

Sub-Committee: Property

Key leadership:

Chair: Geoff Milani

Vice Chair: Scarlett Yang

Secretary: Catherine Kim

Key Objectives for 2024 and 2025

Our key objective for 2024 (and will be heading into 2025) has been to maintain member engagement, however, regrettably, this has been of varied success. Particularly in the second half of the year, we have often had in the low double digits in attendance, including one memorable meeting where about half of the attendees were from the Chair's law firm. As with other committees, we have found that we have more success when we have guest speakers, and the second half of this year has been more problematic with some previously booked speakers becoming unavailable.

April 2025 will see a handover in our leadership with all executive members' terms ending. Linked to the declining attendance numbers is a concern that (1) we may struggle to attract applicants for one or more positions, and (2) in the (admittedly unlikely) event we have a competitive election, there is likely a very low pool of eligible voters.

On a more positive note, we have successfully booked speakers for the first half of next year, with most of the speaker positions we have left to fill being those which we are hoping should not be too difficult (e.g. a recruiter for July 2025) or we may be able to find support via the Law Society in locating a speaker (e.g. someone to present on stress management strategies for our November meeting to help members navigate the dreaded Christmas rush). Similarly, we have a rough plan to begin our 2025 term with a 'Property in the Park' lunch meeting in February, once we work out how to include members who are not in metropolitan Sydney.

Likewise, our most successful 'event' this year was our presentation by Legal Home Loans in July, which was attended by nearly 50 people, easily being the best attended event that we have put on during the current leadership term.

Key Sub-Committee Initiatives/Projects achieved since Mid-Year Assembly 2024 (include initiatives, projects, submissions and publications)

Nil given the focus on attendance. A big struggle for us has been a chicken-and-egg situation we are in; we cannot engage in initiatives, projects, etc, without more members, however these are also the best way to generate more members.

Further comments to the AA Forum

One of the hardest things for our leadership team to deal with during the last two years has been that we all work (as does everyone else) in busy practices. Speaking personally as Chair, there have also been times where my team at work has been short staffed due to staffing changes or leave, which has limited my ability to prepare for meetings e.g. finding interesting discussion points for agenda or reading cases we have flagged for members in any detail beyond the headnotes.

One of the suggestions we briefly raised with our members (at, again, a poorly attended meeting) was trying to appoint a 'research assistant' law student or GDLP student to help the leadership team pool possible discussion points or case memos, with the possibility to expand this to a research team if we have multiple applicants. We had one person express some interest but it never went anywhere, however we are interested in looking into this again in 2025 to try to lighten the load for our new leadership team.