



NEW SOUTH WALES
BAR ASSOCIATION

The Indigenous Barristers' Trust Mentoring First Nations students

The primary focus of the mentoring, employment and other programs and policies run by the New South Wales Bar Association through the Reconciliation Action Plan, Indigenous Barristers' Trust - The Mum Shirl Fund and the First Nations Committee is to provide assistance, advice and experiences to disadvantaged First Nations law students and lawyers.

Funding is available for:

- (i) Meeting immediate living expenses of First Nations students undertaking legal or related education, for whom becoming a barrister in New South Wales is a primary career objective, and
- (ii) Avoiding personal or financial hardship for First Nations persons attending the NSW Bar Readers program or during the first five years of practice at the NSW Bar.

The New South Wales Bar Association uses the definition of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders as adopted by the High Court in the Tasmanian Dams Case (*Commonwealth v Tasmania* (1983) 158 CLR 1) which is a three part test:

- (i) a person must be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island descent,
- (ii) who identifies as an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander, and
- (iii) who is accepted by the relevant community as an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander.

Any First Nations person who wants to apply to the Trust for funds or participate in any program run by the Association must supply either:

- (i) a certificate of Aboriginality, if they hold one, or
- (ii) a letter of support from an Elder in their community as set out in Attachment A of this application.

Name: _____

Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent? Yes No

Please identify the Indigenous community/nation where you are accepted as an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name of university _____

Degree name: _____

Year of study: _____

Residential address: _____

Are you employed in a cadetship? Part-time Full-time

If so, where? _____

Do you have other employment? _____

If so, where? Part-time Full-time

Where are you from? (e.g. Dubbo) _____

Describe your interests (e.g. sports, hobbies) _____

What are your current areas of interest in the law? _____

Where do you want your law degree to take you? _____

The New South Wales Bar Association offers two parts to the mentoring program. Please indicate your preference or you can select both:

Mentored by a barrister.

Mentored by a Judge.

Mentored by both.

Why would you like to be mentored by a barrister or a Judge?

What are your expectations of the mentoring scheme?

Mentor preference: Male Female Don't mind

I agree to:

- Make contact with my mentor/s early on to discuss the mentoring relationship;
- Make a schedule to meet at least three times a year (in person and/or phone, email); and
- Inform the Indigenous Barristers' Trust if the mentoring program isn't working for me.

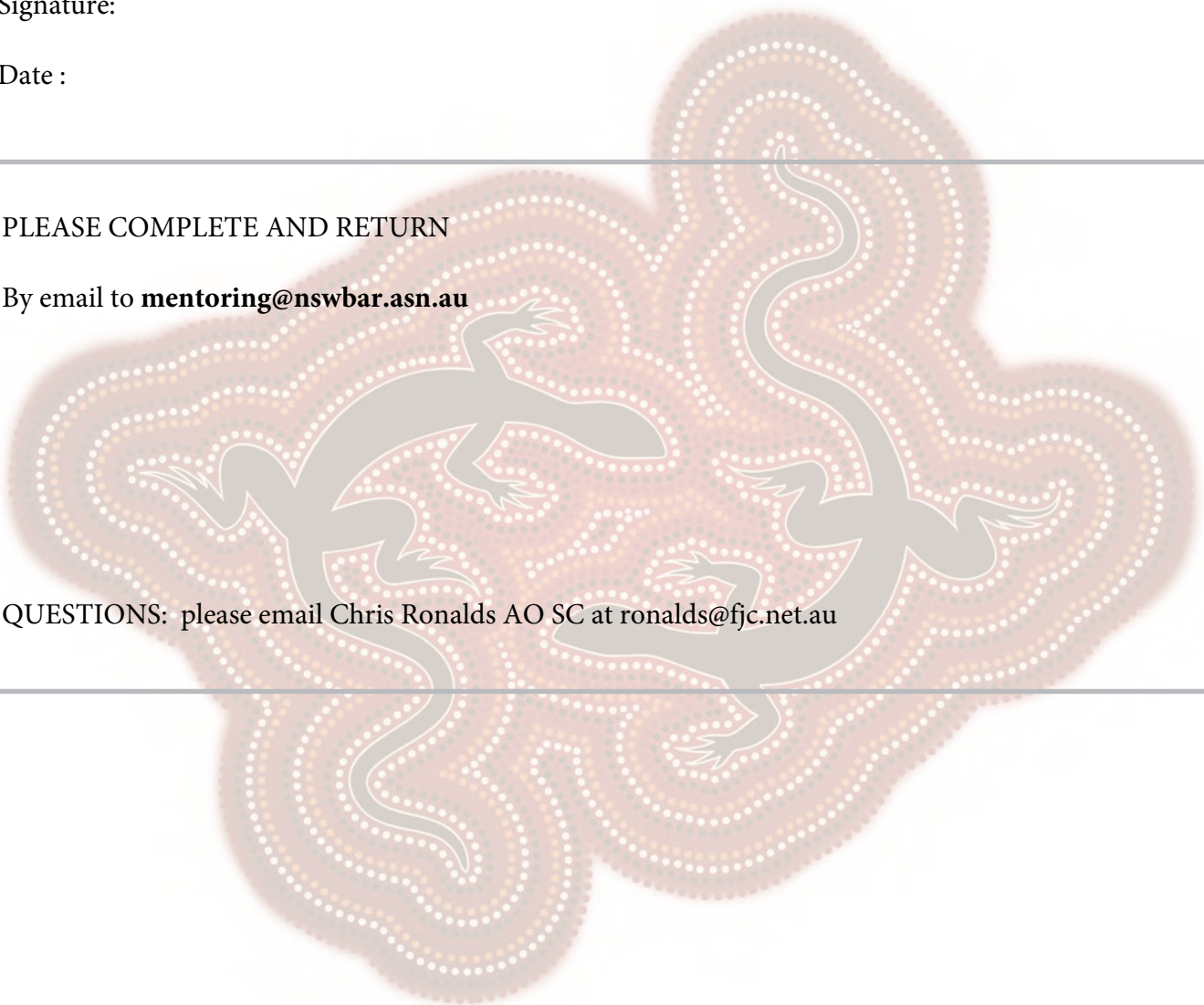
Signature:

Date :

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN

By email to mentoring@nswbar.asn.au

QUESTIONS: please email Chris Ronalds AO SC at ronalds@fjc.net.au



ATTACHMENT A

To the Trustees
Indigenous Barristers' Trust
NSW Bar Association
174 Phillip Street
Sydney

Dear Trustees,

I am an Elder of the _____ Aboriginal (or Torres Strait Islander) community.

I write this reference to confirm that I know _____ of _____.

His/her family is known to me as a part my Aboriginal (or TSI) community and I support him/her participating and benefiting from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific programs such as the Indigenous Barristers' Trust.

I can be contacted by telephone on _____.

Signed:

Print Name:

Date: