



POLICY

SUBSIDISED CHAMBERS FOR INDIGENOUS BARRISTERS

The Victorian Bar Council has adopted a policy intended to assist Indigenous barristers financially in the setting up phase of their professional careers.

The Bar Council underwrite the rent payable by an Indigenous barrister(s) who has been recommended to the Bar Council by the Indigenous Lawyers Committee as being eligible to receive a subsidy toward the rent of a BCL Chamber for the first twelve (12) months after they leave their mentors' chambers.

CHAMBERS RENTAL SUBSIDY

1. The underwriting will be subject to the following conditions:
 - (a) the Bar Council will pay 75% of the chambers rental of qualifying members (capped at \$1,585 per month*);
 - (b) the period of underwriting will be a continuous period not exceeding 12 months; and
 - (c) the Indigenous Justice Committee first applies in writing to the Bar Council on behalf of the Indigenous barrister(s) setting out the period for which the barrister seeks the underwriting.
2. Notwithstanding condition 1 above:
 - (a) where the barrister has sub-let his or her chambers, the subsidy receivable will only apply to that part of the rental which is not the subject of any sub-leasing recoveries; and
 - (b) where the barrister shares chambers with another person, the subsidy receivable will only apply to the proportionate share of the total rental for that chambers that that barrister would normally pay for his or her share (so, for example, if 2 persons share a room equally and 1 person seeks the subsidy, the subsidy will only be for 75% of 50% of the total rental for that room, with the cap of \$1,585* applying to 75% of that 50%).

*With respect to chambers owned by Barristers' Chambers Limited, on 1 July each year commencing 1 July 2021, the cap will be increased by the average proportionate rental increase across all BCL chambers for that financial year.

In any case it considers appropriate the Bar Council may modify the conditions in (1) and (2) above.

Procedure Name:	Subsidised Chambers for Indigenous Barristers Policy	Date Approved: 15 October 2018
Approved By:	The Victorian Bar Council	Date Approved: 19 June 2025



FOR INDIGENOUS BARRISTERS

The procedure for grant of a rent subsidy is as follows:

1. Any request for rent subsidy must be in writing and directed to the Executive Director of the Victorian Bar.
2. The Executive Director will consider the request in relation to the criteria approved by the Victorian Bar Council for the rent subsidy.
3. If the application is approved, the Executive Director will:
 - (a) Advise the applicant in writing of the approval;
 - (b) Forward a copy of the approval letter to the secretary of BCL as authority for the bar to be charged with the amount of the subsidy.
4. If the application is not approved, the Executive Director will advise the applicant in writing.

CONTACT

For information and assistance, please contact the Manager of Finance and Membership at the Bar Office on 03 9225 7111.

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