



**Barristers'
Chambers
Limited**

25 March 2020

Dear member,

We're writing to you to follow up on the decision taken by BCL's board yesterday, offering rent relief for the month of April, which was communicated to you last night by the President of the Victorian Bar, Wendy Harris QC. As the President said, BCL recognises that a number of members have already been financially affected by the COVID-19 situation, and we hope that this measure will afford breathing room to those concerned about their ability to maintain chambers in this very uncertain environment.

The relief for April applies to rent only. It does not cover charges for technology services and managed floor services through practice support that BCL also supplies.

What you need to do

You will have already received the invoice for April.

If you are in need and wish to avail yourself of the offer of rent relief for April 2020, please contact the BCL Service Desk on 9225 8888 or email bclchambers@vicbar.com.au before 1 April 2020. If you opt to seek rent relief, we will process your rental relief as follows:

- If you **have not already paid** the April invoice, BCL will credit your account. If you have a direct debit in place to pay your invoice, BCL will only deduct your charges excluding rent.
- If you **have already paid** the April invoice, BCL will credit your account. If you are concerned about your financial position now, we can refund your payment for April immediately, otherwise we can carry the relief over to May.
- If you have **prepaid your rent**, BCL will credit your account. If you are concerned about your financial position now, we can refund your payment for April immediately.

We would like to thank those of you who have expressed support to BCL and have committed to continue to pay your rent for chambers, understanding that the ongoing financial viability of BCL is critical to maintaining the Bar as we now know it. BCL's only source of income is rent, and the provision of month-to-month rentals to barristers has enabled the Victorian Bar to build a strong collegiate culture. BCL wants that to continue.

If you are in a position to pay your rent, we echo the request by the President that you continue to do so. If you have a direct debit in place, you do not need to do anything. This will be processed as normal. If you pay via Bpoint or Bpay, please pay your invoice as you normally would do.

Thank you for your continued support.

John Karkar QC
Chairman
Barristers' Chambers Limited

Paul Clark
CEO & Managing Director
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