



NEW SOUTH WALES
BAR ASSOCIATION

The Indigenous Barristers' Trust The Mum Shirl Fund

Application for assistance and relief

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

Funding is available for:

- 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
- 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 NSW 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:

- a certificate of Aboriginality, if they hold one, or
- a letter of support from an Elder in their community (a sample letter is set out in Attachment A)

Applicant's Name: _____

Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent? Y N

Applicant's Address: _____

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

Current legal or related education being undertaken (if any) _____

Provide details of career aspirations, work and legal education history _____

Are you undertaking the NSW Bar Readers Program or are you a barrister admitted to practice in NSW? _____

Please provide details of your practice, Chambers and date of admission _____

Describe your current living and financial arrangements _____

What is your current monthly income from all sources? _____

What are your current monthly expenses/liabilities? _____

Describe your financial necessity/financial hardship _____

Describe any personal hardship or issues which affect your ability to meet financial commitments or pursuit of a career at the NSW Bar _____

REASONS FUNDS REQUESTED

Please set out the details of the reasons you are seeking funding, specifying the amount being requested and the proposed use of the funds. Attach any relevant documents.

Please send the completed form to Chris Ronalds SC: 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: