



Information for persons seeking appointment as a costs assessor

The Chief Justice of NSW is seeking applications from legal practitioners wishing to be appointed as costs assessors under the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act (NSW) 2014*. The appointments are expected to take effect from 1 January 2022.

What do costs assessors do?

Costs assessors assess party/party and practitioner/client legal costs and may also be appointed to participate in the review of other costs assessors' decisions.

What will I be paid?

The current rate of remuneration for costs assessors is \$285.00 per hour exclusive of GST.

How do I know if I am eligible for appointment and how long does an appointment last?

Schedule 6 of the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act (NSW) 2014* sets out eligibility for appointment as a costs assessor. On this occasion the appointments will be for a period of up to 3 years.

How do I apply?

Persons seeking appointment as a cost assessor must:

- 1. Provide a current resume and a statement that demonstrates an ability to meet the following selection criteria that:**
 - you have been admitted as a legal practitioner for five (5) years and hold a current NSW practising certificate
 - you are not an undischarged bankrupt and have not been subject of a Personal Insolvency Agreement.
 - you possess a good understanding of costs assessment principles and the processes under the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Act, Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014* and *Legal Profession Uniform Law Regulation 2015*.
 - you have current legal practice experience.
 - you have professional integrity and credibility within the legal community.
 - you have excellent written communication skills and can write clear reasons.
 - you can deal with matters promptly and effectively, and comply with strict timeframes and procedural fairness.
 - you can manage parties and deliver assessments with the cost of the process being economical for the parties and not out of proportion to the amount in dispute.
 - you have the skills to be able to conduct the assessment process entirely electronically.
 - you are willing to attend the annual Costs Assessment Seminar.
 - you are willing to conduct costs assessments under those aspects of the regime recommended in the Chief Justice's Review of Costs Assessment as may be implemented, including in person and telephone conferences as appropriate.
- 2. Complete the attached Declaration and Preferred Areas of Legal Practice form.**
- 3. Provide written reference from two (2) referees who can attest to your competency in respect of legal practice areas identified in the attached form and in costs practice as well as your knowledge of costs principles, the *Legal Profession Uniform Law 2014, Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014* and Regulations.**

Applications must be marked "private and confidential" and sent to Brendan Bellach, Manager, Costs Assessment by email to Brendan.Bellach@justice.nsw.gov.au

The closing date for applications is 1 July 2021. Late applications may not be considered.

For further information, contact Manager Costs Assessment by email to

Brendan.Bellach@justice.nsw.gov.au