

LEGAL PROFESSION ACT 2008

LEGAL PROFESSION (STATE ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL) REPORT 2014

Made by the Legal Costs Committee under Division 5 of Part 10 of the *Legal Profession Act 2008 (Act)*.

PART 1 – PRELIMINARY

Citation

1. (1) This Report may be cited as the *Legal Profession (State Administrative Tribunal) Report 2014*.
- (2) The Determination set out in the Schedule to this Report is referred to in this Report as the *Legal Profession (State Administrative Tribunal) Determination 2014*.

PART 2 - NOTICE AND INQUIRIES

Notice under section 278 of the Act

2. The Legal Costs Committee has complied with the notice provisions of section 278 of the Act.

Inquiries and submissions under section 277 of the Act

3. (a) Before making the *Legal Profession (State Administrative Tribunal) Determination 2014* the Legal Costs Committee:

- (1) reviewed all submissions received as a result of the notice given under section 278 of the Act;
- (2) consulted with the State Administrative Tribunal (**Tribunal**);
- (3) consulted with the Chief Justice of Western Australia, The Law Society of Western Australia (Inc) and the Western Australian Bar Association (Inc); and
- (4) had regard to relevant provisions of the *State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004*.

(b) The Legal Costs Committee acknowledges that the overriding philosophy of the Tribunal, as expressed through its enabling legislation, is that parties appearing before the Tribunal are to bear their own costs of proceedings.

However, the Legal Costs Committee also recognises that there are many types of matters heard before the Tribunal which are of a substantial nature in respect of which legal advice may be sought, but not necessarily made the subject of any costs orders in the Tribunal.

Consequently, and in light of the costs disclosure obligations contained in the Act, the Legal Costs Committee considers it is appropriate to determine a scale of fees on a legal practitioner/client basis as established under the *Legal Practitioners (State Administrative Tribunal) Determination 2008*¹.

¹ Published in Government Gazette dated 16 December 2008

PART 3 – REPORT OF COMMITTEE’S CONCLUSIONS

Hourly rates and scale of costs established

4. The Legal Costs Committee has determined that as a consequence of the information gained as a result of the inquiries and submissions described in clause 3, and having regard to the provisions of the *State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004* and the *State Administrative Tribunal Rules 2004*:

(a) it is unnecessary as at the date of this Report to recommend the implementation of a scale of fees in the Tribunal in respect of party/party costs; but

(b) as a consequence of the costs disclosure provisions in the Act, it is appropriate to continue to determine a scale of fees applicable to the work of legal practitioners, clerks and paralegals in, and in connection with the Tribunal on a legal practitioner/client basis; and

(c) it is appropriate to continue to adopt the hourly and daily rates (inclusive of GST) set out in Table A in the *Legal Profession (Magistrates Court) (Civil) Determination 2014*² as the hourly and daily rates applicable to legal practitioners and clerks/paralegals in the State Administrative Tribunal of Western Australia as set out in Table A in the *Legal Profession (State Administrative Tribunal) Determination 2014*.

5. The recommendations of the Legal Costs Committee are not intended to override the entitlement of a legal practitioner to make a written agreement as to costs with a client under the Act.

TED SHARP, Chairman

ANGELA GAFFNEY, Member

CLARE THOMPSON, Member

MARCUS COCKER, Member

JANICE DUDLEY, Member

MATTHEW CURWOOD, Member

² Published in the Government Gazette dated 20 June 2014

Schedule

LEGAL PROFESSION ACT 2008

LEGAL PROFESSION (STATE ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL) DETERMINATION 2014

Made by the Legal Costs Committee under section 275 of the *Legal Profession Act 2008 Act (Act)*.

Citation

1. This Determination may be cited as the *Legal Profession (State Administrative Tribunal) Determination 2014*.

Commencement

2. This Determination comes into operation on 1 January 2015.

Application

3. This Determination applies to the remuneration of legal practitioners, clerks and paralegals in respect of advice given by legal practitioners in or for the purposes of proceedings or potential proceedings before the State Administrative Tribunal.

No minimum charge

4. In no respect is this Determination to be seen as providing a minimum charge for any work.

Hourly rates

5. The hourly and daily rates set out in Table A are the maximum hourly and daily rates, inclusive of GST, which the Legal Costs Committee determines shall be used to calculate the dollar amounts chargeable by a legal practitioner, clerk or paralegal in providing advice and services to clients in respect of proceedings and potential proceedings in the State Administrative Tribunal under the *State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004*.

Table A

Fee Earner	Maximum allowable rates
Senior Practitioner (admitted for 5 years or more) (SP) ^a – hourly rate	\$396
Junior Practitioner (admitted for less than 5 years) (JP) ^a – hourly rate	\$297
Clerk/Paralegal (C/PL) – hourly rate	\$143

Counsel fees charged as a disbursement to practitioners or charged by in-house Counsel

Counsel (C)* – hourly rate	\$319
daily rate	\$3,190
Senior Counsel (SC) ^β – hourly rate	\$528
daily rate	\$5,280

^a The reference to Junior Practitioner or to Senior Practitioner in this Determination includes all Australian legal practitioners even if the services were rendered in another State or Territory. Where a local legal practitioner has held an interstate practising certificate, the length of admission in that other jurisdiction is to be counted in assessing that practitioner's years of admission for the purposes of this Determination.

- * The reference to Counsel in this Determination means a practitioner acting as a barrister other than as Senior Counsel.
- β The reference to Senior Counsel in this Determination means a person within the meaning of item 11 or item 12 of Regulation 5(2) of the Legal Profession Regulations 2009 (WA).

Disbursements

6. In addition to the fees and charges allowed under this Determination as between a law practice and client, a law practice may charge and be allowed disbursements necessarily or reasonably incurred.

Costs

7. Unless a practitioner has made a written agreement as to costs with a client under the provisions of section 282 of the Act, the costs of or in relation to a party to an action or other proceeding (inclusive of GST and Counsel fees but exclusive of other disbursements) in the State Administrative Tribunal are payable by a party to that party's own legal practitioner, but shall not exceed an amount calculated at the hourly rates in this Determination.

Made by the Legal Costs Committee on 19 November 2014.