

Legal Profession (Solicitors Practising Fees) Determination 2026

Disallowable Instrument DI2026 - 77

made under the

Legal Profession Act 2006, section 84(1) (Determination of fees by law society council and bar council)

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Background

Section 84(1)(a) of the *Legal Profession Act 2006* empowers the law society council to determine fees in relation to applications for the grant or renewal of solicitor practising certificates.

Outline of Changes

Clause 3 of this instrument determines fees for applications for the grant or renewal of a solicitor practising certificate. The fees payable are determined according to the role of the applicant and type of certificate.

Practising certificate fees have been adjusted to keep pace with inflation and adjusting for past COVID-era fee reductions. The total increase in fees relative to DI2016-36 averages 20.51% across all certificate types over a ten-year period, equivalent to an average annual increase of approximately 2.05%. This is lower than the average annual CPI of 3.35% over the ten-year period, indicating that fee growth has been broadly restrained in real terms. A breakdown of the increases is set out in the schedule to this explanatory statement.

Clause 4 of the instrument states that fees are payable by the applicant to the ACT Law Society.

Clause 5 of the instrument notes that practising certificate fees are exempt from GST.

Clause 6 of the instrument revokes DI 2016-36.

Consistency with Human Rights

An assessment of the Determination under s28 of the *Human Rights Act 2004* (ACT) is provided below. s28 provides that human rights are subject only to reasonable limits set by laws that can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.

Rights Engaged

Right to Work and Other Work-Related Rights

The right to work includes access to one's profession on fair and reasonable terms, and incremental adjustments to practising certificate fees help ensure this. Aligning fees with inflation supports practitioners' work-related rights by maintaining a predictable, sustainable regulatory system without imposing disproportionate financial barriers to practice.

SCHEDULE OF PRACTISING CERTIFICATE FEES EFFECTIVE 1 JULY 2026 RELATIVE TO DI 2016-36

(Note: practising certificate fees are exempt from GST)

Role/Type	Legal Profession (Solicitors Practising Fees) Determination 2016	Legal Profession (Solicitors Practising Fees) Determination 2026 <i>*Effective 1 July 2026</i>	% Increase over a 10 year period	Average Increase per year
Private Lawyers (Unrestricted)	\$1,247.00	\$1,380.00	10.66%	1.07%
In House (Unrestricted)	\$1,101.00	\$1,380.00	25.3%	2.53%
Private Lawyers, In House (Restricted)	\$798.00	\$987.00	23.68%	2.37%
Government Lawyers (Unrestricted)	\$785.00	\$982.00	25.1%	2.51%
Government Lawyers (Restricted)	\$556.00	\$684.00	23%	2.3%
Non-ACT Practitioners (Unrestricted)	\$773.00	\$819.00	5.95%	0.6%
Non-ACT Practitioners (Restricted)	\$426.00	\$553.00	29.81%	2.98%