



## **Commonwealth Lawyers Association**

### **Bursary Scheme Guidelines**

#### **25th Commonwealth Law Conference 2027 Darwin (CLC27)**

## **CLC27**

### **1. Purpose**

This policy establishes the framework for the award of bursaries to support attendance at the 25th Commonwealth Law Conference (CLC27) in Darwin, Australia.

The scheme advances the CLA's objectives to:

- Promote access and inclusion across the Commonwealth legal profession
- Support early-career lawyers
- Enhance jurisdictional and cultural representation
- Strengthen professional networks and knowledge exchange

### **2. Bursary Structure**

The bursary fund will be allocated as follows:

#### **2.1 South Pacific Islands Award (£1,500 × 1)**

Reserved for applicants from the following jurisdictions:

Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Includes:

- £1,500 contribution toward travel and accommodation
- Complimentary conference registration
- Gala dinner ticket

#### **2.2 Northern Territory First Nations Practitioner Award (£500 × 1)**

This award is open to a First Nations lawyer who is based in, or has a strong professional connection to, the Northern Territory of Australia.

Purpose:

- To support participation of First Nations legal practitioners within the host Territory
- To promote inclusion and visibility within the Commonwealth legal community

Includes:

- £500 contribution toward travel and accommodation
- Complimentary conference registration
- Gala dinner ticket

### **2.3 Open Commonwealth Awards (£2,500 × 2)**

Open to eligible applicants from all Commonwealth jurisdictions.

Includes:

- £2,500 contribution toward travel and accommodation
- Complimentary conference registration
- Gala dinner ticket

### **3. Eligibility Criteria**

All applicants must:

- Be a qualified lawyer (students are not eligible)
- Be under 40 years of age OR within 7 years of call/admission
- Be a current CLA member at the time of application
- Be from, or practising in, a Commonwealth jurisdiction
- Not have previously attended a Commonwealth Law Conference

### **4. Conditions of Award**

Recipients must:

- Attend the full conference programme, including:
  - Young Lawyers' Day on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2027
  - Opening and Closing Ceremonies
- Use funds solely for conference-related expenses
- Provide receipts or financial evidence if requested
- Submit a written reflection of the conference experience by 13<sup>th</sup> June 2027 for publication in a CLA newsletter
- Participate in reasonable post-conference engagement (e.g. media, reporting)

Failure to comply may result in withdrawal or repayment of funding.

## **5. Funding Mechanism**

The CLA will administer bursary payments in accordance with the following provisions:

- Advance Reimbursement (Travel Costs): Eligible travel expenses (including, but not limited to, airfare or rail tickets) may be reimbursed in advance of the conference, subject to the applicant submitting valid receipts or proof of purchase prior to the event.
- Post-Event Reimbursement (Accommodation and Subsistence): All other approved expenses, including accommodation and related costs, will be reimbursed following the conclusion of the conference, upon submission of valid receipts evidencing the expenditure incurred.

The CLA reserves the right to approve alternative payment arrangements on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the applicant's individual financial circumstances.

## **6. Application Requirements**

Applicants must provide:

- Submit their application via the google form here <https://forms.gle/KZwPfJPo5bdnLcf99>
- A personal statement (max 500 words)
- A Conference engagement statement
- Financial breakdown (estimates of travel, accommodation)
- Disclosure of other funding
- One professional reference

## **7. Assessment Process**

### **7.1 Selection Panel**

- Appointed by the CLA
- Comprising geographically and professionally diverse members

## **10. Timeline**

- Application opening: 15<sup>th</sup> June 2026
- Application deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> September 2026
- Notification of outcomes: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2026

## **11. Amendments**

The CLA reserves the right to amend this policy at its discretion.

