INTRODUCTION
The Parliament of New South Wales consists of two Houses, the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly, the members of which are directly elected and accountable to the people of New South Wales.

The Legislative Council was the first legislative body in Australia. It performs the traditional role of an upper house as a House of Review, acting as a check and balance on Executive government through such procedures as orders for the production of papers, scrutiny of legislation, questions to ministers and an active committee system.

The Department of the Legislative Council, in collaboration with the Departments of the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Services, provides a range of support services to members and to the wider community to advance the institution of Parliament.

This Strategic Plan 2012-2015 is based upon the six strategic objectives for the Parliament. These are: Respond to the evolving role of members and the parliamentary institution; Increase involvement and awareness of NSW citizens about the Parliament and the parliamentary process; Better engagement with stakeholders; Promote strong, professional, responsive and impartial support to the members of the Legislative Council; and to working in collaboration with our colleagues in the Department of the Legislative Assembly and the Department of Parliamentary Services.

Our Purpose
The core business of the Department is to provide advisory, research and support services to the House and its committees.

The Department also undertakes a range of longer term projects with the aim of continually improving our ability to undertake our core work. Our key projects for 2013/2014 are set out in this document. This document will be updated each year.

Underpinning the provision of these services is a commitment by us to continuous organisational capacity building, and to working in collaboration with our colleagues in the Department of the Legislative Assembly and the Department of Parliamentary Services.

Key Projects

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<th>Enhance procedural knowledge: by completing the Annotated Standing Orders of the Legislative Council for publication in 2015; and continuing to edit and review 'New South Wales Legislative Council Practice'.</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<td>Provide training and support for new members and their staff: by delivering comprehensive and ongoing induction training for new members and their staff following the general election, including a two-day induction program, revised online learning modules and the development of a revised LC Members’ Guide.</td>
<td>2015</td>
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<td>Support initiatives to improve Members’ facilities: by working with the Department of Parliamentary Services in the refurbishment of members’ offices as part of the Tower office re-fit; and to work with DPS in office moves associated with the changes of membership post election.</td>
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<td>Improve stakeholder access and engagement in committee inquiries: by evaluating the pilot social media strategy used in the State Development Committee’s inquiry into regional aviation services with a view to expanding the use of social media in future inquiries; by examining the methods for processing large volumes of individual submissions; reviewing the format of committee reports, and finalising new committee brochures with a focus on plain language and web accessibility; by exploring the most effective ways to increase young peoples’ awareness of and involvement in committee inquiries; and by producing instructional online videos on how to participate in committee inquiries for prospective submission authors and witnesses.</td>
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<td>Raise the profile of Legislative Council committees: by implementing the next stage of the ‘branding’ project involving the design and installation of a removable banner in the Macquarie Room and mobile banners for off-site committee activities and the incorporation of the new committee brand elements in committee publications; and by completing stage two of the committee advertising project which involves reviewing the content and layout of committee advertisements with a view to producing easier to read, eye-catching advertisements which also incorporate the new committee branding.</td>
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Enhance the Parliament House visitor experience: by working with the Legislative Assembly and the Department of Parliamentary Services to contribute to initiatives to enhance the experience of visitors to Parliament House. Three significant initiatives are the Centenary of Anzac landings at Gallipoli Exhibition 2015; participation in the Sydney Open 2014; and by investigating opportunities for training and secondments for staff.

NSW Parliament for the Strengthening Parliamentary Institutions in the Solomon Islands and Bougainville Project (the Twinning Project), including secondments, training and mentoring programs in the areas of procedure, administration and committees; and by planning and participating in a week long workshop with committee staff from the parliaments of Bougainville and Solomon Islands in October 2014.

Our Values
Legislative Council staff take pride in serving the Parliament of New South Wales. We believe in the importance of parliamentary institutions and the democratic process and we work to strengthen and foster respect for them. We make great efforts to preserve the corporate memory and ensure institutional continuity, while continuing to innovate. We work together to provide professional, responsive and impartial support to the members of the Legislative Council and to other stakeholders.

Increase public involvement in the awareness of the Parliament and parliamentary processes: by improving access to information about the Legislative Council including working towards a new undergraduate course on Parliament and Democracy at the University of Sydney in the second semester of 2015; development of a strategic relationship with the University of New South Wales “Parliament Project”; developing a new course for the private sector on the operations of the Parliament in association with IPA; continuing the recently instituted training on parliamentary privilege; continuing to build the Legislative Council twitter account; continuing to run ‘Legislative Council in Practice’ sessions for public sector agencies; and school outreach presentations.

Support the Parliament’s new ethics regime: by working with the Legislative Assembly to implement new arrangements to complement reforms to the ethics regime for members following the recommendations of the Legislative Council and Assembly Privileges Committees.

Increase customer service: by surveying members’ satisfaction with all services provided by the Department at the conclusion of this Parliament, including conducting more detailed qualitative interviews with departing members; and providing a secure and efficient system for distributing committee documents to members in electronic form via E-committees.

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Support the Twinning Project: by contributing to ongoing programs funded by the AusAID grant to the Solomon Islands and Bougainville Parliament's physical infrastructure and Support our ‘twinned’ Parliaments under the arrangements established by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

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The outcome for the people of New South Wales that we strive to achieve is for the Legislative Council to fulfil its role as a representative and legislative body. In order to achieve this result, the Department will provide services to ensure:

1. The effective functioning of the House and its committees
2. Members of the Legislative Council are supported to fulfil their parliamentary roles
3. The community has access to the Legislative Council and is aware of the role and functions of the Council and of the Parliament as a whole.