

Admission - How to register in Queensland if you are a lawyer from another Australian state or New Zealand

There is legislation that makes it easy for solicitors/ barristers and legal practitioners from other parts of Australia and from New Zealand to practise in Queensland. It is a simplified process for registering on the Queensland rolls.

What legislation is involved?

The first is the [Mutual Recognition \(Queensland\) Act 1992](#), which covers lawyers from other states and territories of Australia. The second is the [Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition \(Queensland\) Act 2003](#) which enables lawyers from New Zealand to be covered by similar provisions.

Section 39 of each of the Acts requires that guidelines be issued and information made available about how the Acts operate. In compliance with this requirement, the judges of the Supreme Court issued guidelines on 24 June 2004 (for both Acts):

- [Mutual Recognition \(Queensland\) Act 1992 Guidelines for registration – legal practitioners](#)
- [Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition \(Queensland\) Act 2003 Guidelines for registration as a legal practitioner](#)

These guidelines are summarised in this fact sheet.

How do the Acts simplify the process?

The Acts have removed the need to travel to Queensland and appear before the Supreme Court to seek admission—a significant saving of time and expense.

What is the process now?

Apply to the Registrar of the Supreme Court at Brisbane. There are six steps involved in applying:

1. Prepare an application for registration on the Queensland roll. Your application should generally follow the relevant A4 form contained in the above guidelines (see s.19 of the [Mutual Recognition \(Queensland\) Act 1992](#) and s.18 of the [Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition \(Queensland\) Act 2003](#)). The information collected in the form is necessary to allow a determination of your application under the legislation. Once lodged in the office of the Supreme Court, your application is a public record and able to be inspected by any member of the public.
2. Verify the statements and other information in the application by statutory declaration.
3. Send the fee (prescribed by the Legal Profession Regulation 2004) to:
Legal Practitioners Admissions Board
GPO Box 1785
Brisbane Qld 4001
making the cheque payable to the Board. The applicant must forward a copy of the receipt to the Registrar.

4. Obtain a certificate (original or certified copy) evidencing your existing registration. The certificate must be provided by the proper officer of either the Supreme Court of the State or Territory where you are registered (for the 1992 Act) or the High Court of New Zealand (for the 2003 Act). The certificate must have been issued not more than one month before you lodge your application.
5. Take a copy of all the documents—the application, statutory declaration, certificate.
6. Finally lodge your application, statutory declaration, certificate, a copy of the Legal Practitioners Admissions Board receipt and *a copy of each of these documents*, together with the filing fee to:
Registrar of the Supreme Court
PO Box 15167
City East Qld 4002

You can do this personally, by post or by agent. Lodgment by fax is not acceptable. Ensure that you include your postal address.

How is my application dealt with?

1. The Registrar forwards the copies of all the documents you supply to the Legal Practitioners Admissions Board.
2. The Board considers whether you should be granted registration, with or without condition, or whether registration should be postponed or refused. (Sections 21, 22 and 23 of both Acts provide for postponements or refusals in certain situations.)
3. The Board transmits its recommendation to the Registrar within 21 days of the lodgment of your application.
4. After considering the recommendation, the Registrar decides whether or not to grant registration (with or without condition) and, if the decision is favourable, records your name on the Roll of Legal Practitioners.
5. The Registrar sends you a certificate of registration.

What if my application is not granted?

The Registrar will send you written notification that your application has been postponed or refused. The Registrar will give reasons in the written notification.

Do I have the right of appeal?

The Acts do allow for a review by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. However, you can not make an appeal to the court as the Registrar is exercising the powers of the Supreme Court, and the guidelines that the judges issued under the Acts do not allow any appeal to, or review by, that court.

What is my position pending registration?

If you apply for registration as a legal practitioner in Queensland under this process, familiarise yourself with the deeming provisions in s.25 of the [Mutual Recognition \(Queensland\) Act 1992](#) or s.24 of the [Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition \(Queensland\) Act 2003](#).

Telephone inquiries (including advice on current fees)

- Brisbane Supreme Court Registry 1800 497 117
- Legal Practitioners Admissions Board (07) 3842 5985
- Other Queensland Courts information www.courts.qld.gov.au.

