



NEW SOUTH WALES  
BAR ASSOCIATION

## The Indigenous Barristers' Trust Mentoring Indigenous students

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

Funding is available for:

- (i) Meeting immediate living expenses of Indigenous students undertaking legal or related education, for whom becoming a barrister in New South Wales is a primary career objective, and
- (ii) Avoiding personal or financial hardship for Indigenous persons attending the NSW Bar Readers program or during the first five years of practice at the NSW Bar.

The NSW Bar Association uses the definition of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders as adopted by the High Court in the Tasmanian Dams Case (*Commonwealth v Tasmania* (1983) 158 CLR 1) which is a three part test:

- (i) a person must be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island descent,
- (ii) who identifies as an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander, and
- (iii) who is accepted by the relevant community as an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander.

Any Indigenous person who wants to apply to the Trust for funds or participate in any program run by the Association must supply either:

- (i) a certificate of Aboriginality, if they hold one, or
- (ii) a letter of support from an Elder in their community as set out in Attachment A of this application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent? Yes  No

Please identify the Indigenous community/nation where you are accepted as an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of university \_\_\_\_\_

Degree name: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of study: \_\_\_\_\_

**Residential address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Are you employed in a cadetship?**                      **Part-time**    **Fulltime**

**If so, where?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you have other employment?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Where are you from? (e.g. Dubbo)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe your interests (e.g. sports, hobbies)** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What are your current areas of interest in the law?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Where do you want your law degree to take you?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Why would you like a mentor from the NSW Bar?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What are your expectations of the mentoring scheme?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Mentor preference:**   **Male**                       **Female**                       **Don't mind**

I agree to:

Make contact with my mentor early on to discuss the mentoring relationship

Make a schedule to meet at least three times a year (in person and/or phone, email)

Inform the Indigenous Barristers Trust if the mentoring program isn't working for me

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN

Either by **email to:** [wincoll@nswbar.asn.au](mailto:wincoll@nswbar.asn.au)

**Fax:** Attention to Wendy Incoll (02) 9221 1149

**Mail to:** Wendy Incoll, NSW Bar Association, Lower Ground Floor, Selborne Chambers, 174 Phillip Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

**QUESTIONS:** please email Chris Ronalds SC at [ronalds@fic.net.au](mailto:ronalds@fic.net.au)

# ATTACHMENT A

To the Trustees  
Indigenous Barristers Trust  
NSW Bar Association  
174 Phillip Street  
Sydney

Dear Trustees,

I am an Elder of the \_\_\_\_\_ Aboriginal (or Torres Strait Islander) community.

I write this reference to confirm that I know \_\_\_\_\_ of

\_\_\_\_\_.  
His/her family is known to me as a part my Aboriginal (or TSI) community and I support him/her participating and benefiting from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific programs such as the Indigenous Barristers Trust.

I can be contacted by telephone on \_\_\_\_\_.

Signed:

Print Name:

Date:

