



www.austlii.edu.au

2024 Year in Review

and AustLII Foundation Limited
Annual Report

Australasian Legal Information Institute
A joint facility of UTS and UNSW Faculties of Law



2024 AT A GLANCE

1000 DATABASES ON AUSTLII – SEMINAL CASE FILES OF THE HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA

In March, the Chief Justice of Australia, the Hon. Stephen Gageler AC launched the 1,000th database of legal information on AustLII. This database contains the complete case files for 37 seminal cases of the High Court of Australia.

The cases included in this database were selected by the current justices of the High Court as being of seminal importance to the development of jurisprudence in Australia. The database contains Affidavits with Exhibits, Transcripts, Orders/Order Sheets, Submissions, Notice of Motions, Reasons for Judgment, Statements of Claim, Subpoenas, Lists of Authorities, Chamber Summons, Bill of Costs, Maps.

MAINTAINING AND ENHANCING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF FREE ACCESS TO LAW IN THE PACIFIC REGION

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the UK Government have agreed to fund the University of the South Pacific (USP) to enable the Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute (PacLII) to deliver this project in partnership with AustLII.

IMPROVING THE AVAILABILITY OF LEGAL INFORMATION: SUPPORTING ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND ENABLING THE RULE OF LAW IN NEW ZEALAND

The New Zealand-based charity the the Michael and Suzanne Borrin Foundation has provided a grant to the University of Otago to enable the New Zealand Legal Information Institute (NZLII) to deliver this project in partnership with AustLII.



Australasian Legal Information Institute

A joint facility of UTS and UNSW Faculties of Law

AustLII Foundation Limited

ACN: 134 717 972 ABN: 41 134 717 972

Level 14, 61 Broadway

Ultimo NSW 2007 Australia

Tel: +61 2 9514 4921

Web: www.austlii.edu.au

Fax: +61 2 9514 4908

Email: feedback@austlii.edu.au

2024

YEAR IN REVIEW

CONTENTS

2024 At A Glance	2
2024	3
Year in Review	3
AustLII Foundation Ltd Chair’ s Report	4
AustLII Co-Directors’ Report	5
About AustLII	6
AustLII Foundation Limited	6
Australasian Legal Information Institute	7
International Activities.....	8
Governance	9
Management and Staff	11
Australian Developments	13
Databases and Libraries.....	13
AustLII Communities	15
‘Rules as Code’ & the DataLex Applications Development System	16
Virtual Data Lab for Legal Research.....	16
AustLII Foundation Press	17
AustLII Usage	18
AustLII’ s Database Usage	18
AustLII’ s Major Users	19
International Activities	23
International Systems and Developments.....	23
Multi-LII Systems	23
Databases Searchable Through Multi-LII Systems	24
International Systems Usage	25
Developments in National LII Systems.....	26
Collaborations with Other Legal Information Institutes	29
AustLII Involvement in the Free Access to Law Movement	29
Research Activities	31
Research and Research Infrastructure Grants	31
Publications, Submissions and Presentations.....	31
Engagement Activities	32
AustLII Funding	34
Sustainably Funding AustLII in the Future	34
List of Donors, Contributors and Research Partners	35
List of Research Funding Partners.....	40
In-Kind Financial support from UTS and UNSW	41
AustLII Foundation Limited Annual Report	42

AUSTLII FOUNDATION LTD CHAIR'S REPORT

It gives me great pleasure to provide my first Report as the Chair of AustLII Foundation Limited. I must, at the outset, thank my predecessor Dr Jeff FitzGerald, for his exceptional 16 years of service as the inaugural chair of the Foundation.

The undoubted highlight of the year was the launch of the 1,000th database on the AustLII service – the Seminal Case Files of the High Court of Australia. We were honoured that the Court agreed to allow AustLII to digitise and make available to the Australian community these significant historical resources. They document in complete detail the court record for some of the most important cases that have influenced the development of Australian jurisprudence and are milestones in the history of Australia since Federation. We were delighted that the Chief Justice, the Honourable Stephen Gageler AC, was able to launch the database at the end of March.

Another highlight was the very pleasing increase in donation revenue received from the Australian legal profession. A concerted campaign of engagement with the larger law firms and the wider profession saw a doubling in revenue from this sector from \$267,000 in 2023 to over \$512,000 in 2024. We are especially grateful to all the firms and the individual barristers and solicitors who made a contribution to support AustLII. We also thank every other organisation and individual who made a donation to support our service during the year.

One of our Members - the University of New South Wales withdrew from the Foundation at the end of 2024. I would like to express the Board's appreciation for the help and support that UNSW has provided to AustLII for the past almost 30 years. We are grateful to UTS for its ongoing support as a Member and in particular, for its financial and in-kind support, including

salary supplementation and the provision of accommodation. We look forward to working closely with UTS in the year ahead.

The Foundation has been in negotiation with the Attorney-General's Department over the past three years, seeking a larger level of funding support from the Commonwealth. In June, the Attorney-General wrote to the Foundation to advise that he had approved the allocation of \$850,000 in funding to AustLII to support its continued operation. We thank the Attorney-General for this grant and continue to work with the Department to develop a model for longer term government funding.

I thank my colleagues on the Board for their service throughout the year and I acknowledge the work of Management, without whom AustLII could not continue. In particular, I would like to recognise executive directors, Professors Philip Chung and Andrew Mowbray, whose contribution to AustLII was recognised with their appointment as Members of the Order of Australia in the 2025 Australia Day Honours. AustLII is also very fortunate that it has a small but dedicated and long-serving staff who achieve daily miracles in keeping the service functioning.

AustLII is critically important to Australia, supporting the operation of the legal system, ensuring access to justice, providing critical research infrastructure, supporting good public policy, the economy and society and helping to promote Australia's international leadership. We rely on all those who use our service to make a contribution that reflects the value of AustLII to them and to the Australian community.

We look forward to the opportunities and challenges that 2025 – AustLII's Thirtieth Anniversary year - will undoubtedly bring.

Ian Govey AM (Chair, AustLII Foundation Limited)

AUSTLII CO-DIRECTORS' REPORT

2024 was a busy year for AustLII with many new developments as well as some significant structural changes to AustLII and related functions.

One of the highlights of the year was the launch of AustLII's 1,000th database by the Hon Stephen Gageler AC, the Chief Justice of Australia. Since being founded nearly 30 years ago, AustLII has published a new database every 10 days on average. The publication of the 1,000th database is a major milestone and is indicative of the depth of the AustLII collection.

The 1,000th database itself was the database of complete case files of the seminal cases of the High Court of Australia as selected by the current seven judges of the Court. These include decisions such as *Mabo* and *Tasmanian Dams*, and contain the complete material related to the case such as Affidavits, Transcripts, Orders, Submissions, Notice of Motions, Statements of Claim, Subpoenas, Photographs, and Maps. Following on from this project, AustLII is continuing to work with the High Court to publish additional databases of transcripts and unreported judgments that hitherto have been unavailable to the public.

On the international front, AustLII has worked with our overseas partners to extend access to the law. AustLII collaborated with PacLII to obtain major funding from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the British Government to support free publication of legal materials in the Pacific Islands.

AustLII also worked with our sister organisation, NZLII, to obtain funding from the Borrin Foundation to expand and develop the New Zealand materials on NZLII.

Apart from the development of new databases and systems, 2024 brought about significant structure changes to AustLII in the way it functions. AustLII was originally founded as a

joint facility of the University of Technology Sydney and the University of New South Wales. UNSW withdrew from AustLII at the end of 2024.

This has resulted in a simplification of AustLII's governance structure. Until the end of 2024, AustLII consisted of two entities, namely, AustLII Foundation Limited which is a charity that raises funds and operates the AustLII service, and the Institute which conducted research.

AustLII Foundation will continue with UTS as its sole member in 2025. We are grateful to UTS for its ongoing support in providing accommodation and part salary support for one of the Co-Directors.

The Institute had been a joint venture between UNSW and UTS. With UNSW's withdrawal, the Institute as such ceased to exist and its work has been taken over by the Foundation.

The major overall implication is that the role of the Foundation has expanded. The structural changes necessitate a number of immediate and longer term adjustments. The continuing cooperation between the AustLII Foundation and UTS provides a sound basis for the ongoing maintenance and development of the AustLII service as critical national infrastructure.

We welcome Ian Govey as he assumed the role of the Chair of the Foundation and thank him and all the other Board members for their support of AustLII and its mission.

As always, we are extremely grateful to all of the AustLII staff. The AustLII service could not continue without their ongoing hard work and dedication.

Andrew Mowbray and Philip Chung
(Co-Directors, AustLII)

ABOUT AUSTLII

- **AustLII was founded in 1995 and is the largest free-access provider of online Australian legal materials serving over 400 million page access requests every year.**
- **AustLII develops and maintains critical national legal research infrastructure to support the provision of free access legal information to the community.**
- **AustLII is a founding member of the international Free Access to Law Movement (FALM), and one of the largest providers of worldwide free-access legal content.**

In 2024, AustLII comprised two entities:

- The AustLII Foundation Limited (a charity operating as a public company limited by guarantee), which is responsible for maintaining the systems, programs and databases that delivers the online library of Australian legal information to the community. The AustLII Foundation is governed by an independent Board of Directors.
- The Australasian Legal Information Institute (a joint facility of the University of Technology Sydney and UNSW Australia), which develops new legal research infrastructure and conducts leading edge international research in technologies for developing legal information systems. The Australasian Legal Information Institute is governed under an MOU between the two host universities.

From 2025, following the withdrawal of UNSW, AustLII will be operated by the AustLII Foundation, with UTS as the sole member. AustLII will continue to be hosted by UTS.

AUSTLII FOUNDATION LIMITED

The AustLII Foundation Limited provides and maintains AustLII's Australian service and associated infrastructure.

The Foundation's objects are to:

- Be a not for profit entity to promote the sound administration and development of the law by:
 - Promoting and supporting free and effective access to public legal information in Australia by means of an electronic public library;
 - Providing, and supporting the provision by its members of, free anonymous public access in Australia to a searchable and regularly updated comprehensive and reliable internet-based electronic public library of Australian public legal materials;
- Maintain systems, programs and databases for the effective handling of an electronic public library of information and related policy development, collaborate with other researchers and providers of such information, and develop, implement and disseminate improvements and associated technical assistance and advice;
- Advance legal education by promoting and encouraging research in the field of legal information systems and dissemination of the useful results thereof; and
- Do all other things, as may be incidental or ancillary to the attainment of these objects.

The AustLII Foundation Limited is a charity and is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. The Foundation has obtained Deductible Gift Recipient status from the Australian Taxation Office, hence donations are tax deductible.

The Australasian Legal Information Institute had the following objectives:

1. Research and development

- To develop world leading research infrastructure and to conduct applied research in technologies for building legal information systems, and to create policies and standards necessary to enable such technologies.
- To develop tools for building legal information systems wherever appropriate, so as to maintain AustLII's public access facilities as innovative examples of international standard systems.
- To collaborate with similar organisations internationally to apply these tools, policies and standards internationally.
- To advance the missions of our host Universities and Law Faculties by pursuit of consistent goals that delivers high impact and community engagement.

2. Public policy

- Through our advocacy and example, to achieve and defend free public access via the Internet to public legal information.
- To assist and partner with others to achieve free public access via the Internet to public legal information from all countries.
- To uphold and promote the Declaration on Free Access to Law adopted by the Free Access to Law Movement (FALM).

3. Public access law facilities

- To build free access public facilities for access to law in a cost-effective way, by maximising innovative approaches to automation and processing.
- To develop new resources based on Australian legal information (legislation, case law, legal scholarship, treaties, law reform reports and others of like importance), which can be made available for free access and other legal databases of strategic importance in advancing the public interest, and which advance AustLII's aims.
- To collaborate with other free access providers of legal information in the development of international services of value to Australian legal researchers, and to legal information which contributes to AustLII achieving its other objectives.

4. Operational

- To apply for grants and other sources of funding that are consistent with AustLII's aims to ensure its sustainability.
- To develop and maintain relationships with collaborating institutions, nationally and globally.
- To provide a stimulating and satisfying long-term work environment for staff.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

AustLII collaborates with other free access LIIs around the world to operate international multi-LII systems for legal information:

- Asian Legal Information Institute (AsianLII);
- Commonwealth Legal Information Institute (CommonLII);
- World Legal Information Institute (WorldLII);
- LawCite international citator.

In addition, AustLII jointly operates the New Zealand Legal Information Institute (NZLII), the Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute (PacLII) and the LII of India, in cooperation with local partners in those countries.

AustLII is part of the international Free Access to Law Movement and adheres to the following principles:

- Public legal information from all countries and international institutions is part of the common heritage of humanity. Maximising access to this information promotes justice and the rule of law;
- Public legal information is digital common property and should be accessible to all on a non-profit basis and free of charge;
- Organisations such as legal information institutes have the right to publish public legal information and the government bodies that create or control that information should provide access to it so that it can be published by other parties.

GOVERNANCE

The **AustLII Foundation Limited** is a charity and is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. The Foundation has obtained Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status from the Australian Taxation Office, hence donations made to it are tax deductible. It is governed by an independent Board of Directors.

The AustLII Foundation Limited Board as at 31 December 2024 comprised:

- **Mr Ian Govey AM (Chair)** (appointed to the Board on 23 June 2009, appointed Chair 1 January 2024) Former Australian Government Solicitor
- **The Honourable Virginia Bell AC** (appointed to the Board on 20 October 2023) Former Justice of the High Court of Australia
- **Mr John Cameron** (appointed to the Board on 24 April 2018) Former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Resources) at Australian Catholic University
- **A/Prof Philip Chung (Managing Director)** (appointed to the Board on 23 June 2009) Associate Professor, Faculty of Law and Justice, UNSW Sydney; Co-Director and Executive Director, Australasian Legal Information Institute
- **Prof Andrew Lynch** (appointed to the Board on 14 August 2020, resigned on 31 December 2024) Dean, Faculty of Law and Justice, UNSW Sydney
- **Ms Miranda Milne** (appointed to the Board on 29 April 2020) Former Chief Executive Officer, Victorian Legal Practitioners Liability Committee (LPLC)
- **Prof Andrew Mowbray (Executive Director)** (appointed to the Board on 27 April 2009) Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney; Co-Director, Australasian Legal Information Institute
- **Dr James Popple** (appointed to the Board on 1 January 2024) Chief Executive Officer, Law Council of Australia.
- **Prof Anita Stuhmcke** (appointed to the Board on 21 October 2021) Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney

The Company Secretary is Giovanni Crasto (appointed 31 January 2014).



AustLII Foundation Board Members (l to r): Prof Andrew Lynch, Prof Anita Stuhmcke, Dr James Popple, Ms Virginia Bell, Prof Andrew Mowbray, Mr Ian Govey, A/Prof Philip Chung, Ms Miranda Milne. Board members not in photo: Mr John Cameron.

The Board of the Foundation has established a **Finance Committee**. The role of the Finance Committee is to make recommendations to the Board of Directors on:

- a. The annual budget;
- b. Reviews of financial performance against budget;
- c. Annual financial statements and other relevant documents;
- d. Long-term financial projections with a view to enhance the financial health of AustLII;
- e. Review finance related policies periodically and recommend changes to the Board; and
- f. Any matter raised by the Board or any other matter that the Committee regards as pertinent.

The Finance Committee meets up to three times per year, prior to Board Meetings, to review the financial performance of the Foundation and to recommend approval of the annual budget and the statutory accounts to the full Board.

The members of the Finance Committee are:

- **Mr John Cameron (Chair)**
- **A/Prof Philip Chung (Managing Director)**
- **Ms Miranda Milne**

The Committee is supported by the Finance and Administration Manager, Giovanni Crasto.

The **Australasian Legal Information Institute** is a joint facility of the Faculties of Law at the University of Technology Sydney and the University of New South Wales and is governed under an MOU between the two Universities. It is overseen by a Management/Steering Committee that is comprised of the following:

- **A/Prof Philip Chung** (Co-Director and Executive Director, Australasian Legal Information Institute; Associate Professor, Faculty of Law and Justice, UNSW Sydney)
- **Prof Andrew Mowbray** (Co-Director, Australasian Legal Information Institute; Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney)
- **Prof Lyria Bennett Moses** (Associate Dean Research, Faculty of Law and Justice, UNSW Sydney)
- **Prof Shaunnagh Dorsett** (Associate Dean Research, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney)
- **Ms Veronica Lauria** (Faculty General Manager, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney)
- **Ms Rebecca Lawrence** (Faculty Executive Director, Faculty of Law and Justice, UNSW Sydney)
- **Prof David Lindsay** (Professor of Law, University of Technology Sydney)
- **Prof Andrew Lynch** (Dean, Faculty of Law and Justice, UNSW Sydney)
- **Prof Anita Stuhmcke** (Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney)

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

Managing and Executive Directors

In 2024, the Managing and Executive Directors of AustLII were:

- Andrew Mowbray (Professor of Law and Information Technology, Faculty of Law, UTS)
- Philip Chung (Associate Professor, Faculty of Law and Justice, UNSW Sydney)

The Managing Director of the AustLII Foundation Limited is Philip Chung. Andrew Mowbray serves as an Executive Director of the Company.

The Co-Directors of the Australasian Legal Information Institute are Andrew Mowbray (Co-Director) and Philip Chung (Co-Director and Executive Director).

Full-time Staff

- David Bramston (Project Officer)
- Giovanni Crasto (Finance and Administration Manager)
- Richard Hunter (Development Manager)
- Chris Kenward (Australian Databases Manager)
- Jennifer Kwong (Project Officer)
- Jones Olatunji (Systems Administrator)
- Armin Wittfoth (Project Officer)

Part-time Staff

- Graham Greenleaf AM (Founding Co-Director and Senior Researcher) until March 2024
- Jill Matthews (Project Officer) until March 2024



AustLII Staff (l to r): Giovanni Crasto, Philip Chung, Jones Olatunji, Chris Kenward, Jill Matthews, Armin Wittfoth, Andrew Mowbray, Richard Hunter, David Bramston, Jennifer Kwong, David Barker, Graham Greenleaf.

Researchers / Interns / volunteers

- Professor Graham Greenleaf AM was a Founding Co-Director of AustLII and maintains a substantial role as an AustLII Senior Researcher, as well as a mentor and advisor to the Directors and staff.
- Emeritus Professor David Barker is an AustLII Senior Researcher. He makes a substantial contribution to AustLII's research work and provides valuable assistance in maintaining links with the profession and professional organisations.
- The AustLII intern / volunteer programme is available to students from UNSW and UTS. Interns / volunteers are able to participate in AustLII's projects including digitisation of historical legal materials in print (using both destructive and non-destructive scanning approaches), extraction of metadata, as well as stakeholder engagement activities. Cecilia Lin and Chun Yang Tan from UNSW, and Edwin Luu, Martin Ng and Athin Prasain from UTS were student interns in 2024.

AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENTS

DATABASES AND LIBRARIES

The heart of the AustLII service is its collection of primary and secondary Australasian legal materials, including:

- Comprehensive legislation and related legislative materials from all jurisdictions
- Case law from most courts, tribunals and regulators (past and present)
- The text of all treaties to which Australia is a party
- An extensive collection of law journals, law reform reports and judicial scholarship
- Aggregated subject specific collections and virtual databases

THE 1,000TH DATABASE ON AUSTLII

THE SEMINAL CASE FILES OF THE HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA (HCASCF)

AustLII has added a new database to its collection on average every 10 days since its inception in mid-1995. In March 2024, the Chief Justice of Australia, the Hon. Stephen Gageler AC, launched the 1,000th Database of legal information resources to be made available on the AustLII service – the Seminal Case Files of the High Court of Australia (HCASCF). The HCASCF Database contains the complete case files of some of the key cases of the High Court that have been chosen by the current Justices of the Court. These 37 cases are of seminal importance to the development of jurisprudence and to the history of Australia since Federation. Most were chosen because of their significant contribution to the development of Australian law or their interpretation of the Constitution, or both. But some were chosen more because of their historical significance, for example, the 1934 case of *R v Wilson; Ex parte Kisch* (language tests in migration decisions) and the 1966 Ronald Ryan decision (the death penalty).

The following types of document have been digitised from the file: Affidavits with Exhibits, Transcripts, Orders/Order Sheets, Submissions, Notice of Motions, Reasons for Judgment, Statements of Claim, Subpoenas, Lists of Authorities, Chamber Summons, Bill of Costs, Maps. These case files are available at: <http://austlii.edu.au/au/cases/cth/HCASCF/>.

The 37 cases (in chronological order) are:

No	Case	Citation
1	<i>Amalgamated Society of Engineers v Adelaide Steamship Co Ltd</i> (“Engineers Case”)	[1920] HCA 54; (1920) 28 CLR 129
2	<i>Australian Knitting Mills v Grant</i>	[1933] HCA 35; (1933) 50 CLR 387
3	<i>R v Wilson; Ex parte Kisch</i>	[1934] HCA 63; (1934) 52 CLR 234
4	<i>Tuckiar v The King</i>	[1934] HCA 49; (1934) 52 CLR 335
5	<i>House v King</i>	[1936] HCA 40; (1936) 55 CLR 499
6	<i>Chester v Council of the Municipality of Waverley</i>	[1939] HCA 25; (1939) 62 CLR 1
7	<i>South Australia v Commonwealth</i> (“First Uniform Tax Case”)	[1942] HCA 14; (1942) 65 CLR 373
8	<i>Adelaide Company of Jehovah’s Witness Inc v Commonwealth</i>	[1943] HCA 12; (1943) 67 CLR 116
9	<i>Melbourne Corporation v Commonwealth</i> (“Melbourne Corporation Case”)	[1947] HCA 26; (1947) 74 CLR 31
10	<i>Bank of New South Wales v Commonwealth</i> (“Banks Nationalisation Case”)	[1948] HCA 7; (1948) 76 CLR 1
11	<i>Australian Communist Party v Commonwealth</i>	[1951] HCA 5; (1951) 83 CLR 1

12	R v Kirby; Ex parte Boilermakers' Society of Australia ("Boilermakers Case")	[1956] HCA 10; (1956) 94 CLR 254
13	Tait v The Queen	[1962] HCA 57; (1962) 108 CLR 620
14	Ryan v The Queen	[1966] (unreported)
15	Codelfa Construction Pty Ltd v State Rail Authority of New South Wales	[1982] HCA 24; (1982) 149 CLR 337
16	Commercial Bank of Australia v Amadio	[1983] HCA 14; (1983) 151 CLR 447
17	Tasmania v Commonwealth ("Tasmanian Dam Case")	[1983] HCA 21; (1983) 158 CLR 1
18	Kioa v West	[1985] HCA 81; (1985) 159 CLR 550
19	Waltons Stores (Interstate) Ltd v Maher	[1988] HCA 7; (1988) 164 CLR 387
20	Cole v Whitfield	[1988] HCA 18; (1988) 165 CLR 360
21	Commonwealth v Verwayen ("Voyager Case")	[1990] HCA 39; (1990) 170 CLR 394
22	Mabo v Queensland (No. 2) ("Mabo")	[1992] HCA 23; (1992) 175 CLR 1
23	Lim v Minister for immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs	[1992] HCA 64; (1992) 176 CLR 1
24	Nationwide News Pty Ltd v Wills	[1992] HCA 46; (1992) 177 CLR 1
25	Australian Capital Television Pty Ltd v Commonwealth	[1992] HCA 45; (1992) 177 CLR 106
26	Dietrich v The Queen	[1992] HCA 57; (1992) 177 CLR 292
27	The Wik Peoples v The State of Queensland & Ors; The Thayorre People v The State of Queensland & Ors ("Wik")	[1996] HCA 40; (1996) 187 CLR 1
28	Kable v Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW)	[1996] HCA 24; (1996) 189 CLR 51
29	Kruger v Commonwealth	[1997] HCA 27; (1997) 190 CLR 1
30	Lange v Australian Broadcasting Corporation	[1997] HCA 25; (1997) 189 CLR 520
31	Kartinyeri v Commonwealth	[1998] HCA 22; (1998) 195 CLR 337
32	Re Wakim; Ex parte McNally	[1999] HCA 27; (1999) 198 CLR 511
33	Al-Kateb v Godwin	[2004] HCA 37; (2004) 219 CLR 562
34	Fardon v Attorney-General (Qld)	[2004] HCA 46; (2004) 223 CLR 575
35	New South Wales v Commonwealth ("Work Choices Case")	[2006] HCA 52; (2006) 229 CLR 1
36	Roach v Electoral Commissioner	[2007] HCA 43; (2007) 233 CLR 162
37	Kirk v Industrial Court of New South Wales	[2010] HCA 1; (2010) 239 CLR 531

As well as the Seminal Case Files, the Court is also making available to AustLII for digitisation:

- Unreported judgments of the High Court 1921-2008: this unique set of decisions includes all High Court judgments that have never been reported, to be added to the High Court of Australia (HCA) judgments database.
- High Court Transcripts 1943-1995: all available transcripts in the files of the High Court will be digitised and added to AustLII's High Court of Australia Transcripts (HCATrans) database.

These files will be added to the collection as resources allow.

In addition to the High Court material, the following **new Australian legal databases and resources** were added or expanded in 2024:

- ACT Law Reform & Sentencing Advisory Council 2024-
- Administrative Review Tribunal of Australia 2024-
- Australian Law Reform Commission - Issues Papers Inquiry Snapshots 2006-2009
- Bond University Student Law Review 2007
- Childrens Court of the Australian Capital Territory 2024-
- City of Adelaide Planning Appeals Tribunal Judgments 1976-1994
- High Court of Australia Dispositions 2025-
- Journal for Social Justice Studies 1990-1993
- Journal of Chinese Tax and Policy 2011-
- Law Reform Commission of Western Australia - Consultation Papers 2006-
- Law Reform Commission of Western Australia - Discussion and Background Papers 1989-
- Law Reform Commission of Western Australia - Issues Papers 2006-
- New South Wales Local Government Reports 1911-1956
- New South Wales State of the Environment Reports 2012-

- Polemic Sydney, NSW 1990-2007
- South Australian Planning Appeal Board 1970-1982
- South Australian Planning Appeal Tribunal 1983-1993
- South Australian Water Resources Appeal Tribunal 1976-1995
- The APLA Update 1993-1997
- The Environment and Development Law Reports South Australia 1994-1998
- Victorian Environment and Planning Codes and Standards 2000-
- Victorian Liquor Commission 2022-
- Western Australia Law Reform Commission - Summaries 1969-
- Western Australian State of the Environment Reports 2007-

AUSTLII COMMUNITIES

AustLII Communities is a platform for innovation in the creation of free-access legal information that is provided by a wide range of 'trusted' user communities and that is fully integrated with all the legislative, case law, treaty and legal scholarship resources on AustLII. The content on AustLII Communities is easily updatable by authors and information providers and contains:

- Plain language law handbooks and other guides to the law
- Legal textbooks, annotations and case summaries
- Collaborative educational resources for the teaching of law
- Codebases for use with DataLex

Current resources available on the platform are as follows:

Law Handbooks

- ACT Law Handbook, maintained by Legal Aid ACT
- ACT Environmental Law Handbook, maintained by the Environment Defenders' Office (ACT)
- Northern Territory Law Handbook, maintained by the NT Legal Aid Commission, and the Darwin Community Legal Service
- New Zealand Accident Compensation Law Handbook, maintained by NZLII
- Victorian Discrimination Law, maintained by the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission
- Residential Tenancy Law and Practice Western Australia, maintained by Tenancy WA
- Western Australian Law Handbook, maintained by the Sussex St Community Law Service Inc.

Law Books and Monographs

- Capacity and the Law by Nick O'Neill and Carmelle Peisah, maintained by the authors
- Animal Law Case Book by Sophie Riley, maintained by the author

Rules as Code

- DataLex, maintained by AustLII

Research Resources

- Annotated Bibliography of COVID-19 Legal Literature, maintained by the University of Melbourne Law School COVID-19 Research Network
- Australian Cyber Law Map, maintained by the University of Melbourne, Centre for AI and Digital Ethics; UNSW Sydney, the Allens Hub for Technology, Law and Innovation; and the Defence Science Institute
- New Zealand Law Style Guide, maintained by NZLII and the New Zealand Law Foundation
- New Zealand JP Traffic Court Guide, created and maintained by NZLII with assistance from Police Prosecutors, Judicial JPs, Public Defenders and Barristers.

AustLII welcomes expressions of interest from community groups and organisations wishing to add useful legal resources to the AustLII Communities platform.

‘RULES AS CODE’ & THE DATALEX APPLICATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

Rules as Code is (‘RaC’) a field of research that is transforming law and policy making globally, and interest in its development is flourishing in both academic and policy circles. RaC is an evolving concept that involves rendering rules in legislation, regulation and policy as code so they can be consumed and interpreted directly by computers. DataLex is an applications development platform that can be used to create Rules as Code applications, document assembly systems and ‘chat bots’ including legal advisory services and regulatory compliance applications. DataLex interacts with the AustLII Communities platform, which enables the sustainable collaborative development of codebases.

There are many proposals for governments to adopt policies to implement ‘Rules as Code’. DataLex has great potential to support the development of applications that demonstrate the effectiveness of the RaC approach to dealing with making legislation and regulation more accessible for humans and machines.

In 2024, AustLII continued working with States of Jersey’s Legislative Drafting Office, assisting their Computer-Readable Legislation Project (CRLP). This two-year project is exploring ways for legislative drafters to produce computer-readable versions of the logical structure of drafts of legislation so that computers can use those versions to guide humans through the legislation, but also to check the drafts for inconsistencies or unexpected effects. The Project is seeking to find easy-to-use ways for legislative drafters to mark up the logical structure of draft legislation while they are drafting it.

VIRTUAL DATA LAB FOR LEGAL RESEARCH

AustLII wants to encourage valuable research uses of the data in the AustLII databases, but at the same time needs to maintain its policies in relation to bulk downloading. These policies particularly relate to the ways in which case-law documents on AustLII can be copied and used. AustLII specifically blocks all spiders and other automated agents from accessing its case-law via the Robots Exclusion Standard. AustLII’s policy is the same as nearly all similar organisations internationally. The reason for these policies include:

- the need to balance personal privacy against open access and to comply with Australian and international privacy legislation;

- the need to comply with take-down, anonymisation and other modification directions from courts and parties;
- the need to avoid being liable for contempt and breaches of the various legislative provisions relating to individual courts and tribunals;
- the need to comply with licence conditions under which data has been provided to AustLII.

In a similar way to that of other similar organisations that have responded to the problem of supporting research access to sensitive and copyright data, AustLII has developed a virtual environment, to allow researchers to carry out research over data held by AustLII, without removing a copy of the data from AustLII.

These ‘Virtual Lab’ facilities can be made available to researchers who are able to make a proportionate contribution to AustLII Foundation Ltd from their research and development funds. Such contributions are intended to reflect a portion of all of the costs that have gone into developing and maintaining the AustLII databases, and the costs of providing the Virtual Lab facilities.

AUSTLII FOUNDATION PRESS

AustLII is already a significant publisher of a large range of secondary resources, including journals, plain-language legal handbooks, case books and substantive textbooks.

AustLII has now established a new publishing initiative which involves open access publishing of law textbooks and journals under the imprint of the “AustLII Foundation Press” (AFP). The aim of this initiative is to publish electronic versions of legal textbooks and journals for free to serve the needs of law students and academics as well as a broader readership that includes the profession and the wider community.

In November 2023, AustLII launched its first journal under the AFP imprint – *Computers & Law* (the official publication of the Australasian Society for Computers and Law). The *Computers & Law* journal was first published in 1983 as a joint publication of all Australian and New Zealand Societies for Computers and the Law. Recently, the Society determined to re-launch the journal as an online open access journal and chose AustLII as its publisher.

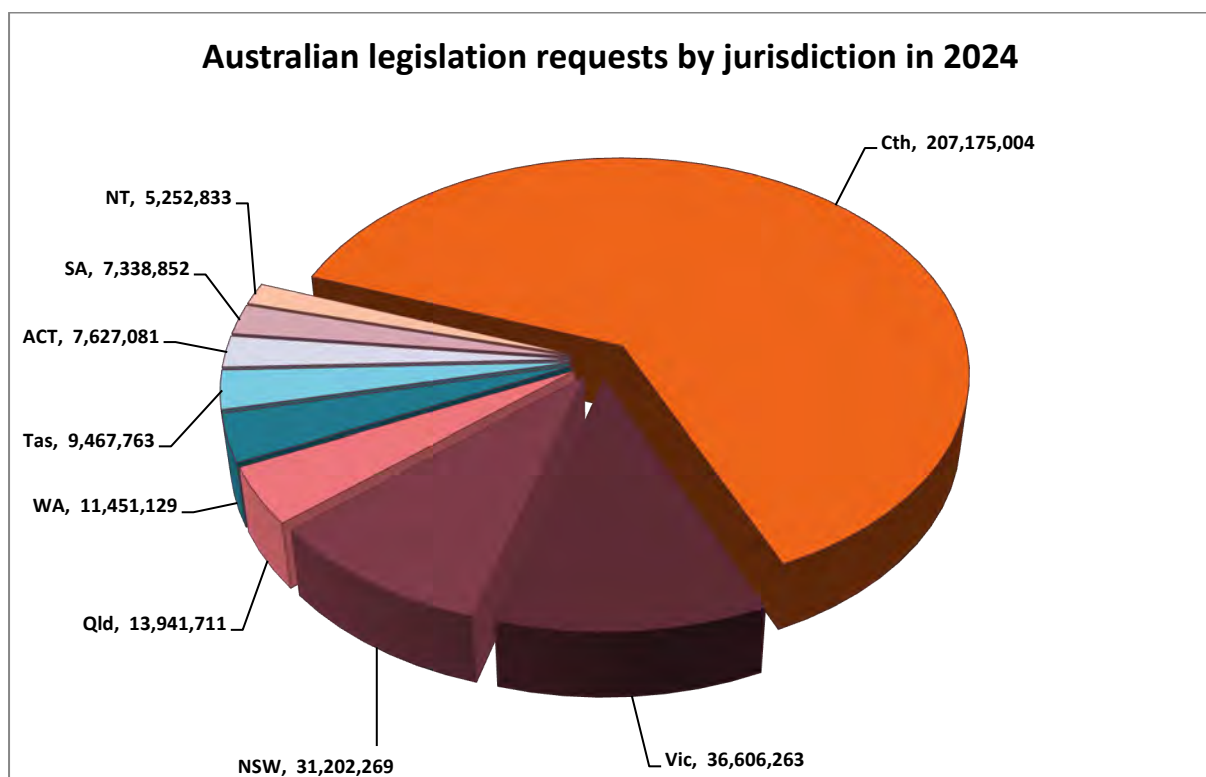
As part of this new publishing endeavour, AustLII will establish an Editorial Board/Advisory Committee to provide quality control and to increase trust of the books and journals published under the AFP imprint. AustLII is exploring ways in which we can promote and facilitate open access generally by publishing textbooks, casebooks and journals focused on mainstream legal subject areas such as the Priestley 11 and other popular elective subject areas. In this way, AustLII will continue to be an exemplar of the disciplinary approach to open access academic publishing, committed to serving the needs of Australian higher education and research.

AUSTLII USAGE

AUSTLII'S DATABASE USAGE

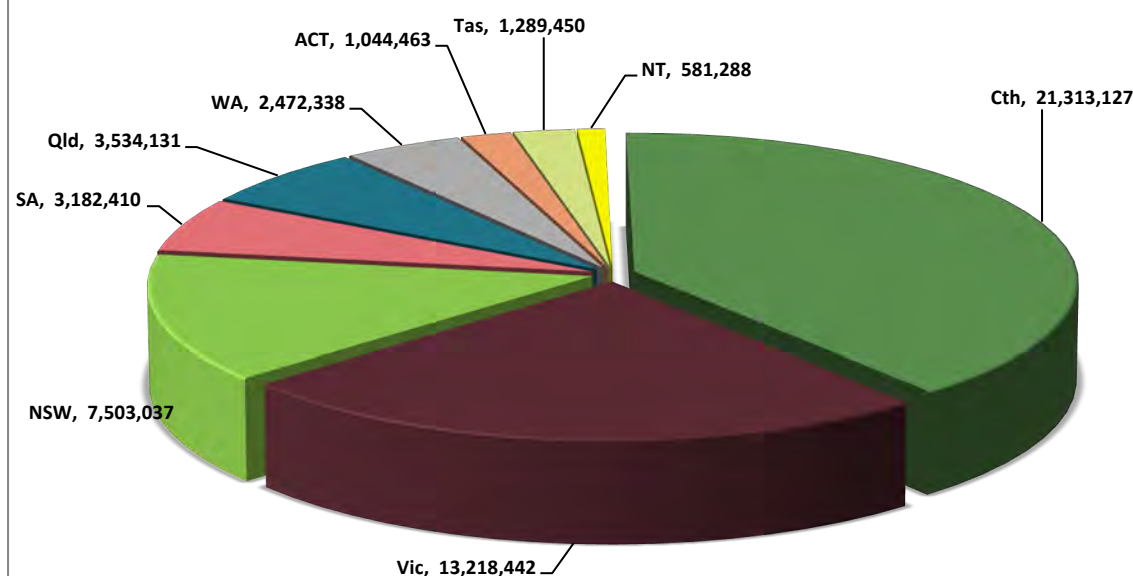
- **Total hits for 2024 exceeded 453 million and averaged 1,239,457 hits per day.**
- **Over 10.2 million distinct hosts were served.**
- **Data downloaded in 2024 was over 51.9 terabytes.**
- **In 2024 AustLII continued to be ranked as the most accessed website in the 'business and finance – legal' category (SimilarWeb data).**

The most popular databases on the AustLII service in 2024 were the Commonwealth legislation databases, followed by NSW and Victorian legislation. The following graph show the number of accesses to AustLII's legislation and case law databases by jurisdiction.



Legislation requests included permitted accesses by search engine web spiders and included requests to access individual sections of legislation.

Australian case requests by jurisdiction in 2024



Case law requests did not generally include accesses by search engine web spiders, which AustLII excludes from access.

The AustLII service is consistently ranked within the most accessed websites in Australia and maintained the number one market position in the 'business and finance – legal' category throughout 2024 (SimilarWeb data). This category included websites from government, publishers, courts and tribunals, law societies, legal firms and barristers.

AUSTLII'S MAJOR USERS

Because AustLII operates as a free and anonymous service, no log-in or user identification is required. Consequently, AustLII is unable to identify a high percentage of its users because it does not receive Internet protocol addresses (IP addresses) specific to them.

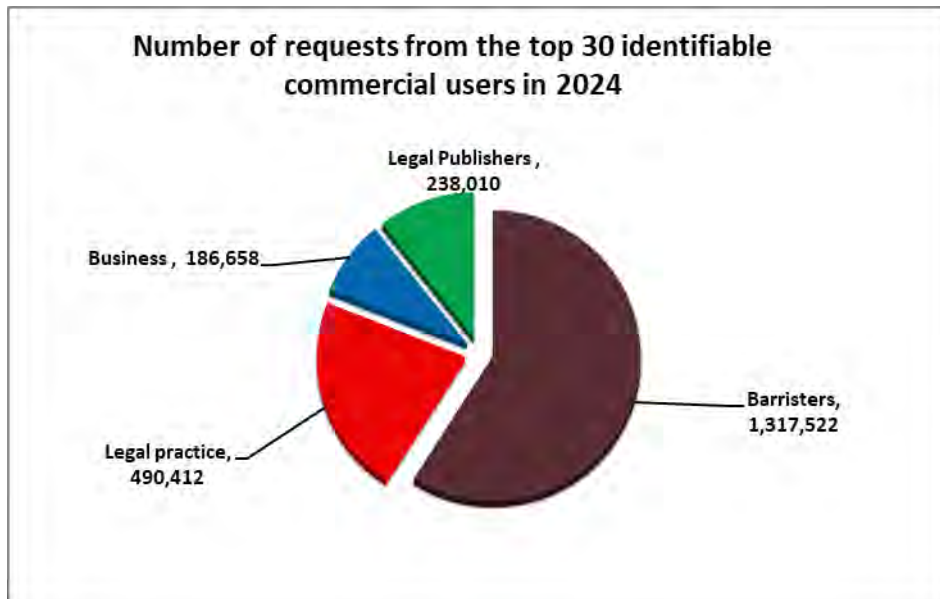
Over 75% of all accesses cannot be precisely identified. These include requests from large national and international commercial internet service providers (ISPs) serving millions of individual clients, which will include most of the general community accesses, as well as from large organisations that maintain multiple unidentifiable IP addresses. Of those IP addresses that can be identified the major users of the AustLII service fall into the following categories:

- Commercial (mostly comprising the legal profession)
- Education
- Government
- General community

COMMERCIAL SECTOR

Identified users in the commercial sector fall largely into the following categories:

- Barristers (identified through specific bar internet service providers and chambers)
- Legal practices (including private law firms and patent and trade mark attorneys)
- Legal publishers
- Businesses



While usage of AustLII by the commercial sector continues to grow it is disappointing to note that only 7 of the top 30 identifiable commercial users contribute to AustLII's running costs.

Contributions from AustLII's largest identifiable users from the commercial sector continue to remain below their rates of usage. We continue to urge all commercial AustLII users that can afford to do so to contribute towards the maintenance of the AustLII service.

COMMERCIAL USAGE OF AUSTLII IN 2024

1	Barristers	1,645,358	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Barristers	699,008	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Publishers	167,352	
4	Barristers	115,139	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Publishers	70,658	
6	Legal Practice	60,291	
7	Legal Practice	58,038	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8	Legal Practice	50,249	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9	Business	44,748	
10	Legal Practice	40,505	
11	Business	37,771	

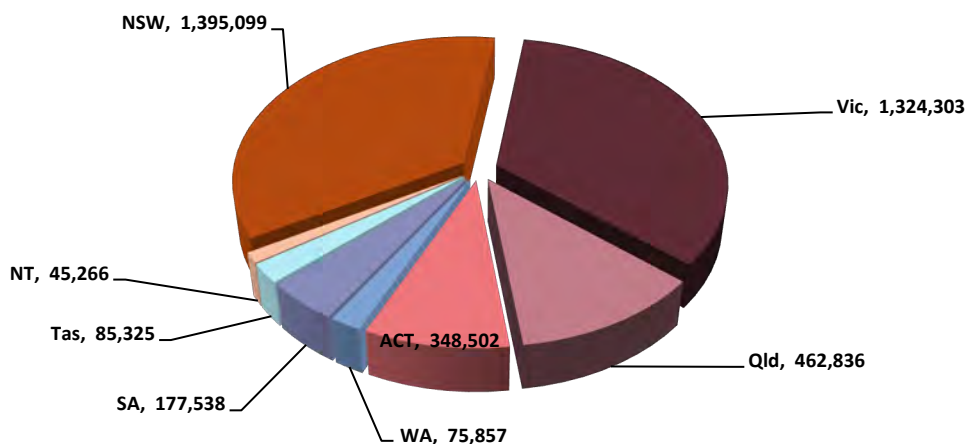
12	Business	35,012	
13	Business	28,270	
14	Business	27,360	
15	Legal Practice	27,281	
16	Legal Practice	26,763	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
17	Legal Practice	23,692	
18	Legal Practice	22,973	
19	Legal Practice	22,314	
20	Legal Practice	21,942	
21	Legal Practice	20,508	
22	Legal Practice	17,983	
23	Legal Practice	16,340	
24	Legal Practice	15,438	
25	Legal Practice	13,995	
26	Legal Practice	13,755	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
27	Business	13,497	
28	Legal Practice	13,224	
29	Legal Practice	12,782	
30	Legal Practice	12,339	

EDUCATION SECTOR

The education sector in Australia is a major user of AustLII. In addition to the usage recorded from university servers, many students and staff access the AustLII service from home via their domestic ISP services.

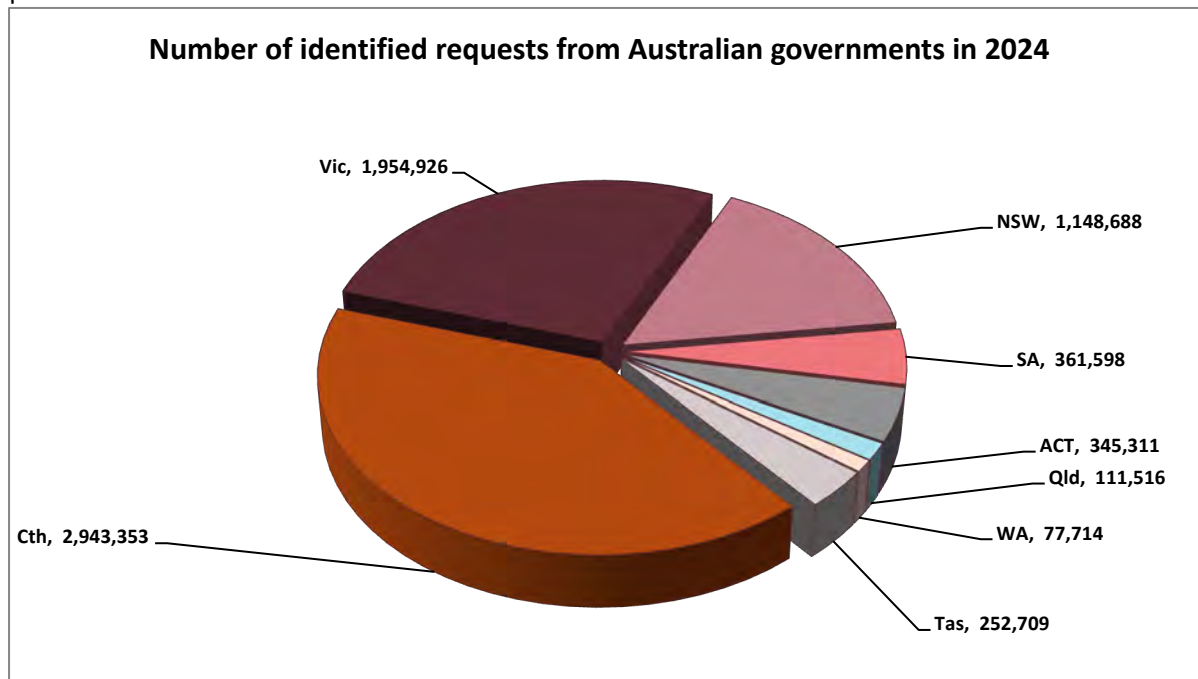
All universities in Australia use AustLII and most of them provide a financial contribution because they recognise AustLII's value to their teaching and research, and that the costs of its operation need to be widely shared. The receipt of financial support from all Australian universities is a sustainability goal.

Number of requests from Universities based on jurisdiction in 2024



GOVERNMENT SECTOR

A significant amount of government use is identifiable at agency level, including Commonwealth, State and Territory government agencies. Also included in this figure is the substantial use of AustLII resources by the various courts, tribunals and other regulators, most of whose decisions AustLII republishes on its service.



INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMS AND DEVELOPMENTS

AustLII has assisted other nations and regions to develop online access to their laws since 1999, using open-source software and other LII tools developed by AustLII. All of AustLII's development of multi-LII systems, its joint operation of overseas LIIs, and the assistance it gives to other collaborating LIIs for maintenance and development of their systems is funded by grants for these purposes.

MULTI-LII SYSTEMS

AustLII operates three multi-LII systems for international free access legal information (AsianLII, CommonLII and WorldLII) in cooperation with a group of collaborating Legal Information Institutes based in other countries (which we call the 'WorldLII Consortium'). AustLII has developed the only international free-access case and journal article citator (LawCite) and operates it in conjunction with the same group of collaborating LIIs.

WORLDLII



The World Legal Information Institute (WorldLII) continued to expand coverage of searchable content to include 2,520 national databases from collaborating LIIs. The system also contains a significant collection of international law resources from the United Nations and other international organisations.

COMMONLII



The Commonwealth Legal Information Institute (CommonLII) provides access to laws from 60 Commonwealth and common law jurisdictions. AustLII continues to maintain the Caribbean Law Project, the Commonwealth Criminal Law Library as well as the Foundations of the Common Law Library.

ASIANLII



The Asian Legal Information Institute (AsianLII) provides free access to legal information from all 28 countries and territories in Asia.

LAWCITE



LawCite is an automatically generated international legal case and journal article citator used to locate judgments and to see how these have been subsequently dealt with and commented upon or to see where journal articles have been cited. It uses data-mining techniques to examine the content provided by participating LIIs and can be thought of as the ‘glue’, which binds together the data contained within the multi-LII systems. In 2024, LawCite indexed over 6.6 million documents.

DATABASES SEARCHABLE THROUGH MULTI-LII SYSTEMS

Seventeen LIIs now collaborate in providing the databases searchable via WorldLII. The following table sets out the approximate numbers of databases searchable from each of the portals operated by AustLII (AsianLII, CommonLII and WorldLII) as of 31 December 2024, and the number of databases found on each cooperating LII allowing their data to be searched as part of these systems. The ‘Countries’ column indicates the number of countries that a particular LII adds to the total number of countries whose databases are searchable via WorldLII.

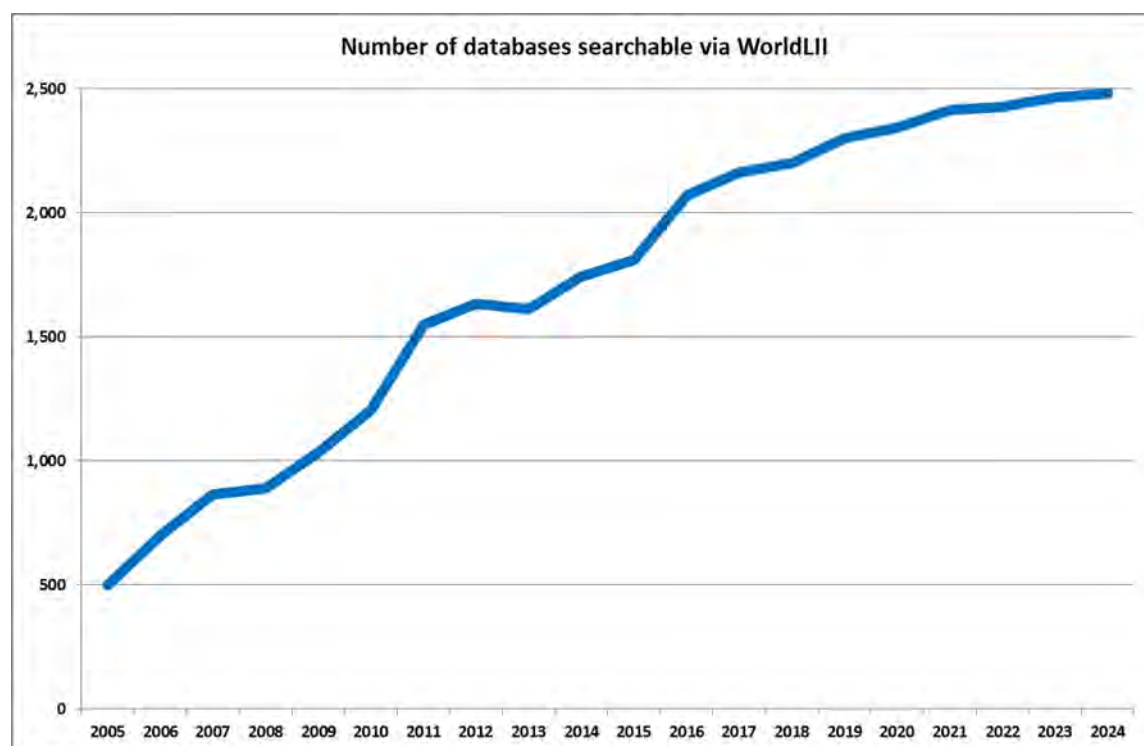
Table of searchable databases in multi-LII systems (as of 31 December 2024)

Systems	AsianLII	CommonLII	WorldLII	Countries	
AsianLII	330	0	330	28 *	
AustLII	0	829	829	1	
BAILII	0	116	116	7	
CanLII	0	2	2	1	
CommonLII	43	122	122	27 *	
CyLaw	0	21	21	1	
Droit.org	0	0	1	1	
HKLII	37	37	37	1	
LawPhil	20	0	20	1	
LII Cornell	0	0	3	1	
LiberLII	0	0	8	1 *	
NZLII	0	236	236	1 *	
LII of India	172	172	172	1 *	
PacLII	39	368	368	20	
SAFLII	0	93	93	16	
SamLII	0	28	28	1 *	
ULII	0	19	19	1	
WorldLII	0	0	115	55 *	
2024 Total	641	2,043	2,520	165	1,011
2023 Total	641	1,989	2,466	165	994
2022 Total	651	1,952	2,429	165	992
2021 Total	651	1,937	2,414	165	985
2020 Total	657	1,869	2,346	165	976
2019 Total	640	1,823	2,300	165	968
2018 Total	620	1,725	2,202	165	900
2017 Total	617	1,683	2,163	165	886
2016 Total	603	1,597	2,070	164	848
2015 Total	453	1,489	1,809	152	678
2014 Total	442	1,430	1,742	152	652
2013 Total	431	1,312	1,613	142	612
2012 Total	433	1,279	1,635	183	595
2011 Total	430	1,204	1,552	182	555
2010 Total	300	905	1,205	164	408

During 2024, the total number of databases available for searching via WorldLII increased by 54 to 2,520, whereas the total number available via CommonLII was 2,043 and AsianLII was 641.

AustLII maintains 1,011 of these international databases (an increase from 994 in 2023), in addition to the 829 Australian databases on AustLII. They are on seven LIIs (marked *).

The number of databases searchable via WorldLII was not recorded for its first few years of operation from 2002, but over the past few years (as recorded in AustLII reports to LII meetings, and in these annual reviews), the rate of expansion of searchable databases is as follows:

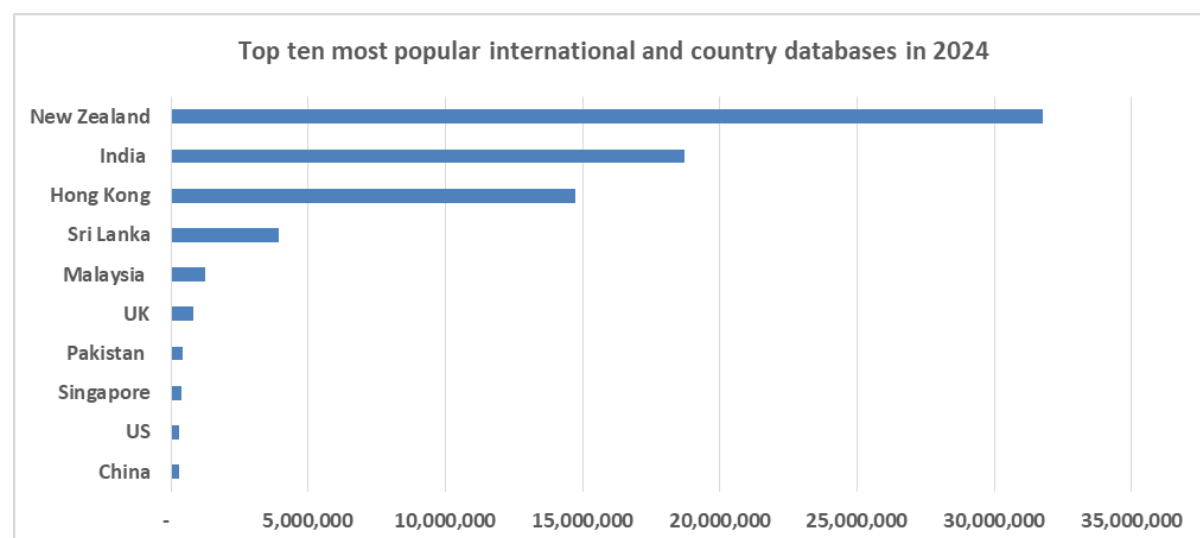


INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMS USAGE

There are two measures of accesses to the multi-LII systems with which AustLII cooperates (WorldLII, CommonLII and AsianLII): (i) accesses to the databases of collaborating LIIs resulting from searches via the multi-LII systems; and (ii) accesses to databases maintained by AustLII located on the multi-LII systems. AustLII does not hold access statistics on (i), as those accesses are only recorded on the systems concerned. Because the numbers of documents on AustLII, BAILII, PacLII etc. are far larger than the numbers of documents in databases located on AsianLII, WorldLII or CommonLII, it is likely that (i) is much larger than (ii). The statistics below relate only to (ii).

In 2024, there were nearly 120 million accesses to the non-Australian databases maintained by AustLII and located on AsianLII, CommonLII, NZLII, LII of India, LiberLII, SamLII and WorldLII plus citator records on LawCite and Catalog pages. AustLII blocks spidering of case law on any of these services.

The following chart shows the top 10 most requested databases maintained by AustLII, by country or grouping (excluding databases on AustLII). The most popular international databases in 2024 are from New Zealand, the International Courts and Tribunals (as well as inter-government organisations), Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, United Kingdom, Pakistan, Singapore and China. The UK accesses refer to the English Reports 1220-1873 located on CommonLII. Because there is a high level of overlap between databases maintained by AustLII searchable via AsianLII, CommonLII and WorldLII, separate statistics are not given below for each of these multi-LII systems.



DEVELOPMENTS IN NATIONAL LII SYSTEMS

AustLII also cooperates with a number of partner institutions in individual countries by jointly managing (using AustLII infrastructure) the databases of these LIIs (NZLII, LII of India, PacLII, SamLII, and LiberLII).

AustLII currently supports the maintenance of: Legal Information Institute of India (LII of India), the Samoan Legal Information Institute (SamLII), the Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute (PacLII) and the Liberian Legal Information Institute (LiberLII) by providing backup data storage and hosting.



During 2024 there were significant developments regarding the continued operation of both NZLII and PacLII.

SUPPORTING ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND ENABLING THE RULE OF LAW IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Since 2004 the New Zealand Legal Information Institute (NZLII) has provided critical national research infrastructure that is fundamental to the operation of the legal system in Aotearoa New Zealand. NZLII provides an integrated framework of primary law and secondary legal content, with tools and services to support the legal information, education and research needs of the many different communities who access its resources.

NZLII ensures that the legal system operates effectively and efficiently, supports access to justice and helps to enable the rule of law. NZLII also supports economic development, national security, social wellbeing, and environmental sustainability.

NZLII is a joint project of the Faculty of Law, University of Otago and the Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII). AustLII plays a critical role in the operation of NZLII and will be a partner in this project. AustLII hosts the public NZLII servers and provides all of the software and technical support necessary to operate and deliver the NZLII service.

The New Zealand-based charity, the Michael and Suzanne Borrin Foundation, has provided a grant of NZD421,000 to the University of Otago to enable the New Zealand Legal Information Institute (NZLII) to deliver this project in partnership with AustLII.

The goals of the project are to:

1. Provide additional content on NZLII by:
 - extending primary law coverage,
 - adding more 'plain language' resources,
 - building on previous Borrin Foundation projects to enhance access to resources reflecting Māori law and custom.
2. Make technical enhancements to improve user experience by:
 - providing legislation and case law in HTML format, where practicable, to enable hyperlinking between documents,
 - correctly displaying macrons and other language encoding and representations of the Māori language,
 - improving the search engine to enable better results for casual users and more precise results for experienced users.
3. Trial potential applications of cutting-edge AI technologies to legal resources by:
 - testing potential Rules as Code applications to parts of selected key legislation,
 - exploring the application of generative AI technologies to legal research.



NZLII colleagues inspecting the AustLII server room: (l. to r.) Philip Chung (AustLII), Donna Buckingham (NZLII), Judi Eathorne-Gould (NZLII), Jones Olatunji (AustLII)

FREE ACCESS TO LAW IN THE PACIFIC REGION – SUSTAINING PACLII

In 2023 AustLII, in partnership with the University of the South Pacific (USP), approached the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to seek long-term funding to support the rule of law in the Pacific Islands. Following a summit of Pacific Islands governments and other relevant stakeholders to consider a long-term sustainable future for PacLII, an application for five-year funding was prepared for the University of the South Pacific (USP) to present to DFAT for consideration in 2024.

In June 2024, the Australian Government through the Pacific Integration Division of DFAT, and the United Kingdom Government through the UK Integrated Security Fund Pacific programme, signed funding agreements with the University of the South Pacific (USP) to jointly provide core funding to PacLII for three years, with DFAT offering a possible extension for a further two years. The Australian Government's contribution is AUD400,000 per year and the UK Government's contribution is GBP150,000 per year.

The purpose of these grants is to support the provision of free access to legal information in the Pacific Islands and thereby help to ensure that the legal systems of all Pacific nations operate effectively and efficiently, to support access to justice, and to enable the rule of law in the region.

The Goals of the project are:

1. The delivery of a comprehensive and reliable regional legal information system serving the overall needs of the Pacific community and member nations by:
 - improved PacLII technical and staff capacity to acquire, process and share legal information
 - expanded and improved legal materials collection
 - improved awareness and access to legal material
2. Policy development and supporting approaches enabling the rule of law and operation of the legal systems in the region by:
 - engaging and co-operating with national governments, courts, and institutions
 - developing projects to meet additional needs
 - preserving vulnerable collections
3. The enhancement of PacLII's governance to ensure strategic leadership, effective planning, and accountability by:
 - the Establishment of a PacLII Foundation
 - the Establishment of a PacLII Foundation Board
 - the Establishment of PacLII Advisory Council
4. Developing mechanisms to make PacLII sustainable and more resilient by:
 - engagement with stakeholders to establish partnerships and explore funding opportunities
 - project development to attract new funding

AustLII has worked in partnership with USP since the establishment of PacLII. AustLII hosts the public PacLII servers and provides all of the software and technical support necessary to operate and deliver the PacLII service. The project recognises that AustLII should be resourced to support the ongoing role it plays in operation and direction of PacLII.

COLLABORATIONS WITH OTHER LEGAL INFORMATION INSTITUTES

AustLII continues to collaborate with a number of international partners. In 2024, it worked with the Southern African Legal Information Institute (SAFLII) to develop and maintain their facilities as well as exploring areas of research collaboration. Andrew Mowbray and Philip Chung serve on the Advisory Council of SAFLII. Philip Chung also serves as a trustee on the BAILII Board.

AUSTLII INVOLVEMENT IN THE FREE ACCESS TO LAW MOVEMENT



AustLII is one of the founders, and a very active participant in the global Free Access to Law Movement (FALM), which had 66 members at the end of 2024.

A full list of members is at the FALM website <<http://www.fatlm.org>>, as is the Declaration of Free Access to Law (2002, as amended) to which AustLII and other members subscribe. The logos of the members of FALM are shown below.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

RESEARCH AND RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

The Australasian Legal Information Institute undertakes research in the field of legal information systems, which can usually be characterised as ‘applied research’. Funding for this research comes from various sources, including from research infrastructure grants (such as ARC LIEF and the ARDC) as well as conventional research grants (such as Australian Research Council Linkage grants) or international development grants where the goals of infrastructure development pose research issues which must be resolved.

In 2024, project grant funding was received in relation to the two international projects undertaken with regional partners as noted above:

- PacLII in collaboration with the University of the South Pacific
- NZLII in collaboration with the University of Otago

PUBLICATIONS, SUBMISSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

AustLII Co-Directors, Senior Researchers and staff published the following papers and made the following submissions and presentations in 2024:

- Mowbray A, Chung P and Greenleaf G, ‘Free Access to Law and Digital Court Decisions in Australia: Reflections and Future Directions’ in *Enduring Courts in Changing Times* (Australian Academy of Law, 2024)
- Mowbray, A, Chung, P and Greenleaf, G, “Australasian Law in 1,000 Databases: The Evolution of AustLII” AustLII, March 2024.
- Chung, P, Andrew Mowbray, A, and Greenleaf, G, “Exploring the Expanding Boundaries of ‘Public Legal Information’ for Free Access” presented at the Law via Internet (Lvi) Conference 2024, 26 - 27 September 2024, Limassol, Cyprus.

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

THE LAUNCH OF THE 1,000TH DATABASE ON AUSTLII

On 26 March, more than 150 guests attended the launch of the 1,000th database of legal information on AustLII – the Seminal Case files of the High Court of Australia. The Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, the Honourable Stephen Gageler AC, spoke about the reasons that the current justices had decided to undertake this project, how the selection of the cases was made and the historical and public purpose rationale for allowing the complete files of these cases to be digitised and made available on AustLII.

AustLII is grateful to the High Court for allowing us to make these important historical resources available for free access to the Australian community. The launch of the 1,000th Database celebrates the long and deep relationship that AustLII has maintained with the High Court of Australia, since its establishment in 1995, when a database of High Court decisions was included in the first version of the AustLII system.



Launch of AustLII's 1,000th database - the Seminal Case files of the High Court of Australia, Aerial Function Centre UTS, 26 March 2024. Chief Justice of Australia, the Hon. Stephen Gageler AC showing a photograph of the Franklin River in Tasmania, part of the evidence presented to the High Court during the 1983 'Tasmanian Dam Case' (*Tasmania v Commonwealth*, [1983] HCA 21; (1983) 158 CLR 1), now forming part of the digitised collection.

AustLII Directors continued a regular meeting schedule with key stakeholders throughout the year. This included our important data providers and financial supporters from around Australia: courts and tribunals, government agencies, universities, the legal profession and from business and industry.

Engagement with our large number of general community users occurs through feedback notices received each year. These notices cover many topics including: alerting us to content and technical issues that need rectification, requests for new resources, and questions about the legislation and case law available on AustLII.

Social media interactions with our community of users have become an important communication tool. During 2024, we maintained profiles on the following platforms:

- X (formerly Twitter) followers: 7,955
- LinkedIn followers: 1,141
- Bluesky Social followers: 465

AUSTLII FUNDING

Traditionally, AustLII has been funded by an approximately equal combination of grant funding from the Australian Research Council (ARC) and contributions through the AustLII Foundation Limited which operates as an Australian charity. Due to changes in the ARC funding environment, this source is unlikely to provide reliable funding in the future. Charitable donations and other income to the Foundation will need to make up for this shortfall.

SUSTAINABLY FUNDING AUSTLII IN THE FUTURE

The complexity and scope of the service that is expected of AustLII has dramatically increased and continues to expand. New sources of legal information continue to be created by governments and courts, including decisions of new courts and tribunals, and additional data continues to flow into AustLII's 1,000+ existing databases, in ever-increasing volumes.

More generally, the nature of what access to law means is changing and expanding, and the users of legal information expect to receive it (and are capable of using it) in more sophisticated forms. With recent improvements in data science, AustLII needs to respond to demands for new uses of its data sets (both existing and expanding). In particular, the development of Large Language Models (LLM) and associated generative AI technologies require major development work to apply these to Australian law.

To address these challenges, the way that AustLII is funded needs to change. The AustLII Foundation seeks to increase revenue from donations and contributions by:

- seeking significant strategic relationships with our key sectors: government, education and the legal profession to maintain and enhance the AustLII service,
- increasing the value of contributions made by the current contributor base,
- increasing the overall number of contributors, and
- pursuing opportunities to negotiate funded projects with a range of stakeholders to develop services and facilities, provided that these projects are consistent with AustLII's free access mission and goals.

In 2024, two major fundraising appeals were conducted - an End of Financial Year campaign in May and June, and an End of Year campaign in November and December. Fundraising activities included initiating and managing multi-year pledge donations, solicitation of donations from contributors in previous years by mail and email, posting a request for support addressed to all AustLII users on the AustLII homepage and search pages, and via our social media profiles.

The legal profession, business and industry, courts and tribunals, government agencies, educational institutions and the general community all make contributions to support AustLII. In 2024, around 450 organisations and individuals made contributions ranging in value from \$5 to \$55,000.

In 2024, the Foundation's total revenue was \$2,268,454 including \$2,175,495 in donations and contributions and \$92,959 in interest and other income.

LIST OF DONORS, CONTRIBUTORS AND RESEARCH PARTNERS

Contributors fall into three categories, those that provide donations and contributions to maintain AustLII's Australian infrastructure and services, those who fund projects that support free access to legal information, and those that are research partners to grants for research and development. Research partners are denoted with *.

Contributors are publicly acknowledged for their contribution on AustLII contributor's page (unless anonymity is requested) with the amounts of contribution recorded:

<http://www.austlii.edu.au/austlii/contributors/>.

AustLII thanks all its 2024 contributors, which are listed below by sector.

GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

ACT Justice and Community Safety Directorate	Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General
Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department	South Australian Attorney-General's Department
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Tasmanian Department of Justice
National Legal Aid	Victorian Department of Justice and Community Safety
NSW Department of Communities and Justice	Western Australia Department of Justice
Northern Territory Department of Attorney-General and Justice	

COURTS, TRIBUNALS & REGULATORS

Australian Administrative Appeals Tribunal	Licensing Court of South Australia
Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Personal Injury Commission
Fair Work Commission	South Australian Employment Tribunal
Fair Work Ombudsman	Victorian Civil & Administrative Tribunal
Federal Court of Australia	Victorian Workplace Injury Commission
Legal Services Council	Victorian Mental Health Tribunal

EDUCATION

Australian National University	The College of Law Ltd
Bond University	University of Canberra
Charles Darwin University	University of Melbourne
Edith Cowan University	University of Notre Dame
Electoral Regulation Research Network	University of Queensland
Griffith University	University of Southern Queensland
Macquarie University	University of Sydney
Monash University	University of Technology Sydney **
Queensland University of Technology	UNSW Sydney ***
RMIT University	University of Western Australia

** In addition to its financial contribution, UTS provides physical premises from which AustLII staff operates.

*** In addition to its financial contribution, UNSW provides physical premises for some AustLII staff members and for backup server equipment.

COMMERCIAL LEGAL PROFESSION

(Includes law firms, barristers' chambers, individual solicitors and barristers, patent & trademark attorneys and migration agents)

3 St James Hall Chambers	Blackwood Family Lawyers
Adam Darke	BLW Partners Pty Ltd
Adrian Batterby	Bruce DeBelle
Adrian Muller	Buttar Caldwell & Co Solicitors
Alec Leopold SC	Cam Troung
Alistair Pound	Campbell Wollacott
Allens	Castledine Gregory
Allison Benson	Cathy Dowsett
Anchor Legal	CBB law
Andrew Monisse	Central Lawyers Pty Ltd
Andrew Smith	Chris McGrath
Annabel Osborne Brodie	Chris Ronalds
Anthony Lang	Claire O'Connor
Antony Possingham	Clayton Utz
ANZIA Immigration lawyers	Clifford Chance
APX Law Pty Ltd	CMM Quay Legal Group
Arnold Bloch Leibler	Cohen Jimenez
Ashley Stafford	Colin Purdy
Ashurst	Colthorpe Lawyers
Aviation Law Assoc of Australia and New Zealand	Connolly Suthers
Baker & McKenzie	Cooper Grace Ward Lawyers
Bannermans Lawyers	Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Bar Chambers	Craig Jackson
Barry Nilsson	Daan Spijker
Bartier Perry	Dakin Law
Bennett + Co	Daniel Robinson
Bird & Bird	Daniel Wallis

Daniels Bengtsson Pty Limited	John Giacchi
Danny Sankey	John Southalan
David Fairlie	Johnson Winter & Slattery
David Levin	Jonathan Redwood SC
David Levin K C	Jonathon Slack-Smith
David Martin	Jordan Ahlstrand
Davies Collison Cave	Joshua Knackstredt
DBH Lawyers	Julia Wang
Debra Coombs	Justice David Mossop
DLA Piper Australia	Justin Edwards
Dominic Toomey SC	Kate Eastman SC
Doogue + George Lawyers	Kate Ottrey
Dundas Lawyers Pty Ltd	Katherine McGree
Edmund Barton Chambers	Kennedy Partners Lawyers
Elizabeth Evatt	Kieran Smark
Emma Harold	King & Wood Mallesons
Erik S Dober	KJK Legal
Eugene Wasilenia	Kyriaki Vavoulis
Forte Family Lawyers	Lachlan Macquarie Chambers
Francis Harrison	Lander & Rogers
Frederick Brohier	Lavan Legal
Frederick Turner	Leigh Warnick
G & D Lawyers	Lester Fernandez
Gabrielle L Martin Barrister & Solicitor	List A Barristers
Georgiou, Marina	Lum, Christopher
Gilbert + Tobin	Lydia Kinda
Gilchrist Connell	Maccallum Lawyers
Gordon Legal Pty Ltd	Mackenzie Mitchell Solicitors
Graham Justin	Maddocks
Grant Donaldson	Makinson d'Apice
Grant Riethmuller	Margaret-Ann Coleman
Hamer & Hamer	Mark Hosking
Hanson Chambers	Marque Lawyers
Hector Douglas HR Legal	Martin Willoughby-Thomas
Herbert Smith Freehills	MathasLaw
Hicksons Lawyers	Matthew Hooper
Hon. Duncan Kerr	Matthew Jones
Hopgood Ganim Lawyers	Matthew Thomas
Hugh Murray	Maurice Blackburn
Ian Duane	McDonald, Geoffrey
Ian Robertson SC	McMahon Vincent Lawyers
IDA Legal	Megan Cusack
Ingmar Taylor	Merthyr Law
Jackson McDonald	Michael Coe Solicitors
James Sheller	Michael Horton
Janine Gleeson	Michael Kirby Chambers
John Armfield	Michael O'Farrell
John Baird	Michael Rush

Mills Oakley	Russell Kennedy
Minter Ellison	Scott Ellis
Nevett Ford Melbourne Pty Ltd	Sharrock Pitman Legal Pty Ltd
Nicholas Lindsay	Sharyn Hall SC
Nicholas Seddon	Simon Bowden
Nicolas Dour	Simon Gannon
Nitra Kidson	Simon Marks
Norman Waterhouse Lawyers	Sinisgalli Foster Legal
Page Seager Lawyers	Sixth Floor St James Hall Chambers
Patricia Byrnes	Sladen Legal & Harwood Andrews
Paul Batley	Slater and Gordon Lawyers
Paul Rickard	South Geldard Laywers
Paul Santamaria	Sparke Helmore
Penijamini Lomaloma	Stephen Blaxland
Penny Thew	Stephen Rebikoff
Peter Baston	Stephen Scarlett
Peter Bobbin	Stephen White
Peter Brindal	Steven Golledge
Peter Gray	Sydney Criminal Lawyers
Peter Hanks QC	Temperance Legal
Peter Jacobson	Terrence Lynch
Peter Pearsall	The Family Law Book
Peter Vitale	The Tax Objection
Phil Schubert	Thomas Warner
Philip Boncardo	Tim Game
Phillip Boulten	Tina Jowett
Phillips Ormonde Fitzpatrick	Tom Clarke
Piper Alderman	Travis Mitchell
R. Tyson Wodak	Troy Spence
Rachel Doyle	Turks Legal
Rankin Ellison Lawyers	Turnbull Hill Lawyers
Richard Arthur	Turner Freeman
Richard Lancaster	Twelfth Floor Chambers Pty Limited
Robert Dick	Tyneil Renwick
Robert Gordon	Vance Hughston SC
Robert Napoli & Co	Veracity Legal
Robert Quickenden	WA Bar Chambers Limited
Robert Wearne	Wallmans Lawyers
Robinson Locke Litigation Lawyers	Waratah Chambers
Rogers & Gaylard Lawyers Brighton	Ward Keller
Rohan Millar	White & Case
Russell Cocks	Anonymous (41)

LAW SOCIETIES & BAR ASSOCIATIONS

ACT Bar Association	New South Wales Bar Association
Central West Law Society	Northern Territory Bar Association
Commercial Bar Association of Victoria	Queensland Bar Association
Law Council of Australia	South Australian Bar Association
Law Institute of Victoria	Tasmanian Independent Bar Inc
Law Society of New South Wales	Victorian Bar Inc
Law Society of South Australia	Western Australian Bar Association
Law Society of Tasmania	

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Accesspoint Visa Services	JCDecaux Australia Trading Pty Ltd
Ausea Consulting Pty Ltd	JMV
Australian Academy of Law	John Gregory
Bioregen Ecological Assessment & Restoration	Legal Practitioners' Liability Committee (Victoria)
C Group	Legalwise Seminars Pty Ltd
CCH Australia Publishing	Logic Productions
CFMEU Mining and Energy Division	Online Induction
Corporate Tax Association	Singapore Academy of Law
Encore Mining Pty Ltd	Standards Australia Limited
Forensis Accounting	Steadfast
George Lawrence Chartered Accountant	Zurich Financial Services Aust Ltd

COMMUNITY

Alan Cameron	Lauren Morrissey
A Mackinnon	Leslie Smith
Angad Dhillon	Lyria Bennett Moses
Arie Freiberg	Marilyn Wentworth
Bruce Watson	Mark Pegg
Catherine Brown	Mark Wilson
Chris Kenward	Marlene Walters
David Blayney	Miles Ma
David Shoebridge	Nick O'Neill
Dung Lam	Patrick Clearwater
Dush Shan	Paul Sugden
Elizabeth Handsley	Paul Sykes
Ewart Allen	Pei Huang
Geoffrey Lindell	Peter Dencher
Giovanni Crasto	Quenton Thomas
Greg Chalker	Rebecca Cocker
Guy Verney	Richard Hunter
Helen Bellette	Rosslyn Curnow Nolch
Hugh Dillon	Shane Hanson
Irene Davies	Simon Neldner
Jacinta Woodhead	Sophie York
Joseph Campbell	UK Online Giving Foundation
Juanita Spinelli	Wayne Brighton
Karen Feng	Lauren Morrissey
Kiran Ramrakha	Anonymous (19)

LIST OF RESEARCH FUNDING PARTNERS

Australasian Legal Information Institute applies for competitive grant funding from national and international research funding bodies. These grants are often made in partnership with university partners. Research funding was received from the following:

University of Otago	University of the South Pacific
---------------------	---------------------------------

IN-KIND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM UTS AND UNSW

The AustLII Foundation gratefully acknowledges the generous in-kind support received from its university members - UTS and UNSW.

UTS provides rent-free accommodation to the Foundation, co-located within the Faculty of Law, including office space for staff, meeting rooms, digitisation facilities and a fully equipped and provisioned server room to accommodate computing hardware and other technical equipment. UTS also contributes towards the salary and on-costs of some staff.

UNSW provides an office at the UNSW Faculty of Law and Justice, together with a secondary (back-up) computing facility which is currently provided by the UNSW School of Computing Science and Engineering.

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

AustLII Foundation Limited
ABN 41 134 717 972

AustLII Foundation Ltd

ABN 41 134 717 972

Annual Report
For the year ended 31 December 2024

Directors' Report for the year end 31 December 2024

Your directors present their report on the company for the year end 31 December 2024.

The names of the directors in office during the financial year and at the date of the report were:

Mr Ian Govey AM (Chair) (appointed to the Board on 23 June 2009)

Former Australian Government Solicitor (AGS)

Dr Philip Chung (Managing Director) (appointed to the Board on 23 June 2009)

Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, UNSW Sydney (The University of New South Wales); Executive Director, Australasian Legal Information Institute

Prof Andrew Mowbray (Executive Director) (appointed to the Board on 27 April 2009)

Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney (UTS); Co-Director, Australasian Legal Information Institute

The Hon Virginia Bell AC (appointed to the Board on 19 October 2023)

Former Justice of the High Court of Australia

Dr. James Popple (appointed to the Board on 1 January 2024)

CEO, Law Council of Australia

Ms. Miranda Milne (appointed to the Board on 29 April 2020)

Former CEO at Legal Practitioners' Liability Committee

Prof Anita Stuhmcke (appointed to the Board on 21 October 2021)

Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney (UTS)

Prof Andrew Lynch (appointed to the Board on 14 August 2020 and resigned on 31 December 2024)

Dean, Faculty of Law, UNSW Sydney (The University of New South Wales)

Mr. John Cameron (appointed to the Board on 24 April 2018)

Former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Resources) at Australian Catholic University

The Company Secretary was: **Giovanni Crasto** (appointed on 31 Jan 2014)

AustLII Foundation Ltd

Principal Activity

AustLII Foundation Ltd (AustLII) is a public company limited by guarantee that is incorporated and domiciled in New South Wales, Australia. The registered office is at Level 14, 61 Broadway, Ultimo, New South Wales 2007.

The principal activities of the company during the financial year were to provide an online free-access public library of Australian legal materials. Previously the library was jointly provided by the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) and UNSW Sydney (The University of New South Wales). AustLII Foundation Ltd began operations on 1 October 2009.

AustLII's objectives are to:

- Promote the sound administration and development of the law by providing free, effective and anonymous access to public legal information in Australia by means of an electronic public library;
- Maintain systems, programmes and databases for the effective handling of an electronic public library of legal information; and
- Advance legal education by promoting and encouraging research in the field of legal information systems.

AustLII's strategies to achieve these objectives are:

- Timely addition of new primary materials databases from all jurisdictions as they become available;
- Continuing development of technical features; and
- Undertake stakeholder engagement activities to ensure financial sustainability.

AustLII Foundation Ltd is a company limited by guarantee and has no authorised or paid-up capital. Each Member of the company, whilst a Member, or within one year after ceasing to be a Member, undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up. If the company is wound up the Constitution states that each member is required to contribute \$100 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the company. As at 31 December 2024 there was one Member.

Review of operations

AustLII Foundation Ltd commenced operations on 1 October 2009. Initial equity consisted of net income received and held on behalf of the Foundation by the University of Technology Sydney prior to the Foundation's commencement of operations. The net amount of surplus for the year end 31 December 2024 was \$349,932. Deficit for 2023 – \$272,431.

Significant changes in the State of Affairs

No significant change in the state of affairs of the company occurred during or after the period that would render any amount stated in the accounts misleading.

Events Subsequent to Balance Date

UNSW has withdrawn from AustLII Foundation on 31 December 2024. UTS is continuing as a Member of the Company. No other significant change in the state of affairs of the company occurred during or after the period that would render any amount stated in the accounts misleading.

Future Developments

There are no extraordinary developments foreseen for the coming financial year.

Environmental Issues

The Company's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulations under a law of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory.

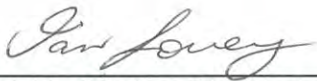
AustLII Foundation Ltd

Directors' Meetings

The number of meetings of directors held during the year and the number of meetings attended by each director were as follows:

Directors' Meetings		
	Eligible to attend	Number attended
Philip Chung	5	5
Virginia Bell	5	5
John Cameron	5	4
Ian Govey	5	5
Andrew Lynch	5	5
Miranda Milne	5	3
James Popple	5	5
Andrew Mowbray	5	5
Anita Stuhmcke	5	5

Signed in accordance with a resolution of directors.



Signed this 27th day of March, in Sydney.
Ian Govey (Director)



Signed this 27th day of March, in Sydney.
Miranda Milne (Director)



To the Directors

AustLII Foundation Limited

Auditor's Independence Declaration

As auditor for the audit of the financial statements of AustLII Foundation Limited for the year ended 31 December 2024, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of:

- the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2013* in relation to the audit
- any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Bradley Medina
Acting Assistant Auditor-General, Financial Audit

Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

27 March 2025
SYDNEY

AustLII Foundation Ltd

Statement of Comprehensive Income For the year end 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Revenue from Continuing Operations			
Donations & Contributions	1f, 2	2,175,495	1,239,746
Other Income including investment gains/(losses)		92,959	93,362
Total Income		2,268,454	1,333,108
Expenses			
Employment Costs	1c, 3, 14	1,602,012	1,445,495
Equipment Charges	1b, 3	111,432	99,316
Accounting and Audit Fees	3, 7	30,344	19,040
Consultancy	3	76,960	-
Insurance	3	7,552	6,000
Other Operating Costs	3	90,222	35,688
Total Expenses		1,918,522	1,605,539
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		349,932	(272,431)
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
Total Comprehensive Surplus/(Deficit)		349,932	(272,431)

The above statement of comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

AustLII Foundation Ltd

Statement of Financial Position As at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank	10	1,064,257	538,401
Trade and Other Receivables	4	331,263	428,374
Prepayments	5	54,986	35,380
Other Financial Assets	6,12	1,206,591	1,133,467
TOTAL ASSETS		2,657,097	2,135,622
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	7	602,051	433,994
Annual Leave Provisions	8 ,1c	3,486	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES		605,537	433,994
NET ASSETS		2,051,560	1,701,628
EQUITY			
Retained Surplus	1e,	2,051,560	1,701,628
TOTAL EQUITY		2,051,560	1,701,628

The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

AustLII Foundation Ltd

Statement of Changes in Equity for the year end 31 December 2024

	Note	Retained Surplus	Total Equity
		\$	\$
Balance as at 1 January 2023		1,974,059	1,974,059
Total comprehensive income for the year		(272,431)	(272,431)
Balance as at 31 December 2023		1,701,628	1,701,628
 Balance as at 1 January 2024		 1,701,628	 1,701,628
Total comprehensive income for the year		349,932	349,932
Balance as at 31 December 2024		2,051,560	2,051,560

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows For the year end 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash receipts in the course of operations		2,249,443	859,363
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,743,422)	(1,410,148)
Net interest received		19,835	8,406
Net cash used from/ (used by) operating activities	10	525,856	(542,379)
 Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		 525,856	 (542,379)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		538,401	1,080,780
 Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	10	 1,064,258	 538,401

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

AustLII Foundation Ltd (AustLII) is a 'not for profit' company limited by guarantee, incorporated, and domiciled in Australia. Its registered office and principal place of business is at Level 14, 61 Broadway, Ultimo, NSW, 2007. The principal activities are to provide an online free-access public library of Australian legal materials.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of this general-purpose financial report are set out below.

The Australian dollar is both the presentation and functional currency.

a. Basis of Preparation

This general-purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board) and *the Government Sector Audit Act 2018 and Government Sector Audit Regulation 2021, the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991, the Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2021 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012*.

These financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on the historical cost convention, unless otherwise stated within these accounting policies. Amounts have been rounded off to the nearest dollar.

b. Property, Plant & Equipment

Property, plant and equipment and intangible assets costing \$10,000 and above individually (or forming part of a network costing more than \$10,000) are capitalised. No property, plant or equipment is owned by the Foundation as at 31 December 2024. All plant and equipment used by the Foundation in its operations is wholly owned and maintained by the Member Universities (UTS and UNSW), provided free of charge to the Foundation. The Foundation pays the Universities for the maintenance of this equipment on a quarterly basis. The Foundation does not pay any costs towards using this equipment. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

c. Employment Costs

AustLII Foundation Limited's management and operational staff are employed under contract with the Member Universities. Employment costs for these staff are charged to the Foundation by the respective Universities on a quarterly basis.

From October 2024, some staff of member universities were directly employed by AustLII Foundation. Two staff were on AustLII payroll as at 31 December 2024. As such, provisions for employee benefits have been made as required by the Foundation. Liabilities for salaries including annual leave and long service leave, expected to be settled within twelve months of the reporting date are recognised in Employee Related Provisions in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date. They are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Sick leave is included in salaries when the sick leave is taken.

AustLII's superannuation plan has defined contributions sections. The defined contribution section receives fixed contributions and the entity's legal or constructive obligation is limited to these contributions.

d. Income Tax

The company is exempt from income tax under Div 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

e. Equity

The entity is a company limited by guarantee and has no authorised or paid-up capital. The initial equity of \$1,194,068 (denoted as Retained Surplus) consists of amounts paid to AustLII Foundation Ltd from the University of Technology Sydney which represents net income earned by the Foundation as an office within the University prior to commencement of independent operations on 1 October 2009.

AustLII Foundation Ltd

AustLII Foundation Ltd made a surplus of \$349,932 for the year. (2023 Deficit- (\$272,431)) The Accumulated balance in Retained Surplus as at 31 December 2024 was \$2,051,560. The Board resolved to designate \$650,000 of the Retained Surplus as available for AustLII Sustainable Initiatives.

The purpose of the AustLII Sustainable Initiatives designation is to achieve AustLII's objective of advancing and promoting "free access to legal information". In a rapidly evolving technological and regulatory environment this requires an ongoing need for capital and infrastructure outlays into the future. A prudent risk management strategy recognises the need to differentiate the accumulated equity between amounts available for meeting operating expenses for at least one year and those available to meet those challenges which will enable AustLII to sustain into the future its core mission of providing free and effective electronic access to public legal information in Australia.

Each member of the company, whilst a member, or within one year after ceasing to be a member, undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up. If the company is wound up the Constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of one hundred dollars (\$100) each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the company. At balance date, there was one eligible member.

f. Revenue

As per AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities*, Donations & Contributions are recorded as revenue either when tax invoices are raised at the request of the donor/contributor or otherwise when donations/contributions are received through cheques or credit cards or directly deposited in our bank account. Interest is recognised using the effective interest rate method as set out in AASB 9 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement*. As per AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*, AustLII recognises fees for services as and when the contractual obligation is completed.

g. Going Concern

The ability of the company to continue as a going concern is dependent on the ongoing support of its donors and the success of its fundraising program. The Directors believe the going concern basis of preparation is appropriate for the year ended 31 December 2024.

h. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses, and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST. Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST components of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

i. Fundraising

According to the Constitution of the AustLII Foundation Limited 3.4, funds raised by means of a collection within the meaning of the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW) and corresponding legislation in other jurisdictions must be maintained in accordance with those Acts. AustLII Foundation is registered with the ACNC and seeks charitable funds by appealing from the Australian community including the legal profession, government agencies, higher education institutions, business and industry, and members of the public, for donations to support its services.

j. Significant Accounting Judgments, Estimates and Assumptions

The directors evaluate estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume an expectation of future events and other factors considered to be reasonable.

k. New standards and interpretations not yet adopted

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for 31 December 2024 reporting periods and have not been early adopted. These standards are not expected to have a material impact on the entity in the current or future reporting periods and on foreseeable future transactions.

2. REVENUE FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Donations & Contributions (by sector)		
Education	299,250	352,330
Legal Profession	512,324	267,299
Law Societies & Bar Associations	87,220	87,900
Business & Industry	185,737	231,770
Government Agencies	924,900	135,900
Courts, Tribunals & Regulators	155,514	143,250
Community & Other	10,550	21,297
Total Donations & Contributions	2,175,495	1,239,746
Other Income including investment gains/(losses)		
Term Deposits & Other Income	19,835	8,407
Financial Assets designated FVTPL -Note 11	73,124	84,955
	92,959	93,362
Total Income	2,268,454	1,333,108

3. EXPENSES

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Employment costs – Reimbursement	1,553,494	1,445,495
Employment costs – In House	48,518	-
Equipment charges	111,432	99,316
Accounting and Audit Fees	30,344	19,040
Consultancy Costs	76,960	-
Insurance	7,552	6,000
Other Operating Costs	90,222	35,688
	1,918,522	1,605,539

4. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Goods and Services Tax	124,198	59,176
Trade Debtors	205,640	369,198
Accrued Income	1,425	-
	331,263	428,374

5. PREPAYMENTS

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Prepaid Expenses	54,986	35,380
	54,986	35,380

AustLII Foundation Ltd

6. OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Other financial assets designated FVTPL – TCorp IM Funds (Note 11)	1,206,591	1,133,467
	1,206,591	1,133,467

7. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Trade Creditors	566,669	415,030
Accrued Expenses	25,447	18,964
Employment Related Accruals	9,935	-
	602,051	433,994

8. Employee Related Provisions

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Annual Leave Provisions	3,486	-
	3,486	-

9. AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Audit Fees to Audit Office of NSW	29,800	19,040

10. CASH

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
a. <u>Cash and Cash Equivalents</u>		
Cash at Bank	475,568	454,241
Term Deposit	588,689	84,160
	1,064,257	538,401
b. <u>Reconciliation of Cash from Operations</u>	2024	2023
Reconciliation of Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year to		
Net Cash flows from Operating Activities	\$	\$
Surplus / (Deficit)	349,932	(272,431)
Non-Cash flows in Operating Surplus/(Deficit)		
Unrealised losses/(gains) in Other Financial Assets	(73,124)	(84,955)
Changes in Assets and Liabilities:		
(Increase)/Decrease in Trade Debtors and		
Prepayments (Operating)	73,948	(380,383)
Increase/(Decrease) in Payables	175,100	195,391
Net Cash used by Operating Activities	525,856	(542,379)

11. EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO REPORTING DATE

UNSW has withdrawn from AustLII Foundation on 31 December 2024. UTS is continuing as a Member of the Company. No other significant change in the state of affairs of the company occurred during or after the period that would render any amount stated in the accounts misleading.

12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

(a) Financial Assets

The Company initially recognises receivables on the date that they are originated. All other financial assets are recognised initially on the date at which the Company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

The Company derecognises a financial asset when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or it transfers the rights to receive the contractual cash flows on the financial asset in a transaction in which substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset are transferred. Any interest in transferred financial assets that is created or retained by the Company is recognised as a separate asset or liability.

The Company has the following categories of financial assets those measured at amortised cost (cash and cash equivalents and trade and other receivables) and financial assets at Fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL).

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash balances and call deposits with original maturities of six months or less from the acquisition date that are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in their fair value and are used by the Company in the management of its short-term commitments.

Trade and Other Receivables

Trade and other receivables are financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. Trade receivables are recognised and carried at original invoice amount less any allowance for impairment. An allowance for impairment of receivables is recognised when collection of the full amount is no longer probable. Significant financial difficulties of the debtor, probability that the debtor will enter into bankruptcy or financial reorganisation, and default or delinquency in payments (more than 90 days overdue) are considered indicators that the trade receivable is impaired.

The amount of the provision is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income. When a trade receivable for which an impairment allowance had been recognised becomes uncollectible in a subsequent period, it is written off against the allowance account. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against other expenses in the income statement. Bad debts are written off as incurred.

Financial assets at FVTPL

A financial asset is classified as at FVTPL if it is classified as held-for-trading or is designated as such on initial recognition. Directly attributable transaction costs are recognised in profit or loss as incurred. Financial assets at FVPTL are measure at fair value and changes therein, including any interest or dividend income, are recognised in Statement of Comprehensive Income.

(b) Non-derivative financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised initially on the date at which AustLII becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

AustLII derecognises a financial liability when its contractual obligations are discharged, cancelled or expire.

AustLII classifies non-derivative financial liabilities into the other financial liabilities category. Such financial liabilities are recognised initially at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, these financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using

the effective interest method.

Financial liabilities pertain to trade and other payables.

(c) Fair value hierarchy

When measuring the fair value of an asset or a liability, the Company uses market observable data as possible. Fair values are categorised into different levels in a fair value hierarchy based on the inputs used in the valuation techniques as follows:

- Level 1: quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
- Level 2: inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (i.e., as prices) or indirectly (i.e., derived from prices).
- Level 3: inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

Financial assets at FVTPL as reported in the statement of financial position is within the scope of Level 2 as of 31 December 2024 and 2023. The Company has no financial instrument based on Level 1 and Level 3 as of 31 December 2024 and 2023.

(d) General Objectives, Policies and Processes

In common with all other businesses, the company is exposed to risks that arise from its use of financial instruments. This note describes the company's objectives, policies and processes for managing those risks and the methods used to measure them. Further quantitative information in respect of these risks is presented throughout these financial statements.

The Board has overall responsibility for the determination of the company's risk management objectives and policies and, whilst retaining ultimate responsibility for them, it has delegated the authority for designing and operating processes that ensure the effective implementation of the objectives and policies to the company's finance function. The company's risk management policies and objectives are therefore designed to minimise the potential impacts of these risks on the results of the company where such impacts may be material. The Board received quarterly reports, with which it reviews the effectiveness of the processes put in place and the appropriateness of the objectives and policies it sets.

The overall objective of the Board is to set policies that seek to reduce risk as far as possible without unduly affecting the company's competitiveness and flexibility. Further details regarding these policies are set out below.

13. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

AustLII's activities expose it to market risk including interest rate risk, credit risk and liquidity risk. The company's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the company.

Risk management is carried out under policies approved by the Board of Directors.

(a) Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that the other party to a financial instrument will fail to discharge their obligation resulting in the company incurring a financial loss. This usually occurs when debtors fail to settle their obligations owing to the company.

There is minimal credit risk with respect to current receivables. The company's policy is that services are only provided to clients that are credit worthy.

AustLII Foundation Ltd

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Financial Assets		
Cash	1,064,257	538,401
Others		
Accounts Receivable	205,640	369,198
Other Financial Assets	1,206,591	1,133,467
	2,476,488	2,041,066

(b) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the company may encounter difficulties raising funds to meet commitments associated with financial instruments, e.g., borrowing repayments. The company manages liquidity risk by monitoring cash flows and ensuring that adequate cash reserves are maintained.

		Carrying Amount	Contractual Cash Flows	No Maturity	< 6 months
	Financial Assets				
2024	Cash	1,064,257	-	1,064,257	-
	Other Financial Assets	1,206,591	-	1,206,591	-
	Receivables	205,640	205,640	-	205,640
		2,476,488	205,640	2,270,848	205,640
2023	Cash	538,401	-	538,401	-
	Other Financial Assets	1,133,467	-	1,133,467	-
	Receivables	369,198	369,198	-	369,198
		2,041,066	369,198	1,671,868	369,198
	Financial Liabilities				
2024	Trade Payables	605,537	605,537	-	605,537
		605,537	605,537	-	605,537
2023	Trade Payables	433,994	433,994	-	433,994
		433,994	433,994	-	433,994

(c) Market Risk

The organisation has exposure to market risk for changes in interest rate due to investments in Term Deposits and overall performance of the financial markets due to investments in Managed funds.

(d) Interest Rate Risk

		Carrying Amount	+1% interest change/ +5% performance change Profit and Equity	-1% interest change/ -5% performance change Profit and Equity
	Financial Assets			
2024	Cash	1,064,257	10,643	(10,643)
	Other Financial Assets	1,206,591	60,330	(60,330)
	Total	2,270,848	70,972	(70,972)
2023	Cash	538,401	5,384	(5,384)
	Other Financial Assets	1,133,467	56,673	(56,673)
	Total	1,671,868	62,057	(62,057)

This analysis assumes a change in interest rate of +/-1% and performance rate of +/-5%, which in the Directors' opinion is the largest expected movement over the next 12 months, assuming all other variables remain constant.

14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

(a) Names of Responsible Persons and Executive Officers

AustLII Foundation Ltd is governed by a Board of Directors which was comprised of the following persons during the year:

Mr Ian Govey - Chair
 Dr Philip Chung – Managing Director
 The Hon Virginia Bell – Director
 Prof Andrew Mowbray– Executive Director
 Mr John Cameron – Director
 Prof Andrew Lynch - Director
 Ms Miranda Milne – Director
 Mr James Popple - Director
 Prof Anita Stuhmcke – Director

(b) Key Management Personnel

The Board of Directors appointed the following persons the authority and responsibility for planning, directing, and controlling the activities of the Foundation during the year:

Dr Philip Chung – Managing Director
 Prof Andrew Mowbray – Executive Director

(c) Remuneration of Board Members and Executives

Remuneration of Board Members

The board members of AustLII Foundation Ltd do not receive any remuneration in respect of their work as members of the board.

Remuneration of Executive Officers

Two executive directors were remunerated by the Member Universities and then on-charged to the Foundation for the management of AustLII Foundation Limited.

	2024	2023
	Nos	Nos
<u>Remuneration of executive officers</u>		
\$100,000 to \$300,000	2	2

The remuneration of Key Management Personnel is as follows:

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Short-term benefits	431,842	404,842
Post-employment benefits	Nil	Nil
Total benefits	431,842	404,842

(d) Staff Employment Costs & Equipment maintenance costs

Staff costs and Equipment maintenance costs are incurred by the respective Member Universities and then charged to the Foundation. The amounts incurred below include GST.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
UNSW Sydney	1,185,814	1,083,418
University of Technology Sydney	635,919	595,346
Total benefits	1,821,733	1,678,764

(e) Accommodation

UTS provides rent free accommodation to AustLII Foundation.

15. CONTINGENT ASSETS

AustLII Foundation does not have any material contingent assets or material contingent liabilities as at balance sheet date.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

AustLII Foundation Limited

To Members of the New South Wales Parliament and Members of AustLII Foundation Limited

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of AustLII Foundation Limited (the Company), which comprise the directors' declaration, the Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31 December 2024, the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2024, the Statement of Changes in Equity and the Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a Statement of Material Accounting Policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion, the financial statements:

- have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the applicable financial reporting requirements of the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018* (GSF Act) and the Government Sector Finance Regulation 2024 (GSF Regulation)
- presents fairly, the Company's financial position, financial performance and cash flows
- have been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of my report.

I am independent of the Company in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of public sector agencies
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

I confirm the independence declaration, required by the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, provided to the directors of the Company on 27 March 2025, would be in the same terms if provided to the directors as at the time of this Independent Auditor's Report.

I believe the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Other Information

The Company's annual report for the year ended 31 December 2024 includes other information in addition to the financial statements and my Independent Auditor's Report thereon. The directors of the Company are responsible for the other information. At the date of this Independent Auditor's Report, the other information I have received comprise the Director's Report.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the other information, I must report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

Directors' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, GSF Act and GSF Regulation and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the financial statements.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. The description forms part of my auditor's report.

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Company carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited financial statements on any website where they may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the financial statements.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Medina', with a stylized, cursive script.

Bradley Medina
Acting Assistant Auditor-General, Financial Audit
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

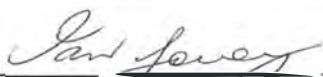
28 March 2025
SYDNEY

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

In the opinion of Directors:

1. The financial statements and notes of the company are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth), Government Sector Finance Act 2018 (NSW) and Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW) including:
 - a) Giving a true and fair view of the financial position as at 31 December 2024 and the performance for the year end on that date of the company;
 - b) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards;
 - c) Complying with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Regulations 2022;
 - d) Complying with the Government Sector Finance Regulation 2024; and
 - e) Complying with the Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2021.
2. The internal controls are appropriate and effective in accounting for all income received and applied by the company from its fundraising appeals; and
3. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

On behalf of the board



Signed this 27th day of March, in Sydney.
Ian Govey (Director)



Signed this 27th day of March, in Sydney.
Miranda Milne (Director)

AustLII

Australasian Legal Information Institute
A joint facility of UNSW and UTS Faculties of Law

AustLII Foundation Limited
ACN 134 717 972 ABN 41 134 717 972

www.austlii.edu.au

Contact AustLII

Phone +61 2 9514 4921
Fax +61 2 9514 4908
Email feedback@austlii.edu.au


Postal Address
PO Box 123, Broadway, NSW 2007 Australia

Location
Level 14, Building 2, UTS Central
61 Broadway
Ultimo NSW 2007
Australia



Follow us

 twitter.com/austlii

 linkedin.com/company/austlii