

About US

The Policy, Reform and Legislation branch is primarily responsible for law reform and the development of legislation in the justice and communities sectors. The Policy, Reform and Legislation branch also supports the development and delivery of justice systems reforms and provides parliamentary and administrative support services. This is primarily for the Attorney General but also includes a range of Ministers who have responsibility in the communities and justice sectors. Policy Reform and Legislation's role is to:

- identify the need for, and formulate changes to, the law and justice system in line with the Government's policy priorities,
- ensure quality justice policy advice is provided to the portfolio Ministers and to government,
- support and implement the portfolio Ministers' legislative programs, including providing support through the parliamentary process,
- collaborate with and support other areas of the Department and the Government with legislative changes necessary to implement policy and program initiatives, and
- inform the community about changes to, and the operation of, legislation within relevant portfolios.

Policy Reform and Legislation Teams

Law Enforcement and Crime Team:

LEC is responsible for law reform relating to the criminal law. The team leads legislative reform relating to criminal offences, protections for vulnerable witnesses, investigative and enforcement powers for justice agencies and community safety orders, including post sentence supervision and detention schemes. The LEC team is also responsible for the Coercive Control Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce and the Consent Monitoring and Advisory Group.

Criminal Justice System Team:

CJS focuses on longer-term systemic reform within the criminal justice system. The team looks after all things relating to diversion out of the system, bail, sentencing and parole. It is also responsible for specific projects relating to Closing the Gap, digital reform in courts, children and young people, and mental health and cognitive impairment.

Civil Justice, Vulnerable Communities, and Inclusion Team:

CJVCi undertake research, draft legal policy advice and develop legislative and non-legislative projects relating to the civil justice system, including discrimination and guardianship law and provide support for the legislative program for the Attorney General

Courts, Access to Justice and Regulatory Team:

The team works on a wide variety of policy and reform areas including courts and tribunals, criminal and civil procedures, specialist jurisdictions (e.g., the Walama List, Drug Court and

coronial jurisdiction), privacy and new technologies, how the legal profession is regulated and strategy and funding around the legal assistance sector.

Secretariat for the NSW Law Reform Commission (LRC) and the NSW Sentencing Council (Council):

The Secretariat for the NSW Law Reform Commission (LRC) and the NSW Sentencing Council (Council) supports the work of these two independent statutory bodies.

The LRC consists of a Chairperson (the Hon Tom Bathurst AC KC) and two part-time Commissioners.

The Council consists of a Chairperson (the Hon Peter McClellan AM KC) and 15 members including judges, prosecutors and criminal defence lawyers, victims' advocates, police and community representatives.

Information about the current projects of the LRC and Council can be found on their websites: <https://lawreform.nsw.gov.au/> and <https://sentencingcouncil.nsw.gov.au/>.

Day to day to tasks

Day to day tasks may include:

- Legal research and analysis tasks (including statutory interpretation, case law analysis, reviewing secondary sources and cross-jurisdictional analysis) to inform consideration of law reform proposals
- Preparing consultation documents and materials
- Preparing supporting materials for various taskforces, working groups and other bodies considering law reform proposals or monitoring the impact of reform
- Writing up final reports and other publications
- Prepare briefings and advice for Ministers,
- Prepare submissions for Cabinet consideration,
- Assist, formulate and review bills and regulations,
- Prepare material to support Ministers in Parliament