2026

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY

Legal Profession (Solicitors Practising Fees) Determination 2026

Disallowable Instrument DI2026 - 77

Presented by
Tara Cheyne MLA
Attorney General
June 2026

Australian Capital Territory

Legal Profession (Solicitors Practising Fees) Determination 2026

Disallowable Instrument DI2026 - 77

made under the

***Legal Profession Act 2006*, section 84(1) (Determination of fees by law society council and bar council)**

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1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Legal Profession (Solicitors Practising Fees) Determination 2026*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on 1 July 2026.

3 Determination of fees

(1) The fee payable for an application for the grant or renewal of a practising certificate, for the level of role and type listed in column 1 of the schedule to this instrument, is the amount listed in column 2 of the schedule to this instrument.

(2) The fee for a practising certificate for part of the financial year is to be calculated on a pro rata basis.

4 Payment of fees

A fee referred to in clause 3 is payable to the ACT Law Society by the person requesting the practising certificate.

5 Goods and services tax (GST)

Solicitor practising certificate fees are exempt from payment of GST.

6 Revocation

This instrument revokes the *Legal Profession (Solicitors Practising Fees) Determination 2016* (DI 2016-36).

Vik Sundar
President
On behalf of the Council of the Law Society of the Australian Capital Territory

26 May 2026

SCHEDULE OF PRACTISING CERTIFICATE FEES EFFECTIVE 1 JULY 2026

(Note: practising certificate fees are exempt from GST)

Role/Type	PC Fees
Private Lawyers (Unrestricted)	**$1,380.00**
In House (Unrestricted)	**$1,380.00**
Private Lawyers, In House (Restricted)	**$987.00**
Government Lawyers (Unrestricted)	**$982.00**
Government Lawyers (Restricted)	**$684.00**
Non-ACT Practitioners (Unrestricted)	**$819.00**
Non-ACT Practitioners (Restricted)	**$553.00**

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EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Background

Section 84(1)(a) of the *Legal Profession Act 2006* empowers the law society council to determine fees in relation to applications for the grant or renewal of solicitor practising certificates.

Outline of Changes

Clause 3 of this instrument determines fees for applications for the grant or renewal of a solicitor practising certificate. The fees payable are determined according to the role of the applicant and type of certificate.

Practising certificate fees have been adjusted to keep pace with inflation and adjusting for past COVID-era fee reductions. The total increase in fees relative to DI2016-36 averages 20.51% across all certificate types over a ten-year period, equivalent to an average annual increase of approximately 2.05%. This is lower than the average annual CPI of 3.35% over the ten-year period, indicating that fee growth has been broadly restrained in real terms. A breakdown of the increases is set out in the schedule to this explanatory statement.

Clause 4 of the instrument states that fees are payable by the applicant to the ACT Law Society.

Clause 5 of the instrument notes that practising certificate fees are exempt from GST.

Clause 6 of the instrument revokes DI 2016-36.

Consistency with Human Rights

An assessment of the Determination under s28 of the *Human Rights Act 2004* (ACT) is provided below. s28 provides that human rights are subject only to reasonable limits set by laws that can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.

Rights Engaged

<u>Right to Work and Other Work-Related Rights</u>

The right to work includes access to one's profession on fair and reasonable terms, and incremental adjustments to practising certificate fees help ensure this. Aligning fees with inflation supports practitioners' work-related rights by maintaining a predictable, sustainable regulatory system without imposing disproportionate financial barriers to practice.

SCHEDULE OF PRACTISING CERTIFICATE FEES EFFECTIVE 1 JULY 2026 RELATIVE TO DI 2016-36

(Note: practising certificate fees are exempt from GST)

Role/Type	Legal Profession (Solicitors Practising Fees) Determination 2016	Legal Profession (Solicitors Practising Fees) Determination 2026 **Effective 1 July 2026*	% Increase over a 10 year period	Average Increase per year
Private Lawyers (Unrestricted)	**$1,247.00**	**$1,380.00**	**10.66%**	**1.07%**
In House (Unrestricted)	**$1,101.00**	**$1,380.00**	**25.3%**	**2.53%**
Private Lawyers, In House (Restricted)	**$798.00**	**$987.00**	**23.68%**	**2.37%**
Government Lawyers (Unrestricted)	**$785.00**	**$982.00**	**25.1%**	**2.51%**
Government Lawyers (Restricted)	**$556.00**	**$684.00**	**23%**	**2.3%**
Non-ACT Practitioners (Unrestricted)	**$773.00**	**$819.00**	**5.95%**	**0.6%**
Non-ACT Practitioners (Restricted)	**$426.00**	**$553.00**	**29.81%**	**2.98%**