PhD
- Masters
- LLB (Honours)
- LLB

Figures are also collated relating to numbers of students admitted to the first year and to the second year for the first time.

## Summary of Results

These statistics relate to results. The statistics detail the results in the Council's prescribed core law subjects for the relevant academic year.

Figures are gathered as to the number of candidates in each subject at each University, percentages passing and failing, and grades awarded.

The results statistics give a valuable insight into the numbers of students enrolled in the core courses and the distribution of grades. The graduates and enrolments statistics allow the Council to monitor the number of students enrolling in law courses, and also the number who graduate. Overall, the statistics give a picture of current trends as against previous years.

Statistics are compiled annually and are considered at Council meetings.

### ***Related Issues***

During the year the Council in the course of fulfilling its role in this area also –

- considered and approved requests by the Universities teaching law degrees for changes in their degree courses;
- advised Universities as required on a number of Council-related issues, or those relating to legal education.

### ***Other Provision***

During the year the Council (through the Institute of Professional Legal Studies) provided 13-week and 19-week part-distance taught courses, for New Zealand law graduates, and for those overseas law graduates and practitioners required to undertake it (see section 18 on the Institute of Professional Legal Studies). The Council also administered the New Zealand Law and Practice Examination for overseas graduates and practitioners required to undertake it (see section 9 on the New Zealand Law and Practice Examination).

## **7. ASSESSMENT OF OVERSEAS LAW QUALIFICATIONS**

### ***Background***

The overseas qualification assessment system prescribed in the Lawyers and Conveyancers Act 2006, and relevant Council Regulations, involves examination of the credentials of overseas law graduates and practitioners through a process of analysis and written assessment, notification and liaison with candidates, assistance and advice, reviews and appeals. It also involves reporting requirements, and preparation of material for applicants.

Applications are decided by the Council's Credits Committee which operates under delegated authority from the Council, and provides an assessment for each application.

The assessment forms the basis for eligibility for admission of overseas graduates and practitioners to the legal profession in New Zealand, upon completion of the prescribed requirements.

Applications are decided on their merits, after thorough examination of all documents, and following earlier policy and precedents established by the Council.

The assessment process involves a detailed analysis of —

- the applicant's tertiary academic qualifications;
- the nature and extent of the applicant's professional training;
- the nature and extent of the applicant's professional experience; and
- the nature and extent of the applicant's knowledge and experience in the use of the English language.

The examination requires an analysis of the extent to which the applicant's degree, training and experience equate with the admission requirements for New Zealand candidates.

In particular it is necessary to establish –

- That the applicant has completed the equivalent of the New Zealand four year Bachelor of Laws degree (LLB) and that at least three years full-time study of law subjects has been undertaken by the applicant. If, on analysis, it is found that the applicant's degree is not in terms of length or breadth broadly the equivalent of the New Zealand law degree the applicant may be required to sit New Zealand University degree courses to broaden their degree.
- That the applicant has included in their degree, and passed, courses that broadly cover the content of the compulsory Council of Legal Education New Zealand LLB subjects. Currently these subjects are Legal System, Contract, Torts, Public, Criminal and Property Law. (The Property Law course includes a land law, and equity and succession law component.) If the applicant has completed a course that is found to adequately correspond with any of the above subjects, the applicant may receive a credit in that subject and be required to sit the New Zealand Law and Practice Examination, otherwise the applicant will usually be required to undertake that course at a New Zealand University.

All New Zealand law graduates who wish to be admitted to the profession must undertake a university course in legal ethics. During the assessment process it is necessary to establish whether an overseas applicant has completed a course in legal ethics and professional responsibility. Any applicant who has not completed such a course may be required to do so.

An assessment is also made of the scope of any courses or practical training that an applicant may have completed, and any related experience. If the combined practical training and experience is insufficient an applicant will be required to complete a skills-based training course.

Applications are processed as expeditiously as possible. A typical application may take sixteen weeks to consider, and sometimes a longer time may be required depending on the nature of the application, the need to clarify issues with the applicant or others, and the number of cases under consideration.

A reconsideration process is available for applicants who present new material not considered in the earlier assessment. Reconsiderations take place in approximately 15% of cases.

In late 2014, the Professional Examinations in Law Regulations 2008 were amended to provide for a final review process for overseas applicants. Such applications are decided by the Chairman of the Council.

### **Number of Applicants**

The total number of applications for the year was 95.

Applications were received from the following countries:

Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Fiji, France, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Israel, Mauritius, Russia, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, UK, and USA.

The total number of applications received since 1998 are listed in the table below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Applications</b>
1998	67
1999	71
2000	85
2001	101
2002	124
2003	123
2004	99
2005	123
2006	109
2007	85
2008	135
2009	117
2010	101
2011	106
2012	117
2013	94
2014	95
2015	95

### ***Applicant Database***

During the year the Chief Executive's Office continued to maintain a comprehensive confidential database of all applicants, together with information on their academic

qualifications, and practical training and experience, in order to preserve consistency in the assessments.

### ***Inquiries***

During the year the Chief Executive's Office handled numerous inquiries from applicants and potential applicants for assessment of their qualifications, and related general inquiries.

### ***Completion Certificates***

The Chief Executive's Office continued during the year to issue certificates of completion to overseas graduates and law practitioners who completed the Council's prescribed requirements. Forty two certificates were issued to overseas graduates and practitioners in 2015.

## **8. INTERNAL CREDITS**

### ***Background***

This area is specific to overseas undergraduates. When an overseas graduate or admitted practitioner applies to the Council to have an overseas qualification assessed, the Council examines the core law degree subjects undertaken by that person. If that person's degree subject is found to adequately cover the common law principles in the subject, the applicant is given a credit in that particular subject. However the applicant will almost certainly have to undertake the Council's New Zealand Law and Practice Examination in the corresponding Part, which tests understanding of the New Zealand law. It is rare for any exemptions to be granted from the New Zealand Law and Practice Examination.

However, if an applicant has not graduated overseas, but has partially completed an overseas law degree, and wishes to enter the profession in New Zealand, or to obtain a law degree here, the applicant will proceed to a University in New Zealand, enrol in an LLB degree, and seek credit in any relevant subjects, which may include the core law subjects.

Historically, a potential difficulty arose because if the Universities granted credit in the core law subjects without any further requirements being imposed, those undergraduates who commenced their undergraduate degree overseas, but transferred, or wished to transfer to a New Zealand LLB degree, were significantly advantaged over their graduate/admitted compatriots, who would have to undertake the New Zealand Law and Practice Examination prescribed by the Council. From the Council's standpoint there was also a public interest concern in that those undergraduate students had at no stage studied or been assessed in New Zealand law in these core law subjects.

Similar considerations applied to students seeking to undertake core law courses on an exchange programme. In those cases students might obtain passes in the equivalent core law subjects overseas, but not be required to undertake any further study in the area in New Zealand.

As a result of these potential inconsistencies, a Protocol was drafted in 2002, by the Chief Executive's Office and the Law Deans, as a joint initiative between the Council and the Law



Schools. The Protocol, entitled the *Protocol between the Council and the Universities on Internal Credits*, was designed to remedy any inconsistencies in processes, by establishing a standard procedure to be followed in internal credit cases.

### ***The Protocol***

The Protocol encourages the Law Schools to seek a recommendation from the Council as to the credit to be given in core law subjects in respect of –

- students presenting with a course from an overseas country or jurisdiction in substitution for any core law course;
- students seeking to undertake a course at an overseas institution and to substitute that course for a core law course through an Exchange Programme.

The Council's recommendation may include requiring the applicant to complete the corresponding Part of the New Zealand Law and Practice Examination.

The Protocol came into effect on 1 April 2003. Since then the Council has regularly provided recommendations for a number of applications from the Law Schools, and to those applicants who have not yet approached a Law School, but have chosen to come directly to the Council.

## **9. EXAMINATION IN NEW ZEALAND LAW AND PRACTICE**

### ***Background***

The Council requires almost all overseas applicants who have been given credits for the core law subjects to pass all, or a number of Parts, of an examination on the law of New Zealand – the New Zealand Law and Practice Examination.

The Examination consists of a six-Part written examination following a comprehensive self-taught prescription. It is generally held bi-annually, over a period of four days. The purpose of the Examination is to test the applicant's knowledge of the distinct features of the New Zealand law, and proceeds on the basis that the applicant will already have an understanding of the common law principles in that subject, by virtue of the applicant's overseas law degree.

The Examination covers the areas of Legal System (equivalent to Public Law), Contract Law, Criminal Law, Property Law, Torts, and Equity and Succession. Each Part consists of one written examination of 90 minutes duration.

The examiners are generally Victoria University Law Faculty professors and lecturers who specialise in the above subjects. The Examination may be sat at any of the six New Zealand University Law Schools. It may also be sat at a venue in the United Kingdom arranged by the Council.

During the reporting period, the Council –

- administered and conducted sittings of the Examination in both February and July;

- appointed an independent moderator and assessor to report on the Examination;
- operated an appeal system within the confines of the Council's regulations for the conduct of the Examination, which provided for aegrotat, compassionate and compensation passes in appropriate circumstances;
- updated the Prescription for the Examination for use in 2016.

### *Staff*

The examiners during the year were –

Part I	Dr Grant Morris, Law Faculty, VUW
Part II	Professor AH Angelo, Law Faculty, VUW
Part III	Associate Professor E McDonald, Law Faculty, VUW
Part IV	Dr M Bennett, Lecturer, Law Faculty, VUW
Part V	Dr Bevan Marten, Law Faculty, VUW
Part VI	Professor AH Angelo, Law Faculty, VUW

The moderator/assessor for the course was The Right Honourable Sir Andrew Tipping.

### *Statistical Data for the Examination in 2015*

The following table shows the number of candidates and Parts sat from February 1997 until December 2015.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Candidates</b>	<b>Number of Parts</b>
February	1997	20	40
July	1997	47	140
February	1998	51	116
July	1998	49	127
February	1999	54	125
July	1999	61	124
February	2000	46	105
July	2000	46	128
February	2001	43	97
July	2001	51	116
February	2002	48	116
July	2002	47	112
February	2003	72	159
July	2003	68	174
February	2004	74	152
July	2004	81	211
February	2005	79	181
July	2005	72	140
February	2006	82	206
July	2006	101	222
February	2007	86	171

July	2007	89	192
February	2008	78	155
July	2008	80	188
February	2009	99	204
July	2009	99	205
February	2010	100	220
July	2010	87	210
February	2011	103	241
July	2011	87	224
February	2012	74	164
July	2012	90	218
February	2013	78	192
July	2013	86	214
February	2014	86	184
July	2014	77	178
Feb	2015	72	163
July	2015	80	192

The following tables detail the registration statistics for the February and July Examinations during the year.

*February Sitting*

Of the prospective candidates who requested information from the Examination Administrator regarding the February 2015 Examination sitting:

- 74 registered for a total of 178 Parts. Two candidates withdrew from the sitting from a total of 6 Parts and 3 candidates withdrew from a total of 9 Parts, which meant that 72 candidates sat 163 Parts.

*Table - Candidates by Parts*

	Part I	Part II	Part III	Part IV	Part V	Part VI
Candidates	29	29	26	23	30	26

*July Sitting*

Of the candidates who requested information from the Examination Administrator regarding the July 2015 Examination sitting –

- 80 registered for a total of 194 Parts. One candidate withdrew from 2 Parts, (enrolled in 5 Parts in total) which meant that 192 Parts were sat.

*Table - Candidates by Parts:*

	Part I	Part II	Part III	Part IV	Part V	Part VI
Candidates	27	29	39	37	34	26

## 10. EXEMPTIONS

During the year the Council, through the Chief Executive's Office, implemented systems to deal with applications for exemptions from certain Council requirements on the basis of equivalent training.

During the year exemptions in relation to the Professional Legal Studies Course were granted to two applicants who held equivalent skills-based training qualifications from Australia.

## 11. RESEARCH AND POSTGRADUATE STUDY

The Council is empowered to encourage, and as necessary, provide research and post-graduate study.

Although the Council continues to recognise that research and postgraduate study is mainly the responsibility of the Universities, the Council has, over the years, entered into a more proactive role in respect of research. In 2015 preliminary research was undertaken into the areas of law as a post-graduate subject, and pro bono (clinical) studies in legal education, as possible projects to continue in 2016.

## 12. MINISTERIAL ADVICE

The Council may provide advice to the Minister of Justice (if required) on any matter relating to legal education. No advice was required in 2015.

## 13. INQUIRIES

During the year the Chief Executive's Office continued to respond to numerous inquiries related to its areas of operation. The inquiries emanated from a diverse and large group of bodies and individuals. Such bodies ranged from Government departments requesting information, to general student and applicant inquiries.

## 14. COMPLETION CERTIFICATE SYSTEM

### *Background*

As from 1 August 2008, the Council became responsible for issuing completion certificates to New Zealand law graduates who have fulfilled the Council's prescribed requirements for admission to the profession.

### *Certificates Issued*

During the year the Council issued 956 completion certificates to New Zealand law graduates.

## 15. **EXTERNAL LIAISON**

The Council continued to liaise externally and as required with the following bodies –

### **The Judiciary**

The Chief Justice

The Chief District Court Judge

Registries of the High Court

### **The Profession**

NZLS Executive Director and senior staff

NZLS President

### **The New Zealand Law Society**

NZLS Auckland Branch

NZLS Canterbury Branch

NZLS Gisborne Branch

NZLS Hawkes Bay Branch

NZLS Manawatu Branch

NZLS Marlborough Branch

NZLS Nelson Branch

NZLS Otago Branch

NZLS Southland Branch

NZLS Taranaki Branch

NZLS Waikato Bay of Plenty Branch

NZLS Wellington Branch

NZLS Westland Branch

NZLS Whanganui Branch

Auckland District Law Society Inc.

### **Academia**

Law Staff

University Administrators

University Management

University Students

University Bodies (eg CUAP)

### **Government Departments and Agencies**

States Services Commission

Ministry of Justice

Attorney-General's Office

Department of Internal Affairs

Immigration New Zealand

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Ministry of Education

Crown Law Office

Office of the Controller and Auditor General

New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Audit New Zealand

**Government Ministers**

Minister of Justice

Attorney-General

**The Public**

Public (applicants, candidates, general inquiries)

News Media

**General**

Accountants

Insurance personnel

Legal Advisers

IT Advisers

Verification Authority

College of Law

Australian Law Admissions Consultative Committee

**16. FEES**

During the year the Council –

- Increased from \$1260.00 to \$1310.00 (exclusive of Goods and Services Tax) the fee charged to overseas law graduates for assessment of applications for credits, and increased from \$1500.00 to \$1560.00 (exclusive of Goods and Services Tax) the fee charged to overseas practising lawyers.
- In accordance with its user-pays policy increased the entry fee for each Part of the New Zealand Law and Practice Examination from \$425.00 to \$442.00 (exclusive of Goods and Services Tax), and prescribed fees for the various concession (aegrotat, compassionate and compensation) passes.
- Set the fee for the Professional Legal Studies Course offered by the Institute of Professional Legal Studies.
- Increased the fee for certificates of completion from \$50 to \$52 (exclusive of Goods and Services Tax).

**17. PROFESSIONAL LEGAL STUDIES COURSE**

***Provision***

The Council is also responsible for providing practical legal training for New Zealand law graduates, and overseas graduates and practitioners as required.

In 1986 a review commissioned by the Council of Legal Education and the New Zealand Law Society<sup>7</sup> recommended the establishment of a full-time practical skills-based training course which would complement the experience which a law graduate gained while working in a legal environment, and would replace the fifth professional year at university where students had previously been trained in practically oriented legal subjects.

In order to provide the course the Council established the Institute of Professional Legal Studies in 1987.

### ***Institute of Professional Legal Studies***

The Institute is the Council's provider arm for the delivery of the Professional Legal Studies Course. The Council has a statutory duty to arrange the provision of such a course, and must ensure that it has the ability to do so to ensure that the course is accessible to all students.

The Institute is managed by a National Director, responsible to the Chief Executive of the Council. A Delegation Document has been in place since 2003 under which the National Director operates and reports to the Chief Executive of the Council<sup>8</sup>.

### ***Constitutional Changes***

During 2002 and 2003, the Council considered and implemented a number of key constitutional changes relating to the Institute. A major initiative involved clarifying and better defining accountability to the Council. This outcome was achieved partly by dissolving the Administration Committee which had been established in 1987 and replacing it with the Executive Committee of Council. The latter body consists of the Chair and Chief Executive of the Council, and two other Council Members.

Contemporaneously with this step, the Council, through the Chief Executive's Office, drafted a major constitutional document governing the accountability relationship between the Council and the Institute referred to above. The document established certain delegations from the Chief Executive to the National Director of the Institute with reserve powers in the Chief Executive.

The document, which involved consultation with Audit New Zealand and other bodies operating similar systems, defined and clarified the relationship between the Council and the Institute, and incorporated personnel delegations, financial delegations and management guidelines. The overall effect was to strengthen the lines of accountability to the Chief Executive and the Council. The document provides a sound structural base which recognises the special nature of the Institute, and against which the organisation can operate effectively.

### ***Accreditation of Providers***

In 2002 the Council drafted two sets of Regulations establishing a process of accreditation and monitoring of providers of professional legal training course.

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<sup>7</sup> N Gold Report on the Reform of Professional Legal Training in New Zealand for the New Zealand Law Society and the Council of Legal Education (Wellington, 1987).

<sup>8</sup> Statement of Accountability Relationship Between the Council of Legal Education and the Institute of Professional Legal Studies (Wellington, 2002).

The first of the two sets of Regulations<sup>9</sup> set out the aims of the Professional Legal Studies Course and specified the required course content. The Regulations dealt with delivery standards encompassing areas such as the duration of the course, the methods of delivery, and the weighting to be given to components within the course. The Regulations also gave a detailed analysis of the course outcome specifications, namely a description of the skill required and the abilities which a student should have obtained after completion of that particular component of the course.

The second set of Regulations<sup>10</sup> dealt with the accreditation process establishing the system for accreditation, and requiring providers to make detailed and comprehensive applications showing how they complied with the requirements specified by the Council, and to provide evidence as to their financial viability, proposed teaching methods, staff and related matters. The Regulations provided for detailed monitoring requirements to be conducted by the Council. The first monitoring exercise took place in early 2005.

The Regulations provided for the establishment of an Accreditation Committee whose brief is to provide recommendations to the full Council on all provider applications matters, including monitoring, and re-accreditation.

In 2003 the Council also redrafted the regulations governing the Professional Legal Studies Course which allowed for a generic, rather than provider specific, set of regulations<sup>11</sup>. A major review of these regulations was undertaken in 2004 which resulted in the promulgation of the Professional Legal Studies Course Regulations 2004 which further emphasised the generic nature of the regulations.

In 2003 the Council licensed the Institute of Professional Legal Studies to provide a 13-week face to face, full-time course, and a 19-week part face to face, part distance delivered course. In the same year the Council also licensed the College of Law New Zealand to provide an 18-week part face to face, part distance delivered course. Both organisations were licensed for initial periods of two years. The licensing of a second provider added a significant new dimension to the Council's operations.

In 2013 the Council approved changes to the IPLS full-time course, introducing online component into that course. However, in 2015, approval was given to the IPLS to again deliver a 13 week onsite course. The new Course was 13 weeks full time, and fully onsite.

At the same time approval was given to the College of Law to deliver a variation to their 18 week blended online and onsite Course. The College's 13 week Course involved 6 weeks onsite and 7 weeks online.

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<sup>9</sup> Professional Legal Studies Course Assessment and Standards Regulations 2002.

<sup>10</sup> During 2006 the Professional Legal Studies Course Accreditation Regulations 2002 were comprehensively reviewed, and the Professional Legal Studies Accreditation Regulations 2006 were promulgated.

<sup>11</sup> See now Professional Legal Studies Course Regulations 2004.



### ***Re-Accreditation and Monitoring Exercises***

Every third year providers must re-apply for accreditation to deliver the course. Both providers submitted comprehensive applications in August 2014, and were each re-accredited for further periods of three years. The next re-accreditation is due in 2017.

In the first quarter of every year which does not follow a re-accreditation round, the Council undertakes a monitoring exercise of both providers of the Professional Legal Studies Course in accordance with the provisions of the Professional Legal Studies Course Accreditation Regulations 2006. However, as noted above, as 2014 was a re-accreditation year, a monitoring process was not undertaken in February 2015. Planning for the February 2016 monitoring commenced at the end of 2015.

The exercise involves receipt and consideration of detailed reports from both providers, and discussion and liaison with the provider organisations, and in some years a site visit. This process, including site visits, was undertaken in February 2014 and both providers were found to be delivering satisfactory courses consistent with the Regulations.

### ***Course Content and Delivery: Background***

The Professional Legal Studies Course was reviewed in 2001. The reviewers noted that the face to face version taught by the Institute of Professional Legal Studies provided –<sup>12</sup>

a well-structured approach to skills development. Students are provided with sufficient opportunities to practise and improve their skills before assessment tasks are undertaken. The content of the relevant courses appears to be of a high quality and of immediate relevance to legal practice. Supporting instruction and resource materials are of good quality and well-presented.

However in order to further improve the course the reviewers suggested that the transactional base of the course, which the Review stated was relatively under-developed, should be increased.<sup>13</sup>

The Review noted that in many Australian institutions, while skills based training was a key factor, transactionally based learning and the offering of substantive course options to trainees was also an important factor.<sup>14</sup>

The Review noted that a transactional approach would use –<sup>15</sup>

simulated cases or problems to teach skills and substance in an integrated fashion. This contrasts with a generic approach which focuses on the underlying skills common to a wide range of transactions with little reference to transactional context. Transactional approaches have become increasingly the norm in the common law world, having been adopted in all the jurisdictions of Australia, Hong Kong and the United Kingdom.

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<sup>12</sup> CF Finlayson, R Hughes, J Webb *Report of the External Review Group Appointed by the Council of Legal Education to Conduct a Review of the Professional Legal Studies Course* (Wellington, 2002), paragraph 64.

<sup>13</sup> Paragraph 67.

<sup>14</sup> Paragraph 65.

<sup>15</sup> Paragraph 67.

The Review noted that in respect of the Professional Legal Studies Course there were few common transactions used as a means to deliver the skills. This had the disadvantage that students were not experiencing a wide variety of common transactions, nor was there an opportunity for the students to acquire practical knowledge of additional areas of specialisation which might be extremely valuable from an employment or interest perspective.<sup>16</sup>

The Review stressed that to develop an extensive transactional base would lengthen the course. It was noted that transactional courses run in England and Wales consisted of 34 to 36 weeks of full-time study. However some increase in the transactional base could be achieved within about 15 to 16 weeks of full-time study, or its equivalent.<sup>17</sup>

As a consequence the Review commented that the course should not involve less than the equivalent of 15 weeks of full-time study.<sup>18</sup> However a key recommendation of the Review was that the course should involve distance learning for large sections of the course, and possibly teaching the course intensively in weekend or evening sessions. This was felt to be desirable not only because of the educational benefits of distance learning, but because it enabled a reduction in the amount of time which new graduates spent away from their places of employment.

The Report concluded that a course could be structured thus –<sup>19</sup>

- (a) Compulsory full time attendance at the IPLS for the existing skills based training could take 8-9 weeks. There is an argument to be made for extending the hours that students attend the course from the present 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. to 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m (ie., a normal working day).
- (b) Thereafter the students would return to their places of employment (if they had them) but would be required to attend weekend intensive sessions or lectures in the evening on transactional subjects. Such lectures could take place over a seven or eight week period, or even longer if necessary.
- (c) Aspects of the transactional curriculum could also be covered by distance learning.

During 2002 the Council authorised the Institute to investigate the viability of provision of a part-distance course and considerable work was undertaken by the Institute to develop a prototype for a part distance course. Several refinements were undertaken during 2002 and 2003 and the part distance course was offered from January 2004, in addition to the 13-week full time, face to face course. Since that time the distance course has been substantially developed. As noted earlier, the Council also licensed the College of Law (New Zealand) to provide a distance taught course. This course has operated in New Zealand since 1 January 2004.

### ***LATEST REVIEW OF THE PROFESSIONAL LEGAL STUDIES COURSE***

To ensure the Professional Legal Studies Course is fit for purpose and responsive to the needs of law graduates, graduate employers and users of legal services, the Council undertook a comprehensive review of the Course in 2013. It had been over a decade since the Professional Legal Studies Course had been reviewed.

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<sup>16</sup> Paragraph 68.

<sup>17</sup> Paragraph 70.

<sup>18</sup> Paragraph 81.

<sup>19</sup> Paragraph 82.

The review was conducted by the Right Honourable Sir Andrew Tipping. It was composed of three phases: The first phase called for submissions, which were provided from a wide range of law firms, professional bodies and the respective course providers. After consideration of these written submissions, proposed recommendations were drafted for targeted consultation. Taking into account further submissions, supplied by a number of those who supplied a first submission, the final report to the Council was produced.

The review examined the skills required by the Professional Legal Studies Course and Assessment Standards Regulations 2002 and potential skills that could be included in the Regulations, transactional content and substantive content for the Course, types of teaching and learning, method of delivery, skills that may be developed outside the Course, expected attributes, and professional competence of candidates for admission. The review also took a comparative approach to other Commonwealth jurisdictions in the practical legal training field.

With regard to the content of the Professional Legal Studies Course the reviewer concluded that the conventional skills listed in the Professional Legal Studies Course and Assessment Standards Regulations 2002 remained generally adequate for candidates for admission as barrister and solicitors. Some additions to the way the skills were presented were recommended by the reviewer including a more client orientated focus of the “advising” skill 2, a wider scope of the “management” skill 11, and emphasis on effective and accurate communication.

A change of the existing Professional Legal Studies Course structure from a skills based content to a more transactional emphasis of the skills in order to enhance generic and transferrable skills was not recommended. The reviewer noted that there was nothing to persuade him that a move to more transactional content was necessary, and that such a change would fail to recognise the focus and purpose of the skills-based course. It was recommended that the Course should not deliver substantive content which went beyond the substantive content necessary as background to skills, as it was the primary obligation of the Law Schools to teach substantive subjects. The reviewer addressed the need to review the relationship between Legal Ethics as taught at the University and as addressed in the Course.

The reviewer concluded that, while allowing the providers of the Professional Legal Studies Course certain flexibility, the current method of delivery as a mix of face to face and online learning was adequate, and that the tendency to favour online learning could be balanced by enhancing the focus of the Course on good relationships with clients and interpersonal skills. The reviewer noted that teaching transferrable skills required initial instructions followed by practical application by the trainee and needed to be accompanied by individual feedback. The reviewer also noted that the Regulations should emphasise face to face instructions for certain skills where this was necessary.

The reviewer concluded that the requirement to complete an accredited Course was necessary to ensure a consistency of standards, although skills developed outside the Professional Legal Studies Course (eg through employment) may overlap with Course skills, and should be seen as of additional benefit.

The reviewer concluded that articles and training contracts as a pre-condition to admission was not desirable in New Zealand as the benefits of such a system were considerably outweighed by the disadvantages of implementation and administration.

The reviewer also proposed that an external exam be conducted by the Council which trainees would be required to pass.

It was pleasing to note that according to the consensus view of the submissions the Professional Legal Studies Course was providing an adequate and satisfactory transition between University and practice, in content and method of delivery, and the Course was evolving well and reflecting the contemporary needs of the trainees.

During 2014, the Council considered all recommendations in the Report and adopted all but the requirement for an external exam which raised feasibility issues for the Council. The following Regulations were amended to take account of the recommendations –

Professional Legal Studies Course Assessment and Standards Regulations 2002

Professional Legal Studies Course Accreditation Regulations 2006

Professional Examinations in Law Regulations 2008.

The text of the full Report is available on the Council's website.

## **18. THE WORK OF THE INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL LEGAL STUDIES IN 2015**

The Institute of Professional Legal Studies (IPLS) is a committee of the Council of Legal Education. It has financial and reporting responsibilities as a section of the Council's activities. It is maintained as a separate cost and activity centre within the Council's operations.

### **National Director of IPLS**

The National Director of the Institute is Ms Bernadette Wilson.

### **Work of IPLS**

#### **Chronology**

IPLS, as part of the New Zealand Council of Legal Education, offers the Professional Legal Studies Course (PLSC) in Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. The course is taken following completion of the LLB degree and is a prerequisite for admission to practice as a barrister and solicitor.

Since 2004, IPLS has offered two versions of its course. It offers a 13-week and a 19-week course both identical in content but differing in mode of delivery. Until 2011 the 13-week course was completely face-to-face course. The 19-week course, while equivalent in content was designed with a total of four weeks onsite and the remainder of the course online.

At the start of 2011, IPLS changed the structure of its 13-week course to allow for more flexibility. In late 2013, the 13 week course was reviewed and revised and now has four weeks onsite and nine weeks online instead of the previous six weeks onsite and seven weeks online.

In 2014 the 19 week course was reviewed and revised. From January 2015, the 19 week course ran for 18 weeks. To achieve this, the number of onsite days was increased from 20 while the number of online weeks has been reduced to 14 weeks.

During 2015 intensive course development work was undertaken to align both courses. The only difference between the 13 week and 18 week blended learning courses now is the number of online weeks. In many centres the onsites are now combined which not only improves resource use but more importantly, ensures a high level of trainee interaction.

In June 2015, IPLS was granted approval to deliver a variation of its 13 week course - a full-time, onsite course. This commenced on 3 February 2016 in Auckland and Wellington.

### **Content of Course**

The content of the course must comply with Regulation 3(2)(b) of the Professional Examinations in Law Regulations 2008. This Regulation lists Professional Conduct and eleven skills. As the Regulation requires, these skills are taught in the context of specific legal transactions commonly undertaken by newly admitted lawyers.

### **Regulatory Requirements**

IPLS delivered the *2013 Provider Monitoring Report* in January 2014. The monitor found “the PLSC delivered by IPLS is being run satisfactorily and consistently with IPLS’ accreditation. Overall, IPLS offers a relevant programme, with effective teaching and evaluation of the material, and effective administrative structures and procedures.”

In July 2014, IPLS delivered its Renewal of Accreditation application to the New Zealand Council of Legal Education. This was granted in December 2014.

### **Quality Assurance**

In 2011 IPLS gained registration as a private training establishment with the New Zealand Qualifications (NZQA). In 2012 IPLS gained course approval and accreditation with NZQA.

In May 2013, IPLS completed its first NZQA External Evaluation and Review and achieved the outstanding result of being rated “Highly Confident” (the highest rating) in both the educational performance and capability in self-assessment categories.

In May 2015, IPLS delivered the Annual Return Statutory Declaration; Chartered Accountant Professional Attestation (Audit NZ Report) and Annual Student Fee Protect Audit (EY Report).

In July 2015, IPLS delivered the Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students Attestation to NZQA.

### **Electronic Access**

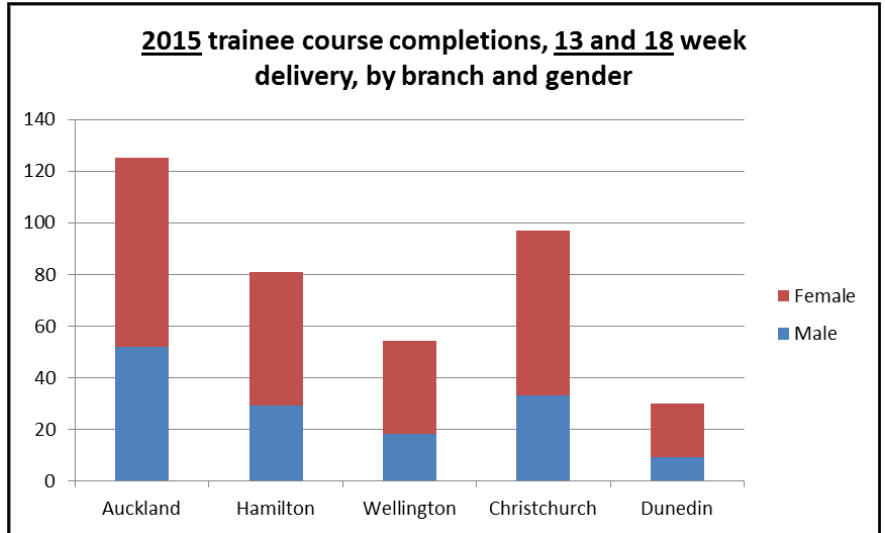
Electronic access to statistics and some legal databases are provided to the trainees along with access to electronic libraries.

### **Student Enrolments and Breakdown by Gender and Ethnic Origin**

Enrolments in 2014 and 2015 have shown a pleasing increase over the previous three years. Auckland enrolments were back up to 2013 levels; Hamilton continues to show good growth; Christchurch and Dunedin are maintaining good levels. In 2015 the 13 week course was considerably more popular in Auckland and slightly more so in Christchurch and Dunedin while Hamilton and Wellington trainees preferred the 18 week course.

**Gender**

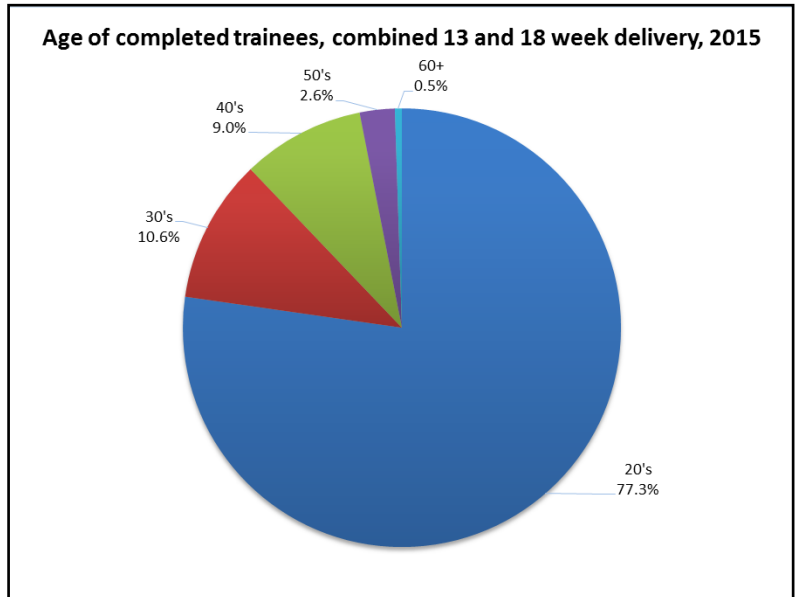
In 2015, 63% of trainees enrolled were female while 37% were male. This is a change from 2014 where 58.7% were female and 41.3% were male. In Auckland the balance was much more even with 41.6% male and 58.4% female while in the other five centres the split was much closer to the national numbers – approximately one third male and two-thirds female.



**Age**

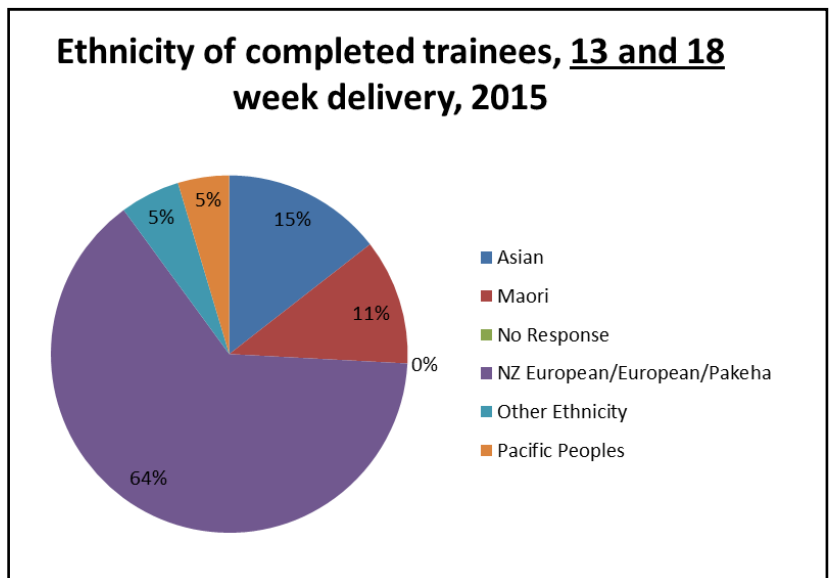
In 2015, students in the 20s age group represented 77.3% while those in their 30s comprised 10.6%; 9% were in their 40s; 2.6% in their 50s and 0.5% 60+.

In 2014, 80.1% were in their 20s; 10.3% in their 30s; 6.8% in their 40s; 2.0% in their 50s and 0.8% in their 60s.



**Ethnicity**

The most significant change in ethnicity is a small decrease in NZ European/European/Pakeha trainees from 69.8% in 2014 to 64% in 2015. Balancing this is an increase in trainees of Maori descent. In 2015 Maori represented 11% up from 9.6% in 2014 while trainees with an Asian background increased from 11.8% in 2014 to 15% in 2015. 4.0% Pacific Peoples increased from 4.0% in 2014 to 5% in 2015.



### **Quality of the Course and Instruction**

Over the reporting period, as in previous years, the IPLS course development team have continued with its efforts to maintain and improve the overall quality of the course. The extensive student evaluations of the course reflect the steady improvement over the years. These evaluations assist in further development of the quality of the course.

Module evaluation questionnaires are completed by trainees at the end of each module of either legal practice or litigation. Trainees are asked to rate clarity of learning objectives, value of course materials, structure, content, fairness of assessment system, challenge and workload.

The national average for 2015 was 4.5 for the 13 week and 4.6 for the 18 week course which are pleasing results and further evidence of the high calibre of our instructors and the quality of their training. The onsite modules are preferred by trainees with evaluations between 4.3 and 4.6 out of 5 for both modes of the course.

This is also the case when it comes to instructor evaluations with onsite instructors rating highly, specifically the Advocacy onsite. This is particularly pleasing as the comprehensive Advocacy block is a key differentiator for IPLS over the other provider.

### **Liaison with the Profession**

Liaison is maintained by ensuring:

- The National Director and Stakeholder Engagement Manager regularly meet with members of the profession to discuss their needs and expectations
- Members of the profession participate in IPLS events held at all six law schools every September
- Members of the profession meet with IPLS staff who have responsibilities for the development of course seminars
- Members of the profession assist with reviewing course materials to ensure the materials remain both correct in law and relevant for those entering the profession
- Members of the profession serve as external moderators.

### **Funding and Accommodation of IPLS**

The Institute of Professional Legal Studies (IPLS) is required by the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) to register with the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) as a Private Training Establishment (PTE).

IPLS receives Student Achievement Component (SAC) funding from the TEC. Without SAC funding, IPLS would be ineligible for trainee access to student loans and allowances. IPLS has confirmed funding for 2016.

The student fee for 2015 was \$4,921.28 (inc GST) for NZ residents and \$5,995.00 (inc GST) for international students.



## **IPLS Learning Centres**

Auckland	Level 9, 92 Albert Street, Auckland
Hamilton	Law school at Waikato University
Wellington	Level 7, 23 Waring Taylor Street, Wellington
Christchurch	430 St Asaph Street, Christchurch
Dunedin	Use premises at the Otago Law Society as required

## **Equal Employment Opportunities Policy**

In 2008 the Council created an equal employment opportunities (“EEO”) policy and programme. This programme extends to IPLS. In 2008, IPLS set up new contracts of employment that allowed more flexibility for instructors. Instructors opting for a casual contract can work at a distance and are paid on a trainee head count. This enables instructors who wish to have more of a work life balance to work hours more suitable to their needs and has enabled instructors who are primary caregivers with children to work around their child care needs. As trainees working online often work in the evenings and the weekends it also enables instructors to plan their days and evenings around the working hours of the trainees thereby providing greater access to important feedback and assistance.

Additionally the flexible contracts have given IPLS opportunity to employ instructors who are in practice on a part time basis. This has widened the pool of available instructors. 2015 has seen 10 new instructors join IPLS. The new instructors are all very experienced practitioners who have an interest in mentoring trainees. In fact, it is particularly pleasing to see the increase in instructors who are so passionate about their profession they are prepared to take annual and unpaid leave in order to guide and mentor IPLS trainees. There were no outstanding EEO related issues in 2015.

## **19. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES POLICY AND PROGRAMME**

In 2005 the Council amended its EEO Policy to accord with current best practice. The Council used as guidance the States Services Commission ‘Public Services Commitment to EEO to 2010’ policy.

A copy of the Policy is reproduced below.

### **CLE Policy on Equal Employment Opportunities**

1. The Council of Legal Education endorses the principles and practice of Equal Employment Opportunities (EEO) and is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all potential and current employees, focusing on merit.
2. In accordance with legislation and EEO principles, the Council recruits, promotes and evaluates all employees without unfair discrimination, (including but not limited to discrimination on grounds of sex, marital status, religious or ethical belief, colour, race, ethnic or national origins, disability, age, political opinion, employment status,

family status, sexual orientation) save where any such characteristic is relevant to the qualifications for a particular employment position and is lawful discrimination.

3. The Council is committed, through this Policy, to recognising the aims and aspirations of Maori and the need for greater involvement of Maori as employees of the Council.
4. This Policy will apply to all aspects of employee relations, policies, procedures and practices. The Council's human resource policies, practices and procedures will seek to identify and eliminate any direct, indirect, or institutional, discriminatory barriers to the ability of individual employees to be recognised, rewarded, advanced or supported on their merits.
5. This Policy is a dynamic document and all policies, procedures and practices of the Council, and this Policy itself, will be regularly reviewed to ensure continuing compliance with best EEO employment practice.
6. Consultation and participation are good employment practice and the Council will ensure that employees are consulted in the ongoing development and implementation of this Policy and the Council's EEO Programme.

The policy and EEO programme were adhered to in 2015, with no outstanding issues.

## **20. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

In 2015 the Council met its on-going financial requirements and reporting requirements under the Crown Entities Act 2004 as if it was a Crown entity by having its financial statements, including performance measures, audited by Audit New Zealand, Wellington, on behalf of the Controller and Auditor General, and by submitting its twenty-fourth report to the Minister of Justice in respect of the approved reporting period of 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014.

## **21. GOVERNING LEGISLATION**

The Council's governing legislation is the Lawyers and Conveyancers Act 2006 (Part 8), and the Council operates under the following Council Regulations –

- the Professional Examinations in Law Regulations 2008;
- the Conduct of the New Zealand Law and Practice Examination Regulations 1996;
- the Professional Legal Studies Course Accreditation Regulations 2006;
- the Professional Legal Studies Course Assessment and Standards Regulations 2002;
- the Professional Legal Studies Course Regulations 2004;
- the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Regulations 2008.

The first set of Regulations update the earlier Professional Examinations in Law Regulations 1987, to take account of the Council's expanded role under the Lawyers and Conveyancers Act 2006.

The last set of Regulations were passed to give effect to the Council's role under the 2006 Act in relation to recognition of qualifications for the purposes of the principles set out in section 15 of the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1996.

## 22. **FUNDING**

The Council has continued to maintain, as largely self-funding activities, its functions in relation to the New Zealand Law and Practice Examination, and the assessment of applications from law graduates and practitioners for entry into the New Zealand profession. Funding was also received pursuant to the statutory levy imposed on practitioners under the Lawyers and Conveyancers Act 2006.

## 23. **COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

The following Committees operated during this year –

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Council (Chair)  
The Honourable Justice D Gendall  
Professor M Henaghan  
The Chief Executive

#### *Key Role*

To deal with Council and Institute business arising between Council meetings, or which does not require referral to the full Council.

### **CREDITS COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Council  
The Right Honourable Sir Andrew Tipping  
The Honourable Justice D Gendall  
Professor Angelo (Victoria University of Wellington)  
The Chief Executive

#### *Key Role*

To review recommendations relating to applications for assessment, and to advise on matters relating to overseas qualifications.

### **ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Council (Chair)  
The Chief Executive  
Mr D Nolan

#### *Key Role*

To examine and assess applications received from potential providers of the Professional Legal Studies Course, and to conduct re-accreditation and monitoring exercises as required by the Regulations, and provide recommendations to the Council.

