

Guideline - President's 12-month Priorities and Directions

Purpose

The President's 12-Month Priorities and Directions document outlines the key priorities and directions for the Bar Council during the President's term of office to facilitate a shared understanding of the leadership agenda as between the President, Bar Council, and Bar Association members.

It must be aligned with the Bar Association's Constitution and its Vision and Purpose as previously established in the 2022 – 2026 Strategic Plan.

Development and Timing

The President's 12-Month Priorities and Directions document is prepared in draft form by nominees for President ahead of the annual Bar Council elections. Each nominee's draft document will be made available to voting members during the voting period to support an informed decision-making process.

In this way, it ensures that members have a clear understanding of each nominee's intended priorities and leadership direction, thereby assisting with the effectiveness and transparency of the election process.

The draft document will still be prepared in circumstances where there is only one nominee for President who will be elected unopposed. This ensures the same level of transparency regardless of nominee numbers.

Following the elections, the elected President will put the draft 12-Month Priorities and Directions to the newly elected Bar Council during the first month of its term and invite deliberation and discussion ahead of and during the initial Bar Council meeting. The Bar Council will then endorse the 12-Month Priorities and Directions in final form, subject to any amendments or additions that may be made to it by majority resolution.

Content and Structure

The President's 12-Month Priorities and Directions document will identify between four and six key priorities and directions that will guide the President's and Bar Council's focus and activities over the coming year. These priorities should reflect the Bar Association's 'Vision' and 'Purpose' (as previously set by the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan) as follows:

- Vision: Excellence, influence and inclusion
- Purpose: Enable the Bar and its members to thrive and contribute, now and into the future

The document must not be inconsistent with the Bar Association's Constitution, the *Legal Profession Act 2006* (ACT) or the *Legal Profession Barrister Rules 2026* (as amended from time to time).

Utilisation and Governance

The President's 12-month Priorities and Directions document will serve as a key reference throughout the President's term, providing a clear framework to guide Bar Council's initiatives and projects over the 12-month Bar Council term.

The CEO of the Bar Association will assist the President and Bar Council in tracking progress against the priorities and directions during the 12-month period.

By using the document as an ongoing reference point, the President and Bar Council will operate on a shared understanding of the strategic focus for the Bar Association over the Bar Council term.

Document approved by Bar Council 25 August 2026