

Legal Practice Board of Western Australia

DISCUSSION GROUPS

(Rule 14 Legal Profession Rules 2009)

What is a Discussion Group?

A discussion group is defined as “any group of 2 or more legal practitioners/practices who form a group for the purposes of providing CPD to the members of the group.”

How to Set Up a Discussion Group.

A discussion group should be made up of two or more practitioners from more than one firm.

What will it cost?

The application fee for a discussion group is \$1,000. This is for a 2 year period from the date of approval of the application

What structure should a discussion group take?

This is up to the discussion group. For example they may choose to form a committee, or they may choose to rotate responsibility between practitioners or practices.

It is the responsibility of the discussion group to:

- Organise a program of suitable activities
- Be able to accurately allocate points to each activity as per the Competency Areas outlined in Part 2 Division 2 of the *Legal Profession Rules 2009*
- Implement a method of recording attendance at activities
- Organise storage of the record of attendance for a period of three years, and
- Make attendance records available to the Legal Practice Board for auditing purposes if so required.

What activities can a discussion group undertake?

Training should be structured and relevant to the practitioners immediate and long term needs in relation to the practitioners professional development and to the practice of law.

Discussion group's can:

- Have guest speakers
- Use the expertise from within the group to provide specific training
- Use an electronic presentation such as an educational DVD with structured discussion points, or
- Participate electronically in a live link to a relevant activity.

How to Apply for Approval of a Discussion Group.

Fill out an "Application for Approval of a Discussion Group".(Application form available on the Board's web site at WWW.lbwa.org.au)

Attached a brief outline of how you intend to set up and run the group (see application form).

Submit application to:

The Legal Education Coordinator
Legal Practice Board
5th Floor
533 Hay Street
Perth WA 6000