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# PUBLIC LAW FORUM

FRIDAY 20 MARCH 2026

ACT LAW SOCIETY



# From Automation to Intelligence: Understanding Evolving Technology in Administrative Law

**COMMISSIONER ALICE LINACRE**

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

**PROFESSOR DILAN THAMPAPILLAI**

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

**PROFESSOR NICHOLAS DAVIS**

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY



# Legal Services Directions: Practical Compliance and Ethical Responsibilities

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Australian Government  
Attorney-General's Department

# *Legal Services Directions 2025*

## *Legal Services Directions 2025 (Cth)*

# Report of the Royal Commission into the Robodebt Scheme

## Recommendation 19.7:

The *Legal Services Directions 2017* should be reviewed and simplified.

### Government response

"The *Legal Services Directions 2017* play an important function setting out the requirements for sound practice in the provision of legal services to the Australian Government.

The Government will review and redraft **aspects** of the *Legal Services Directions 2017* with a view to ensuring the Directions are fit-for-purpose in supporting agencies to undertake Commonwealth legal work and manage legal risk in an effective, consistent and whole-of-Commonwealth manner."



## Consultation

### Consultation Process

Consultation undertaken from April 2024 to March 2025 comprising:

- **9 provisions** agreed as priorities for review
- **11 consultation papers** circulated

### Responses received



400  
responses



91  
Commonwealth  
entities



6  
Peak bodies

### What we heard



Broad support for  
proposals



Desire for more  
guidance

# Headlines

1

**New Directions commenced 2 March**

2

**Focus is to clarify and simplify**

3

**Obligations remain largely the same**



## Resources - supporting understanding and compliance

- **Guidance materials and forms**
- **Review internal processes**
- **Contact OLSC via [olsc@ag.gov.au](mailto:olsc@ag.gov.au) or 02 6141 3642**

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# Legislative Development in Practice: How the Sausage Gets Made

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# Making, Communicating and Reviewing Decisions

**THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE STELLIOS**

FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA

