



# Scholarship Support Fund Grants

## Guidelines for Applications

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### 1. Purpose of this document

Under its Constitution, the Objects of the Society of Construction Law Australia Limited ('SoCLA') include to:

- (a) *promote education, study and research (and publication of the useful results of such research) in the field of construction law and related subjects both in Australia and overseas for the benefit of the public and construction industry;*
- (b) *advance and encourage the study of construction law and related subjects by any appropriate means including without limitation giving prizes, rewards and scholarships; publishing journals, lectures, newsletters or other content by any means; and providing or fostering conferences, lectures, seminars and other training activities;*
- (c) *consider, originate and promote changes in the law and government policy as it may relate to construction law and related subjects and in respect of the construction industry generally;*
- (d) *establish relationships and associations with other bodies in Australia and overseas with similar or related objects to that of the company and exchanging information and studies and results with such bodies;*

SoCLA makes available **Scholarship Support Fund ('SSF')** grants for projects which are **consistent with these Objects**. This document sets out guidelines for the way in which applications to receive such funding are to be made and to be assessed by SoCLA (via its Academic Subcommittee).

### 2. Use of funds

SSF grants may be used for activities which are consistent with the Objects set out in section 1. These might include (without limitation):

- Prizes to promote excellence in construction law teaching and learning, such as awards for students in construction law subjects;
- Costs associated with presenting at conferences, undertaking research or collaborating with kindred associations of SoCLA;
- Funding for research projects leading to measurable outcomes such as a publication or law reform proposal;
- Purchase of texts or other resources to enhance the construction law holdings of academic libraries;
- Research assistance to assist with law reform projects; and
- Detailed submissions to Government in support of law reform including harmonisation of the law across jurisdictions.

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## 3. Assessment of applications

When assessing an application for SSF grants, SoCLA will give primacy to the extent to which the project for which the SSF grant is sought promotes the Objects set out in section 1.

Beyond that, by way of general guidance, SoCLA favours projects which have the following characteristics:

- ideas that translate into sustainable, practical solutions;
- partnerships and collaborations which build expertise and learning;
- fostering collaboration and greater understanding within and between the construction professions (legal and non-legal) and between the construction professions and the broader community;
- significant impact – measured either by the size of the audience or by the depth of impact for a small target group;
- efficient use of resources – doing ‘more with less’;
- balancing short and long-term outcomes – necessary one-off, moment-in-time projects coupled with projects that can make a lasting contribution;
- the ‘but for’ test – essential work which ‘but for’ the SSF grant cannot, or would not, be undertaken.

## 4. Funding amount

SoCLA allocates a certain amount (currently, \$10,000) annually (on an Australian financial year basis) which is available for SSF grants. Applications for SSF grant funding are assessed twice each year, and must be submitted:

- by 30 April for grants which are to commence on 1 July of that year; and
- by 31 October for grants which are to commence on 1 January of the following year.

SoCLA recognises, however, that funding for certain types of projects may not be accommodated by these timeframes; therefore, in exceptional circumstances, SoCLA will consider applications outside of them. Potential applicants for such exceptional applications are encouraged to consult with the Chair of the Academic Subcommittee (currently Matthew Bell – [m.bell@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:m.bell@unimelb.edu.au)) before submitting an application.

Applications for SSF grants should generally be for between A\$1,000 and A\$5,000 (on a one-off or annual basis) but applications outside of those parameters may be considered.

SoCLA aims to provide a decision to applicants by the end of May for the July-round grants and the end of November for the January-round grants.

## 5. Ethics approval

Research may require ethics approval in accordance with the relevant procedures of institutions which are associated with the research. Where applicable, evidence of ethics approval, or approval pending, must be provided as part of the application.

## 6. Decision-making process

Applications are to be made via the attached Application Form. Applications are considered and approved by the Academic Subcommittee of SoCLA. The Subcommittee reports decisions on applications to the SoCLA Board.

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## 7. Conditions of grant

Unless otherwise agreed with SoCLA:

- copyright in any materials produced in relation to the funded project will be held jointly by the applicant and SoCLA; and
- successful applicants will be required to:
  - acknowledge the SoCLA grant in a manner acceptable to SoCLA within their project's publications and other publicity; and
  - provide a brief written report (1-2 pages usually sufficient) of how the funding has been used and the resulting benefits to their project within seven months (or as otherwise agreed) from the date of notification. This report is then tabled at the next meeting of the SoCLA Board.