

# BOARD OF EXAMINERS

## COMMENCEMENT OF PRACTICAL LEGAL TRAINING

### **Applications for Exemption from the Requirement to have Completed Academic Qualifications in Law before Commencing Practical Legal Training**

(Clause 3.2 of the *Law Admissions Consultative Committee's Practical Legal Training Competency Standards for Entry Level Lawyers* dated 1 January 2015<sup>1</sup>)

#### **Background**

1. This Guide applies to applicants not undertaking an integrated program of academic study and Practical Legal Training.
2. Clause 3.2 of the *Law Admissions Consultative Committee's Practical Legal Training Competency Standards for Entry Level Lawyers* which come into effect on 1 January 2015 states the following:

#### **3.2 When PLT may be commenced**

(a) *An applicant may commence PLT:*

(ii) *in the case of a PLT course that is not integrated with the applicant's academic qualification in law, only after the applicant has completed an academic qualification in law leading to admission to the legal profession, unless the applicant has no more than two academic subjects to complete:*

(A) *neither of which is one of the Academic Requirements for admission;*  
*and*

(B) *for which the applicant must be enrolled while undertaking the PLT course,*

*and the applicant has received the prior permission of the Admitting Authority to commence the PLT course.*

3. The Admitting Authority for the purpose of Clause 3.2(a)(ii) is the Board of Examiners.
4. Applicants who wish to obtain permission from the Board of Examiners to commence PLT before completing academic qualifications pursuant to Clause 3.2(a)(ii) should do so in accordance with this Guide.

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<sup>1</sup> These competency standards comprise Appendix B of the *Rules of the Legal Practitioners Education and Admission Council 2004*.

### **Applications for Authorisation Pursuant to Clause 3.2(a)(ii)**

5. It is important to emphasise that applications for authorisation pursuant to Clause 3.2(a)(ii) will only be considered where the applicant has no more than 2 academic subjects to complete, and neither of those subjects are academic requirements for admission<sup>2</sup>, and the applicant is enrolled to complete those subjects while undertaking the PLT course.
6. All applications are to be forwarded to Ms Rosalind Burke, Secretary to the Board of Examiners, at The Law Society of South Australia. Applications can be posted to GPO Box 2066 Adelaide SA 5001 or DX 333 Adelaide, delivered to Level 10 178 North Terrace Adelaide, or emailed to [rosalind.burke@lawsocietysa.asn.au](mailto:rosalind.burke@lawsocietysa.asn.au).
7. Applications should consist of:
  - a. A covering letter stating that authorisation is being sought pursuant to Clause 3.2(a)(ii) of the Law Admissions Consultative Committee's Practical Legal Training Competency Standards for Entry Level Lawyers.
  - b. A statutory declaration which:
    - i. States the year in which the academic course was commenced.
    - ii. Attaches a certified copy of an academic record.
    - iii. Advises of the academic subjects that the applicant proposes to study while undertaking the PLT course, the commencement and end dates, the contact hours, and methods of assessment.
    - iv. Provides confirmation that the academic subjects to be completed are not academic requirements for admission.
    - v. Advises of the proposed commencement and end dates of the PLT course.
8. Applications will be placed before the Board of Examiners at the next available meeting. Details of when meetings are held and the cut-off dates for applications are available on The Law Society website. Applicants will be notified of the Board's decision in writing within a week of the subject meeting.
9. The Chair of the Board of Examiners has been delegated the power to determine applications for early commencement of PLT outside scheduled Board of Examiner meetings where it is necessary to do so for timing purposes.

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<sup>2</sup> The subjects that comprise academic requirements for admission are referred to in Appendix A of the *Rules of the Legal Practitioners Education and Admission Council 2004*.

10. Applicants seeking an out of meeting determination should indicate in their covering email that they are seeking an out of meeting determination and the grounds for doing so including reference to the date on which the relevant PLT course commences.
11. Applications that do include the requisite proof of final passing grades in all Priestley 11 subjects and all but 1 or 2 elective subjects will not be considered.
12. All enquiries should be emailed to [ethicsandpractice@lawsociety.sa.asn.au](mailto:ethicsandpractice@lawsociety.sa.asn.au)

**9 December 2016**