

Dear friends and colleagues,

I write to pass on some important news about the Law and Justice Foundation and its long-term Director, Mr Geoff Mulherin.

Last year the Board commissioned an independent strategic review of the Foundation ('Review') - the first since the important review and restructure of the Foundation in 2000. The purpose of the Review was to consider whether there was a compelling strategic role for the Foundation into the future and, if so, how the Foundation should pursue its statutory objects. Included in the Review was a consideration of the role and achievements of the Foundation.

The Foundation is proud of what it has achieved. The Review found that the Foundation had "... positioned NSW at the forefront of international and domestic empirical and applied research regarding legal needs and access to justice" and that "...its work has informed a range of solutions to the issues identified, and the Foundation continues to translate its research into practical tools and guidance for legal assistance providers."

Geoff has led the Foundation for the last 21 years and he and his team are to be congratulated for their contribution to what the Foundation has achieved during that time.

The Review also found that a reset of the Foundation is needed to position the Foundation to continue to deliver value for NSW and Australia.

It is an appropriate time for Geoff to leave the Foundation and he will do so shortly. Geoff leaves with the gratitude of the Board and no doubt the community who have benefited from the Foundation's work.

The Board looks forward to working closely with the staff of the Foundation and key stakeholders to determine the work the Foundation should do to meet the needs and expectations of stakeholders and communities into the future and how it proposes to do that.

We will be back in touch when we have more to report.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Cook', written in a cursive style.

Sharon Cook (Chair)