

ABN 31 548 912 869

30 July 2020

Ms Natalie Neal

Senior Policy Officer

Policy & Regulatory Strategy

CPD Review [cpdreview@lsbc.vic.gov.au](mailto:cpdreview@lsbc.vic.gov.au)

Dear Natalie

**VLSB CPD Review**

Thank you for the opportunity of meeting with Chris Humphreys in relation to the CPD Review.

As discussed, CLEAA exists to be a forum that brings together all stakeholders interested in the provision of continuing legal education and professional development for solicitors, barristers and judges in Australasia. It is a not for profit organisation whose members are representative of a range of types of CPD and PD providers and our events, such as conferences and more recently Zoom meetings, are well attended by stakeholders across the full range. In case it’s of assistance, attached is a brief description of CLEAA and its recent activities.

It is not the intent of this letter to summarise the many issues and ideas canvassed in the meeting with Mr Humphreys or submissions of individual CLEAA members. Rather, I am writing to confirm CLEAA’s support for the aims of the CPD review and the overarching vision of a CPD scheme that is fit for purpose and provides sufficient, relevant and high quality learning experiences for practising lawyers.

Given CLEAA’s unique position with providers and its endorsement of the goals of the review, I would like to offer practical assistance once the review is finalised and recommendations made. Without pre-empting the outcomes of the review, CLEAA would be willing to disseminate the review report to the providers, canvass views and provide you with any feedback on recommendations. Should it be of assistance, CLEAA is well placed to support any projects or initiatives that may be relevant to providers such as the development of quality standards or a code of conduct for providers. Furthermore, CLEAA is mindful that CPD is only one of a number of interconnected strategies for assuring and maintaining lawyer competence. To the extent that the review touches on these other areas then CLEAA is well placed through the diverse experience of its membership to be able to contribute to initiatives involving lawyer competence more broadly.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity of contributing to the review. Please don’t hesitate to get in touch again if CLEAA can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely

Jacquelyn Simon

President



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**Attachment - ABOUT CLEAA**

1. **Establishment:** CLEAA has been in existence for about 40 years having started as a committee of the Law Council of Australia and spun off in the 1980s as CLEAC, the Continuing Legal Education Administrator’s Conference.
2. **Purpose:** With a name change and other amendments to the Constitution over the years CLEAA remains an unincorporated association. The most recent edition of the Constitution dates from January 2011 and Article 2 confirms CLEAA’s purpose as follows:

“The primary purpose for establishing CLEAA is to engage individuals, organisations and bodies who are interested in or involved in continuing legal education, or who provide services for the purpose of continuing legal education.

(For the purpose of this Constitution, continuing legal education includes any educational activity which may generally be described as continuing professional development within the legal sector.)”

1. **Membership:** Original members were the then new CLE divisions of Law Council members but membership has since broadened to embrace many types of providers of CLE and professional development services for example

* Institutional and Not for Profit providers (eg Law Societies, Bar Associations, Judicial Commissions, University Law Schools, College of Law, and other legal professional associations, and regulators)
* Commercial providers large and small (eg Legalwise Seminars and individual or specialist consultants)
* Medium to large law firms and government law departments with learning and development and HR functions

1. **Engagement:** Ways in which CLEAA engages with member and non-member stakeholders interested in ‘CLE’ include

* Annual conference and AGM (typically 1.5 to 2 days)
* By monthly newsletter CLEAA Talk
* Website [www.cleaa.asn.au](http://www.cleaa.asn.au)
* Online learning- recent events regarding digital learning and solicitor supervision have attracted between 150 and 300 online participants

1. **Current Executive:**

President - Jacquelyn Simon, Managing Director, Legalwise Seminars;

Vice President and Treasurer - Una Doyle, Director Education, NSW Judicial Commission;

Ordinary Members - Cara Sleeman, Head of Professional Development, Law Society of NSW, Natalie Weiland, Managing Director, Vidversity; Sue-Ella Prodonovich, Prodonovich Advisory; and Dr Chantal Morton,  Associate Professor / Director of the Legal Academic Skills Centre Melbourne Law School;

Immediate Past President – Ronwyn North, Managing Director, Streeton Consulting