

CPD - Frequently Asked Questions

By Leonie Hastie, CPD Officer

Have you ever wondered where to go for CPD information, or what does Compulsory Competency Area 1 really mean? Well, the Law Society has compiled a list of frequently asked questions and answers on CPD to assist you. If you have a question that's not on the list please contact Leonie Hastie on 8981 5104 or pdo@lawsocnt.asn.au.

What is Compulsory Competency Area 1?

Compulsory Competency Area 1 is the mechanics or the "how to" of running your practice. Some examples are available on the Law Society website. Follow these steps on our website <http://lawsocietynt.asn.au/professional-development/cpd-guidelines>. On this page hover over "Appendix A" and a list of compliant activities can be found that will help you to decide if the activity is Compulsory Competency Area 1 or Substantive Law.

What is Substantive Law?

This area covers legislation whether Federal, State or Territory.

Where do I find the CPD Declaration Record Sheet?

The CPD Declaration Record Sheet is a word document which is interactive. You can save the document and update it regularly will all the CPD points you have accrued. The form is available at <http://lawsocietynt.asn.au/professional-development/cpd-guidelines>.

What records does the Law Society keep on CPD's I attend?

The Law Society keeps a record of all CPD's that have been arranged by the Society.

What can the Law Society do to record CPDs that are arranged by other providers?

The Law Society may receive brochures/flyers from other organisations, however we do not have information about all applicable events. If you have attended or wish to attend a CPD event that you believe entitles you to CPD points, you can contact the Society for confirmation or provide contact details to the Law Society so we can make the appropriate enquiries and include the event on the CPD database and website.

How many points do I need for Compulsory Competency Area 1?

The requirement is four points in Compulsory Competency Area 1.

What if I have only worked as a lawyer for part of the year?

You are entitled to a pro rated exemption; please contact Leonie Hastie to discuss this if you have any queries.

If I have only worked part of the year, how many Compulsory Competency Area 1 points do I need?

Of the 12 CPD points required annually, four points are to be of Compulsory Competency Area 1



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i.e; one third of the annual CPD requirement. This equation does not always work. For example if you have worked part of the year and you are required to obtain seven CPD points in total; of the seven you would need to obtain 2.33 CPD points in Compulsory Competency Area 1. As this is not possible, you would round down to two CPD points and this would be the requirement for Compulsory Competency Area 1.

I have been on maternity or sick leave; a career break, or overseas. What is the requirement for CPD?

If you have been on leave you are required to notify the Law Society, in writing, of the dates of your leave so that a Pro Rata Exemption can be calculated and the Law Society's records can be updated.

Where do I find upcoming CPD events?

There are three sections

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

on events that attract CPD points. Upcoming CPD's are events that are arranged by the Law Society. Other CPD's which are events held in other jurisdictions or sessions held by other providers that attract CPD points; Conferences which are held locally, nationally and internationally which also attract CPD points. By logging onto the Law Society's website <http://lawsocietynt.asn.au/professional-development/functions>.

How do I know if an event or conference will attract CPD points?

Check if the event is advertised on the Law Society's website, if so, usually the information will provide CPD accreditation and how many CPD points the event attracts. If the event is not advertised on the Law Society's website contact Leonie Hastie to discuss whether the event does attract CPD points and can be publicised on the website.

Why does the Law Society charge a fee for CPD and why is it so high?

The CPD program is operated by the Society on a cost recovery basis. Income is used to cover costs such as venue hire, video-conferencing, photocopying of papers that may be provided to attendees. The Law Society also provides some CPD events free of charge, where appropriate. Inquiries of other jurisdictions indicate that most CPD fees charged are over \$100 per session with very few free events offered. Most other jurisdictions also have external CPD providers offering CPD events to their members.

The event content does not

suit my practice or my level of experience?

Contact Leonie Hastie to discuss further or, alternatively, log onto the website <http://lawsocietynt.asn.au/professional-development/your-cpd-suggestions> to make a suggestion or provide feedback.

It is difficult to obtain 12 CPD points?

All CPD events arranged by the Law Society are advertised on the website and in the weekly "Practitioner" email newsletter.

I don't have access to the website or "Practitioner"

Please contact Leonie for an up to date list of CPD events or to arrange email or hard copy delivery of "Practitioner".

How do I pay for a CPD event I have attended or wish to attend?

You can pay by credit card via the website (which is a secure site) or send a cheque with your registration form. A Tax Invoice with a receipt (if paid by credit card) will be sent to your firm or practice at the end of each month.

When is my annual CPD Declaration due?

The CPD year starts 1 April and concludes 31st March each year. The declaration is required to be lodged by 14th April each year.

Why are the commencement dates for CPD and Practising Certificate different?

To be entitled to a practising certificate, a practitioner must comply with the CPD

requirements before a practising certificate can be issued. This timeframe is designed to ensure that any practitioner who has not met their annual CPD requirement has adequate time to rectify the situation prior to the renewal of their practising certificate. The practising certificate application form requires that the practitioner make a declaration that they have met their CPD obligation for the year.

Upcoming CPDs

June 2009

Wednesday, 10 June 2009
5.00 pm - 6.30 pm

Issues that arise when the pressure is on

Alice Springs

Thursday, 18 June 2009
5.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Unfair Dismissal Laws under the New Fair Work Act

Darwin

Tuesday, 23 June 2009
12.30 pm - 2.00 pm

Managing Critical Dates and Deadlines

Darwin

July 2009

Tuesday, 07 July 2009
5.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Update on Costs

Darwin and videoconferenced

Wednesday, 22 July 2009
5.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Elder Law - Enduring Power of Attorney

Darwin

For further details and a comprehensive list of upcoming CPD's, visit <http://www.lawsocietynt.asn.au>