

# Victoria Law Foundation Strategy

2021 - 2024



Victoria**Law**  
Foundation

Established under the Victorian Law Foundation Act, the Foundation has served the Victorian community for over 50 years. While our role has evolved, our vision remains the same – fair, equitable and accessible justice for all Victorians.

This strategy is a three-year roadmap towards this through our legislated functions: research, education and grants.

Central to this strategy is the recognition that access to justice can take many forms. Civil legal problems are the problems of everyday life, and resolutions can be many and varied. We seek to better understand the paths to justice in Victoria; where access can be improved; and to share this knowledge widely to improve policy and practice.

We work with agencies in the justice sector - including courts, tribunals, lawyers, regulators, complaints bodies, legal assistance organisations, government agencies and departments. We also engage with community and education organisations which are building legal capability or providing support for people facing everyday legal problems.

The VLF is committed to making a significant contribution to raising awareness of our law, and to providing evidence and insight to improve justice for all Victorians.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Garde', is positioned above the printed name.

The Honourable Justice Greg Garde AO RFD  
Chair

## **Vision**

**Fair, equitable and accessible  
justice for all Victorians**

## **Purpose**

**We work in research, education  
and grants to contribute  
to effective justice for the  
Victorian community.**



# Our strategic directions

## Understand

Investigate how Victorians engage with their civil law and explore what works to improve access to justice.

## Share

Expand the justice and community sectors' understanding of civil legal experience, knowledge and needs.

## Enable

Support the justice sector to better engage with the people of Victoria and respond effectively to legal needs.

## Perform

A high performing team focused on expertise and collaboration, recognising diversity.

# Understand

Investigate how Victorians engage with their civil law and explore what works to improve access to justice.

## Priorities

- Conduct and analyse relevant, rigorous empirical research on access to justice questions.
- Gather insights from the Victorian public, other researchers and the justice sector to inform understanding.
- Evaluate and understand the impact of our work.

## Success

- We know more about the experience of justice in Victoria through our research and relationships.
- Others know about, use and value our research – demonstrated in references, use in policy and practice, and the views of stakeholders.
- We continuously improve our research methods and practice.

# Share

Expand the justice and community sectors' understanding of civil legal experience, knowledge and needs.

## Priorities

- Share knowledge, data and methodologies to improve access to justice.
- The justice sector better understands the collection, application, strengths and weaknesses of data.
- Build collaborations and strengthen networks to maximise our impact.

## Success

- The justice and community sectors better understand the legal experience and needs of Victorians.
- The justice sector has opportunities to engage with data.
- We are well connected with the justice and community sectors.



# Enable

Support the justice sector to better engage with the people of Victoria and respond effectively to legal needs.

## Priorities

- Facilitate programs which connect the justice sector with the Victorian community to improve understanding of and access to law and legal services.
- Build skills in the sector to improve the quality of engagement with the community.
- Deliver a grants program which responds to community need.

## Success

- More Victorians know about their law, sources of legal information and services.
- Justice sector can build relevant skills to engage effectively with the community.
- Our platforms, networks, funding, advice and tools are useful to the justice sector.
- Our grants program is responsive to the justice landscape and helps meet community need.

# Perform

Sustain a high functioning team focused on expertise and collaboration.

## Priorities

- Maintain a sustainable and integrated organisation.
- Develop staff expertise to support VLF priorities.
- Maintain an inclusive and collaborative team culture.
- Strong, appropriate systems, policies and practices.
- Commitment to diversity in recruitment and events.
- Share and apply evidence and insights across VLF teams.
- The VLF communicates clearly to its diverse stakeholders through the most effective channels.

## Success

- Highly skilled staff.
- High staff satisfaction.
- Our workplace and activities are more accessible – physically, online and culturally.
- An integrated VLF: our teams work together well and share insights.





# Values

Our values underpin all our activities. They form the basis of our Values and Behaviours Charter which sets the standards for our workplace.

We are committed to **independence, quality** and being **supportive, respectful** and **open minded**.



# Enablers

These factors are pre-requisites for our work and success:

- Secure and sufficient funding
- Effective governance
- Positive and inclusive workplace
- Credibility and reputation for excellence
- Commitment to staff development
- Strong relationships with partners and stakeholders
- Supportive and streamlined systems and practices