



## The Victorian Bar Foundation

The Victorian Bar Foundation Limited  
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01 June 2023

Dear Member of the Bar,

The purpose of this letter is to encourage you to donate to the Victorian Bar Foundation.

The Victorian Bar Foundation was established in 2011. The Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation progressing the interests of justice in Victoria, particularly through legal education. At present the Board of the Victorian Bar Foundation Board comprises:

The Hon John Digby KC (Chairman), The Hon Justice Stewart Anderson (Treasurer), Ross Gillies KC, John Karkar KC, Neil Young KC, Philip Crutchfield KC, Eugene Wheelahan KC, Georgie Coleman, Kateena O'Gorman, Angela Lee, Nawaar Hassan and Justin Hooper (Honorary Secretary).

The Victorian Bar Foundation's Patron is The Hon Justice Michelle Gordon AC.

The Victorian Bar Foundation is the prime charitable vehicle through which the Victorian Bar contributes to the objective of progressing the interest of justice in Victoria, particularly through legal education.

The Foundation is quite separate and distinct from the Victorian Bar Benevolent Fund, which focuses on assisting members of counsel who are in need of such assistance.

In the course of recent financial years, the Victorian Bar Foundation has made donations to and made contributions to promoting the cause of the following:

- a) the Menzies Foundation's establishment of the Sir Ninian Stephen Menzies Scholarship in International Law, a scholarship providing for its recipient to undertake post-graduate studies in international law at a prestigious university in Australia or abroad.
- b) Trinity College's establishment of the John Gibson Scholarship, a scholarship (in honour of deceased Victorian Bar member, John Gibson) providing for a student from a refugee background to attend Trinity College <https://www.trinity.unimelb.edu.au/about/news-media/news/supporting-the-john-gibson-scholarship>
- c) the Melbourne Law School's establishment of the James Merralls Visiting Fellowship in Law, a fellowship (in honour of Victorian Bar member, James Merralls AM QC) providing for world leading private or constitutional law scholars to teach at Melbourne Law School (<http://law.unimelb.edu.au/alumni/mls-news/issue-11-june-2014/james-merralls-visiting-fellowship-in-law>);
- d) the Monash University Humanitarian Scholarship Program, supporting specific scholarships to eligible refugees across both undergraduate and postgraduate degrees (<https://www.monash.edu/study/fees-scholarships/scholarships/find-a-scholarship/monash-asylum-seekers-scholarship-4094>);

- e) the Indigenous Barristers' Development Fund, a fund administered by the Bar's Indigenous Justice Committee, to assist in the retention and development of Indigenous Barristers at the Victorian Bar;
- f) Victorian Bar Foundation Student Achievement Award and Mentoring Program, the Foundation supports a High School Student Scholarship and Mentoring Program under which \$1,000 is allocated to student prize winners from 15 schools in the City of Hume region. This program was designed to provide encouragement and support to students from 15 outer north western suburban high schools who have shown an interest in and aptitude for the study of the law.

The photograph below is from the awards ceremony on 24 June 2022, featuring 14 of the students from different schools in the City of Hume with their awards together with The Hon. Justice Gordon AC (Foundation Patron), Philip Crutchfield KC (Foundation director) and the then Mayor of City of Hume, Cr. Carly Moore.



The photograph below is also from the awards ceremony on 24 June 2022, featuring The Hon. Justice Gordon AC (Foundation Patron), The Hon. John Digby KC (Foundation Chairman), Kateena O’Gorman (Foundation director), Angela Lee (Foundation director) and Cr. Carly Moore and her team from the City of Hume.



The Hon. Justice Gordon AC gave an inspiring address to the students and their families as well as the students' legal studies teachers, who were all present at this moving ceremony. The Victorian Bar Foundation is working to extend the Student Achievement Award and Mentoring Program to school students in regional Victoria and Foundation director Georgie Coleman is currently in discussions with Mildura City Council on this initiative.

The Victorian Bar Foundation is working towards building a freestanding corpus that is sufficient to regularly contribute not only to worthwhile causes similar to those described above but also to other scholarships, appropriate educational projects and like initiatives.

On behalf of the Foundation's directors, I ask those of you who are in a position to make a donation to the Victorian Bar Foundation do so before 30 June 2023 online [here](#) or via the attached donation form.

Yours sincerely,

**John Digby**  
Chairman

**Victorian Bar**  
Foundation

**Att: Bar Foundation Donation Form**

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**DONATION FORM**

I hereby donate the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Victorian Bar Foundation.

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....  
(Must be provided for forwarding of receipt.)

EMAIL: .....

SIGNATURE: .....

*Please complete one of the following payment options:*

**PAYMENT OPTION A**      **EFT Transfer:**  
**Account Name:** Victorian Bar Foundation Limited in trust for VBFT  
**BSB:** 063 000 **Account No:** 1210 1727  
**Reference:** Full Name

**PAYMENT OPTION B**      Please charge my Visa/ Master Card account

Card Number       Expiry       CVV

Name on card

Amount       Signature:

**PAYMENT OPTION C**      I have enclosed a cheque made payable to the Victorian Bar Foundation

Please forward this form with payment to the Bar office addressed to:

**Victorian Bar Foundation**  
Level 5, Owen Dixon Chambers East  
205 William Street  
Melbourne Vic 3000  
Email: [vicbar@vicbar.com.au](mailto:vicbar@vicbar.com.au)

Tax receipts will be issued once your donation has been processed.