

ACT Law Society Advocacy Framework

Principles, Priorities, and Approach for Effective Advocacy

Why We Advocate

As the peak body for ACT legal practitioners, and in alignment with the *Representation* pillar of our Strategic Plan, the Society advocates for 'good law' in the ACT, supports national reforms through the Law Council of Australia, and promotes a well-resourced, efficient justice system. Our advocacy is grounded in the principle of promoting and supporting the proper administration of justice and the rule of law throughout the ACT. We represent and advance the interests of the legal profession while engaging constructively with government and other stakeholders on matters of law, law reform, and legal practice. Through these efforts, we seek to benefit both the profession and the community, and to foster ongoing development and improvement in the practice of law across the ACT.

Guiding Principles

Our advocacy is guided by the following principles

- **Profile & Impact:** Elevate issues, celebrate wins, and ensure advocacy leads to tangible improvements.
- **Evidence & Justice:** Base positions on credible data, uphold the rule of law, and draw on the expertise of our advisory committees.
- **Balance & Practicality:** Consider stakeholder interests, implementation challenges, and community impact.
- **Collaboration & Partnerships:** Engage early, maintain dialogue, and amplify impact through collaboration.

Strategic Priorities

Our advocacy focuses on areas where the Society can exert the greatest influence and deliver meaningful outcomes

- **Access to Justice:** Advocate for increased funding for community legal services locally and nationally.
- **Court & Tribunal Efficiency:** Promote investment in digital court systems and support initiatives to reduce delays in the delivery of justice services.
- **ACT Law Reform:** Our advocacy efforts are primarily focused on legislative reform within the ACT, ensuring that local laws and policies reflect the needs and interests of the ACT before engaging in national reform initiatives.

Stakeholder Engagement

Our advocacy relies on strong relationships with stakeholders and is guided by our principles of engagement. We prioritise collaboration and constructive dialogue to achieve balanced, practical outcomes

- **Inclusive:** We engage early, identify relevant stakeholders, and maintain open dialogue to ensure diverse perspectives are considered and engagement is well-coordinated.
- **Purposeful:** Every engagement begins with a clear understanding of what we aim to achieve and a commitment to identifying evidence-based, practical solutions that deliver meaningful improvements for the profession and the community.
- **Respectful:** We foster respectful dialogue, building trust through openness, honesty, and shared understanding with decision-makers.