

# ABA AUSTRALIAN BAR ASSOCIATION LIMITED

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

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# DIRECTORS' REPORT

Your directors present their report together with the financial statements of ABA Australian Bar Association Limited ("the Association") for the financial year ended 30 June 2020 and the auditor's report thereon.

The following persons were directors of the Association during the financial year and for periods up until the date of this report:

K Archer	1/7/2019 to 16/11/2019	Barrister, Member of the ACT Bar
J Batrouney AM QC	1/7/2019 to 16/11/2019	Barrister, QC, Member of VIC Bar
M Collins AM QC (Vice President)	1/7/2019 to date	Barrister, QC, Member of VIC Bar
M A Crawley SC	1/7/2019 to date	Barrister, SC, Member of the NT Bar
S M Davies SC	1/7/2019 to 2/11/2020	Barrister, SC, Member of WA Bar
P J Dunning QC (Treasurer)	1/7/2019 to date	Barrister, QC, Member of Qld Bar
W A Harris QC	16/11/2019 to date	Barrister, QC, Member of VIC Bar
M C J Hoffmann QC	1/7/2019 to date	Barrister, QC, Member of SA Bar
M Howard SC (President)	1/7/2019 to date	Barrister, SC, Member of WA Bar
M McHugh SC (Vice President)	1/7/2019 to date	Barrister, SC, Member of NSW Bar
A R Muller	23/09/2020 to date	Barrister, Member of the ACT Bar
K T Nomchong SC	1/7/2019 to date	Barrister, SC, Member of NSW Bar
S Taglieri SC	1/7/2019 to date	Barrister, SC, Member of the Tas Bar
R M Treston QC	3/02/2020 to date	Barrister, QC, Member of Qld Bar
S M Whybrow	1/7/2019 to 23/09/2020	Barrister, Member of the ACT Bar

### **Meetings of Directors**

From 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 there were 8 meetings. Each director's attendance is set out below:

Name	Total Meetings while Director	Meetings Attended
K Archer	8	2
J Batrouney QC	2	2
M Collins AM QC	8	8
M A Crawley SC	8	7
S M Davies SC	8	7
P J Dunning QC	8	8
W A Harris QC	6	5
M C J Hoffmann QC	8	7
M Howard SC	8	8
M McHugh SC	8	7
A R Muller	0	0
K T Nomchong SC	8	8
S Taglieri SC	8	8
R M Treston QC	4	3
S M Whybrow	8	6

# DIRECTORS' REPORT

(Continued)

### Principle Activities

The principle activities of the Association during the financial year were:

- Promoting the work of Australian barristers to governments, the media and other stakeholders;
- Enabling an open and transparent communication channel with the ABA about the profession and wider issues of the law and justice;
- Representing the profession and advancing public debate on law reform and legal policy issues;
- Undertaking continuing professional development courses (through the Advocacy Training Council), conferences and events both in Australia and abroad;
- Communicating with our members and the wider profession about key issues affecting the profession, as well as significant legal issues affecting the wider community.

### Short and long term objectives

The Association's short and long term objectives are to:

Serve Our Membership

- Foster a collegiate, inclusive and diverse national association of barristers;
- Develop and promote opportunities to identify as an Australian barrister;
- Promote Australian barristers abroad;
- Provide opportunities to members that promote professional growth;
- Promote barristers' distinctive role and competencies to clients and the community;
- Advocate on behalf of the profession by speaking out on issues that affect our members.

Improve Our Profession

- Promote the highest quality legal training and services;
- Promote the highest standards of ethics, quality and conduct across the profession;
- Promote full and equal participation in the Association, our profession and the justice system;
- Promote greater national consistency of rules pertaining to barristers.

Advance the Rule of Law and access to justice

- Maintain and strengthen an independent judiciary and legal profession;
- Champion the effective administration of justice;
- Increase public understanding of and respect for the rule of law, the legal process and the role of barristers;
- Advocate for fair and equal access to justice for all;
- Identify opportunities to collaborate across the legal sector to safeguard the rule of law;
- Support the rule of law in international jurisdictions.

# DIRECTORS' REPORT

(Continued)

### **Results of Operations**

The Association continued to engage in its principle activities during the financial year. The surplus of the Association for the financial year amounted to \$341,734 (2019: \$15,771).

### Members Guarantee

If the Association is wound up, the Constitution states that each member is required to contribute an amount not exceeding \$10 per member to meet all outstanding obligations of the Association and any such amounts as may be required. The Association had 6,057 members at balance date, and the total that members are liable to contribute is \$60,570.

### **Association Particulars**

ABA Australian Bar Association Limited, incorporated and domiciled in Australia, is a public company limited by guarantee.

The address of the registered office and principal place of business is:

NSW Bar Association 'Selborne Chambers' B 174 Phillip Street Sydney NSW 2000

### Auditor's Independence Declaration

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* is set out on page 4.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:

Director

M HOWARD SC

Director

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P J DUNNING QC



### AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001

## TO THE DIRECTORS OF AUSTRALIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2020 there have been:

- i. no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
- ii. no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Bentless

Bentleys Brisbane (Audit) Pty Ltd Chartered Accountants

Stewart Douglas Director Brisbane 6 November 2020



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### STATEMENT OF SURPLUS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	Note	2020	2019
		\$	\$
Revenue Advocacy training costs Auditor's remuneration Conference expenses Consulting fees Secretarial services Gifts Information technology Investment fees Legal and professional fees Media costs Silks dinner Travel and accommodation Other operating expenses	2	$\begin{array}{c} 1,583,118\\(223,800)\\(23,000)\\(541,213)\\(49,317)\\\hline \\ & (643)\\(6,154)\\(23,637)\\(86,104)\\(8,354)\\(43,335)\\(49,911)\\(102,151)\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 1,200,623\\(255,822)\\(22,915)\\(316,123)\\(66,320)\\(645)\\(2,635)\\(22,958)\\(22,237)\\(60,039)\\(1,205)\\(56,534)\\(63,307)\\(365,402)\end{array}$
Surplus/(Loss) before investment fair value	-	425,499	(55,519)
Other Comprehensive Income			
Gain/(loss) on financial assets at fair value		(100,393)	81,306
Surplus/(Loss) before income tax		325,106	25,787
Income tax expense/(benefit)	3 (a)	16,628	(10,016)
Net surplus	-	341,734	15,771
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year		341,734	15,771

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
ASSETS	Ψ	Φ
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents11Trade and other receivables4	511,045 6,188	506,913
Inventories Other current assets 6	-	15,973 438,988
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS NON-CURRENT ASSETS	517,233	961,874
Property, plant and equipmentFinancial assets - investments5Deferred tax asset3 (b)	- 2,681,958 1,046	3,000 2,694,238 9,985
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	2,683,004	2,707,223
TOTAL ASSETS	3,200,237	3,669,097
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables7Other liabilities8Current tax liabilities	45,700 14,682 17,974	121,888 723,521 -
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	78,356	845,409
NON- CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Deferred tax liabilities 3 (b)	31,951	75,492
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	31,951	75,492
TOTAL LIABILITIES	110,307	920,901
NET ASSETS	3,089,930	2,748,196
MEMBER'S EQUITY		
Accumulated surpluses	3,089,930	2,748,196
TOTAL MEMBER'S EQUITY	3,089,930	2,748,196

### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACCUMULATED FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	Accumulated Surpluses	Total Accumulated Funds
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2018	2,732,426	2,732,426
Total comprehensive income for the year	15,771	15,771
Balance at 30 June 2019	2,748,196	2,748,196
Total comprehensive income for the year	341,734	341,734
Balance at 30 June 2020	3,089,930	3,089,930

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from members, sponsorship and general Payments to suppliers Interest and dividends received Income tax received/(paid)		1,462,816 (1,484,685) 114,114 -	1,700,349 (1,639,531) 120,156 (10,016)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	9	92,245	170,958
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment Purchase of investments		- (88,113)	(1,585) (91,627)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(88,113)	(93,212)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		4,132	77,746
Cash at the beginning of year		506,913	429,167
Cash at the end of year	11	511,045	506,913

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below. These policies have been constantly applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

#### (a) Basis of Preparation

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and interpretations as issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board, and the *Corporations Act 2001*. ABA Australian Bar Association Limited is a Not-for-profit entity to preparing the financial statements.

#### Historical cost convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of available-for-sale financial assets.

#### Critical accounting estimates

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. There are no estimates and judgements that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

#### (b) Revenue Recognition

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Revenue is recognised as follows:

#### *(i)* Revenue from contracts with customers

Revenue from the rendering of a service is using the five-step process as outlined by AASB 15, as follows:

- identify the contract(s) with customer;
- identify the performance obligation in the contract(s);
- determine the transaction price;
- allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations in the contract(s); and
- recognise revenue when (or as) the performance obligations are satisfied.
- (ii) Dividend income

Dividends are recognised as revenue when received.

(iii) Interest income

Interest income is recognised as it accrues.

(iv) Other income

Income from other sources is recognised when the income is receivable.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)

#### (c) Income Tax

The Association has adopted the balance sheet method of tax effect accounting.

In addition, under the mutuality provisions of the Income Tax Assessment Act, income and expenses wholly applicable to members of the Association are not brought to account in calculating income for tax purposes.

Deferred income tax is provided in full, using the liability method, on temporary differences arising between the tax bases of asset and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the financial statements. Deferred income tax is determined using tax rates (and laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the end of the reporting period and are expected to apply when the related deferred tax asset is realised or the deferred tax liability is settled.

Deferred tax assets are recognised for deductible temporary difference and unused tax losses only if it is probable that future taxable amounts will be available to utilise those temporary differences and losses.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset when there is a legally enforceable right to offset current tax assets and liabilities and when the deferred tax balances relate to the same taxation authority. Current tax assets and liabilities are offset where the entity has a legally enforceable right to offset and intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Current and deferred tax is recognised in profit or loss, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity. In this case, the tax is also recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity, respectively.

#### (d) Current and non-current classification

Assets and liabilities are presented in the statement of financial position based on current and noncurrent classification.

An asset is classified as current when: it is either expected to be realised or intended to be sold or consumed in the incorporated association's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is expected to be realised within 12 months after the reporting period; or the asset is cash or cash equivalent unless restricted from being exchanged or used to settle a liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other assets are classified as non-current.

A liability is classified as current when: it is either expected to be settled in the incorporated association's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period; or there is no unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other liabilities are classified as non-current.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are always classified as non-current.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

#### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)

#### (e) Cash and Cash Equivalents

For purposes of presentation in the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions and other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

#### (f) Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables are initially recognized at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any allowance for expected credit losses.

The Association has applied the simplified approach to measuring expected credit losses, which uses a lifetime expected loss allowance. To measure the expected credit losses, trade receivables have been grouped based on days overdue.

Other receivables are recognised at amortised cost, less any allowance for expected credit losses.

#### (g) Property, plant and equipment

Plant and equipment is stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisitions of the items.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis to write off the net cost of each item of property, plant and equipment over their expected useful lives as follows:

Property, plant and equipment's 3-5 years.

The residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date.

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when there is no future economic benefit to the incorporated association. Gains and losses between the carrying amount and the disposal proceeds are taken to profit or loss.

#### (h) Impairment of non-financial assets

Non-financial assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicated that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount.

Recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value-in-use. The value-in-use is the present value of the estimated future cash flows relating to the asset using a pre-tax discount rate specific to the asset or cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. Assets that do not have independent cash flows are grouped together to form a cash-generating unit.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

#### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)

#### (i) Financial Instruments

#### (i) Classification

From 1 June 2018, the Association classifies its financial assets in the following measurement categories:

- those to be measured subsequently at fair value (either through OCI or through profit or loss), and
- those to be measured at amortised cost.

The classification depends on the Association's business model for managing the financial assets and the contractual terms of the cash flows.

For assets measured at fair value, gains and losses will either be recorded in profit or loss or OCI. For investments in equity instruments that are not held for trading, this will depend on whether the Association has made an irrevocable election at the time of initial recognition to account for the equity investment at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI).

The Association reclassifies debt investments when and only when its business model for managing those assets changes.

#### (ii) Recognition and derecognition

Regular way purchases and sales of financial assets are recognised on trade-date, the date on which the Association commits to purchase or sell the asset. Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the financial assets have expired or have been transferred and the Association has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership.

#### (iii) Measurement

At initial recognition, the Association measures a financial asset at its fair value plus, in the case of a financial asset not at fair value through profit or loss (FVPL), transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition of the financial asset. Transaction costs of financial assets carried at FVPL are expensed in profit or loss.

Financial assets with embedded derivatives are considered in their entirety when determining whether their cash flows are solely payment of principal and interest.

#### (iv) Impairment

From 1 June 2018, the Association assesses on a forward looking basis the expected credit losses associated with its debt instruments carried at amortised cost and FVOCI. The impairment methodology applied depends on whether there has been a significant increase in credit risk.

For trade receivables, the Association applies the simplified approach permitted by AASB 9, which requires expected lifetime losses to be recognised from initial recognition of the receivables.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

#### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)

#### (j) Trade and Other Payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Association prior to the end of financial year which are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

#### (k) Goods and Services Tax ("GST")

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office ("ATO"). In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included in receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are presented as operating cash flows.

#### (I) Changes in accounting policies, disclosures, standards and interpretations

The Association has adopted all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB') that are mandatory for the current reporting period.

Any new or amended Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not been early adopted.

#### (m) Fair value measurement

When, an asset or liability, financial or non-financial, is measured at fair value for recognition or disclosure purposes, the fair value is based on the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date; and assumes that the transaction will take place either: in the principal market; or in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market.

Fair value is measured using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming they act in their economic best interests. For non-financial assets, the fair value measurement is based on its highest and best use. Valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data are available to measure fair value, are used, maximizing the use of relevant observable inputs and minimizing the use of unobservable inputs.

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

### 2. REVENUE

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Capitation Fees	501,735	449,770
Conference Income	634,319	299,834
Advocacy Training	211,755	246,019
Investment Income	114,113	120,156
Functions	45,091	73,127
Profit on disposal of financial assets	-	9,717
Sponsorship Income	60,400	2,000
Other Income	15,705	-
Revenue from continuing operations	1,583,118	1,200,623

### 3. INCOME TAX EXPENSE

### (a) Reconciliation of income tax expense to prima facie tax payable

	Net surplus from continuing operations	325,106	25,787
	Tax at the Australian tax rate of 27.5% (2019: 27.5%)	89,404	7,091
	Increase/(decrease) in income tax expense due to:		
	- Net mutual (income) / expense	(80,310)	16,119
	Tax effect of amounts which are not deductible	(8,849)	11,282
	Adjustment recognised for prior periods	(16,874)	(24,476)
	Income tax expense/(benefit)	(16,628)	10,016
(b)	Deferred taxes		
	Other financial assets	(31,951)	(75,492)
	Trade and other payables	-	-
	Provision for employee entitlements	-	223
	Accrued Expenses	-	676
	Deferred tax asset - tax losses carried forward	1,046	9,086
	Net deferred tax (liability)	(30,905)	(65,507)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
4. RECEIVABLES	Ŷ	Ŷ
Current		
Accounts receivable	6,188	-
	6,188	-
5. OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS - NON- CURRENT		
Designated at fair value through profit or loss		
Cash held for investment purposes	1,325,176	1,045,241
Fixed Interest Securities – listed	915,916	318,221
Domestic and International Shares in listed companies	440,866	1,330,776
Total designated at fair value through profit or loss	2,681,958	2,694,238
6. OTHER CURRENT ASSETS Conference & Advocacy Training supplier prepayments		438,988
7. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Trade creditors and accruals	45,700	44,080
July 2017 conference net VAT payable		77,808
	45,700	121,888
8. OTHER LIABILITIES		
Employee provisions	-	7,321
Other liabilities	-	1,060
Income received in advance for courses or conferences	14,682	715,140
	1,002	

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

#### 9. CASH FLOW INFORMATION

	2020 \$	2019 \$
a. Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Profit after Income Tax		
Profit/(loss) after income tax	341,734	15,771
Non-cash flows in profit		
Depreciation	2,999	1,700
(Gain)/Loss on fair value adj. of investments	12,280	(182,650)
Changes in assets and liabilities		
(Increase)/decrease in trade debtors	448,773	(329,953)
Increase/(decrease) in payables	(810,594)	581,393
(Increase)/decrease in deferred tax asset	8,940	(8,515)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	4,132	77,746

#### **10. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

#### (a) Directors

The names of persons who were directors of the Association at any time during the financial year are as follows:

K Archer	M C J Hoffmann QC
J Batrouney QC	M Howard SC
M Collins AM QC	M McHugh SC
M A Crawley SC	K T Nomchong SC
S M Davies SC	S Taglieri SC
P J Dunning QC	R M Treston QC
W A Harris QC	S M Whybrow

#### (b) Key management

The key management personnel are the members of the Bar Council of the Association and the Chief Executive Officer. No compensation was paid, or is payable, to the members of the Bar Council of the Association nor the Chief Executive Officer.

#### (c) Other transactions

The Association conducts its business from the premises of the New South Wales Bar Association and Bar Association of Queensland at no cost to the Association.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
11. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash at bank	511,045	506,913
Term deposits		
	511,045	506,913

#### 12. EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER THE REPORTING DATE

No matter or circumstance has occurred subsequent to year end that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect, the operations of the Association, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Association.

#### 13. IMPACT OF COVID-19

The financial results for the year have been minimally influenced by the impacts of COVID-19 and the resulting changes in government legislation.

The Association collects capitation fees (one of its main sources of revenue) once a year from its constituent bodies. For the year ended 30 June 2020 capitation fee revenue was collected in approximately September/October 2019, well before COVID-19 emerged. The Association also hosted many of its income-generating events and conferences prior to the impact of COVID-19. For this reason, the revenue and net profit figures are not significantly impacted by COVID-19 for the year. The full impact of COVID-19 will not be observable until the 2021 financial year.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

#### DIRECTOR'S DECLARATION

In the directors' opinion:

- (a) the financial statements and notes set out on pages 1 to 17 are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
  - complying with Accounting Standards Reduced Disclosure Requirements (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Corporations Regulations 2001; and
  - (ii) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
- (b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors.

Director

M HOWARD SC

Director

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P J DUNNING QC

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of November 2020

#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF AUSTRALIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

#### Report on the Audit of the Financial Report



#### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Australian Bar Association (the "Company"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2020 and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the director's declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of the Company is in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of its performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations 2001.

#### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ethical requirements of the Australian Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Corporations Act 2001*, which has been given to the directors of the Company, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Act 2001* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the ability of the Company to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.



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#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (continued) TO THE MEMBERS OF AUSTRALIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (Continued)



#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report (Continued)

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Bentleys

Bentleys Brisbane (Audit) Pty Ltd Chartered Accountants

Stewart Douglas Director Brisbane 6 November 2020



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