

12 December 2024

Victorian Law Reform Commission



Dear VLRC,

In response to your invitation for submissions responding to the consultation paper *Artificial Intelligence in Victoria's Courts and Tribunals*, please see below.

I would be delighted to discuss at your convenience.

Description of the Library

The Law Library of Victoria ('Library') provides law library services and access to resources for all Victorian courts and tribunals, as well as for the Victorian legal profession.

Staff of the Library are professional information managers who are embedded at the Courts, providing services including access to resources, responding to requests, as well as delivering training and guidance on online legal platforms. This includes onsite support to the Supreme Court, County Court, VCAT and the Victorian Bar, and with dedicated service to the Magistrates Court, as well as the Children's and Coroners Courts.

Library services are delivered to both judiciary and court staff as well as library users within court premises such as the Supreme Court Library. All members of Victoria's courts and tribunals, and the profession access resources and services via www.lawlibrary.vic.gov.au

The team of Law Library Victoria sit within the organisational structure of the Supreme Court.

It is worth noting that the Library, through their association with the Council of Law Reporting in Victoria is the entity tasked with distributing Victorian case law to all publishers who are permitted by the Council to include case law in their platforms.

The Library also manages all CSV and court contracts with major legal information publishing vendors. Our strategic relationships with these vendors assist with managing the introduction of emerging technologies in the Victorian legal sector, including the courts and tribunals.

Law Librarians are skilled at evaluating legal research technologies and have done so for decades. Librarians are familiar with the nature of algorithms and other 'black box' technologies.

Education program

The Library's digital literacy education program is designed to build competency across the legal profession and judiciary about how to critically evaluate emerging technologies and use them according to their professional obligations.

The library has recently conducted an AI roadshow of major legal publishers for legal practitioners to introduce to them the capabilities of their AI platforms, providing an overview of terminology, concepts and demonstrations of their respective AI tools.

The Library delivered two highly attended webinars to contribute to court and practitioner education on emerging technologies, and facilitated product demonstrations from major suppliers throughout 2024. The Library assisted with VCAT's Lexis+AI trial earlier in the year.

The Library has observed a high level of curiosity amongst the judiciary and the profession in emerging technologies and a willingness to engage in professional development to learn what it is and how to use it.

To accommodate diverse learning needs, training is delivered through digital resources, webinars, eLearning modules, and videos, allowing staff to engage with the material at their own pace and convenience. Additionally, ongoing education programs enable staff to use technology securely and confidently, fostering a more informed judicial and court workforce.

Law Library Victoria has used opportunities to share and increase awareness of emerging technologies by:

- Obtaining additional funding to focus on emerging technologies and continuing legal education/continuing professional development
- Presenting in-house to Judicial Officers, Magistrates' and Members showcasing new technologies
- Collaborating with publishers to provide pilot testing of AI tools to Courts and Tribunals
- Publishing and updating research guides on AI in Courts
- Encouraging librarians' professional development at local and international forums
- Creating a new series of training "In conversation" launching with an engaging discussion on the transformative role of AI in the legal profession
- Providing webinars on AI and Digital Literacy for example, Evaluation Modern Legal Research Technology enabling practitioners to discover how to apply critical thinking to current and emerging technologies
- Providing an Artificial Intelligence Roadshow whereby live demonstrations highlighted the latest products from top legal publishers

More information about the Library's professional development program can be located:

On the library events page: [Events | Law Library Victoria](#)

Via the library's research guides: [Research Guides | Law Library Victoria](#)

Via the Library's legal research eLearning: [Legal Research eLearning | Law Library Victoria](#)

Provision of AI tool

The Law Library Victoria is funded by the Victoria Legal Services Board to provide a tool for all practitioners to access and is collaborating with publishers to arrange that access.

The VLSB policy branch is assisting the Library with the development of terms for use, which will be in line with VLSB's risk outlook and statements on use of artificial intelligence in Australian legal practice.

We would welcome your visit to the Library to discuss the above, and any developments in the Library's program as 2025 progresses, alternatively we would be happy to come to you to discuss.

Good luck with your review, and I look forward to the results of your hard work on AI in Victoria's courts and tribunals.

Yours faithfully,



Ms Laurie Atkinson

Director Law Library of Victoria and Supreme Court Librarian

