



THE INSTITUTE OF PATENT
AND TRADE MARK
ATTORNEYS OF AUSTRALIA

Membership Booklet

Welcome to IPTA

IPTA is a professional body dedicated to representing patent and trade marks attorneys in Australia.

IPTA is an independent peak professional body for patent and trade marks attorneys in Australia. IPTA is managed by a Council composed of members who provide their service on a voluntary basis, assisted by a secretariat. IPTA's primary objectives can be summarised as follows:

- To form a united and representative body of patent and trade marks attorneys in Australia for the purpose of promoting improvements in the laws and regulations relating to patents, trade marks, designs and plant breeder's rights
- To frame and establish by-laws and a code of ethics for members
- To encourage and facilitate communication between members, allowing them to disseminate and exchange professional ideas and knowledge in connection with their professional practice
- To promote the education status and training of patent and trade marks attorneys, thereby maintaining high standards of professional conduct and knowledge for members
- To provide means for settling disputes between practitioners, and between practitioners and their clients.
- To contribute to the development of intellectual property legislation, regulations and practices for the benefit of inventors, patentees and third parties

The purpose of this Membership Booklet is to outline the various services IPTA currently provides to its members in pursuing these objectives. These services range from providing continuing professional development webinars of the highest standards to supporting members with professional wellbeing counselling when needed.

IPTA is determined to ensure value is delivered to its members, the IP profession and to the public.

In addition to setting out the benefits of your membership with us, this Membership Booklet provides links to pages on our website where you can find additional information.

We are always open to hearing your views and hope you enjoy being a member of IPTA.

Yours sincerely



Jennifer McEwan

IPTA President

IPTA

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Our membership offer

What we do for you

We are committed to helping our current and future members

We influence for impact

- IPTA is the voice of the Australian patent and trade mark attorney profession, influencing issues that are important to you.
- We promote improvements in laws and regulations relating to patents, trade marks, designs and plant breeder's rights.
- We encourage communication between members, allowing them to exchange professional ideas and experience in managing patent, design, trade mark and plant breeder's rights issues, and to gather and disseminate professional knowledge.
- We look to reform and shape the IP landscape to be aligned to technological advances, to remain relevant to public interest and the profession by influencing government and regulators as the need arises.

We promote the profession

In Australia

- We consult with, and prepare submissions to, IP Australia and other Government bodies on legislative and practice changes, both in Australia and internationally.
- IPTA raises the profile of the profession through positioning attorneys as the expert source of all intellectual property advice.
- IPTA helps you to build your business through our online ['Find an Attorney'](#) directory. With numerous visits to the website each month and daily consumer calls enquiring about the 'sound out advice', it's one of our greatest tools to help connect the IPTA members to prospective businesses.
- We celebrate the best work in the attorney profession through our annual Edward Waters and Trade Mark Prizes, and the biennial Malcolm Royal Prize.

Overseas

- Through our global networks, we represent Australia internationally at various conferences and IP institute meetings such as those organised by FICPI, APAA and AIPPI.
- We are in regular contact with IPONZ and provide updates on legislative and regulatory changes in New Zealand.

We are your career companion

- For members, IPTA offers continuous professional education to the highest standards, to help you to stay on top of changing regulatory requirements and improve your practice, by offering a host of specialised training, including monthly webinars. We send out regular emails to our members informing them of the webinar schedule and log in details. Each webinar is equivalent to 1 CPE point.
- Our [online education portal](#) has been designed specifically to provide IPTA members with an opportunity to access webinars, pre-recorded educational seminars/PowerPoint presentations to help you keep up to date with developments in IP law and practice, as well as maintaining your CPE requirements.
- We provide IP firms with the opportunity to advertise available positions on our website, which also represents a great place for members to find new positions. The IPTA web site is visited regularly by attorneys, students and others interested in a career in IP. The [Jobs Board](#) section of the site is therefore a very relevant place to post an advertisement for staff.

We keep you up-to-date

Bulletins and Notice to Members

- IPTA works at the forefront of the IP profession and keeps you up-to-date by bringing you the latest news, information and research impacting the profession. Our bulletins and notice to members aim to keep members completely up to date with what is happening in the IP world.

Research and Submissions

- Our members can access any of the [submissions](#) the Council make on behalf of IPTA on our website: www.ipta.org.au

We keep you connected to your peers

- We host various [events](#) throughout the year, whether it be a seminar, an educational course, casual drinks catch-up or our yearly Christmas lunches, which provide opportunities for our members to network with each other.
- Whether you are looking for a fast update on the latest developments or need more in-depth support to develop personal or professional skills, our range of high-quality conferences and training are designed to help support you throughout your career.
- The IPTA Annual Conference is not only an excellent way to ensure you receive all of your CPE point requirements through the educational seminars we run throughout the conference, it is also an excellent way to connect with your peers.

We provide practice support

- If a member is having difficulties in carrying out their professional duties due to illness or for some other personal reason, IPTA Council can arrange guidance or professional assistance to maintain your professional practice during those difficulties. If a member is having difficulties, it is important to seek assistance earlier to ensure that client's rights are maintained and professional obligations are met. If you need assistance, please [contact the secretariat](#).

We can resolve Conflicts and Ethics queries

- The [Ethics and Dispute Committee](#) welcomes contact from members to discuss issues regarding ethics or potential conflicts that may arise in carrying out their professional duties. Whether you are a sole practitioner or a partner in a large firm, having an independent third-party sounding board can be useful in determining the best course of action in a given situation. Please contact the secretariat should you require any assistance.

We provide Mental Health Support Services

- Professional counselling support for IPTA Members
- The [IPTA Mental Health Support Service](#) is a confidential, personal, and professional counseling service available to members of IPTA, provided by experienced psychologists on the Cyber Clinic platform.
- Cyberclinic is a boutique psychology practice located in Melbourne, which offers a variety of cognitive and mindfulness-based techniques to reduce psychological injury and maintain emotional wellbeing.
- Their psychologists are highly trained in a variety of mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, stress, addiction, grief and loss, relationship issues, anger management and many more.
- The IPTA Wellbeing Program offers up to five free sessions with a psychologist. If further sessions are required, your psychologist will discuss the possibility of getting a mental healthcare plan from your GP to continue providing counselling for up to ten sessions with a Medicare rebate.

How we work

We continually listen and respond to our members

IPTA Council

The affairs of IPTA are managed by a Council elected annually from IPTA Fellows. The Council comprises one president, two vice-presidents, twelve councillors and the immediate past president. All positions are voluntary and the Council endeavours to meet on a six-weekly basis, or at least eight meetings are conducted annually.

The Council oversees the work of IPTA which is set up under our [Memorandum of Articles](#). The Council determines the strategic direction of IPTA, and sets the annual business plan and budget. The focus of the Council is aligned with the needs of our diverse membership and their clients. We harness the knowledge and experience of our Council and committee representatives to deliver the support and services our members want.

Nominations for positions on the Council are encouraged from all eligible IPTA Fellows, irrespective of gender, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation or disability. We encourage and welcome all members nationally to participate in one of the many committees of IPTA.

[Find out more about our Council and our election process:](#)

www.ipta.org.au/attorneys/about-ipta/institute-council/

The IPTA Committees

The affairs of the Council have been separated into distinct areas in order to share the workload amongst the members of Council. Each distinct area is the responsibility of a committee.

The current committees and their convenors are as follows:

Committee & Contact	Email
Governance Committee (incorporating Fees) Dr Grant Shoebridge	grant.shoebridge@ipta.org.au
<p>This Committee overseas the finances of the IPTA secretariat, including salaries, budgets and approval of expenses associated with IPTA. It also involves approval of the auditor and signing off of the annual audit.</p> <p>It provides commentary on any fee changes proposed by the Patent Office,</p> <p>This Committee seeks to ensure that all members adhere to the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and By-Laws, and the Code of Ethics and Guidelines. The Committee also considers from time to time whether amendments to the By-Laws, the Code of Ethics or Guidelines are needed and implements those changes as required.</p>	
Membership & Member Services Committee Dr Annabella Newton & Dr Claire Gregg	Annabella.newton@ipta.org.au Claire.gregg@ipta.org.au
<p>This Committee's objective is to raise the awareness, knowledge and capability of members of the Institute in the multitude of pathways for successful commercialisation of IP.</p>	
Patents Committee Mr William Hird Mr Philip Gehrig	william.hird@ipta.org.au philip.gehrig@ipta.org.au

This Committee monitors closely the development of legislation as it relates to patented inventions, including the interpretation of that legislation by IP Australia and the Courts.

This Committee monitors the practice of IP Australia as it pertains to the filing, examination, and grant of applications for patents, as well as decisions of the Australia Patent Office (APO) and Federal Court of Australia relating to patents.

The Committee also monitors the experience of IPTA members in their interactions with IP Australia. The Committee assists with any problems experienced by members of IPTA in their

interactions with IP Australia and consulting with relevant sections of IP Australia to address issues or problems identified.

This Committee monitors developments of international patent law as it relates to and effects patent law and practice in Australia.

The object of this Committee is to monitor the development of Intellectual Property legislation in New Zealand as it relates to patents, trade marks and designs, including the interpretation of that legislation by IPONZ and the New Zealand Courts.

[Trade Marks, Designs, Plant Breeders Rights and Indigenous Knowledge Committee](#)

Mr Ian Drew

ian.drew@ipta.org.au

This Committee monitors closely the amendment and development of legislation as it relates to trade marks, including the interpretation of that legislation by IP Australia and the Courts.

This Committee monitors closely the amendment and development of legislation as it relates to registered designs, including the interpretation of that legislation by IP Australia and the Courts.

This Committee informs members of any changes to the PBR law and keeps up to date on issues for users of PBRs. The Committee also provides a member to represent IPTA on the Plant Breeder's Rights Consultation Group administered by IP Australia.

The object of this Committee is to monitor the development of Intellectual Property legislation in New Zealand as it relates to patents, trade marks and designs, including the interpretation of that legislation by IPONZ and the New Zealand Courts.

[Ethics & Disputes Committee](#)

Dr John Landells

john.landells@ipta.org.au

The objective of this Committee is to raise the ethical standards of patent and trade marks attorneys. The Committee processes complaints and enquiries from clients of IPTA members, assists members with questions on conflicts of interest and professional ethics, provides training on conflicts of interest and professional ethics to IPTA members and works with the Trans-Tasman IP Attorneys Board on ethics standards and dealing with official complaints.

[In-house Members & Commercialisation Committee](#)

Mr Brendan Cheong
Dr Anna Johnston

brendan.cheong@ipta.org.au
anna.johnston@ipta.org.au

Committee & Contact

Email

Education Committee

Dr Andrew Jones

andrew.jones@ipta.org.au

This Committee provides educational opportunities for our members to maintain and build upon their knowledge and skills as patent and trade mark attorneys, thereby assisting members in meeting their continuing professional education (CPE) requirements. This Committee maintains relationships with the Universities offering qualification courses for IPTA members to facilitate information sharing and to enable the award of the Institute prize.

This Committee ensures that the IPTA conference is the pre-eminent educational event for the patent attorney profession in Australia with international recognition.

Media & Communications Committee

Dr Grant Shoebridge

Mr Brendan Cheong

grant.shoebridge@ipta.org.au

brendan.cheong@ipta.org.au

This Committee has the objective of raising awareness of IPTA and IPTA's views on IP-related matters through media engagement, political lobbying and to assist in drafting of submissions.

This Committee is tasked with the role of communicating to members the activities of the Secretariat and Council and keeping members up to date on developments in law and practice relevant to Trans-Tasman IP attorneys. The Committee also maintains the IPTA website to ensure it has material relevant to members and helpful for the community.

State Representatives

The council also has nominated representatives in each state. Those nominated representatives are as follows:

Division

NSW Division - Dr Andrew Jones

Queensland Division - Mr Adam Luxton

South Australian Division - Mr Mark O'Donnell

Division

Victorian Division - Dr Annabella Newton

Western Australian Division - Mr Gary Cox

ACT Division – Ms Jennifer McEwan

Membership Levels

We provide a tailored membership structure to suit where you are currently placed in your career

IPTA understand the various phases of our members' careers and have tailored flexible options to suit.

Category	Annual Subscription
Fellow Practising	\$720 + GST = \$792.00
Fellow Corporate	\$360 + GST = \$396.00
Fellow Non-Practising	\$115 + GST = \$126.50
Fellow Practising Overseas	\$720 no GST= \$720.00
Emeritus Fellow	\$115 + GST = \$126.50
Ordinary Practising	\$500 + GST = \$550.00
Ordinary Corporate	\$250 + GST = \$275.00
Ordinary Non-Practising	\$100 + GST = \$110.00
Student Member	\$100 + GST = \$110.00
Overseas Member	\$125 no GST= \$125.00

IPTA Secretariat – Contact details

P +613 9639 4377 E mail@ipta.org.au