

About the Continuing Professional Development Scheme

The scheme is based upon self-assessment. It is up to each practitioner to assess what types of activities are suited to his or her specific circumstances.

Activities do not necessarily have to be legal in content but must be relevant to legal practice.

Activities that can be claimed as CPD units include attending seminars, conferences, workshops, lectures, and using online learning packages and audio visual material.

Exemptions from the Scheme

The CPD Committee meets on a regular basis to consider applications for exemption from the CPD Scheme.

The Committee is of the view that anyone who holds himself or herself out to be a legal practitioner has an obligation to the public and the profession to abide by the standards of the profession. These standards include meeting CPD requirements. The Committee will only grant exemption from these requirements where it has a clear mandate to do so.

There are a number of CPD activities that are readily accessible to practitioners who are in geographically remote locations, whose mobility is limited by physical disability, or who are in financial difficulty. If the CPD Committee believes that you may have ready access to these options, you may not be granted an exemption under the rule.

No or low cost CPD activities

No or low cost CPD activities include attending properly organised discussion groups, preparing and presenting legal seminars, attending free seminars run on an occasional basis by the Queensland Law Society and by the various district law associations, attending in-house seminars, participating as a member of a relevant committee and writing articles published in law journals or approved publications.

Continuing Professional Development Scheme rules – 2005

[Part 6, *Queensland Law Society Administration Rule 2005*]

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- (1) In a CPD year, the CPD Committee may, upon application in writing from a legal practitioner in a form provided by the CPD Committee, exempt in whole or in part a practitioner from compliance with this part during the CPD year on such conditions as it may specify, if –
 - (a) the practitioner has been in practice for a period exceeding forty years, and –
 - (i) holds a practising certificate other than a principal practising certificate; or
 - (ii) is a Notary Public whose sole reason for holding a practising certificate is to continue to act as a Notary Public; or
 - (b) by reason of the practitioner's geographical location, a physical disability or any particular exigencies of the practitioner's practice, the practitioner has experienced particular hardship or difficulty in complying with these rules;
 - (c) the practitioner has been substantially absent from practice because of parenting leave, unemployment or illness; or
 - (d) the CPD Committee considers that there are special circumstances warranting it doing so.
- (2) A legal practitioner who commences or recommences practice on or after the start of the CPD year must undertake during the balance of the CPD year such continuing professional development as is referable to the balance of the CPD year, on a pro rata basis but a practitioner who holds a practising certificate for less than 28 days in a CPD year is exempt from the obligation to comply with these rules during the CPD year.

**For further information on the scheme, please contact the CPD Administrator
1300 367 757 | cpd@qls.com.au**