



Australian Capital Territory

Consumer Credit (Administration) Act 1996 No 41

Republication No 6

Republication date: 10 September 2002

Last amendment made by Act 2002 No 27

Amendments incorporated to 10 September 2002

Authorised by the ACT Parliamentary Counsel

About this republication

The republished law

This is a republication of the *Consumer Credit (Administration) Act 1996* (including any amendment made under the *Legislation Act 2001*, part 11.3 (Editorial changes)) as in force on 10 September 2002. It also includes any amendment, repeal or expiry affecting the republished law to 10 September 2002.

The legislation history and amendment history of the republished law are set out in endnotes 3 and 4.

Kinds of republications

The Parliamentary Counsel's Office prepares 2 kinds of republications of ACT laws (see the ACT legislation register at www.legislation.act.gov.au):

- authorised republications to which the *Legislation Act 2001* applies
- unauthorised republications.

The status of this republication appears on the bottom of each page.

Editorial changes

The *Legislation Act 2001*, part 11.3 authorises the Parliamentary Counsel to make editorial amendments and other changes of a formal nature when preparing a law for republication. Editorial changes do not change the effect of the law, but have effect as if they had been made by an Act commencing on the republication date (see *Legislation Act 2001*, s 115 and s 117). The changes are made if the Parliamentary Counsel considers they are desirable to bring the law into line, or more closely into line, with current legislative drafting practice.

This republication does not include amendments made under part 11.3 (see endnote 1).

Uncommenced provisions and amendments

If a provision of the republished law has not commenced or is affected by an uncommenced amendment, the symbol **U** appears immediately before the provision heading. The text of the uncommenced provision or amendment appears only in the last endnote.

Modifications

If a provision of the republished law is affected by a current modification, the symbol **M** appears immediately before the provision heading. The text of the modifying provision appears in the endnotes. For the legal status of modifications, see *Legislation Act 2001*, section 95.

Penalties

The value of a penalty unit for an offence against this republished law at the republication date is—

- (a) if the person charged is an individual—\$100; or
- (b) if the person charged is a corporation—\$500.

Amendments incorporated to
10 September 2002



Australian Capital Territory

Consumer Credit (Administration) Act 1996

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Australian Capital Territory

Consumer Credit (Administration) Act 1996

An Act relating to the administration of the consumer credit industry

Part 1 Preliminary

1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Consumer Credit (Administration) Act 1996*.

3 Definitions for Act

In this Act:

Note A definition applies except so far as the contrary intention appears (see *Legislation Act 2001*, s 155).

commissioner means the commissioner for fair trading.

consumer credit means credit to which the consumer credit legislation applies, and includes arrangements under a consumer lease within the meaning of the Credit Code.

consumer credit legislation means the following legislation:

- (a) this Act;
- (b) the *Consumer Credit Act 1995*;
- (c) the Consumer Credit (Australian Capital Territory) Code;
- (d) the Consumer Credit (Australian Capital Territory) Regulations;
- (e) the *Credit Act 1985*.

Note A reference to an Act includes a reference to the statutory instruments made or in force under the Act, including regulations (see *Legislation Act 2001*, s 104).

consumer member—see section 64 (2).

Credit Code means the Consumer Credit (Australian Capital Territory) Code.

credit provider means a credit provider under the consumer credit legislation and includes a prospective credit provider.

debtor means a debtor under the consumer credit legislation, and includes a prospective debtor.

decision includes a determination, judgment or order.

defined influential person, in relation to a credit provider or a finance broker, means—

- (a) if the credit provider or finance broker is a body corporate—the secretary or a director of the body; or
- (b) in any case—
 - (i) a person substantially concerned in the direction or management of the credit provider or finance broker; or
 - (ii) a person able to control, or to substantially influence, the activities or internal affairs of the credit provider or finance broker.

deputy president means a deputy president of the tribunal.

finance broker means a person who (whether or not carrying on any other business) carries on the business of finance broking.

finance broking means negotiating, or acting as intermediary to obtain, consumer credit for persons other than an employer or principal of the person so negotiating or acting.

financial institution means—

- (a) a building society; or
- (b) a credit union; or
- (c) a trading society, or a housing and services society, registered under the *Co-operative Societies Act 1939*; or
- (d) a body (however described) registered or incorporated under a law of a State or another Territory corresponding to the *Co-operative Societies Act 1939*.

industry member—see section 64 (2).

investigator means the commissioner or a person who is authorised by the commissioner under section 117.

member, of the tribunal, means the president, a deputy president or a non-presidential member.

non-presidential member means a member of the tribunal who is not a presidential member.

premises means any place occupied by—

- (a) a credit provider, finance broker, debtor, guarantor, mortgagee or mortgagor under the consumer credit legislation; or
- (b) a supplier in relation to—
 - (i) a trade or tie agreement under the *Credit Act 1985*; or
 - (ii) a tied continuing credit contract or tied loan contract under the Credit Code; or
- (c) any other person who has, or whom the commissioner believes on reasonable grounds to have, entered into a transaction to which the consumer credit legislation applies.

president means the president of the tribunal.

presidential member means the president or a deputy president.

proceeding means a proceeding of the tribunal, other than an inquiry under part 5.

registered credit provider means a credit provider who is registered under section 12.

registered finance broker means a finance broker who is registered under section 43.

registrar means the registrar of the tribunal.

registration means—

- (a) in relation to a credit provider—registration under section 12;
or
- (b) in relation to a finance broker—registration under section 43.

tribunal means the Australian Capital Territory Credit Tribunal.

unjust conduct means conduct that—

- (a) is dishonest or unfair; or
- (b) breaches a contract; or
- (c) contravenes the consumer credit legislation.

Part 2 Credit providers

Division 2.1 Exemptions

4 Exemption—banks

This part does not apply in relation to a bank.

5 Exemption—collection of debts due to former credit providers

This part does not apply in relation to the collection of money due to another person if—

- (a) the other person is a former registered credit provider or a former holder of a credit provider's licence under the *Credit Act 1985*, or if the person's registration as a credit provider is suspended; and
- (b) the money is collected under a contract for consumer credit entered into by the other person under the authority given under this part, or under the *Credit Act 1985*, part 11, by the registration or licence.

6 Exemption—Ministerial determination

- (1) A provision of this part does not apply in relation to a credit provider if a determination under subsection (2) is in force exempting that person from the application of the provision, to the extent set out in the determination.
- (2) The Minister may, in writing, make a determination exempting a credit provider from the application of this part, in part or in whole, and to the extent set out in the determination.
- (3) A determination under subsection (2) is a disallowable instrument.

Note A disallowable instrument must be notified, and presented to the Legislative Assembly, under the *Legislation Act 2001*.

Division 2.2 Provision of consumer credit

7 Registration as a consumer credit provider

- (1) A person shall not provide consumer credit unless the person is registered as a credit provider.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units, imprisonment for 6 months or both.

- (2) An individual shall not hold himself or herself out as a provider of consumer credit unless the person is registered as a credit provider.

Maximum penalty: 30 penalty units.

- (3) A body corporate shall not hold itself out as a provider of consumer credit unless it is registered as a credit provider.

Maximum penalty: 30 penalty units.

8 Authorised names

- (1) A registered credit provider shall not provide consumer credit otherwise than under the credit provider's name or another name under which the credit provider is authorised under section 10 to provide consumer credit.

Maximum penalty: 30 penalty units.

- (2) A registered credit provider who is an individual shall not hold himself or herself out as providing consumer credit otherwise than under his or her name or another name under which he or she is authorised under section 10 to provide consumer credit.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.

- (3) A registered credit provider that is a body corporate shall not hold itself out as providing consumer credit otherwise than under the body's name or another name under which the body is authorised under section 10 to provide consumer credit.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.

9 Partnerships

A registered credit provider shall not provide consumer credit in partnership with a person who is not registered as a credit provider.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.

Division 2.3 Registration of consumer credit providers

10 Authority given by registration

Subject to the consumer credit legislation and the *Business Names Act 1963*, registration as a credit provider authorises the registered person to provide consumer credit under the person's name and under any other name endorsed on the registration certificate.

11 Application for registration

- (1) An application for registration as a credit provider may be made to the commissioner in writing—
 - (a) by an individual who has attained the age of 18 years; or
 - (b) by a body corporate.

Note 1 A fee may be determined under s 140 (Determination of fees) for this section.

Note 2 If a form is approved under section 140A (Approved forms) for an application, the form must be used.

- (2) An application shall specify—
 - (a) the applicant's name and address; and
 - (b) if the applicant is a body corporate—the name and address of each director of the body; and
 - (c) the name or names under which the applicant intends to carry on business as a credit provider in the ACT; and

- (d) the address of each place where the applicant intends to carry on business as a credit provider in the ACT, indicating which of these is the principal place of business; and
 - (e) whether the applicant's business as a credit provider is to be carried on in partnership with any other person; and
 - (f) any other matters prescribed by the regulations.
- (3) An applicant for registration shall provide the commissioner with such particulars additional to those included in the application as the commissioner may require.

12 Registration

- (1) On an application for registration as a credit provider in accordance with section 11, the commissioner shall register the applicant unless the applicant is disqualified from registration—
- (a) as a credit provider under this part; or
 - (b) as a finance broker under part 3.

Note 1 A fee may be determined under s 140 (Determination of fees) for this section.

Note 2 If a form is approved under section 140A (Approved forms) for an application under this section or a registration certificate, the form must be used.

- (2) On registering a person as a credit provider, the commissioner shall issue a registration certificate to the person.
- (3) If a registration certificate issued to a credit provider, or any duplicate subsequently issued to the credit provider under this subsection, has been stolen, lost or destroyed, the commissioner must, on application by the credit provider, issue a duplicate.

13 Endorsement of names

- (1) On registration, or on application by a registered credit provider under subsection (2), the commissioner shall endorse the registration certificate with the name of the registered credit provider and any

additional name or names under which the registered person intends to carry on, or carries on, business as a credit provider.

- (2) On written application by a registered credit provider (accompanied by the registration certificate), the commissioner shall add, amend or omit an endorsement of a name on the registration certificate in accordance with the application.

14 Changed particulars

A registered credit provider shall give written notice to the commissioner specifying any change in the particulars notified on application for registration, or in particulars subsequently notified under this section, within 14 days after the change.

Maximum penalty: 10 penalty units.

15 Term of registration

Registration as a credit provider continues in force until it is surrendered or cancelled, except during any period during which the registration is suspended.

16 Annual fee and statement

- (1) A registered credit provider shall lodge with the commissioner the annual fee on or before 27 March each year, or within such extended period as the commissioner allows under subsection (3).
- (2) A person who has been a registered credit provider at any time during the period of 12 months before 28 February in each year shall, on or before 27 March in that year, or within such extended period as the commissioner allows under subsection (3), lodge with the commissioner a statement in respect of that part of the period of 12 months before 28 February in that year during which the person provided consumer credit.

Note If a form is approved under section 140A (Approved forms) for the statement, the form must be used.

- (3) The commissioner may, in writing, extend, or further extend, the period for compliance with subsection (1) or (2) on application before the expiry of the period by the person required to comply with the subsection.
- (4) A person who is not registered as a credit provider who fails to comply with subsection (2) commits an offence.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (5) In this section:

annual fee means the annual fee determined under section 140 (Determination of fees) for this section.

registered credit provider, in relation to the period of 12 months before 28 February in any year, includes a person whose registration was suspended for any part of that period, or for the whole of that period.

17 Cancellation of registration for failure to pay fee or provide statement

- (1) If a registered credit provider fails to lodge a fee or a statement in accordance with section 16, the commissioner shall give the credit provider written notice that the registration will be cancelled unless the fee or statement is lodged within a specified period (being a period of not less than 14 days after the date of the notice).
- (2) If a registered credit provider fails to pay a fee or lodge a statement in accordance with a notice under subsection (1), the commissioner shall—
- (a) cancel the registration; and
 - (b) disqualify the credit provider from obtaining registration as a credit provider or as a finance broker until such time as the fee is paid or the statement is lodged, as the case requires.

18 **Surrender of registration**

- (1) A registered credit provider may surrender the registration by written notice to the commissioner accompanied by the registration certificate, subject to this section.
- (2) If the commissioner has issued a notice under section 23 in relation to a registered credit provider, the credit provider shall not surrender the registration before the commissioner has decided whether to take action under section 24.
- (3) On application by a person who has surrendered registration, the commissioner shall return to the person so much as the commissioner thinks fit of the fee last paid by the person under section 16 (1).
- (4) In this section:
registered credit provider includes a person whose registration as a credit provider is suspended.

Division 2.4 **Disciplinary procedures**

19 **Powers of inquiry**

- (1) The commissioner may make such inquiries for this division as he or she thinks fit about a registered credit provider.
- (2) The commissioner of police shall make any reasonable inquiries for this division about a registered credit provider requested by the commissioner.
- (3) The commissioner of police shall report the result of any inquiries under subsection (2) to the commissioner.
- (4) In this section:
registered credit provider includes—
 - (a) a defined influential person in relation to a registered credit provider; and
 - (b) an employee of a registered credit provider.

20 Cancellation or suspension for bankruptcy, fraud, dishonesty or incapacity

- (1) The commissioner may cancel the registration of a credit provider who is an individual, or suspend the registration for a specified period, if the credit provider—
 - (a) becomes bankrupt, applies to take the benefit of a law for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors, compounds with his or her creditors or makes an assignment of his or her remuneration or any part of his or her property for their benefit; or
 - (b) is convicted in the ACT or elsewhere of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty punishable, on conviction, by imprisonment for 3 months or more; or
 - (c) becomes incapable through mental infirmity of managing his or her affairs.
- (2) The commissioner may cancel the registration of a credit provider that is a body corporate, or suspend the registration for a specified period, if the body—
 - (a) is dissolved, is under administration, is being wound up or has ceased to carry on business; or
 - (b) if a receiver, or a receiver and manager, has been appointed under the Corporations Act or under the corresponding law of a State or of another Territory in relation to any property of the body; or
 - (c) has entered into a compromise or scheme of arrangement with its creditors.
- (3) If the commissioner cancels the registration of a credit provider under subsection (2), the commissioner shall disqualify the credit provider from obtaining registration as a credit provider or as a finance broker for the period specified in the notice of cancellation under section 130.

- (4) On written application by a credit provider whose registration has been cancelled or suspended under subsection (1), the commissioner may—
- (a) remove a suspension imposed under this section at any time before the expiry of the specified period of suspension; or
 - (b) revoke the disqualification of a credit provider at any time before the expiry of the specified period of disqualification.

21 Grounds for other disciplinary action

The grounds for disciplinary action under section 24 in relation to a registered credit provider are as follows:

- (a) the credit provider has provided consumer credit inefficiently, dishonestly or unfairly;
- (b) the credit provider provided false or misleading information to the commissioner in relation to an application for registration under this Act;
- (c) the credit provider has contravened—
 - (i) the consumer credit legislation; or
 - (ii) a direction of the commissioner under section 24; or
 - (iii) an undertaking under section 105 or the *Credit Act 1985*, section 222;
- (d) the credit provider has provided consumer credit while the registration was suspended or while disqualified under this part;
- (e) if the credit provider was licensed or registered at any time under the *Credit Act 1985*—
 - (i) the credit provider provided false or misleading information in relation to an application for the licence under the *Credit Act 1985*, or for registration under the *Credit Regulations 1985*; or

- (ii) the credit provider breached a condition to which the licence was subject; or
- (iii) the credit provider contravened a requirement of the tribunal under the *Credit Act 1985*, section 173 (8) (c); or
- (iv) the credit provider provided consumer credit while the licence was suspended or cancelled, or while disqualified under the *Credit Act 1985*, section 173 (8) (e).

22 Complaints against credit providers

A person may make a complaint to the commissioner about the conduct of a registered credit provider.

23 Notice to show cause

- (1) The commissioner shall not take disciplinary action under section 24 in relation to a registered credit provider without first giving the credit provider written notice inviting that person to show cause within 28 days after the date of the notice why action should not be taken under that section.
- (2) A notice under subsection (1) shall—
 - (a) specify each ground on which the commissioner proposes to take disciplinary action; and
 - (b) include details of any complaint received under section 22 in relation to the credit provider.
- (3) In deciding whether to take action under section 24 (1), the commissioner shall take into account—
 - (a) any complaint made under section 22; and
 - (b) any representation made by the credit provider in accordance with the invitation referred to in subsection (1).

24 Disciplinary action

- (1) If the commissioner is satisfied on reasonable grounds that any of the grounds referred to in section 21 are established in relation to a registered credit provider, he or she may take 1 or more of the following actions:
 - (a) issue a reprimand to the credit provider;
 - (b) subject to subsection (3), direct the credit provider to pay to the Territory, within a specified time, an amount not exceeding—
 - (i) if the credit provider is an individual—\$1 000; or
 - (ii) if the credit provider is a body corporate—\$5 000;
 - (c) direct the credit provider to comply with a specified requirement within a specified time;
 - (d) suspend the registration for a period not exceeding 12 months;
 - (e) cancel the registration and disqualify the credit provider from obtaining registration as a credit provider or as a finance broker for the period specified in the notice of cancellation under section 130;
 - (f) disqualify a specified defined influential person in relation to the credit provider from obtaining registration as a credit provider or as a finance broker for the period specified in the notice of disqualification under section 130.
- (2) A credit provider shall comply with a direction under subsection (1) (b) or (c).

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.

- (3) If a registered credit provider has been convicted of an offence and the circumstances of the offence form, in whole or in part, a ground for taking disciplinary action against the credit provider under this section, the person is not liable to pay any amount under subsection (1) (b).

- (4) If a direction imposing a requirement on a registered credit provider is made under subsection (1) (c), the credit provider shall, on written notice from the commissioner, return the certificate of registration to the commissioner for endorsement with the requirement within 14 days after the date of the notice.

Maximum penalty: 10 penalty units.

- (5) If the commissioner suspends or cancels the registration of a credit provider under this section, the credit provider shall return the certificate of registration to the commissioner within 14 days after the date of the order.

Maximum penalty: 10 penalty units.

- (6) A person who is disqualified from obtaining registration under subsection (1) (e) or (f) shall not be concerned in the direction, management or control of a business of providing consumer credit, or of a finance broking business, during the period of disqualification.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.

Division 2.5 General

24A Civil penalty

- (1) If—
- (a) whether before or after the commencement of this section, the registration of a credit provider was or is suspended or cancelled under this part; and
 - (b) after that commencement, the credit provider provides consumer credit to a debtor while the registration is suspended or cancelled;

the debtor is not liable to pay, at any time, any amount under the credit contract that would, but for this subsection, have been payable during the period of suspension or cancellation.

- (2) If, under subsection (1), a debtor is not liable to pay an amount under a credit contract but the debtor has paid such an amount, the amount is recoverable by the debtor as a debt due and payable by the credit provider.
- (3) This section does not affect any liability of a person to be convicted of an offence.

25 Death of registered credit provider

- (1) If a registered credit provider dies, the credit provider's legal personal representative may apply to the commissioner to take over the registration for a period of 6 months after the death.
- (2) An application under subsection (1) shall be—
 - (a) lodged within 28 days after the death of the registered credit provider, or within such an extended period as the commissioner allows; and
 - (b) accompanied by the deceased credit provider's registration certificate.
- (3) On application in accordance with this section, the commissioner shall register the applicant unless the applicant is disqualified from registration—
 - (a) as a credit provider under this part; or
 - (b) as a finance broker under part 3.
- (4) If an application is granted, the commissioner shall endorse the registration certificate with the name of the applicant and the term of registration and return it to the applicant.
- (5) For this part, a successful applicant under this section is to be taken to be registered as a credit provider subject to the condition that the registration is to terminate—
 - (a) at the expiration of 6 months after the death of the original registered credit provider; or

- (b) if an application by the new registered credit provider to become the original registered credit provider's legal personal representative is rejected at an earlier date—on the date of the rejection.
- (6) In this section:
- legal personal representative*, in relation to a registered credit provider, includes—
- (a) a person who is named as the credit provider's legal personal representative; and
- (b) a person who intends to apply to become the credit provider's legal personal representative.

26 Register of credit providers

- (1) For this Act and the *Credit Act 1985*, the commissioner shall keep a register to be known as the register of credit providers including particulars of registration of all registered credit providers.
- (2) The register shall be kept in such form and manner as the commissioner thinks fit.

27 Access to register

On application to the commissioner in writing, a person may—

- (a) inspect the register of credit providers; and
- (b) obtain a copy of, or an extract from, the register.

Note A fee may be determined under s 140 (Determination of fees) for this section.

28 False or misleading statements

A person shall not make a statement in purported compliance with this part that is false or misleading by reason of—

- (a) the inclusion of matter in the statement that the person knows to be false or misleading; or

- (b) the inclusion of matter in the statement that the person has no reasonable grounds for believing to be true; or
- (c) the inclusion of matter in the statement that the person has no reasonable grounds for believing to be accurate; or
- (d) the omission from the statement of any material matter that the person knows to be material, except if the person believes on reasonable grounds that such an omission would not make the statement false or misleading.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units, imprisonment for 6 months or both.

Part 3 **Finance broking**

Division 3.1 **Exemptions**

29 **Exemption—specified persons and bodies**

This part does not apply in relation to any of the following persons:

- (a) a bank;
- (b) a financial institution;
- (c) a legal practitioner while acting in the ordinary course of the profession of legal practitioner;
- (d) a registered company auditor within the meaning of the Corporations Act, while acting in the ordinary course of the profession of public accountant;
- (e) a body corporate registered under the *Life Insurance Act 1995* (Cwlth);
- (f) a body corporate authorised under the *Insurance Act 1973* (Cwlth) to carry on insurance business;
- (g) unless the *Insurance Act 1973* (Cwlth), part 7 has ceased to have effect—a Lloyd's underwriter, being an underwriter of the society known as Lloyd's incorporated by the Imperial Act known as *Lloyd's Act 1871*;
- (h) a dealer under, or a recognised dealer under, the *Security Industry Act 1980* (Cwlth) while acting in the ordinary course of the business of a dealer within the meaning of that Act;
- (i) the curator of estates of deceased persons within the meaning of the *Public Trustee Act 1985*;
- (j) the public trustee within the meaning of the *Public Trustee Act 1985*;

- (k) a trustee company within the meaning of the *Trustee Companies Act 1947*.

30 Exemption—finance broking in the course of another business

This part does not apply in relation to a person (the *exempt person*) who carries on a business in good faith of selling land or supplying goods or services (whether as principal or agent) if—

- (a) the exempt person acts as a finance broker in relation to the provision of consumer credit exclusively for a person (the *client*) who deals with the exempt person in the ordinary course of that business; and
- (b) the client has given written authority for such credit to be applied in payment for land, goods or services sold or supplied in the course of that business.

31 Exemption—Ministerial determination

- (1) A provision of this part does not apply in relation to a finance broker if a determination under subsection (2) is in force exempting that person from the application of the provision, to the extent set out in the determination.
- (2) The Minister may, in writing, make a determination exempting a finance broker from the application of this part, in part or in whole, and to the extent set out in the determination.
- (3) A determination under subsection (2) is a disallowable instrument.

Note A disallowable instrument must be notified, and presented to the Legislative Assembly, under the *Legislation Act 2001*.

Division 3.2 Finance broking

32 Registration as a finance broker

- (1) A person shall not act as a finance broker unless the person is registered as a finance broker.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units, imprisonment for 6 months or both.

- (2) An individual shall not hold himself or herself out as a finance broker unless the person is registered as a finance broker.

Maximum penalty: 30 penalty units.

- (3) A body corporate shall not hold itself out as a finance broker unless it is registered as a finance broker.

Maximum penalty: 30 penalty units.

33 Advertising

A finance broker shall not publish, or cause to be published, whether in a newspaper or otherwise, an advertisement in connection with the broker's business as a finance broker without specifying in the advertisement—

- (a) a name under which the broker is authorised to act as a finance broker under section 41; and
- (b) the address of a place of business in respect of that name where the broker is authorised to act as a finance broker.

Maximum penalty: 10 penalty units.

34 Records

- (1) A finance broker shall make, or cause to be made, a full record of the particulars of a finance broking transaction as soon as practicable after entering into the transaction.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (2) A finance broker shall preserve a record made under subsection (1) for the period of 3 years immediately following the date of the transaction.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

35 Commissions

- (1) A finance broker shall not demand, receive or accept any commission for a finance broking transaction unless the transaction is effected under a written agreement—
- (a) signed by the person charged, or to be charged, with the payment of the commission; and
 - (b) containing particulars of the amount of credit to be obtained, the term of the credit and the maximum amount of interest and other charges to be paid in respect of the credit.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.

- (2) A finance broker must not demand, receive or accept any commission for a finance broking transaction in excess of the maximum prescribed by the regulations (plus any GST payable in relation to the commission).

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.

- (3) A finance broker shall not demand, receive or accept any commission for a finance broking transaction before securing the credit in respect of which the commission is charged.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.

- (4) A finance broker shall not demand, receive or accept any commission for a finance broking transaction if the credit secured—
- (a) is for an amount less than the amount specified in the terms of the agreement to act as a finance broker required under subsection (1); or
 - (b) is at a rate of interest, or for a charge, greater than the rate or charge specified in the terms of that agreement; or
 - (c) is for a term less than the term specified in that agreement.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.

- (5) In proceedings for an offence against this section, the court may, if it finds the finance broker guilty of the offence (whether or not it proceeds to conviction), order the finance broker—
- (a) to refund any amount received or accepted by the finance broker in contravention of this section; and
 - (b) to pay interest on such an amount at such rate as is fixed by the court, not exceeding the rate prescribed by the regulations, from the time of the receipt or acceptance of the amount until the time it is refunded.

36 Valuation fees

- (1) Nothing in section 35 prohibits a finance broker from demanding, receiving or accepting at any time an amount equal to the estimated cost of obtaining a valuation of any security offered for any proposed credit.
- (2) Subsection (1) applies only if—
- (a) the cost of the valuation is estimated on the basis of the fees (if any) prescribed by the regulations as the maximum fees for such valuations; and
 - (b) any amount paid for the valuation is held in trust by the finance broker to pay the costs of the valuation and to repay the balance of any such amount to the person who paid it.

37 False statements about credit provision

A finance broker shall not induce, or attempt to induce, a person to enter into an agreement in relation to the provision of consumer credit by making a statement or representation that is false or misleading by reason of—

- (a) the inclusion of matter that the finance broker knows to be false or misleading; or
- (b) the inclusion of matter that the finance broker has no reasonable grounds for believing to be true; or

- (c) the inclusion of matter that the finance broker has no reasonable grounds for believing to be accurate; or
- (d) the omission of any material matter that the finance broker knows to be material, except if the finance broker believes on reasonable grounds that such an omission would not make the statement or representation false or misleading.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units, imprisonment for 6 months or both.

38 Authorised names

- (1) A registered finance broker shall not act as a finance broker otherwise than under the finance broker's name or another name under which the broker is authorised to act under section 41.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.

- (2) A registered finance broker who is an individual shall not hold himself or herself out as a finance broker otherwise than under his or her name or another name under which he or she is authorised under section 41 to act as a finance broker.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.

- (3) A registered finance broker that is a body corporate shall not hold itself out as a finance broker otherwise than under the body's name or another name under which the body is authorised under section 41 to act as a finance broker.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.

39 Partnerships

A registered finance broker shall not carry on a business of finance broking in partnership with a person who is not registered as a finance broker.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.

40 Proof of finance broking offences

A finance broker is not liable to be convicted of an offence against this division unless it is proved that—

- (a) the finance broker knew or had reasonable cause to suspect that the credit to which the proceedings relate was, or was to be, consumer credit in whole or in part; or
- (b) if the finance broker had made reasonable inquiries, the finance broker would have known or had reasonable cause to suspect that the credit to which the proceedings relate was, or was to be, consumer credit in whole or in part.

Division 3.3 Registration of finance brokers

41 Authority given by registration

Subject to the consumer credit legislation and the *Business Names Act 1963*, registration as a finance broker authorises the registered person to act as a finance broker under the person's name and under any other name endorsed on the registration certificate.

42 Application for registration

- (1) An application for registration as a finance broker may be made to the commissioner in writing—
 - (a) by an individual who has attained the age of 18 years; or
 - (b) by a body corporate.

Note 1 A fee may be determined under s 140 (Determination of fees) for this section.

Note 2 If a form is approved under section 140A (Approved forms) for an application, the form must be used.

- (2) An application shall specify—
 - (a) the applicant's name and address; and

- (b) if the applicant is a body corporate—the name and address of each director of the body; and
 - (c) the name or names under which the applicant intends to carry on business as a credit provider in the ACT; and
 - (d) the address of each place where the applicant intends to carry on business as a finance broker in the ACT, indicating which of these is the principal place of business; and
 - (e) whether the applicant's business as a finance broker is to be carried on in partnership with any other person; and
 - (f) any other matters prescribed by the regulations.
- (3) An applicant for registration shall provide the commissioner with such particulars additional to those included in the application as the commissioner may require.

43 Registration

- (1) On an application for registration as a finance broker in accordance with section 42, the commissioner shall register the applicant unless the applicant is disqualified from registration—
- (a) as a finance broker under this part; or
 - (b) as a credit provider under part 2.

Note 1 A fee may be determined under s 140 (Determination of fees) for this section.

Note 2 If a form is approved under section 140A (Approved forms) for an application under this section or a registration certificate, the form must be used.

- (2) On registering a person as a finance broker, the commissioner shall issue a registration certificate to the person.
- (3) If a registration certificate issued to a finance broker, or any duplicate subsequently issued to the finance broker under this subsection, has been stolen, lost or destroyed, the commissioner must, on application by the finance broker, issue a duplicate.

44 Endorsement of names

- (1) On registration, or on application by a registered finance broker under subsection (2), the commissioner shall endorse the registration certificate with the name of the registered finance broker and any additional name or names under which the registered person intends to carry on, or carries on, business as a finance broker.
- (2) On written application by a registered finance broker (accompanied by the registration certificate), the commissioner shall add, amend or omit an endorsement of a name on the registration certificate in accordance with the application.

45 Changed particulars

A registered finance broker shall give written notice to the commissioner specifying any change in the particulars notified on application for registration, or in particulars subsequently notified under this section, within 14 days after the change.

Maximum penalty: 10 penalty units.

46 Term of registration

Registration as a finance broker continues in force until it is surrendered or cancelled, except during any period during which the registration is suspended.

47 Annual fee and statement

- (1) A registered finance broker shall lodge with the commissioner the annual fee on or before 27 March each year, or within such extended period as the commissioner allows under subsection (3).
- (2) A person who has been a registered finance broker at any time during the period of 12 months before 28 February in each year shall, on or before 27 March in that year, or within such extended period as the commissioner allows under subsection (3), lodge with the commissioner a statement in respect of that part of the period of

12 months before 28 February in that year during which the person acted as a finance broker.

Note If a form is approved under section 140A (Approved forms) for the statement, the form must be used.

- (3) The commissioner may, in writing, extend, or further extend, the period for compliance with subsection (1) or (2) on application before the expiry of the period by the person required to comply with the subsection.
- (4) A person who is not registered as a finance broker who fails to comply with subsection (2) commits an offence.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (5) In this section:

annual fee means the annual fee determined under section 140 (Determination of fees) for this section.

registered finance broker, in relation to the period of 12 months before 28 February in any year, includes a person whose registration was suspended for any part of that period, or for the whole of that period.

48 Cancellation of registration for failure to pay fee or provide statement

- (1) If a registered finance broker fails to lodge a fee or a statement in accordance with section 47, the commissioner shall give the finance broker written notice that the registration will be cancelled unless the fee or statement is lodged within a specified period (being a period of not less than 14 days after the date of the notice).
- (2) If a registered finance broker fails to pay a fee or lodge a statement in accordance with a notice under subsection (1), the commissioner shall—
 - (a) cancel the registration; and

- (b) disqualify the finance broker from obtaining registration as a finance broker or as a credit provider until such time as the fee is paid or the statement is lodged, as the case requires.

49 Surrender of registration

- (1) A registered finance broker may surrender the registration by written notice to the commissioner accompanied by the registration certificate, subject to this section.
- (2) If the commissioner has issued a notice under section 54 in relation to a registered finance broker, the finance broker shall not surrender the registration before the commissioner has decided whether to take action under section 55.
- (3) On application by a person who has surrendered registration, the commissioner shall return to the person so much as the commissioner thinks fit of the fee last paid by the person under section 47 (1).
- (4) In this section:

registered finance broker includes a person whose registration as a finance broker is suspended.

Division 3.4 Disciplinary procedures

50 Powers of inquiry

- (1) The commissioner may make such inquiries for this division as he or she thinks fit about a registered finance broker.
- (2) The commissioner of police shall make any reasonable inquiries for this division about a registered finance broker requested by the commissioner.
- (3) The commissioner of police shall report the result of any inquiries under subsection (2) to the commissioner.

(4) In this section:

registered finance broker includes—

- (a) a defined influential person in relation to a registered finance broker; and
- (b) an employee of a registered finance broker.

51 Cancellation or suspension for bankruptcy, fraud, dishonesty or incapacity

- (1) The commissioner may cancel the registration of a finance broker who is an individual, or suspend the registration for a specified period, if the finance broker—
 - (a) becomes bankrupt, applies to take the benefit of a law for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors, compounds with his or her creditors or makes an assignment of his or her remuneration or any part of his or her property for their benefit; or
 - (b) is convicted in the ACT or elsewhere of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty punishable, on conviction, by imprisonment for 3 months or more; or
 - (c) becomes incapable through mental infirmity of managing his or her affairs.
- (2) The commissioner may cancel the registration of a finance broker that is a body corporate, or suspend the registration for a specified period, if—
 - (a) the body is dissolved, is under administration, is being wound up or has ceased to carry on business; or
 - (b) a receiver, or a receiver and manager, has been appointed under the Corporations Act or under the corresponding law of a State or of another Territory in relation to any property in respect of the body; or

- (c) the body has entered into a compromise or scheme of arrangement with its creditors.
- (3) If the commissioner cancels the registration of a finance broker under subsection (2), the commissioner shall disqualify the finance broker from obtaining registration as a finance broker or as a credit provider for the period specified in the notice of cancellation under section 130.
- (4) On written application by a finance broker whose registration has been cancelled or suspended under subsection (1), the commissioner may—
 - (a) remove a suspension imposed under this section at any time before the expiry of the specified period of suspension; or
 - (b) revoke the disqualification of a finance broker at any time before the expiry of the specified period of disqualification.

52 Grounds for other disciplinary action

The grounds for disciplinary action under section 55 in relation to a registered finance broker are as follows:

- (a) the finance broker has acted as a finance broker inefficiently, dishonestly or unfairly;
- (b) the finance broker provided false or misleading information to the commissioner in relation to an application for registration under this Act;
- (c) the finance broker has contravened—
 - (i) the consumer credit legislation; or
 - (ii) a direction of the commissioner under section 55; or
 - (iii) an undertaking under section 105;
- (d) the finance broker has acted as a finance broker while the registration was suspended or cancelled, or while disqualified under this part;

- (e) if the finance broker was licensed at any time under the *Credit Act 1985*—
 - (i) the finance broker provided false or misleading information in relation to an application for the licence; or
 - (ii) the finance broker breached a condition to which the licence was subject; or
 - (iii) the finance broker contravened a requirement of the tribunal under the *Credit Act 1985*, section 173 (8) (c); or
 - (iv) the finance broker acted as a finance broker while the licence was suspended or cancelled, or while disqualified under the *Credit Act 1985*, section 173 (8) (e).

53 Complaints against finance brokers

A person may make a complaint to the commissioner about the conduct of a registered finance broker.

54 Notice to show cause

- (1) The commissioner shall not take disciplinary action under section 55 in relation to a registered finance broker without first giving the finance broker written notice inviting that person to show cause within 28 days after the date of the notice why action should not be taken under that section.
- (2) A notice under subsection (1) shall—
 - (a) specify each ground on which the commissioner proposes to take disciplinary action; and
 - (b) include details of any complaint received under section 53 in relation to the finance broker.
- (3) In deciding whether to take action under section 55 (1), the commissioner shall take into account—
 - (a) any complaint made under section 53; and

- (b) any representation made by the finance broker in accordance with the invitation referred to in subsection (1).

55 Disciplinary action

- (1) If the commissioner is satisfied on reasonable grounds that any of the grounds referred to in section 52 are established in relation to a registered finance broker, he or she may take 1 or more of the following actions:
 - (a) issue a reprimand to the finance broker;
 - (b) subject to subsection (3), direct the finance broker to pay to the Territory, within a specified time, an amount not exceeding—
 - (i) if the finance broker is an individual—\$1 000; or
 - (ii) if the finance broker is a body corporate—\$5 000;
 - (c) direct the finance broker to comply with a specified requirement within a specified time;
 - (d) suspend the registration for a period not exceeding 12 months;
 - (e) cancel the registration and disqualify the finance broker from obtaining registration as a finance broker or as a credit provider for the period specified in the notice of cancellation under section 130;
 - (f) disqualify a specified defined influential person in relation to the finance broker from obtaining registration as a finance broker or as a credit provider for the period specified in the notice of disqualification under section 130.
- (2) A finance broker shall comply with a direction under subsection (1) (b) or (c).

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.

(3) If a registered finance broker has been convicted of an offence and the circumstances of the offence form, in whole or in part, a ground for taking disciplinary action against the finance broker under this section, the person is not liable to pay any amount under subsection (1) (b).

(4) If a direction imposing a requirement on a registered finance broker is made under subsection (1) (c), the finance broker shall, on written notice from the commissioner, return the certificate of registration to the commissioner for endorsement with the requirement within 14 days after the date of the notice.

Maximum penalty: 10 penalty units.

(5) If the commissioner suspends or cancels the registration of a finance broker under this section, the finance broker shall return the certificate of registration to the commissioner within 14 days after the date of the order.

Maximum penalty: 10 penalty units.

(6) A person who is disqualified from obtaining registration under subsection (1) (e) or (f) shall not be concerned in the direction, management or control of a finance broking business, or of a business of providing consumer credit, during the period of disqualification.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.

Division 3.5 General

55A Civil penalty

(1) If—

(a) whether before or after the commencement of this section, the registration of a finance broker was or is suspended or cancelled under this part; and

- (b) after that commencement, the finance broker is involved in finance broking and for that purpose enters into a contract with a debtor while the registration is suspended or cancelled;
the debtor is not liable to pay any amount under the contract.
- (2) If, under subsection (1), a debtor is not liable to pay any amount under a contract but the debtor has paid such an amount, the amount is recoverable by the debtor as a debt due and payable by the finance broker.
- (3) This section does not affect any liability of a person to be convicted of an offence.

56 Death of registered finance broker

- (1) If a registered finance broker dies, the finance broker's legal personal representative may apply to the commissioner to take over the registration for a period of 6 months after the death.
- (2) An application under subsection (1) shall be—
- (a) lodged within 28 days after the death of the registered finance broker, or within such an extended period as the commissioner allows; and
- (b) accompanied by the deceased finance broker's registration certificate.
- (3) On application in accordance with this section, the commissioner shall register the applicant unless the applicant is disqualified from registration—
- (a) as a finance broker under this part; or
- (b) as a credit provider under part 2.
- (4) If an application is granted, the commissioner shall endorse the registration certificate with the name of the applicant and the term of registration and return it to the applicant.

- (5) For this part, a successful applicant under this section is to be taken to be registered as a finance broker subject to the condition that the registration is to terminate—
- (a) at the expiration of 6 months after the death of the original registered finance broker; or
 - (b) if an application by the new registered finance broker to become the original registered finance broker's legal personal representative is rejected at an earlier date—on the date of the rejection.
- (6) In this section:
- legal personal representative*, in relation to a registered finance broker, includes—
- (a) a person who is named as the finance broker's legal personal representative; and
 - (b) a person who intends to apply to become the finance broker's legal personal representative.

57 Register of finance brokers

- (1) For this Act and the *Credit Act 1985*, the commissioner shall keep a register to be known as the register of finance brokers including particulars of registration of all registered finance brokers.
- (2) The register shall be kept in such form and manner as the commissioner thinks fit.

58 Access to register

On application to the commissioner in writing, a person may—

- (a) inspect the register of finance brokers; and
- (b) obtain a copy of, or an extract from, the register.

Note A fee may be determined under s 140 (Determination of fees) for this section.

59 False or misleading statements

A person shall not make a statement in purported compliance with this part that is false or misleading by reason of—

- (a) the inclusion of matter in the statement that the person knows to be false or misleading; or
- (b) the inclusion of matter in the statement that the person has no reasonable grounds for believing to be true; or
- (c) the inclusion of matter in the statement that the person has no reasonable grounds for believing to be accurate; or
- (d) the omission from the statement of any material matter that the person knows to be material, except if the person believes on reasonable grounds that such an omission would not make the statement false or misleading.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units, imprisonment for 6 months or both.

Part 4 Credit tribunal

Division 4.1 Establishment, functions and powers

60 Continuation of tribunal

The Australian Capital Territory Credit Tribunal in existence under the *Credit Act 1985* immediately before the commencement of this part continues in existence by force of this section.

61 Functions and powers

- (1) The tribunal has the functions and powers given to it by the consumer credit legislation.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the tribunal has power to do everything necessary or convenient to be done in relation to the carrying out of its functions.

Division 4.2 Tribunal members

62 Membership of tribunal

- (1) The tribunal consists of—
 - (a) the president; and
 - (b) the deputy presidents; and
 - (c) the non-presidential members.
- (2) The members of the tribunal are to be appointed by the Executive.

63 Presidential members

- (1) A person is eligible to be appointed president only if the person is a magistrate.

- (2) A person is eligible to be appointed deputy president only if the person is a magistrate or a lawyer of at least 5 years standing.

64 Non-presidential members

- (1) The Executive must appoint as non-presidential members—
- (a) persons who, in its opinion, represent the interests of credit providers and finance brokers; and
 - (b) persons who, in its opinion, represent the interests of persons who obtain consumer credit from credit providers or through finance brokers.
- (2) A member appointed under subsection (1) (a) is an *industry member*, and a member appointed under subsection (1) (b) is a *consumer member*.

65 Terms of appointment generally

- (1) A member may be appointed as a full-time or part-time member.
- (2) A member holds office on the terms not provided by this Act that are decided by the Executive.
- (3) This section does not apply to a member who is a magistrate.

66 Matters to be included in appointment etc

The instrument appointing, or evidencing the appointment of, a member must state—

- (a) whether the member is the president, a deputy president, consumer member or industry member; and
- (b) the period for which the member is appointed; and
- (c) if the member is not a magistrate—whether the member is appointed as a full-time or part-time member.

67 Duration of appointment

- (1) A member is to be appointed for a term of not longer than 5 years.

- (2) The Executive may end the appointment of a member who is not a magistrate—
 - (a) for misbehaviour or physical or mental incapacity; or
 - (b) if the member becomes bankrupt, applies to take the benefit of any law for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors, compounds with creditors or makes an assignment of remuneration for the benefit of creditors.
- (3) The Executive must end the appointment of—
 - (a) a presidential member who is a magistrate if the member ceases to be a magistrate; or
 - (b) a deputy president who is not a magistrate if the member ceases to be eligible for appointment; or
 - (c) a non-presidential member if the Executive is satisfied that the member no longer represents the interests of the people the member was appointed to represent; or
 - (d) a member who is not a magistrate if the member is convicted in Australia or elsewhere of an offence punishable by imprisonment for 1 year or longer.

Division 4.3 Registrar and deputy registrars

69 Registrar and deputy registrars

- (1) The registrar of the Magistrates Court is the registrar of the tribunal.
- (2) Each deputy registrar of the Magistrates Court is a deputy registrar of the tribunal.
- (3) Subject to any direction of the registrar, a deputy registrar of the tribunal may exercise the powers of the registrar of the tribunal.
- (4) The registrar may, by signed writing, delegate to a public servant all or any of his or her powers under this Act.

Division 4.4 Proceedings

71 Constitution of tribunal

- (1) The tribunal is to be constituted for a proceeding by—
 - (a) a presidential member; and
 - (b) a non-presidential member who is an industry member; and
 - (c) a non-presidential member who is a consumer member.
- (2) However, the tribunal may be constituted for a proceeding only by a presidential member if—
 - (a) there is only 1 party to the proceeding and the president considers that the proceeding is unlikely to involve another party; or
 - (b) there are 2 or more parties to the proceeding and all the parties agree to the tribunal being constituted only by a presidential member; or
 - (c) the proceeding is a proceeding prescribed under the regulations for this paragraph.
- (3) Also, if a member of the tribunal other than the presidential member ceases to be a member, or to be available for the proceeding, before its completion, the presidential member and any remaining non-presidential member may finish the proceeding if the presidential member considers it desirable to do so.

72 Role of president

- (1) The president is responsible for ensuring the orderly and prompt discharge of the tribunal's business.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the president may give directions about the members who are to constitute the tribunal for a particular proceeding.

73 Presiding member

The presidential member must preside at a proceeding.

74 Procedure

- (1) Subject to this Act, the tribunal may determine the procedure to be followed in a proceeding.
- (2) The tribunal is not bound by the rules of evidence but may inform itself on any matter relevant to a proceeding in such manner as it thinks appropriate.
- (3) A proceeding shall be conducted with as little formality and technicality, and with as much expedition, as this Act and the merits of the matter permit.
- (4) The tribunal is bound by the rules of natural justice.

75 Directions by presidential member

The presidential member may give directions about the procedure to be followed in a proceeding for—

- (a) reducing the costs of the parties to the proceeding; and
- (b) achieving a prompt hearing of the matters in issue between the parties.

76 Assistance from commissioner

The presidential member may request the commissioner to prepare a report for, or provide other assistance to, the tribunal in relation to a proceeding.

77 Deciding questions

- (1) The presidential member is to decide a question of law arising in a proceeding.

- (2) If there is a division of opinion about another question arising in a proceeding, the question is decided—
 - (a) according to the opinion of the majority of members constituting the tribunal; or
 - (b) if there is no majority on the question—according to the opinion of the presidential member.

78 Reference of questions of law to Supreme Court

- (1) The presidential member may, at the request of a party to a proceeding, refer a question of law arising in the proceeding to the Supreme Court for a decision.
- (2) The Supreme Court has jurisdiction to hear and determine a question of law referred to it under subsection (1).
- (3) If a question of law has been referred to the Supreme Court under subsection (1), the tribunal shall not in the proceeding in which the question arose—
 - (a) make a decision to which the question is relevant while the reference is pending; or
 - (b) proceed in a manner, or make a decision, that is inconsistent with the Supreme Court's decision on the question.

79 Joint liability

- (1) Subject to the consumer credit legislation, if a party to a proceeding is jointly liable with another person, that other person need not be made a party to the proceeding.
- (2) If a decision is made against a party to a proceeding (the *party*) who is jointly liable with another person who is not a party to the proceeding (the *non-party*)—
 - (a) the liability of the non-party is not discharged by the decision or any step taken to enforce the decision; and

- (b) the party and the non-party are severally but not jointly liable; and
 - (c) if there are 2 or more non-parties—as between themselves, the non-parties are jointly liable; and
 - (d) the liability of the non-party is discharged to the extent of any amount paid or recovered under the decision.
- (3) Nothing in subsection (2) affects the right of a person to contribution or indemnity in respect of satisfaction by the person of a liability that he or she has jointly, severally or jointly and severally with another person.

80 Legal personal representatives

A legal personal representative may bring or defend a proceeding in the same manner as if he or she were bringing or defending the proceeding in his or her own right.

81 Adding parties

- (1) If, at any stage of a proceeding, the presidential member is of the opinion that a person should be a party to the proceeding, the presidential member may join the person as a party.
- (2) The tribunal may, on application by a person whose interests may be affected by a proceeding, join that person as a party to the proceeding.

82 Notice of proceeding

- (1) The presidential member is to fix a time and place for the conduct of a proceeding.
- (2) The registrar shall serve on each party to the proceeding a notice—
 - (a) specifying the time and place so fixed; and
 - (b) specifying the matters to which the proceeding relates; and
 - (c) directing the party on whom it is served to appear at that time and place.

83 Appearance and representation

- (1) A party to a proceeding—
 - (a) may appear in person; or
 - (b) subject to subsection (2), may be represented by a legal practitioner; or
 - (c) with the leave of the tribunal, may be represented by a person other than a legal practitioner.
- (2) A party to a prescribed proceeding may only be represented by a legal practitioner with the leave of the tribunal.
- (3) A person other than a legal practitioner is not entitled to demand or receive any fee or reward for representing a party to a proceeding.

84 Failure to appear

If a party on whom a notice in accordance with section 82 (2) is served fails to appear as directed by the notice, the tribunal may conduct the proceeding in the party's absence.

85 Hearings

- (1) Subject to this section, the hearing of a proceeding shall be in public.
- (2) The tribunal may—
 - (a) direct that a hearing or part of a hearing is to be in private and give directions as to the persons who may be present; or
 - (b) give directions prohibiting or restricting the publication or other disclosure of any evidence before or submission made to the tribunal, whether in a public or private hearing.
- (3) The tribunal may give a direction under subsection (2) if satisfied that it is desirable to do so because of—
 - (a) the confidential nature of the subject matter of the proceeding; or

- (b) the confidential nature of any evidence before the tribunal; or
 - (c) any other reason.
- (4) A person who contravenes a direction under subsection (2) (b) commits an offence.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units, imprisonment for 6 months or both.

86 Summoning witnesses

- (1) For the purposes of a proceeding, the registrar shall—
- (a) if directed to do so by the presidential member; or
 - (b) if requested to do so by a party to the proceeding;
- serve on a person a summons requiring the person to appear before the tribunal—
- (c) on a date specified in the summons to produce the documents and other things referred to in the summons; or
 - (d) at a hearing—
 - (i) to give evidence; or
 - (ii) to give evidence and produce the documents and other things referred to in the summons.
- (2) If a person is required by a summons to produce a record—
- (a) that is not in writing; or
 - (b) that is not written in the English language; or
 - (c) that is not decipherable on sight;
- the summons shall be taken to require the person to produce—
- (d) instead of the record if it is not in writing; or
 - (e) in addition to the record if it is in writing;

a statement, written in the English language and decipherable on sight, about the information in the record.

- (3) A person served with a summons under subsection (1) shall not, without reasonable excuse, fail to comply with the summons.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units, imprisonment for 6 months or both.

- (4) A person shall be taken to have complied with a summons of the kind referred to in subsection (1) (c) if the person delivers the documents and things to the tribunal before the date specified in the summons.

- (5) A person who appears at a hearing under a summons is entitled to be paid—

- (a) if summoned at the direction of the presidential member—the fees and allowances as are payable to a witness before the Supreme Court; or
- (b) if summoned at the request of a party—his or her reasonable costs and expenses of attendance at the hearing.

- (6) A summons under subsection (1) shall be accompanied by a form to be completed by the person required to appear to claim the fees and allowances, or costs and expenses, mentioned in subsection (5).

- (7) A person is not entitled to refuse to comply with a summons because it was not accompanied by that form.

87 Taking of evidence

- (1) At a hearing, the tribunal may take evidence on oath or affirmation and, for that purpose the presidential member may—
- (a) require a witness at the hearing either to take an oath or make an affirmation; and
- (b) administer an oath or affirmation to a witness at the hearing.

- (2) At a hearing, the presidential member may require a witness—
 - (a) to answer a question put to the witness; or
 - (b) to produce a document or anything else relevant to the hearing.
- (3) A witness at a hearing must not, without reasonable excuse, fail—
 - (a) to take an oath or make an affirmation when required to do so by the presidential member under subsection (1) (a); or
 - (b) to give evidence when required to do so by the presidential member under subsection (2).

Maximum penalty (for subsection (3)): 50 penalty units, imprisonment for 6 months or both.

88 Inspection and retention of documents and things

- (1) The tribunal or a member of the tribunal may—
 - (a) inspect a document or other thing produced before, or delivered to, the tribunal; and
 - (b) retain possession of the document or thing for such period as is necessary for the purposes of the proceeding to which the document or thing relates; and
 - (c) in the case of a document produced before, or delivered to, the tribunal—make copies of, or take extracts from, such parts of the document as are relevant to a matter the subject of the proceeding.
- (2) If a document is retained under subsection (1) (b)—
 - (a) the person otherwise entitled to possession of the document is entitled to be supplied, as soon as practicable, with a copy certified by a member of the tribunal to be a true copy and the certified copy shall be received in all courts as if it were the original; and

- (b) until the certified copy is supplied, the registrar shall, at such times and places as he or she thinks appropriate, permit the person otherwise entitled to possession of the document, or a person authorised by that person, to inspect and make copies of, or take extracts from, the document.
- (3) If the retention of a document or other thing under subsection (1) (b) is no longer necessary for the purposes of a proceeding, the registrar may, at the request of a person who appears to be entitled to make the request, cause the document or thing to be delivered to the person.

89 Adjourments and stays

The tribunal may, on the application of a party or of its own initiative—

- (a) adjourn a proceeding; or
- (b) at any stage of a proceeding, order that the proceeding be stayed.

90 Dismissal of proceedings

- (1) The tribunal may, at any stage of a proceeding, dismiss the proceeding—
 - (a) if satisfied that it is frivolous or vexatious; or
 - (b) for any other reason.
- (2) If the tribunal dismisses a proceeding under subsection (1), it may order the person who brought the proceeding to pay the costs of the proceeding.

91 Costs

Subject to the consumer credit legislation, the tribunal may award costs against a party to a proceeding and may determine the amount of costs so awarded.

92 Orders for payment of money

- (1) If the tribunal makes an order for the payment of an amount (including an amount awarded for costs) and the prescribed documents are filed in a court having jurisdiction to the extent of the amount, the order shall be deemed to be a judgment of the court for the payment of the amount in accordance with the order.
- (2) For subsection (1), the prescribed documents are—
 - (a) a copy of the order certified by the registrar as a true copy; and
 - (b) an affidavit by or on behalf of the person to whom the amount is ordered to be paid specifying—
 - (i) the amount unpaid under the order; and
 - (ii) if the order is to take effect on a default—that the default has occurred.
- (3) Despite any other Territory law, no fee is payable for the filing of documents under subsection (1).

93 Reasons for decisions of tribunal

- (1) The tribunal shall serve a copy of its decision in a proceeding on each party to the proceeding.
- (2) If the tribunal does not give written reasons for its decision, a party to the proceeding may, within 28 days after being so served, apply to the tribunal for a statement of those reasons.
- (3) The tribunal shall comply with such a request within 28 days after receiving it.
- (4) A statement of reasons shall set out the tribunal's findings on material questions of fact, referring to the evidence or other material on which those findings were based.

Division 4.5 Appeals to Supreme Court

94 Decisions of tribunal

- (1) Subject to this section, a party to a proceeding may appeal to the Supreme Court from a decision of the tribunal in the proceeding.
- (2) the *Magistrates Court (Civil Jurisdiction) Act 1982*, part 21, applies in relation to an appeal under subsection (1) as if—
 - (a) a reference in that part to the Magistrates Court were a reference to the tribunal; and
 - (b) a reference in that part to the registrar of the Magistrates Court were a reference to the registrar of the tribunal; and
 - (c) a reference in that part to a judgment or order of the Magistrates Court were a reference to a decision of the tribunal; and
 - (d) a reference in that part to the *Magistrates Court (Civil Jurisdiction) Act 1982* were a reference to the consumer credit legislation.
- (3) For subsection (2), a judgment or order of the Supreme Court made in proceedings remitted to the tribunal for execution shall have effect as if it were a decision of the tribunal and may be enforced under section 92.

95 Decisions of Magistrates Court

- (1) An appeal to the Supreme Court may be instituted from a decision of the Magistrates Court under the consumer credit legislation.
- (2) The *Magistrates Court (Civil Jurisdiction) Act 1982*, part 21 applies in relation to an appeal under subsection (1) as if it were an appeal from a judgment or order of the Magistrates Court given, entered or made in proceedings that the Magistrates Court has jurisdiction to hear and determine under that Act.

96 Jurisdiction of Supreme Court

The Supreme Court has jurisdiction to hear and determine an appeal under this division.

Division 4.6 General

97 Contempt

A person shall not—

- (a) obstruct or hinder the tribunal or a member of the tribunal in the exercise of the functions of the tribunal; or
- (b) disrupt a proceeding.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units, imprisonment for 6 months or both.

98 Protection of members etc

- (1) A member of the tribunal has, in the exercise of any function as a member, the same protection and immunity as a judge of the Supreme Court in proceedings in that court.
- (2) A legal practitioner or other person appearing before the tribunal on behalf of a party to a proceeding has the same protection and immunity as a barrister has in appearing for a party to a proceeding before the Supreme Court.
- (3) Subject to this Act, a person summoned to attend or appearing before the tribunal as a witness has the same protection and is subject to the same liabilities as a witness in proceedings in the Supreme Court.

Part 5 Inquiries

100 Executive may order inquiry

- (1) The Executive may, in writing, appoint the tribunal or any other entity to inquire into matters about the provision of credit, or the consequences of the provision of credit, stated in the appointment.

Note Power given under an Act to make an instrument (including on appointment) includes power to amend or repeal the instrument (see *Legislation Act 2001*, s 46 (1)).

- (2) An appointment is subject to any condition stated in the appointment.
- (3) Subject to the appointment, the tribunal or the person appointed under subsection (1) has the functions and powers given by or under this part.
- (4) An appointment is a notifiable instrument.

Note 1 A notifiable instrument must be notified under the *Legislation Act 2001*.

Note 2 An amendment or repeal of an instrument of appointment is also a notifiable instrument (see *Legislation Act 2001*, s 46 (2)).

- (5) The Executive must also publish the terms of each appointment in a daily newspaper circulating in the ACT.

101 Notice of inquiry

- (1) Before beginning an inquiry, the tribunal or person conducting the inquiry must prepare a written notice setting out the following matters:
 - (a) the holding of the inquiry;
 - (b) the subject matter of the inquiry;
 - (c) the time and date when, and place where, the inquiry is to be held.

(2) The notice may include anything else the tribunal or person considers appropriate.

(3) The notice is a notifiable instrument.

Note A notifiable instrument must be notified under the *Legislation Act 2001*.

(4) The tribunal or person conducting the inquiry must also publish the notice in a daily newspaper circulating in the ACT.

102 Application of Inquiries Act 1991

The *Inquiries Act 1991*, part 3 (other than sections 14 and 14A), part 4 and sections 38 and 39 apply in relation to an inquiry under this part as if, in those provisions—

- (a) a reference to an inquiry were a reference to an inquiry under this part; and
- (b) a reference to a board of inquiry were a reference to the tribunal or the person appointed under section 100 (1); and
- (c) a reference to the chairperson of a board of inquiry were a reference to—
 - (i) the presidential member constituting the tribunal (whether alone or with other members); or
 - (ii) the person appointed under section 100 (1); and
- (d) a reference to a member of such a board were a reference to a member of the tribunal or that person.

103 Summons—indecipherable records

If a person is required by a summons served in the course of an inquiry to produce a record—

- (a) that is not in writing; or
- (b) that is not written in the English language; or

(c) that is not decipherable on sight;

the summons shall be taken to require the person to produce—

(d) instead of the record if it is not in writing; or

(e) in addition to the record if it is in writing;

a statement, written in the English language and decipherable on sight, about the information in the record.

104 Findings and recommendations

On completion of an inquiry, the tribunal or the person conducting the inquiry shall, as soon as practicable—

(a) give a written report of the results of the inquiry to the Minister; and

(b) make such recommendations in that report with respect to the results as the tribunal or that person thinks fit.

Part 6 Unjust conduct

105 Undertakings

- (1) If the commissioner is satisfied that a person has engaged in unjust conduct as a credit provider or finance broker, the commissioner may, with the consent of the Minister—
 - (a) request the person to give an undertaking in respect of 1 or more of the following matters by a deed approved by the commissioner:
 - (i) refraining from that conduct;
 - (ii) rectifying its consequences;
 - (iii) future conduct by the person; or
 - (b) apply to the tribunal for an order under section 107 (1).
- (2) The commissioner may not—
 - (a) take disciplinary action under section 24 or 55; or
 - (b) apply for an order under section 107 (1);in respect of conduct that is in accordance with an undertaking.
- (3) A person shall not contravene an undertaking.
Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units.
- (4) A prosecution for an offence against subsection (3) shall not be instituted except by the commissioner with the leave of the tribunal.

106 Registration of undertakings

- (1) The commissioner shall—
 - (a) keep a register containing the prescribed particulars in respect of each undertaking referred to in section 105; and

- (b) ensure that the register is available for public inspection free of charge at the office of the commissioner.
- (2) The register shall be kept in such form and manner as the commissioner thinks fit.
- (3) The commissioner shall—
 - (a) retain each deed by which an undertaking is given; and
 - (b) give a copy of the deed to—
 - (i) the person who gave the undertaking; and
 - (ii) the registrar.

107 Orders by tribunal

- (1) If the tribunal is satisfied that a person has engaged in unjust conduct as a credit provider or finance broker, it may order the person to refrain from such conduct.
- (2) If the tribunal is satisfied that a person has contravened an undertaking referred to in section 105, it may order the person to comply with the undertaking within a period specified in the order.
- (3) If the tribunal is satisfied that a person—
 - (a) is a defined influential person in relation to a body corporate; and
 - (b) has consented to or connived at—
 - (i) unjust conduct to which subsection (1) applies; or
 - (ii) a contravention of an undertaking referred to in section 105;by the body corporate;
the tribunal may, by order, prohibit the person from engaging in such activities.

- (4) An order under this section is subject to such conditions as are specified in the order.
- (5) The tribunal shall not make an order under this section except on application by the commissioner.

108 Contravention of orders

- (1) A person who contravenes an order under section 107 (1) commits an offence.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units.

- (2) A person who contravenes an order under section 107 (2) commits an offence.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units.

- (3) A person who contravenes an order under section 107 (3) commits an offence.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units.

Part 7 **Role of commissioner**

Division 7.1 **Functions and powers generally**

109 **Functions**

In addition to any other functions given to the commissioner under the consumer credit legislation, the commissioner has the following functions:

- (a) to investigate complaints about matters relating to the consumer credit legislation received by the commissioner from credit providers, debtors, finance brokers and other persons who might reasonably be taken to have an interest in the matters complained about, and to provide advice to complainants about those matters;
- (b) to conduct, on his or her own initiative, other investigations and research about matters relating to the consumer credit legislation;
- (c) to give to, and exchange information with, persons who, under a law of a State or another Territory, have functions similar to those given to the commissioner under the consumer credit legislation;
- (d) to commence and conduct proceedings for offences against the consumer credit legislation;
- (e) at the request of the president or the registrar, to prepare reports for, and to provide other assistance to, the tribunal.

110 **Powers**

The commissioner has power to do all things necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with the exercise of his or her functions under the consumer credit legislation.

Division 7.2 Functions in relation to proceedings

111 Representing other persons before tribunal

- (1) Despite anything in the consumer credit legislation, the commissioner may represent a party in a proceeding before the tribunal.
- (2) For subsection (1), the commissioner may—
 - (a) appear in person; or
 - (b) be represented by a legal practitioner or another person.

112 Taking or defending proceedings for other persons

- (1) If, after investigating a complaint about a matter arising under the consumer credit legislation made by—
 - (a) an individual; or
 - (b) a strata corporation under the Credit Code;the commissioner is satisfied that—
 - (c) the complainant may have a right to take proceedings, or a defence to proceedings taken, in a court or the tribunal in respect of the matter complained about; and
 - (d) it would be in the public interest for the commissioner to take or defend those proceedings on behalf of the complainant;the commissioner may, with the written consent of the complainant and the Minister, take or defend those proceedings on behalf of and in the name of the complainant.
- (2) The consent of a complainant is not revocable after the commissioner has taken a step in the proceedings unless the commissioner agrees to the revocation.

113 Conduct of proceedings so taken or defended

- (1) This section applies in relation to proceedings being taken or defended by the commissioner under section 112.
- (2) The commissioner shall have the conduct of the proceedings on behalf of the complainant.
- (3) The commissioner may—
 - (a) appear in person; or
 - (b) despite any other law in force in the ACT, be represented by a legal practitioner or another person.
- (4) The commissioner may do anything necessary or expedient to be done to give effect to an order or decision of the court or tribunal.
- (5) The complainant is liable to pay any amount (other than an amount for costs) that the complainant is ordered by the court or tribunal to pay.
- (6) The Territory is liable to pay the costs of the complainant, including any costs awarded against the complainant.

114 Intervention by Minister or commissioner

- (1) The Minister or, subject to subsection (2), the commissioner may intervene in proceedings under the consumer credit legislation (other than proceedings for an offence) that are before a court or the tribunal if satisfied that it would be in the public interest to do so.
- (2) The commissioner may only intervene with the Minister's consent.
- (3) If the Minister or commissioner intervenes in proceedings, he or she—
 - (a) is, by force of this section, a party to the proceedings; and

- (b) may—
 - (i) appear in person; or
 - (ii) despite any other law in force in the ACT, be represented by a legal practitioner or another person.

115 Presumption that Minister has consented

If the commissioner—

- (a) takes or defends proceedings under section 112; or
- (b) intervenes in proceedings under section 114;

it shall be presumed that the Minister consented to the commissioner doing so, but that presumption is rebuttable.

116 Investigation of certain applications to tribunal

Before an application under the *Credit Act 1985*, section 86, or the Credit Code, section 101, is heard, the commissioner shall, if required to do so by the presidential member, investigate the application and report the findings to the tribunal.

Division 7.3 Powers in relation to investigations

117 Investigators

- (1) An investigation for section 109 (a) or (b) may be made by the commissioner or a person authorised, in writing, by the commissioner (an *investigator*).
- (2) The commissioner must issue an identity card under the *Fair Trading (Consumer Affairs) Act 1973*, section 15 to each investigator.

118 Powers of entry and inspection

- (1) An investigator may—
 - (a) for the purpose of ensuring that the consumer credit legislation is being complied with, enter—
 - (i) any premises (other than residential premises) at any reasonable time; or
 - (ii) any premises with the consent of the occupier or a person apparently in charge of the premises; or
 - (b) enter any premises under a search warrant.
- (2) An investigator may enter premises under subsection (1)—
 - (a) with such assistance; and
 - (b) when entering under a warrant—with such force;
as is necessary and reasonable.
- (3) An investigator who enters premises under subsection (1) is not authorised to remain on the premises if the investigator does not produce his or her identity card for inspection if asked to do so by the occupier or a person apparently in charge of the premises.
- (4) If an investigator enters premises under subsection (1), the investigator may—
 - (a) inspect any record found on the premises; and
 - (b) take copies of and extracts from any such records; and
 - (c) require any person on the premises to—
 - (i) make available any record kept on the premises; and
 - (ii) furnish information; and
 - (iii) answer questions.

119 Consent to entry

- (1) Before obtaining the consent of a person to enter premises for section 118 (1) (a) (ii), an investigator must—
 - (a) show the person his or her identity card; and
 - (b) tell the person that the person may refuse to give consent.
- (2) If an investigator obtains the consent of a person for section 118 (1) (a) (ii), the investigator shall ask the person to sign a written acknowledgment of—
 - (a) the fact that the person has been informed that he or she may refuse to give consent; and
 - (b) the fact that the person has voluntarily given consent; and
 - (c) the day and the time when the consent was given.
- (3) An entry by an investigator under a person's consent is not lawful unless the consent was voluntary.
- (4) If—
 - (a) it is material, in any proceedings, for a court to be satisfied that the consent of a person for section 118 (1) (a) (ii) was voluntary; and
 - (b) an acknowledgment, in accordance with subsection (2), signed by the person is not produced in evidence;the court shall assume, unless the contrary is proved, that the consent was not voluntary.

120 Search warrants

- (1) If—
 - (a) an information is laid before a magistrate alleging that an investigator has reasonable grounds for suspecting that there may be on any premises a thing of a particular kind connected

with a particular offence against the consumer credit legislation; and

- (b) the information sets out those grounds;

the magistrate may issue a search warrant authorising the investigator named in the warrant, with such assistance and by such force as is necessary and reasonable—

- (c) to enter the premises described in the warrant; and
(d) to search the premises for things of the kind mentioned in paragraph (a); and
(e) to exercise any of the powers under section 118 (4) in respect of those things.

- (2) A magistrate shall not issue a warrant unless—

- (a) the informant or another person has given the magistrate, either orally or by affidavit, any further information that the magistrate requires concerning the grounds on which the issue of the warrant is being sought; and
(b) the magistrate is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for issuing the warrant.

- (3) A warrant shall—

- (a) state the purpose for which it is issued, including a reference to the nature of the offence in connection with which the entry and search is authorised; and
(b) state that the entry is authorised at any time of the day or night, or specify particular hours when the entry is authorised; and
(c) a description of the kind of things in relation to which the powers under section 118 (4) may be exercised; and
(d) specify a date (being a date not later than 1 month after the date when the warrant is issued) when the warrant ceases to have effect.

121 Power to obtain information or documents

- (1) If an investigator is satisfied that a person is capable of providing information or producing a document reasonably required for the purpose of ensuring that the consumer credit legislation is being complied with, the investigator may, by written notice, require the person—
 - (a) to provide the information to the investigator in the manner specified in the notice; or
 - (b) to produce the document to the investigator.
- (2) A notice shall state—
 - (a) the place where the information is to be provided or the document is to be produced; and
 - (b) the time where, or the period within which, the information is to be provided or the document produced.
- (3) A person is not required to comply with a notice unless, at the time the notice is given, the investigator warns the person that the person is obliged to comply.
- (4) A person is not excused from providing information or producing a document required under this section on the ground that the information or document would tend to incriminate the person.

Note The *Legislation Act 2001*, s 171 deals with the application of client legal privilege.
- (5) If a person provides information or produces a document in compliance with a notice—
 - (a) the information provided or the document produced; and
 - (b) any other information, document or thing obtained as a direct or indirect consequence of that information or document;is not admissible in evidence against the person in any criminal proceedings, other than proceedings for an offence in respect of the

falsity of the information or document or an offence against section 123.

122 Retaining and copying documents produced

If a person produces to an investigator a document in compliance with a notice under section 121, the investigator—

- (a) may take possession of, and make copies of, the document; and
- (b) may retain possession of the document for such period as is necessary to make those copies; and
- (c) shall, during that period, comply with any reasonable request by or of behalf of the person who produced the document to inspect and make copies of the document.

123 Obstructing etc investigator

A person shall not, without reasonable excuse—

- (a) obstruct or hinder an investigator in the exercise of his or her powers under this division; or
- (b) fail to comply with a requirement under section 118 (4) (c) or a notice under section 121.

Maximum penalty:

- (a) for paragraph (a)—50 penalty units, imprisonment for 6 months or both; or
- (b) for paragraph (b)—50 penalty units.

Part 8 Financial counselling trust fund

124 Continuation of fund

- (1) The financial counselling trust fund in existence under the *Credit Act 1985* immediately before the commencement of this part continues in existence by force of this section with the same name.
- (2) The money constituting the fund immediately before the commencement of this part continues to form part of the fund.

125 Payments to fund

The following amounts shall be paid to the financial counselling trust fund:

- (a) amounts of public money appropriated by an Act for the purposes of the fund;
- (b) amounts of civil penalties paid under the Credit Code, section 106;
- (c) amounts that a credit provider or finance broker has agreed or undertaken to pay to the fund;
- (d) amounts paid to the Territory because of an order under the *Credit Act 1985*, section 85AA (1);
- (e) amounts recovered by enforcing orders under the *Credit Act 1985*, section 85AA (1) as judgments under section 92, and interest on such amounts;
- (f) interest received from the investment of money of the fund.

126 Payments from fund

The moneys of the financial counselling trust fund may be applied for any of the following purposes:

- (a) consumer credit counselling;
- (b) credit and debt management education;
- (c) consumer credit research;
- (d) consumer credit litigation;
- (e) any other credit related activity determined by the Minister.

127 Bank account

All money received by the financial counselling trust fund shall be paid into a trust bank account maintained under the *Financial Management Act 1996*, section 51.

Part 9 Miscellaneous

Division 9.1 Review by credit tribunal

128 Review of decisions—credit providers

Application may be made to the tribunal for review of a decision of the commissioner —

- (a) under section 20 (1) cancelling the registration of a credit provider who is an individual; or
- (b) under section 20 (1) suspending the registration of a credit provider who is an individual; or
- (c) under section 20 (2) cancelling the registration of a credit provider that is a body corporate; or
- (d) under section 20 (2) suspending the registration of a credit provider that is a body corporate; or
- (e) under section 20 (3) disqualifying a credit provider from obtaining registration as a credit provider or finance broker; or
- (f) under section 20 (4) (a) removing the suspension imposed on a credit provider; or
- (g) under section 20 (4) (b) revoking the disqualification of a credit provider; or
- (h) under section 24 (1) taking disciplinary action against a registered credit provider; or
- (i) under section 24 (1) (f) disqualifying a defined influential person from obtaining registration as a credit provider or finance broker; or
- (j) under section 24 (1) not to take disciplinary action in relation to a registered credit provider after inviting the credit provider to show cause why such action should not be taken.

129 Review of decisions—finance brokers

Application may be made to the tribunal for review of a decision of the commissioner —

- (a) under section 51 (1) cancelling the registration of a finance broker who is an individual; or
- (b) under section 51 (1) suspending the registration of a finance broker who is an individual; or
- (c) under section 51 (2) cancelling the registration of a finance broker that is a body corporate; or
- (d) under section 51 (2) suspending the registration of a finance broker that is a body corporate; or
- (e) under section 51 (3) disqualifying a finance broker from obtaining registration as a finance broker or credit provider; or
- (f) under section 51 (4) (a) removing the suspension imposed on a finance broker; or
- (g) under section 51 (4) (b) revoking the disqualification of a finance broker; or
- (h) under section 55 (1) taking disciplinary action against a registered finance broker; or
- (i) under section 55 (1) (f) disqualifying a defined influential person from obtaining registration as a finance broker or credit provider; or
- (j) under section 55 (1) not to take disciplinary action in relation to a registered finance broker after inviting the finance broker to show cause why such action should not be taken.

130 Notification of decisions

- (1) If the commissioner makes a decision of the kind referred to in section 128 or 129, the commissioner shall, within 28 days after making the decision, give written notice of the decision to—

- (a) the credit provider or finance broker; and
 - (b) if the decision is of the kind referred to in section 128 (h), (i) or (j) or 129 (h), (i) or (j) and was taken after a complaint was made under section 22 or 53 about the credit provider or finance broker—the complainant; and
 - (c) if the decision is of the kind referred to in section 128 (i) or 129 (i)—the defined influential person.
- (2) A notice under section (1) shall—
- (a) set out the commissioner’s findings on material questions of fact, referring to the evidence or other material on which those findings were based, and the reasons for the commissioner’s decision; and
 - (b) include a statement to the effect that an application may be made within 28 days after the date of the notice to the tribunal for review of the decision.
- (3) The validity of a decision shall not be taken to be affected by a failure to comply with this section.

131 Application for review

- (1) A person to whom the commissioner is required to give notice of a decision under section 130 may, within 28 days after receiving notice, apply to the tribunal for review of the decision.
- (2) The tribunal may, on written application, extend the time for the making of an application under subsection (1).

132 Review by tribunal

- (1) The tribunal may review any decision of the commissioner in respect of which an application is made to it under section 128 or 129.

- (2) For the purpose of reviewing a decision, the tribunal may exercise all the powers that are given by this Act to the commissioner and shall make a decision—
- (a) affirming the decision under review; or
 - (b) varying the decision under review; or
 - (c) setting aside the decision under review and—
 - (i) making a decision in substitution for the decision so set aside; or
 - (ii) remitting the matter for reconsideration by the commissioner in accordance with any directions or recommendations of the tribunal.

Division 9.2 General

134 Secrecy

- (1) This section applies to a person—
- (a) who is or has been engaged in the administration of the consumer credit legislation; or
 - (b) who receives information or a document from the commissioner under that legislation.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), a person to whom this section applies shall not—
- (a) make a record of, or directly or indirectly divulge or communicate to a person, information concerning the affairs of another person acquired for the consumer credit legislation; or
 - (b) produce to a person a document produced for the consumer credit legislation.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units, imprisonment for 6 months or both.

- (3) Subsection (2) does not prevent a person to whom this section applies from—
- (a) divulging or communicating information concerning the affairs of another person with that person's consent; or
 - (b) divulging or communicating information, or producing a document, to a court for the purposes of civil or criminal proceedings.

135 Limitation on prosecution

Despite any other law in force in the ACT, proceedings for an offence against this Act or the *Credit Act 1985* may be brought—

- (a) within the period of 3 years immediately following the commission of the offence; or
- (b) with the consent of the Minister, at any time after the expiration of that period.

136 Conduct of agents

The conduct of an officer, employee or agent of a credit provider or finance broker acting within his or her actual or ostensible authority will be taken to be the conduct of the credit provider or finance broker.

137 Extensions of time

Unless the contrary intention appears, a power of a court or the tribunal, commissioner or registrar to extend a period under this Act or the *Credit Act 1985* may be exercised despite the period having elapsed.

138 Registration—evidence

A certificate purporting to be signed by the commissioner stating that a specified person was or was not, on a specified day or during a specified period, a registered credit provider or a registered finance broker is evidence of the matters so stated.

140 Determination of fees

- (1) The Minister may, in writing, determine fees for this Act.

Note The *Legislation Act 2001* contains provisions about the making of determinations and regulations relating to fees (see pt 6.3).

- (2) A determination is a disallowable instrument.

Note A disallowable instrument must be notified, and presented to the Legislative Assembly, under the *Legislation Act 2001*.

140A Approved forms

- (1) The Minister may, in writing, approve forms for this Act.
- (2) If the Minister approves a form for a particular purpose, the approved form must be used for that purpose.
- (3) An approved form is a notifiable instrument.

Note A notifiable instrument must be notified under the *Legislation Act 2001*.

141 Regulation-making power

- (1) The Executive may make regulations for this Act.

Note Regulations must be notified, and presented to the Legislative Assembly, under the *Legislation Act 2001*.

- (2) The regulations may also prescribe offences for contraventions of the regulations and prescribe maximum penalties of not more than 10 penalty units for offences against the regulations.

Endnotes

1 About the endnotes

Endnotes

1 About the endnotes

Amending and modifying laws are annotated in the legislation history and the amendment history. Current modifications are not included in the republished law but are set out in the endnotes.

Not all editorial amendments made under the *Legislation Act 2001*, part 11.3 are annotated in the amendment history. Full details of any amendments can be obtained from the Parliamentary Counsel's Office.

Uncommenced amending laws and expiries are listed in the legislation history and the amendment history. These details are underlined. Uncommenced provisions and amendments are not included in the republished law but are set out in the last endnote.

If all the provisions of the law have been renumbered, a table of renumbered provisions gives details of previous and current numbering.

The endnotes also include a table of earlier republications.

If the republished law includes penalties, current information about penalty unit values appears on the republication inside front cover.

2 Abbreviation key

am = amended	ord = ordinance
amdt = amendment	orig = original
ch = chapter	p = page
cl = clause	par = paragraph
def = definition	pres = present
dict = dictionary	prev = previous
disallowed = disallowed by the Legislative Assembly	(prev...) = previously
div = division	prov = provision
exp = expires/expired	pt = part
Gaz = Gazette	r = rule/subrule
hdg = heading	reg = regulation/subregulation
IA = Interpretation Act 1967	renum = renumbered
ins = inserted/added	reloc = relocated
LA = Legislation Act 2001	R[X] = Republication No
LR = legislation register	s = section/subsection
LRA = Legislation (Republication) Act 1996	sch = schedule
mod = modified / modification	sdiv = subdivision
No = number	sub = substituted
num = numbered	SL = Subordinate Law
o = order	<u>underlining</u> = whole or part not commenced or to be expired
om = omitted/repealed	

3 Legislation history

Consumer Credit (Administration) Act 1996 No 41

notified 2 September 1996 (Gaz 1996 No S223)
s 1, s 2 commenced 2 September 1996 (s 2 (1))
remainder commenced 1 November 1996 (s 2 (2) and Gaz 1996 No S272)

as amended by

Legal Practitioners (Consequential Amendments) Act 1997 No 96 sch 1

notified 1 December 1997 (Gaz 1997 No S380)
s 1, s 2 commenced 1 December 1997 (s 2 (1))
sch 1 commenced 1 June 1998 (s 2 (2))

Consumer Credit (Administration) (Amendment) Act 1998 No 47

notified 16 November 1998 (Gaz 1998 No S205)
commenced 16 November 1998 (s 2)

Statute Law Revision (Penalties) Act 1998 No 54 sch

notified 27 November 1998 (Gaz 1998 No S207)
s 1, s 2 commenced 27 November 1998 (s 2 (1))
sch commenced 9 December 1998 (s 2 (2) and Gaz 1998 No 49)

Financial Sector Reform (ACT) Act 1999 No 33 sch

notified 25 June 1999 (Gaz 1999 No S34)
s 1, s 2, dict commenced 25 June 1999 (s 2 (1))
sch commenced 1 July 1999 (s 2 (2) and Cwlth Gaz 1999 No S289)

Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999 No 66 sch 3

notified 10 November 1999 (Gaz 1999 No 45)
commenced 10 November 1999 (s 2)

Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2000 No 1 sch

notified 9 March 2000 (Gaz 2000 No 10)
s 1, s 2 commenced 9 March 2000 (s 2 (1))
amnds commenced 9 September 2000 (s 2 (3))

Endnotes

4 Amendment history

**Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2000
(No 2) No 2 sch**

notified 9 March 2000 (Gaz 2000 No 10)
commenced 9 March 2000 (s 2)

**Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2000
(No 3) No 17 sch 1**

notified 1 June 2000 (Gaz 2000 No 22)
commenced 1 June 2000 (s 2)

Legislation (Consequential Amendments) Act 2001 No 44 pt 77

notified 26 July 2001 (Gaz 2001 No 30)
s 1, s 2 commenced 26 July 2001 (IA s 10B)
pt 77 commenced 12 September 2001 (s 2 and see Gaz 2001 No S65)

**Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2001
No 70 sch 1**

notified LR 14 September 2001
s 1, s 2 commenced 14 September 2001 (LA s 75)
amds taken to have commenced 29 May 2001 (s 2 (4))

Legislation Amendment Act 2002 No 11 pt 2.10

notified LR 27 May 2002
s 1, s 2 commenced 27 May 2002 (LA s 75)
pt 2.10 commenced 28 May 2002 (s 2 (1))

**Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2002
No 27 pt 5**

notified LR 9 September 2002
s 1, s 2 commenced 9 September 2002 (LA s 75)
pt 5 commenced 10 September 2002 (s 2 (1))

4 Amendment history

Commencement

s 2 om R2 LRA

Definitions for Act

s 3 def **bank** om 1999 No 66 sch 3
def **bureau** om 1999 No 66 sch 3
def **chairperson** om 2000 No 2 sch
def **commissioner** ins 2000 No 17 sch 1
def **consumer credit legislation** sub 2001 No 44 amdt 1.806
def **consumer member** ins 2000 No 2 sch

def **deputy president** ins 2000 No 2 sch
 def **deputy registrar** om 1999 No 66 sch 3
 def **determined fee** om 2001 No 44 amdt 1.807
 def **director** sub 1999 No 66 sch 3
 om 2000 No 17 sch 1
 def **financial institution** am 1999 No 33 sch
 def **Financial Institutions (ACT) Code** om 1999 No 33 sch
 def **industry member** ins 2000 No 17 sch 1
 def **investigating officer** om 2000 No 17 sch 1
 def **investigator** ins 2000 No 17 sch 1
 def **legal practitioner** om 1997 No 86 sch
 def **member** ins 2000 No 2 sch
 def **non-presidential member** ins 2000 No 2 sch
 def **office** ins 1999 No 66 sch 3
 om 2000 No 17 sch 1
 def **premises** am 2000 No 17 sch 1
 def **president** ins 2000 No 2 sch
 def **presidential member** ins 2000 No 2 sch
 def **registrar** sub 1999 No 66 sch 3
 def **tribunal** sub 1999 No 66 sch 3

Exemptions

div 2.1 hdg (prev pt 2 div 1 hdg) renum R3 LA

Exemption—Ministerial determination

s 6 am 2001 No 44 amdt 1.808, amdt 1.809

Provision of consumer credit

div 2.2 hdg (prev pt 2 div 2 hdg) renum R3 LA

Registration of consumer credit providers

div 2.3 hdg (prev pt 2 div 3 hdg) renum R2 LA

Application for registration

s 11 am 2000 No 17 sch 1; 2001 No 44 amdts 1.810-1.812; pars
 renum 2001 No 44 amdt 1.813

Registration

s 12 am 2000 No 17 sch 1; 2001 No 44 amdt 1.814, amdt 1.815

Endorsement of names

s 13 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Changed particulars

s 14 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Annual fee and statement

s 16 am 2000 No 17 sch 1; 2001 No 44 amdts 1.816-1.820
 ss renum R3 LA (see 2001 No 44 amdt 1.821)

Cancellation of registration for failure to pay fee or provide statement

s 17 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Endnotes

4 Amendment history

Surrender of registration

s 18 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Disciplinary procedures

div 2.4 hdg (prev pt 2 div 4 hdg) renum R3 LA

Powers of inquiry

s 19 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Cancellation or suspension for bankruptcy, fraud, dishonesty or incapacity

s 20 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Grounds for other disciplinary action

s 21 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Complaints against credit providers

s 22 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Notice to show cause

s 23 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Disciplinary action

s 24 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

General

div 2.5 hdg (prev pt 2 div 5 hdg) renum R3 LA

Civil penalty

s 24A ins 1998 No 47

Death of registered credit provider

s 25 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Register of credit providers

s 26 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Access to register

s 27 am 2000 No 17 sch 1; 2001 No 44 amdt 1.822, amdt 1.823

Exemption—specified persons and bodies

s 29 pars renum R3 LA

Exemption—Ministerial determination

s 31 am 2001 No 44 amdt 1.824, amdt 1.825

Finance broking

div 3.2 hdg (prev pt 3 div 2 hdg) renum R3 LA

Commissions

s 35 am 2002 No 27 s 16

Registration of finance brokers

div 3.3 hdg (prev pt 3 div 3 hdg) renum R3 LA

Application for registration

s 42 am 2000 No 17 sch 1; 2001 No 44 amdts 1.826-1.828;
paragraphs renum 2001 No 44 amdt 1.829

Registration

s 43 am 2000 No 17 sch 1; 2001 No 44 amdt 1.830, amdt 1.831

Endorsement of names

s 44 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Changed particulars

s 45 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Annual fee and statement

s 47 am 2000 No 17 sch 1; 2001 No 44 amdts 1.832-1.836
ss renum R3 LA (see 2001 No 44 amdt 1.837)

Cancellation of registration for failure to pay fee or provide statement

s 48 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Surrender of registration

s 49 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Disciplinary procedures

div 3.4 hdg (prev pt 3 div 4 hdg) renum R3 LA

Powers of inquiry

s 50 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Cancellation or suspension for bankruptcy, fraud, dishonesty or incapacity

s 51 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Grounds for other disciplinary action

s 52 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Complaints against finance brokers

s 53 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Notice to show cause

s 54 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Disciplinary action

s 55 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

General

div 3.5 hdg (prev pt 3 div 5 hdg) renum R3 LA

Civil penalty

s 55A ins 1998 No 47

Death of registered finance broker

s 56 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Register of finance brokers

s 57 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Endnotes

4 Amendment history

Access to register

s 58 am 2000 No 17 sch 1; 2001 No 44 amdt 1.838, amdt 1.839

Establishment, functions and powers

div 4.1 hdg (prev pt 4 div 1 hdg) renum R3 LA

Functions and powers

s 61 am 2000 No 2 sch

Tribunal members

div 4.2 hdg (prev pt 4 div 2 hdg) sub 2000 No 2 sch
renum R3 LA

Membership of tribunal

s 62 sub 2000 No 2 sch

Presidential members

s 63 sub 2000 No 2 sch

Non-presidential members

s 64 sub 2000 No 2 sch

Terms of appointment generally

s 65 sub 2000 No 2 sch

Matters to be included in instrument of appointment etc

s 66 sub 2000 No 2 sch

Duration of appointment

s 67 sub 2000 No 2 sch

Acting members

s 68 om 2000 No 2 sch

Registrar and deputy registrars

div 4.3 hdg (prev pt 4 div 4 hdg) sub 1999 No 66 sch 3
renum R3 LA

Registrar and deputy registrars

s 69 sub 1999 No 66 sch 3

Deputy registrar

s 70 om 1999 No 66 sch 3

Constitution of tribunal

s 71 sub 2000 No 2 sch

Role of president

s 72 sub 2000 No 2 sch

Presiding member

s 73 sub 2000 No 2 sch

Directions by presidential member

s 75 sub 2000 No 2 sch

Assistance from commissioner

s 76 am 2000 No 2 sch; 2000 No 17 sch 1

Deciding questions

s 77 sub 2000 No 2 sch

Reference of questions of law to Supreme Court

s 78 am 2000 No 2 sch

Adding parties

s 81 am 2000 No 2 sch

Notice of proceeding

s 82 sub 2000 No 2 sch

Summoning witnesses

s 86 am 2000 No 2 sch

Taking of evidence

s 87 am 1998 No 54 sch
sub 2000 No 2 sch

Appeals to Supreme Court

div 4.5 hdg (prev pt 4 div 5 hdg) renum R3 LA

General

div 4.6 hdg (prev pt 4 div 6 hdg) renum R3 LA

Fees payable to registrar

s 99 om 2000 No 1 sch

Executive may order inquiry

s 100 hdg am 2000 No 2 sch
s 100 am 2000 No 2 sch; 2001 No 44 amdt 1.840, amdt 1.841

Notice of inquiry

s 101 sub 2001 No 44 amdt 1.842

Application of Inquiries Act 1991

s 102 am 2000 No 2 sch

Undertakings

s 105 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Registration of undertakings

s 106 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Orders by tribunal

s 107 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Role of commissioner

pt 7 hdg sub 2000 No 17 sch 1

Functions and powers generally

div 7.1 hdg (prev pt 7 div 1 hdg) renum R3 LA

Endnotes

4 Amendment history

Functions

s 109 am 2000 No 2 sch; 2000 No 17 sch 1

Powers

s 110 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Functions in relation to proceedings

div 7.2 hdg (prev pt 7 div 2 hdg) renum R3 LA

Representing other persons before tribunal

s 111 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Taking or defending proceedings for other persons

s 112 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Conduct of proceedings so taken or defended

s 113 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Intervention by Minister or commissioner

s 114 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Presumption that Minister has consented

s 115 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Investigation of certain applications to tribunal

s 116 am 2000 No 2 sch; 2000 No 17 sch 1

Powers in relation to investigations

div 7.3 hdg (prev pt 7 div 3 hdg) renum R3 LA

Investigators

s 117 sub 2000 No 17 sch 1

Powers of entry and inspection

s 118 am 2000 No 17 sch 1; 2001 No 70 amdt 1.2

Consent to entry

s 119 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Search warrants

s 120 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Power to obtain information or documents

s 121 am 1998 No 47; 2000 No 17 sch 1; 2002 No 11 amdt 2.18,
amdt 2.19

Retaining and copying documents produced

s 122 am 2000 No 17 sch 1; 2001 No 70 amdt 1.3

Obstructing etc investigator

s 123 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Review by credit tribunal

div 9.1 hdg (prev pt 9 div 1 hdg) renum R3 LA

Review of decisions—credit providers

s 128 am 2000 No 17 sch 1; paragraphs renum R3 LA

Review of decisions—finance brokers

s 129 am 2000 No 17 sch 1; paragraphs renum R3 LA

Notification of decisions

s 130 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Application for review

s 131 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Review by tribunal

s 132 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Operation and implementation of decision to be reviewed

s 133 om 2000 No 2 sch

General

div 9.2 hdg (prev pt 9 div 2 hdg) renum R3 LA

Secrecy

s 134 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Extensions of time

s 137 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Registration—evidence

s 138 am 2000 No 17 sch 1

Compliance with approved forms

s 139 om 2000 No 2 sch

Determination of fees

s 140 am 2000 No 1 sch
sub 2001 No 44 amdt 1.843

Approved forms

s 140A ins 2001 No 44 amdt 1.843

Regulation-making power

s 141 sub 2000 No 2 sch; 2001 No 44 amdt 1.843

Transitional provisions about tribunal members

s 142 ins 2000 No 2 sch
exp 9 June 2000 (s 142 (5))

Existing complaints and investigations etc

s 143 ins 2000 No 17 sch 1
exp 29 May 2002 (s 144 (1))

Expiry of s 143 and this section

s 144 ins 2000 No 17 sch 1
sub 2001 No 70 amdt 1.4
exp 29 May 2002 (s 144 (1))

Endnotes

5 Earlier republications

5 Earlier republications

Some earlier republications were not numbered. The number in column 1 refers to the publication order.

Since 12 September 2001 every authorised republication has been published in electronic pdf format on the ACT legislation register. A selection of authorised republications have also been published in printed format. These republications are marked with an asterisk (*) in column 1. Except for the footer, electronic and printed versions of an authorised republication are identical.

Republication No	Amendments to	Republication date
1	Act 1998 No 54	28 February 1999
2	Act 2000 No 17	15 December 2000
3	Act 2001 No 70	26 February 2002
4	Act 2002 No 11	29 May 2002
5	Act 2002 No 11	30 May 2002

Authorised when accessed at www.legislation.act.gov.au or in authorised printed form

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