

# Legal Aid (Commissioner – Financial Management) Appointment 2026

## Disallowable instrument DI2026-177

made under the

*Legal Aid Act 1977*, s 16 (Constitution of board)

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

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The *Legal Aid Act 1977* (the Act), at section 14, provides for the establishment of the board of the Legal Aid Commission (the Board). The functions of the Board are to determine the broad policies, priorities and strategies of the Commission for the provision of legal assistance, and to ensure that the commission's affairs are managed in accordance with the Act.

Section 16 (1) (c) (v) of the Act provides for a commissioner who has expertise in financial management.

This instrument appoints Mr Brian Thomas as part-time member of the Board and commissioner of the Board for a period of two years commencing on 10 September 2026.

Members of the board appointed by the Minister are appointed on a part-time basis, under section 16(4) of the Act.

Mr Thomas is not a public servant.

Under section 228 of the *Legislation Act 2001*, this appointment required consultation with the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Legal Affairs. The Committee advised that it had no recommendations to make.