

PERSONAL INJURIES LAW CONFERENCE



Recorded: 15 September 2023
10.5 hours | 1 CPD point per hour viewed

PLE ✓ PM&BS ✓ PS ✓ SL ✓

Program

12min **Acknowledgement of Country and opening remarks**

Presenter: **Kara Thomson**, Immediate Past President, Queensland Law Society; Consultant, Hughes and Lewis Legal; Accredited Specialist (Personal Injuries Law) – Qld

54min **A human being is the purpose of our efforts**



It is said that Mahatma Gandhi stated "A customer is the most important visitor on our premises. He is not dependent on us. We are dependent on him. He is not an interruption in our work. He is the purpose of it. He is not an outsider in our business. He is part of it. We are not doing him a favour by serving him. He is doing us a favour by giving us an opportunity to do so."

Ethically, the lawyer's duty is to the client and court. But, how often as professionals do we get distracted by the machinery of our work, forgetting the reason for our existence? The budget. The administration. The noise. Not only is it the fundamental ethics, but to be resilient in these times, to find happiness, it is important to find ourselves in our purpose, our why.

Presenter: **Dr Dinesh Palipana OAM**, Lawyer; Resident Medical Officer, Gold Coast University Hospital
Chair: **Eduardo Cruz**, Director, Corney & Lind Lawyers Pty Ltd; Member, Queensland Law Society Accident Compensation & Tort Law Committee

1hr 3min **The mechanics of MAIC – the role of the regulator in current CTP scheme reviews and reforms**



This panel discussion will provide details of work between MAIC, CTP insurers and the legal profession to improve claimant experience, rehabilitation outcomes and claim durations. It will cover what the future of the CTP scheme may look like and the impact of RACQ's exit from the CTP market.

Panellists:

Greg Spinda, Special Counsel, Travis Schultz & Partners; Chair, Queensland Law Society Practice Management Course Committee

David Vincent, General Manager, Motor Accident and Insurance Commission

Kylie Horton, Executive Manager Qld CTP Claims, Suncorp Group

Chair: **Michael Garbett**, Managing Partner, Moray & Agnew Lawyers; Chair, Queensland Law Society Accident and Compensation Committee

51min **TRACK 1A**



The jurisprudence of 2023

Join Travis for a case law update with a spotlight on what *Ford v Nominal Defendant* (2023) QCA 83 means for practitioners in unidentified vehicle cases.

Presenter: **Travis Schultz**, Managing Partner, Travis Schultz & Partners; Accredited Specialist (Personal Injuries Law) – Qld; Queensland Law Society Senior Counsellor

Chair: **Pru Connolly**, Special Counsel, Compensation Law, Lander & Rogers

55min

TRACK 1B



Compulsory conferencing – tips and traps

Take steps towards a more effective client representation in compulsory conferencing.



Our presenters will cover a number of key strategies you can take to ensure you are best prepared for a compulsory conference and highlight common mistakes made by lawyers in a compulsory conference so you can avoid the traps.

Presenters:

Ryan Birch, Legal Practitioner Director, Revolution Law

Olamide Kowalik, Special Counsel, Revolution Law

Chair: **Hayley Stubbings**, Senior Policy Solicitor, Advocacy, Queensland Law Society

42min

TRACK 2A



The power of a compelling brand

Your brand as lawyer is one of the most important assets you possess.



Learn tips and tricks for developing and marketing your brand and how to create a brand that makes you stand out for all the right reasons.

Presenter: **Jennifer Swaine**, Marketing Communications Specialist, Jennifer Swaine Marketing & Communications

Chair: **Eduardo Cruz**, Director, Corney & Lind Lawyers Pty Ltd; Member, Queensland Law Society Accident Compensation & Tort Law Committee

1hr 2min

TRACK 2B



Uncharted waters – opportunities and ethical risks of AI in legal practice

Navigating ethics and emerging technology is never easy but as AI permeates our workplaces and economy, lawyers will need to face these challenges with confidence.

The success or failure of individual firms may depend on how well we deal with AI's transition from curiosity to essential business tool and the adaptation window may be narrower than we think.

Join us for an engaging session on the legal ethics of adapting to the new economy without losing the essence of our profession.

Presenter: **David Bowles**, Special Counsel, QLS Ethics and Practice Centre, Queensland Law Society

Chair: **Cameron Seymour**, Partner, Mullins Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Personal Injuries Law) – Qld and Member, Queensland Law Society Accident Compensation & Tort Law Committee

56min

TRACK 3A



Stays and historical child sexual abuse claims

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse recommended the removal of limitation periods for personal injury claims arising from childhood sexual abuse, while preserving stay applications. All states and territories have legislated this recommendation with retrospective effect.

The tension between the burden on a defendant having to proceed to arguably an unfair trial and the plaintiff not being able to have a trial in these sorts of claims is the subject of an appeal to the High Court in *GJL v The Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Lismore* (2021) NSWSC 1204.

Join David to discuss the issues and factors taken into consideration by the court when determining a stay of proceedings in historical sexual abuse claims and the arguments advanced in GJL.

Presenter: **David Cormack**, Barrister, Queensland Bar

Chair: **Elise Humpherys**, Legal Professional Development Executive, Queensland Law Society

59min

TRACK 3B

PLE 

Legal ethics and the capacity of clients

PS 

Considering the capacity of clients who have been injured is high priority for the practitioner and requires obtaining competent instructions.

SL 

Our esteemed panellists will discuss the ethical issues (rule 8 of the ASCR) of working with clients experiencing accident-related capacity concerns.

Panellists:

Shane Budden, Special Counsel, QLS Ethics and Practice Centre, Queensland Law Society

Steven Herd, Partner, Fisher Dore Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Personal Injuries) – Qld

Dr Steve Morgan, Clinical Psychologist, DGM Consulting

Chair: **Jason Lewis**, Director, Hughes and Lewis Legal

52min

TRACK 4A

PS 

A big heart with a mind to help

SL 

Personal injuries lawyers deal with an emotional toll. While they work relentlessly to fight for the client's right to receive compensation, they may compromise their own physical and mental wellbeing.

Join our passionate and inspiring presenters to discuss the pitfalls of vicarious trauma and practical strategies to help maintain a healthy mind and body in the face of emotional strain.

Presenter: **Mark Fenlon**, Senior Prosecutor, Townsville Police Prosecutions

Chair: **Hayley Stubbings**, Senior Policy Solicitor, Advocacy, Queensland Law Society

47min

TRACK 4B

SL 

Liability of occupiers and assailants: An update

Join Verity for a review of the latest cases regarding the liability of occupiers and assailants. Verity will dive into some recent decisions, including:

- Occupier liability in *Townsville City Council v Hodges* [2023] QCA 136
- Assailant liability in *Doerr v Gardiner* [2023] QCA 160
- Occupier and assailant liability in *Ryan v Dearden* [2013] QCA 20

Presenter: **Verity Smith**, Senior Associate, McInnes Wilson Lawyers

Chair: **Jemma Barnard**, Associate Lawyer, Travis Schultz & Partners

1 hr 4 min



The concussion ecosystem

Delve into the concussion ecosystem with this panel discussion exploring the medical and legal aspects of concussions. Medical and legal experts will provide a comprehensive overview of all things concussion, including pain and suffering, and the related economic loss.

Learn about the legal aspects of concussion in sport from one of the principal lawyers running a class action against the AFL and hear about the medical aspects of concussion and traumatic brain injury (TBI) from a TBI rehabilitation physician who runs two multi-disciplinary concussion clinics.

Panellists:

Greg Griffin, Principal, Griffins Lawyers

Dr Tim Butson, Rehabilitation Physician, Sunshine Coast University Hospital

Amanda Gilmour, Special Counsel, Shine Lawyers Head Trauma Unit

Chair: **Brendan Swan**, Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the Board, Concussion Australia Ltd

Closing remarks

Presenters:

Amanda Gilmour, Special Counsel, Shine Lawyers Head Trauma Unit

Peter Finocchio, Director, Legal Funding Australia

Presenters

Jemma Barnard

Associate Lawyer, Travis Schultz & Partners



Jemma is an Associate Lawyer at Travis Schultz & Partners and is based on the Sunshine Coast. Jemma graduated from the University of Southern Queensland with a Bachelor of Laws in 2020 and was admitted shortly afterwards.

Throughout her career and whilst she was at university, Jemma has worked in various areas of legal practice, as well as the property industry.

In more recent times, Jemma practises across all areas of personal injury law with a particular interest in complex and catastrophic injuries.

Dedicated to giving back to the community, Jemma is the Vice President and Secretary of the Suncoast Community Legal Service and regularly volunteers with the service.

Ryan Birch

Legal Practitioner Director, Revolution Law



Ryan graduated from Bond Law School in 2009 and commenced with Trilby Misso in 2010, then Slater & Gordon up to 2015, when he created Revolution Law. Personal Injuries Law has always been his career focus and he also enjoys assisting junior lawyers.

David Bowles

Special Counsel, Ethics QLS Ethics and Practice Centre, Queensland Law Society



David was admitted as a solicitor in 1996 and was in private practice from that time until joining Queensland Law Society's QLS Ethics and Practice Centre in November 2012.

David's experience, initially as an employee and then as a sole practitioner includes crime, property, litigation and estate planning. As an Ethics Solicitor he is responsible for providing ethical guidance to members, and continuing legal education.

He holds postgraduate certificates in Cybersecurity from Harvard University Extension School and in Project Management from the University of Adelaide EdX program.

Shane Budden

Special Counsel, QLS Ethics and Practice Centre, Queensland Law Society

Shane is a Special Counsel Ethics in the QLS Ethics and Practice Centre / QLS Solicitor Support Pty Ltd, and provides ethical guidance and instruction to practitioners. He contributes significantly to the QLS Journal Proctor, both through his regular column and by authoring feature articles. Shane was admitted in 1992 and worked in general practice with a focus on criminal law, before moving to in-house work, initially with the Ipswich City Council internal legal team. Prior to joining QLS he headed up the internal legal team at the Queensland Building Construction Commission/Queensland Building Services Authority and was Chair of the Society's Government Lawyers committee.



Dr Tim Butson

Rehabilitation Physician,
Sunshine Coast University
Hospital



Dr Butson is a rehabilitation medicine physician based on the Sunshine Coast. Dr Butson graduated from James Cook University with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery. He has since gone on to complete a Diploma of Sports and Exercise Medicine at the University of Otago and a Masters of Sports Medicine at the University of Melbourne.

Dr. Butson currently works at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital where he treats the full spectrum of traumatic brain injury from mild to severe. He heads the Sunshine Coast University Hospital Concussion Clinic, the first dedicated public concussion clinic in the state. He also developed the Beach Brain Concussion Clinic, which remains the only private multidisciplinary rehabilitation program for persistent concussion symptoms in Queensland. His main area of interest is treating those with persistent post-concussive symptoms and he is currently undertaking research in this area.

Pru Connolly

Special Counsel, Compensation
Law, Lander & Rogers

David Cormack

Barrister, Queensland Bar



David is a barrister who has been practising since 2003 and a legal practitioner since 1993. He is experienced in personal injuries, occupational health and safety, industrial relations, employment law, mental health, mediations and restorative practices.

He is a past contributor to The National Work Health and Safety Law and Court Forms, Precedents & Pleadings Qld (Insurance; Discontinuance & Dismissal / Principles & Practice) subscriptions (LexisNexis) and created a free app for calculating future losses of income.

David also volunteers with Prison Fellowship Australia Limited and is President of the Queensland Christian Lawyers Society.

Eduardo Cruz

Director, Corney & Lind Lawyers
Pty Ltd; Member, Queensland
Law Society Accident
Compensation/ Tort Law
Committee

Eduardo was admitted as a solicitor in November 2004 and has worked exclusively with a culturally diverse client base since 2002. He is extremely motivated to utilise his versatile legal training and experiences to assist members of our community that have limited access to and/or knowledge of the legal and social system.

His professional and life experiences have moulded him into a versatile and resourceful professional. Through his legal practice and life experiences he contributes to the development of a better society.

Eduardo has been involved with the Queensland Law Society's Accident Compensation and Tort Law Committee since 2017. He is actively engaged in procedural and legislative reform across motor vehicle accident insurance, workers' compensation, public liability insurance and historical sexual abuse claims.

Before joining Corney & Lind to lead its compensation team, he worked in a national firm as part of its insurance team and worked for WorkCover Queensland managing a section of its common law division.



He is a fanatical Brisbane Roar and Socceroos supporter and has completed the Camino de Santiago de Compostela on three occasions.

Peter Finocchio

Director, Legal Funding Australia



As one of the founding Directors of Legal Funding Australia, Peter has extensive experience in disbursement funding. Running a successful business for over 15 years, he has seen Legal Funding Australia expand in each state and territory throughout Australia.

Peter is business-minded and loves being inventive in his ways to assist lawyers in simplifying their business and saving them money. He understands the challenges and costs associated with running a legal practice and he knows the value of quick and efficient systems and how to implement them.

Mark Fenlon

Senior Prosecutor, Townsville Police Prosecutions; Member, Queensland Law Society Wellbeing Working Group



Mark became a Senior Prosecutor for the Queensland Police Service in 2010 after working in private practice for seven years. Working with solicitors and police officers, Mark saw firsthand the psychological impact of working in a high-volume legal environment where employees are regularly exposed to issues such as domestic violence, assaults, sexual offences and worse. As a result of that, he became an accredited peer support officer to assist in getting better outcomes for colleagues impacted by these issues.

Mark has a special interest in promoting the interests of regional, rural and remote practitioners and is the QLS representative to the Law Council of Australia's Regional, Rural and Remote Lawyers Committee. He is also a former President of the Townsville District Law Association.

Mark has been awarded both Assistant Commissioner and Executive Director's Awards for the prosecution of major drug trafficking operations and using judicial processes for the protection of domestic violence victims. He was the 2007 recipient of the QLS President's Award for Outstanding Achievement by a Young Lawyer to the Profession and the Community

Michael Garbett

Managing Partner, Moray & Agnew Lawyers; Chair, Queensland Law Society Accident Compensation & Tort

Michael has been practising in all aspects of Personal Injuries Law for over 30 years. He practises predominantly in the field of compulsory third party litigation.

Law Committee



Amanda Gilmour

Special Counsel, Shine Lawyers
Head Trauma Unit; Accredited
Specialist (Personal Injuries
Law) – Qld



Amanda has been practising as a plaintiff personal lawyer for over 15 years.

She is Special Counsel at Shine Lawyers where, in recent years, she has specialised in assisting claimants who have suffered head injuries as a result of motor vehicle accidents, work accidents and public place accidents. These have ranged from claimants who have suffered concussion and TBI, to those who have been impacted by severe traumatic brain injuries.

Amanda is also the secretary and director of the board of Concussion Australia Ltd, a charity that was set up to educate grassroots communities about concussion.

Greg Griffin

Principal, Griffins Lawyers



Greg holds a Bachelor of Laws (University of Adelaide) and was admitted to legal practice in 1981. He has also attained a FIFA Diploma in Football Law. He founded Griffins Lawyers in 1996 after serving as a partner of Phillips Fox for many years.

Greg has pursued multiple complex football disputes in AFL and CAS and is currently pursuing the class action seeking damages in the Australian courts for former AFL players now suffering the effects of concussion injuries.

Greg specialises in sports law, corporate law and commercial litigation, and also conducts the stand-alone Sports Advisory arm of the business, Griffin Sports.

Steven Herd

Partner, Fisher Dore Lawyers;
Accredited Specialist (Personal
Injuries) – Qld



Steve is the partner responsible for Fisher Dore's civil litigation practice. He joined Fisher Dore Lawyers in 2018, after having spent nearly eighteen years with a boutique compensation firm. After completing two years articles of clerkship, Steve was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 2004.

Steve is an expert in all areas of compensation law and is an accredited specialist in personal injuries law, having attained the highest achiever award for the accreditation program in 2009.

Kylie Horton

Kylie has worked in the personal injury industry for over 20 years, holding executive positions in both the private and government sectors.

Executive Manager Queensland
Compulsory Third Party Claims,
Suncorp Group



Kylie possesses an effective combination of industry knowledge and expertise, interpersonal skills, and strategic thinking to achieve great outcomes for injured claimants and her people.

Kylie is acutely aware of the impact her business has on the Qld CTP scheme and, through collaboration with the legal profession, is committed to making positive change.

Elise Humpherys

Legal Professional Development
Executive, Queensland Law
Society



Elise is a senior educator with over 25 years' experience in the education sector. She served as an educator, deputy principal, principal, supervisor and advisor in schools and colleges, before moving into learning and development in registered training organisations and QLS.

Elise holds the qualifications of Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Education, Master of Education (Technology), and is currently completing a Bachelor of Business/Bachelor of Laws online with the University of New England (UNE).

Elise is passionate about facilitating learning to support lawyers, through continuing professional development. She has a particular interest in education and health service provision in regional/remote Australia. Elise also has a particular interest in Work Health and Safety.

Olamide Kowalik

Special Counsel, Revolution Law



Olamide is one of Revolution Law's consultant senior lawyers. She was admitted as a Solicitor in the Queensland Supreme Court in 2003. She has over 18 years of experience in Personal Injuries Law and has acted for claimants in motor vehicle, work injury, public liability, and medical law claims.

Olamide joined forces with fellow lawyer Tilé Imo to create the 'Tilé and Olly Meets' podcast in January 2023, to showcase diversity in the legal community in all its forms. They realise that it can be challenging for people from diverse backgrounds to see or hear from those who look or sound like them and believe this is a gap that is worth filling.

Olamide is a member of the Queensland African Lawyers Network and the Women Lawyers Association of Queensland. She regularly speaks at legal seminars and mentors junior lawyers.

She was recognised by *Doyle's* as one of Queensland's Leading Medical Negligence Lawyers, in 2015, 2017, 2018.

Jason Lewis

Director, Hughes and Lewis
Legal



Jason is a director of Hughes & Lewis Legal, a specialist personal injuries law firm, which acts mainly for WorkCover Queensland and self-insurers in the workers' compensation area, but also for injured people in compulsory third party and public liability claims.

Jason was admitted as a solicitor in 1994. He then practised in as areas including property, banking and finance and commercial litigation until he began specialising in personal injuries law in 1998.

Five years ago Jason joined forces with one of Queensland's leading workers' compensation lawyers, Belinda Hughes, to realise a long-cherished dream to establish a truly progressive, dynamic and ultimately client-focused specialist personal injuries law firm. Hughes & Lewis Legal

was the result and continues to provide personal injury legal services to both plaintiffs and defendants throughout Queensland.

Dr Steve Morgan

Clinical Psychologist, DGM Consulting



Dr Morgan holds a Doctorate in Forensic Psychology, a Masters' in Education and a Bachelor of Psychology (Honours). He is a Fellow of the Australian Psychological Society (APS) College of Forensic Psychologists. Dr Morgan is a co-Director of DGM Psychology and has held posts with the Australian Catholic University, Griffith University (including the Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention), and James Cook University.

Dr Morgan was appointed to the Australian Government's Countering Violent Extremism research panel, the Queensland Civil Administration Review Tribunal (Psychologist), and the APS Assessment of Psychological Injury working party. He was appointed Psychologist to the International Criminal Court in The Hague 2010-2011.

Dr Dinesh Palipana OAM

Lawyer; Resident Medical Officer, Gold Coast University Hospital



Dinesh is a medical doctor, lawyer, disability advocate, and researcher.

Dinesh was halfway through medical school when he was involved in a motor vehicle accident that caused a cervical spinal cord injury. He became the first quadriplegic medical intern in Queensland and now works in the emergency department at the Gold Coast University Hospital. He is also a doctor for the Gold Coast Titans physical disability rugby team, and a researcher in spinal cord injury and senior lecturer at Griffith University.

Dinesh is a senior advisor to the Disability Royal Commission, an ambassador to the Human Rights Commission's IncludeAbility program, a founding member of Doctors with Disabilities Australia, and an advisory board member to HealthyLife.

Dinesh was the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service's Junior Doctor of the Year in 2018. He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2019 and was the third Australian to be awarded a Henry Viscardi Achievement Award. Dinesh was the 2021 Queensland Australian of the Year and the 2021 Griffith University Young Alumnus of the Year. His autobiography, *Stronger*, was published by Pan Macmillan in 2022.

Travis Schultz

Managing Partner, Travis Schultz & Partners; Accredited Specialist (Personal Injuries)

Travis is the managing partner of Travis Schultz & Partners and has expertise as a commercial litigation and personal injury lawyer in the areas of workers' compensation, motor vehicle and public liability law. Travis' career has seen him become managing partner of an established firm and then continued to grow that entity to a total staff of 76 at the time it was sold

Law) – Qld; Queensland Law Society Senior Counsellor



in 2014. His current firm has grown from himself and three part-timers to a team of almost 60 in less than five years.

His service to the profession includes two terms as president of the Sunshine Coast Law Association, two years as a Queensland Law Society Councillor, life membership of the Sunshine Coast Community Legal Service, and many years serving on the Queensland Law Society Accident Compensation & Tort Law Committee.

Cameron Seymour

Partner, Mullins Lawyers;
Accredited Specialist (Personal Injuries) – Qld; Member, Queensland Law Society Accident Compensation/Tort Law Committee



Cameron was admitted as a solicitor in 1990. He has practised extensively in torts law and became an Accredited Specialist in personal injuries law in 1998. Cameron joined Mullins in 1999 where he has been a partner since 2000. He practises primarily in workers' compensation, public liability and compulsory third party claims.

Cameron has been a contributing editor to LexisNexis's looseleaf service Personal Injuries Queensland (Work Injuries) since 1999. He has sat on the Queensland Law Society Personal Injuries Conference Planning Committee (from 2004 to 2016), the Queensland Law Society Accident Compensation/Tort Law Committee (since 2011), and presented or chaired at various Queensland Law Society Symposiums. He also delivers seminars to clients and the profession on personal injuries law.

Verity Smith

Senior Associate, McInnes Wilson Lawyers



Verity is a Senior Associate within McInnes Wilson Lawyers' compensation division.

Verity is experienced in a wide variety of personal injury matters, with additional experience in broader insurance and injury insurance schemes. She has defendant experience, though primarily acts for plaintiffs.

Verity has a particular interest in motorcyclist welfare, establishing and leading McInnes Wilson Lawyers' motorcycle law subdivision. In addition to assisting riders with personal injury and other matters, Verity provides legal education to the motorcycle community and supports core groups with road safety initiatives.

Outside of her compensation practice, Verity manages McInnes Wilson Lawyers' national pro bono program and volunteers her time across a range of civil areas.

Verity has been listed in Doyle's Guide and has been recognised in a number of awards including Lawyers Weekly 30 Under 30 (Insurance) and Australian Law Awards (Innovator of the Year).

Greg Spinda

Special Counsel, Travis Schultz & Partners; Chair, Queensland Law Society Practice Management Course Committee

Greg is a Special Counsel at Travis Schultz & Partners on the Sunshine Coast. He practises in all aspects of personal injury law, with particular expertise in serious injuries, NDIS and NIISQ.

Greg holds a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Business (Management) degree from the Queensland University of Technology. Greg completed a



Master of Laws (Health Law) degree at QUT via research focussed on the NDIS and NIISQ.

Greg is the immediate past President of the Queensland branch of the Australian Lawyers Alliance (ALA), a role he held for three years, and remains a committee member. He regularly engages with the various scheme regulators in Queensland and represents the ALA at stakeholder forums.

Hayley Stubbings

Senior Policy Solicitor,
Queensland Law Society



Hayley works with a diverse range of legal policy committees at Queensland Law Society (QLS). Prior to joining QLS Hayley worked in health law, insurance and litigation. She has undergraduate degrees in law and science from the University of Queensland and a Master of Laws from QUT.

Jennifer Swaine

Marketing Communications
Specialist, Jennifer Swaine
Marketing & Communications



Jennifer Swaine is a senior communications and public relations consultant including to Regional Development Australia Sunshine Coast (RDASC). She is Chair of the Sunshine Coast Business Awards, a Non-Executive Director of Visit Sunshine Coast and Business & Tourism Lead of Sunshine Coast 2032.

She is currently the Interim CEO of RDASC and is a regular columnist in InNoosa and Hello Sunshine Magazines. Jennifer works with a variety of clients from large corporates to SMEs helping them to increase their profile through strong branding and compelling story telling.

Brendan Swan

National Industrial Officer,
Australasian Meat Industry
Employees' Union; Chief
Executive Officer and Chair of

Brendan is the National Industrial Officer (in-house lawyer) for the Australasian Meat Industry Employees' Union. Prior to his current role, Brendan was a solicitor for a small employment law firm and worked as a graduate for a large personal injuries firm.

the Board, Concussion Australia Ltd



Brendan is also the Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the Board of Concussion Australia Ltd, a charity that was set up to educate communities about concussion.

Brendan's passion for concussion education stemmed from a series of concussions that occurred while he was a teenage athlete, which led to his desire to see systemic change in the entire concussion ecosystem.

Kara Thomson

Immediate Past President, Queensland Law Society; Consultant, Hughes and Lewis Legal; Accredited Specialist (Personal Injuries Law) – Qld



Kara specialises in Personal Injuries Law and is passionate about supporting the ongoing development of legal professionals.

Her current focus is working with large insurers in Queensland to effectively and efficiently manage a wide range of claims, from statutory decisions through to major or catastrophic claims. She also continues to undertake some plaintiff work.

Kara has a long-standing history with the Queensland Law Society, serving as a Councillor (2016-2020), Vice President (2020-2021), and President (2022). She has served on the Queensland Law Society's CPD Committee and Specialist Accreditation Board, and on the Supreme Court Library Committee.

Kara was a finalist in the 2019 Women in Law Mentor of the Year award.

David Vincent

General Manager, Motor Accident and Insurance Commission
