CONFIDENTIAL

the barristers’ benevolent association of victoria

ABN 55 460 375 150

The Barristers’ Benevolent Association of Victoria was established in 1928 with the object of affording assistance in necessitous and deserving cases to members or former members of the Victorian Bar and their dependents.

The Association is managed by a Committee of Management. Applications for assistance are decided by a Sub-Committee consisting of the President of the Bar and the Honorary Treasurer. Applications are handled confidentially, and the names of applicants are generally not disclosed when the Sub-Committee reports to the Committee of Management

To provide further assurance of confidentiality, an applicant may opt to have the application anonymised by the Bar’s Finance Director/Manager so that the sub-committee determining the application is not aware of the identity of the applicant. If the applicant chooses, only the two bar officers involved in the processing of applications, the Executive Director and the Manager Finance and Membership would be aware of the identity of the applicant.

### COVID-19 APPLICATION FORM

The Association has developed this abbreviated application form to assist those affected by COVID-19 restrictions including the longer term impacts on practice.

The Association understands that personal and financial circumstances are sensitive and does not wish to cause barristers any unnecessary embarrassment or distress.

However, in order to maintain the Association’s taxation status, its funds must be used only for the relief of persons in necessitous circumstances. For this reason, the Association must inquire into your personal and financial circumstances, even where the amount of assistance sought is relatively small. The Association assures applicants that all information will be handled confidentially and used only to assess the application.

In some cases, the Association may need to seek further information from you after receiving this form.

A person is in necessitous circumstances where their financial resources are insufficient to obtain all that is necessary for a modest standard of living in Australia. An absence of merely desirable advantages is not enough. Whilst a person’s income is a useful guide, it is not determinative. However, a person who has experienced special or unusual circumstances which have resulted in a marked lowering of their standard of living causing hardship could still be considered to be in necessitous circumstances.

In completing this application, please turn your mind to whether you answer the description of a person in necessitous circumstances and direct your answers accordingly.

**At your request your Clerk can lodge an application on your behalf and/or provide information relevant to the application.**

**Personal details**

Name:

Connection with The Victorian Bar (member, former member, dependent of member etc:

Address:

Email:

Contact number:

**Effect of COVID-19**

What decline in income have you suffered due to COVID-19 restrictions?

Did you qualify for Jobkeeper assistance?

If you did not qualify for Jobkeeper, what was the reason?

**Are there other reasons, additional to the COVID 19 restrictions which have caused a decline in your income (give details).**

**Nature of assistance sought**

1. The amount of assistance provided varies depending on the applicant’s circumstances. The Association’s Rules impose no limits in this regard, but the Sub-Committee of Management must be careful to preserve the capital so far as possible. Assistance usually takes the form of a loan, which is often made interest-free. Where the amount is small, it may be given in the form of a gift.

Are you seeking a loan or a gift or both?

What is the amount of assistance you are seeking?

For what purpose do you intend to apply the grant of assistance?

If you are seeking a loan, what repayment terms to you propose?

**Financial circumstances**

Dependents

How many adult dependents do you have?

How many child dependents do you have?

Income and assets

What is your current income\*[[1]](#footnote-1)?

What other sources of income or support are available to your household (Eg. partner’s income), and what is the amount of that income?

Are you eligible for Government support and how much income does this amount to?

What real property do you and/or your partner have and what is the value of your and your partner’s interest?

How many vehicles do you and/or your partner have and what is their value?

How much cash do you have available to you?

What other investments or assets do you and/or your partner have (including superannuation) and what is their value?

Liabilities

What are your rent or mortgage expenses?

Do you have other significant debts, and if so, what is the amount of the debt?

What are your other major financial commitments or liabilities?

**Other matters**

Have you sought chambers rental relief from Barristers Chambers Ltd?

What, if any, relief did you receive from Barristers Chambers Ltd?

Is there any other relevant information you would like to provide?

**I confirm the above is true and correct and relevant evidence can be provided upon request.**

NAME:

SIGNATURE:

**Please forward this form to the Victorian Bar office:**

Barristers’ Benevolent Association

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Level 5, 205 William Street MELBOURNE VIC 3000

1. \* income means income net of business expenses, GST and income tax [↑](#footnote-ref-1)