

## Returning to the ACT Bar

Where an application for an ACT barrister's practising certificate is received from an Australian lawyer who previously held a practising certificate that entitled the practitioner to engage in legal practice only as a barrister, which is not current, the following policy will apply:

- If the practitioner previously held a practising certificate in the ACT:
  - Where the applicant is returning to the bar within two years of the expiry of their last barrister's practising certificate, and that certificate did not have readers' conditions attached, the applicant will not be required to undertake the Bar Examination, complete the Bar Practice Course or complete the Reading Program.
  - Where the applicant is returning to the bar within two years of the expiry of their last barrister's practising certificate, and that certificate had readers' conditions attached, the applicant must complete any outstanding reading requirements.
  - Where the applicant is returning to the bar, and more than two years have elapsed since the expiry of their last barrister's practising certificate, the applicant must undertake the Bar Examination and complete the Bar Practice Course and the Reading Program.
- If the practitioner previously held a practicing certificate in another jurisdiction: the above policy applies with such modifications if any as the Bar Council regards as appropriate to ensure that the practitioner is able to practice competently as a barrister in the ACT.

The Bar Council may exempt a practitioner from compliance with any of the foregoing requirements, in whole or in part, either before or after the occasion for compliance arises. Applications for exemption will be determined in accordance with the ACT Bar Association Exemption Policy.

**Passed by Council 26 March 2024**