Voluntary External Examiner's Checklist



Legal Profession Act 2007 – Legal Profession Regulation 2017

For the period	to		
Name of Law F	Practice		
Completed On			
Completed By			
Signature of E	External Examiner		
Index	Content	YES	N/A
Division 1	Trust money		
Division 2	Trust account		
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- The review period is 1 April to 31 March and is based on compliance with the Legal Profession Act 2007 ("Act") and corresponding Legal Profession Regulation 2017 ("Regulation").
- 2. The External Examiner's Report is required to be completed by either:
 - a) A registered auditor under the Corporations Act; or
 - b) An individual who
 - i) is a member of CPA Australia Ltd ACN 008 392 452; and
 - i) is entitled to use the letters 'CPA' or 'FCPA'; and
 - iii) has satisfied the requirements of CPA Australia Ltd ACN 008 392 452 for practice as a public accountant; or
 - c) An individual who
 - i) is a member of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand ARBN 084 642 571; and
 - i) is entitled to use the letters 'CA' or 'FCA'; and
 - ii) has satisfied the requirements of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand ARBN 084 642 571 for practice as a public accountant; or
 - d) An individual who -
 - Is a member of the Institute of Public Accountants ACN 004 130 643; and
 - ii) Is entitled to use the letters 'MIPA', 'FIPA''; and
 - iii) has satisfied the requirements of the Institute of Public Accountants ACN 004 130 643 for practice as a public accountant; and
 - iv) has completed a tertiary course of study in accounting with an auditing component from a university or other institution prescribed under the Corporations Act, s1280(2A); or
 - e) An individual that is a person who the chief executive considers has appropriate qualifications as an auditor under the Corporations Act; or
 - f) An individual who
 - i) is an employee or agent of the law society; and
 - ii) is recognised, by the law society, as having appropriate qualifications or experience for conducting external examinations.
- 3. Upon being appointed as an External Examiner by a law practice, the External Examiner should remind the law practice of its obligation to notify the Queensland Law Society Incorporated ("Society") in writing within 14 days of such appointment. A notification form Notification of Appointment or Termination of External Examiner (QLS Form 31) is available on the Society's website at

https://www.qls.com.au/Forms-Library

- 4. This Checklist has been prepared to guide the law practice and External Examiners through the examination of the various forms of trust records maintained by the law practice and to assist in the assessment of compliance with the Act and Regulation. A responsible officer of the law practice is required to complete the Checklist and the External Examiner is required to confirm the accuracy of the self-assessment by the law practice.
- A completed copy of the Checklist together with other review documentation must be retained by the External Examiner as part of their work papers and a copy of the Checklist should be left with the law practice.
- The External Examiner should apply professional judgement together with the various pronouncements of the professional bodies that cover the individual circumstances of each examination.
- The objective of the Checklist is to assist the law practice and the External Examiner determine that the law practice has maintained trust records:
 - a) that are in accordance with the legislation; and
 - b) in a way that at all times discloses the true position in relation to trust money received for or on behalf of any person; and
 - in a way that enables the trust records to be conveniently and properly investigated or externally examined; and
 - d) for a period determined in accordance with the legislation.
- 8. It is necessary to conduct appropriate examination, utilise sampling techniques and enquiries to form an opinion as to whether the trust records have been maintained in accordance with the Act and Regulation. External Examiners must use their own judgement, from the examination of the trust records, to form an opinion. The Society will not offer advice as to whether an issue in the records warrants a breach of the Act or Regulation or a qualified/adverse Report.

- Breaches of the Act and Regulation are to be recorded on Schedule 1 of the External Examiner's Report (Form 5).
- All trust accounts operated during the period must be included on Form 4 Part B Item 2. Examples of where this may be relevant are:
 - a) change of approved ADI's
 - b) change or closure of the relevant branch of the approved ADI
 - c) opening of additional general trust accounts
 - d) change of approved ADI account number.

Particular emphasis should be placed on trust accounts closed during the reporting period.

11. A listing of approved ADI's is available on the Society's website at

https://www.qls.com.au/Practising-law-in-Qld/Trust-accounts/Approved-ADIs-for-Trust-Accounts

- Ascertain all trust accounts, controlled money accounts, accounts subject to a power and details of any investment of trust money disclosed by the trust records that will be subject to the Checklist.
- 13. The External Examiner must ensure that every field on the External Examiner's Report is completed. In areas where an examination is not required, the External Examiner should put "N/A" in the box provided.
- 14. If an incomplete External Examiner's Report is submitted, the Report will not be accepted by the Society and will be returned to the External Examiner as incomplete. The date of receipt of the Report will be recorded as the date of receipt of a fully completed Report.
- 15. Transit money There is no particular trust record or register required by the legislation to be maintained for transit money. Law practices entrusted with no other form of trust money other than transit money and/or money received or held within a PEXA source account are not required to lodge an External Examiner's Report. It should be noted that s255 states a law practice must deposit trust money received in the form of cash in a trust account of the practice.
- 16. Trust money subject to a specific power Form 4 Part B Item 9 requires the recording of the total value of trust money subject to a power as at 31 March. If a precise figure cannot be determined, then an approximation should be provided.
- 17. The External Examiner is required to vouch a number of transactions to the source records maintained by the law practice. The method and number of transactions selected is determined by each External Examiner. If the External Examiner is satisfied that the source records substantiate the transactions then the External Examiner may determine that the sighting of paid cheques or EFT's is not required.
- 18. The External Examiner's Report must be lodged with the Society by **30 May**. It is preferred that the Report is emailed to managertai@qls.com.au.

The report may be posted to:

Manager, Trust Account Investigations Queensland Law Society 179 Ann St Brisbane QLD 4000

or

GPO Box 1785 Brisbane QLD 4001

If the External Examiner's Report is delayed due to an approved ADI's delay in providing information, External Examiners are requested to qualify the Report. Once the outstanding information is received, it is imperative that the External Examiner notifies the Society as soon as possible advising that the qualification has been lifted.

Division 1 – Trust money

Part 1 – Keeping of trust records Objective is to ensure that the law practice has maintained records in accordance with the Act and Regulation during the period covered by the examination.									
Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments			
s261(1)	1.1	Trust records are kept in permanent form.							
	1.2	Trust records are kept:							
s261(2)		in a way that at all times discloses the true position in relation to trust money received for any person							
s261(2)		in a way that enables the trust records to be conveniently and properly externally examined							
s59(2)	1.3	Trust records are retained for 7 years from the finalisation of the matter.							

	5 10 61150	re that the law practice's computer system complies with the requiremen	ts of the	e Act a	nd Reg	ulation.
Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments
	2.1	Trust records are maintained by means of a computer system.				If "NO", go to Part 3
s30(1)	2.2	A record is kept of all changes (by creation, amendment or deletion) to:				
s30(1)(a)		client name				
s30(1)(b)		client address				
s30(1)(c)		matter reference				
s30(1)(d)		matter description				
s30(1)(e)		ledger account number or other descriptor				
s30(2)	2.3	The record is retained by the law practice.				
s31(1)	2.4	The program will not accept the entry of a transaction resulting in a debit balance to any ledger account.				
s31(1)	2.5	A report of such entries is produced.				
	2.6	The program does not allow the deletion of a trust account ledger if there:				
s31(2)(a)		is a balance on the ledger				
s31(2)(a)		are unpresented cheques relating to the ledger				
s31(2)(b)	2.7	Copies of deleted ledgers are retained in permanent form.				
s31(3)	2.8	Entries in the records produced are in permanent form and in chronological sequence.				
s31(4)	2.9	Pages of printed reports are numbered sequentially.				
s31(5)	2.10	Entries already recorded are not capable of being amended otherwise than by a transaction separately recorded.				
s32(a)	2.11	A back-up copy of all records is made at least once per month.				
s32(c)	2.12	The most recent back-up copy is kept in a separate location so that any incident that may adversely affect the records would not also affect the back-up copy.				

Part 3 - Trust account statements

Objective is to ensure that trust account statements are sent for all trust money received in accordance with s53 of the Regulation

Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments
	3.1	Subject to s54 of the Regulation, trust account statements are issued as soon as practicable after:				
s53(6)(a)		completion of each matter				
s53(6)(b)		a reasonable request				
s53(6)(c)	3.2	Trust account statements are sent after 30 June each year.				
	3.3	If statements were not sent for certain accounts:				
s53(7)(a)		the ledger account was open for less than six months; or				
s53(7)(b)		the balance of the ledger account was zero and no transaction had taken place within the previous 12 months; or				
s53(7)(c)		a trust account statement had been furnished within the previous 12 months and there had been no subsequent transactions affecting the ledger account or record				
	3.4	Trust account statements disclose:				
s53(5)(a)		the same detail as required by s42 or s51 and s55 of the Regulation				
s53(5)(b)		the remaining balance (if any) of the money				
s53(8)	3.5	Copies of trust account statements are retained.				

Part 4 - Withdrawing trust money for legal costs

Objective is to ensure that the law practice is complying with the procedures concerning the withdrawal of money from a trust or controlled money account for legal costs as described in s58 of the Regulation.

Note: This clause prescribes, for the zpurpose of s258(1)(b) of the Act, trust money, held in a trust account or controlled money account of a law practice for a person, may only be withdrawn, for payment of legal costs owing to the practice by the person, in accordance with the procedure set out in subsection (2), (3), (4) or (5).

Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments
s58(2)	4.1	The law practice may withdraw the trust money:				
		(a) if the law practice has given the person a bill relating to the money; and				
		(b) if –				
		(i) the person has not objected to withdrawal of the money within 7 days after being given the bill; or				
		(ii) the person has objected within 7 days after being given the bill, but has not applied for a costs assessment within 60 days after being given the bill; or				
		(iii) the money otherwise becomes legally payable.				
s58(3)	4.2	The law practice may withdraw the trust money, whether or not the law practice has given the person a bill relating to the money, if –				
		(a) the money is withdrawn in accordance with -				
		 a costs agreement that complies with the legislation under which it is made and that authorises the withdrawal; or 				
		(ii) instructions received by the practice and that authorise the withdrawal; and				
		(b) the practice, before withdrawing the money, gives or sends to the person –				
		(i) a request for payment, referring to the proposed withdrawal; or				
		(ii) a written notice of withdrawal.				
s58(4)	4.3	The law practice may withdraw the trust money if -				
		(a) the money is owed to the law practice by way of reimbursement of money already paid by the law practice on behalf of the person; and				
		(b) the practice, before withdrawing the money, gives or sends to the person –				
		(i) a request for payment, referring to the proposed withdrawal; or				
		(ii) written notice of withdrawal.				

Part 4 – Withdrawing trust money for legal costs (continued)

Objective is to ensure that the law practice is complying with the procedures concerning the withdrawal of money from a trust or controlled money account for legal costs as described in s58 of the Regulation.

Note: This clause prescribes, for the zpurpose of s258(1)(b) of the Act, trust money, held in a trust account or controlled money account of a law practice for a person, may only be withdrawn, for payment of legal costs owing to the practice by the person, in accordance with the procedure set out in subsection (2), (3), (4) or (5).

Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments
s58(5)	4.4	If a cost agreement or instruction, mentioned in subsection (3)(a), authorises withdrawal of only part of the money, the remainder of the money may still be withdrawn in accordance with subsection (2) or (4).				
s58(6)	4.5	An instruction mentioned in subsection (3)(a)(ii) –				
		(a) if the instruction is given in writing – must be kept as a permanent record; or				
		(b) otherwise must be confirmed in writing either before, or within 5 working days after, the law practice withdraws the money and a copy must be kept as a permanent record.				
s58(7)	4.6	For the purposes of subsection (4), money is taken to have been paid by the law practice on behalf of the person when the relevant account of the law practice has been debited.				

Part 5 - Notification of authorised signatories

Objective is to ensure that signatories are appointed in accordance with the Act and Regulation and any changes notified to the Society. **Note:** Notification of principals who hold local practising certificates is not required.

Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments
s37(3) & 38(2)	5.1	Persons other than the principals of the law practice that hold local practising certificates have been authorised to sign trust cheques, sign controlled money withdrawals or effect EFTs from the trust account or controlled money account.				If "NO", go to Division 2 Part 1
s37(3) & 38(2)	5.2	The authorised persons are:				
		an authorised legal practitioner associate, or				
		an authorised Australian legal practitioner who holds an unrestricted practising certificate authorising the receipt of trust money, or				
		two or more authorised associates jointly				
	5.3	The law practice has given written notice to the Society within 14 days of the:				
s46(2)(a)		appointment of an authorised signatory				
s46(2)(a)		termination of an authorised signatory				

Division 2	- Ir	ust account				
	to ensur	int re a law practice that receives money that is required to be banked into a liction, and that the trust account is established and maintained in accord				
Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments
s249(1)	1.1	Trust money has been received, held or disbursed during the applicable period.				If "NO" go to Division 3
s33(3)(a)	1.2	The trust account is established with an approved ADI in this jurisdiction.				
s33(3)(b)	1.3	The trust account is maintained within this jurisdiction.				
	1.4	For a trust account opened on or after 1 July 2007, the name of the account includes:				
s33(3)(c)(i)		the name of the law practice or the business name under which the law practice engages in legal practice				
s33(3)(c)(ii)		the expression "law practice trust account" or "law practice trust a/c"				
	1.5	The law practice notified the Society within 14 days of:				
s46(1)		opening a trust account				
s46(1)		closing a trust account				
	o ensure	Int receipts that a trust account receipt is issued promptly in respect to trust money receipt of the money to be properly recorded in the trust account receipt				
Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments
s34(2)	2.1	Trust receipts are made out for money that is required to be deposited into a trust account.				
s34(4)	2.2	Trust receipts are in duplicate.				
		Note: The receipt, containing the required particulars, must be made out in duplicate, whether by way of making a carbon copy or otherwise, unless at the time the receipt is made out those particulars are recorded by computer program in the trust account receipts cash book.				
	2.3	Trust receipts are consecutively numbered and issued in consecutive sequence.				
	2.4	The original and duplicate trust receipts include:				
s34(5)(g)		the law practice name or business name under which the law practice engages in legal practice				
s34(5)(g)		the expression "Trust account" or "Trust a/c"				
	2.5	Trust receipts include:				
s34(5)(a)		the date the receipt is made out, and if different, the date of the receipt of the money				
s34(5)(b)		the amount of money received				
s34(5)(c)		the form in which the money is received				
s34(5)(d)		the name of the person from whom the money is received				
s34(5)(e)		the name of the client, matter description and matter reference				
s34(5)(f)		the purpose for which the money was received				
s34(5)(h)		the name of the person who made out the receipt				
s34(5)(i)		the number of the receipt				
s34(8)	2.6	The law practice retains the original of any cancelled receipt or receipt not delivered.				
	2.7	For manual receipting systems, list serial numbers of all receipts issued during the reporting period, used subsequent to the period, unused and on hand at the time of the examination.				

Part 3 - Trust account deposits

Objective is to confirm that each deposit record is made out in duplicate, completed deposit records are securely retained, and trust money received has been promptly banked.

Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments
s248(1)	3.1	Trust money is deposited as soon as practicable after it is received.				
s35(2)	3.2	A deposit record is produced to the approved ADI at the time of making the deposit.				
	3.3	Deposit records include:				
s35(3)(a)		the date of deposit				
s35(3)(b)		the amount of deposit				
s35(3)(c)		the form of deposit				
		for each cheque to be banked:				
s35(3)(i)		name of drawer				
s35(3)(ii)		name and branch, or BSB number of the ADI				
s35(3)(iii)		the amount				
s35(4)	3.4	The deposit record is made out in duplicate.				
s35(5)	3.5	The duplicate deposit record is retained.				

Part 4 - Trust account payments

Objective is to ensure that sufficient information has been recorded on the relevant cheque butt, or cheque requisition, or other initiating disbursement document to enable details of disbursements to be properly recorded in the trust account payments cash book and trust account ledger.

Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments
	4.1	All trust money drawn from the trust account has been by way of:				
s37(1)		trust cheque				
s38(1)		electronic funds transfer (if approved)				
	4.2	Trust cheques:				
s37(2)(a)		include a direction to pay to the order of a stated person				
s37(2)(b)		are crossed and marked "not negotiable"				
s37(2)(c)(i)		include the law practice name				
s37(2)(c)(ii)		include the expression "law practice trust account" or "law practice trust a/c" (for accounts opened after 1 July 2007)				
s37(4)	4.3	A written record of the payment by cheque is retained by the law practice.				
		Note: A written record of the required particulars (which may be in the form of a cheque butt) must be kept of each payment made by cheque, whether by way of making a carbon copy or otherwise, unless at the time the cheque is issued those particulars are recorded by computer program in the trust account payments cash book.				
	4.4	The written record includes:				
s37(6)(a)		the date of issue and number of the cheque				
s37(6)(b)		the amount				
s37(6)(c)		the name of the person to whom the payment is made or in the case of a cheque made payable to an ADI, the name of the ADI and the name of the person receiving the benefit of the payment				
s37(6)(d)		the name of the person on whose behalf the payment was made and the matter reference				

Part 4 - Trust account payments (continued)

Objective is to ensure that sufficient information has been recorded on the relevant cheque butt, or cheque requisition, or other initiating disbursement document to enable details of disbursements to be properly recorded in the trust account payments cash book and trust account ledger.

Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments
s37(6)(e)		the ledger account to be debited				
s37(6)(f)		the purpose of the payment				
s37(7)	4.5	Written records relating to payments by cheque are stored in the order in which cheques were issued.				
		Electronic funds transfers (EFT)				
s250(1)(b)	4.6	The law practice has authority from the Society to disburse trust money via EFT.				
s38(3)	4.7	A written record is kept evidencing the EFT.				
	4.8	The written record includes:				
s38(5)(a)		the date and the sequential assigned reference number of the transaction				
s38(5)(b)		the amount transferred				
s38(5)(c)		the name and number of the account to which the amount was transferred and BSB number				
		OR , if the above have not been recorded, the law practice has been granted an exemption from the Society to comply with s38(5)(c) of the Regulation.				
s38(5)(d)		the name of the person to whom the payment was made				
s38(5)(e)		the name of the person on whose behalf the payment was made				
s38(5)(e)		the matter reference				
s38(5)(f)		the ledger account to be debited				
s38(5)(g)		the purpose for which the payment was made				
s38(6)	4.9	Written records of payments by EFT are stored in the order in which the transfers were effected.				
		General				
	4.10	A number of selected paid cheques have been reviewed.				
	4.11	The payee on the selected paid cheque agrees with the trust account payments cash book and trust account ledger.				
	4.12	The cheques have been signed by a person authorised to sign trust cheques.				
	4.13	EFTs have been authorised by a person who is authorised to make EFT payments.				

Part 5 - Trust account receipts and payments cash book

Objective is to ensure that the trust account receipts and payments cash books have been properly kept in accordance with the Act and Regulation.

	Ì					
Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments
		General				
	5.1	The trust account receipts cash book has been totalled for each month.				
	5.2	The trust account payments cash book has been totalled for each month.				
		Trust account receipts cash book				
	5.3	The following particulars are recorded in the trust account receipts cash book for each receipt of trust money:				
s40(1)(a)		the date a receipt was made out for the money and, if different, the date of receipt of the money				
s40(1)(b)		the receipt number				

Part 5 – Trust account receipts and payments cash book

Objective is to ensure that the trust account receipts and payments cash books have been properly kept in accordance with the Act and Regulation.

Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments
s40(1)(c)		the amount of money received				
s40(1)(d)		the form in which the money was received				
		, 				
s40(1)(e)		the name of the person from whom the money was received				
s40(1)(f)		the name of the client in respect of whom the money was received, the matter description and the matter reference				
s40(1)(g)		the purpose of the receipt				
s40(2)	5.4	The date and amount of each deposit is recorded.				
s40(3)	5.5	Receipts are recorded in the order in which they are made out.				
s40(4)	5.6	Particulars of receipts have been recorded within 5 working days of the receipt being made out.				
		Trust account payments cash book				
	5.7	The following particulars are recorded in the trust account payments cash book for each payment of trust money by cheque.				
s41(1)(a)		the date of the cheque and cheque number				
s41(1)(b)		the amount ordered to be paid by the cheque				
s41(1)(c)		the name of the person to whom the payment is to be made				
s41(1)(c)		In the case of a cheque made payable to an ADI:				
		the name or BSB number of the ADI				
		the name of the person receiving the benefit of the payment				
s41(1)(d)		the name of the person on whose behalf the payment was made and the matter reference				
s41(1)(e)		the ledger account to be debited				
s41(1)(f)		the purpose of the payment				
	5.8	For payments by EFT, the following are recorded:				
s41(2)(a)		the date and number of the transaction				
s41(2)(b)		the amount transferred				
s41(2)(c)		the name and number of the account to which the amount was transferred, and the relevant BSB				
		OR relevant information as detailed in the EFT Guidelines for payments that do not use a BSB and account number				
s41(2)(d)		the name of the person to whom the payment was made				
s41(2)(d)		in the case of a transfer made payable to an ADI, the name or the BSB number of the ADI and the name of the person receiving the benefit of the payment				
s41(2)(e)		the name of the person on whose behalf the payment was made and the matter reference				
s41(2)(f)		the ledger account to be debited				
s41(2)(g)		the purpose for which the payment was made				
s41(3)	5.9	Payments are recorded in the order in which they are made.				
s41(4)	5.10	Particulars of payments have been recorded within 5 working days of the payment being made.				

Part 6 - Trust journal Objective is to ensure that there are no transfers without the use of the trust journal and that the required details are recorded for each trust journal entry. YES NO N/A Comments Section Item s.43(2)6.1 Journal transfers have been authorised in writing by an authorised trust account signatory. 6.2 The following particulars are recorded for each journal transfer: s.43(4)(a) the date of the transfer s.43(4)(b) & (e) the trust ledger account from which the money is transferred, matter description and matter reference s.43(4)(c) & (e) the trust ledger account to which the money is transferred, matter description and matter reference

Part 7 - Trust ledger accounts

6.3

6.4

the amount transferred

the purpose of the transfer

Journal pages or entries are consecutively numbered.

Particulars of the authorisation for each transfer are kept.

s.43(4)(d)

s.43(4)(e)

s.43(5)

s.43(6)

Objective is to ensure that trust ledger accounts have been properly kept and details of money received, disbursed and transferred are recorded in a trust ledger account kept for each person on whose behalf money is held.

Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments
s42(1)	7.1	A separate ledger account has been opened for each matter for which trust money has been received.				
	7.2	Each ledger account includes in the title:				
s42(2)(a)		the name of the person				
s42(2)(b)		the person's address				
s42(2)(c)		sufficient matter description and reference				
s42(3)	7.3	Details of any changes to the title of a trust ledger are recorded.				
	7.4	The following particulars are recorded in the trust ledger account for receipts, payments or journal transfers:				
s42		the date the receipt, payment voucher or journal transfer was made out. For receipts, if the date of the receipt is different to the date of receipt of money, the date of receipt of money is also recorded.				
s42		the receipt, cheque or journal transfer number				
s42		the amount received, paid or transferred				
s42		the name of the person the money was received from, paid to, or transferred to				
s42		the reason the money was received, paid or transferred				
s42(5)	7.5	For cheques drawn to an Approved ADI ('bank cheques"), the trust account ledger discloses the name or BSB number of the ADI and the name of the person receiving the benefit of the payment.				
		For payment by EFT, the following are recorded:				
s42(6)(c)		the name and number of the account to which the amount was transferred,				
		OR relevant information as detailed in the EFT Guidelines for payments that do not use a BSB and account number				
s42(6)(d)		the name of the person to whom the money was transferred				

Part 7 - Trust ledger accounts (continued)

Objective is to ensure that trust ledger accounts have been properly kept and details of money received, disbursed and transferred are recorded in a trust ledger account kept for each person on whose behalf money is held.

Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments
		For trust ledger accounts in the name of the law practice or legal practitioner associate:				
	7.6	The use the trust ledger account is restricted to:				
s45(2)		a clearing account for transferring legal costs				
s45(2)(a)		matters in respect of which the legal practitioner associate has a personal and beneficial interest as a vendor, purchaser, lessor, lessee or in another similar capacity				
s45(3)	7.7	If a clearing account is used, the trust money has been withdrawn within 1 month of being transferred to the account.				

Part 8 - Reconciliation of trust account

Objective is to ensure that the trust records of each trust account are reconciled within 15 working days of the end of each month and errors and deficiencies are identified and rectified.

Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments
		Reconciliation statements				
s44(1)	8.1	Reconciliation statements have been prepared for each month.				
s44(2)	8.2	The reconciliation statements disclose the month to which they refer.				
s44(2)(a)(i)	8.3	The reconciliation statements accurately reflect the reconciliation of the balance of the trust account with the balance of the cash book.				
s44(2)(a)(ii)	8.4	The date that each reconciliation statement was prepared is shown.				
s44(2)(b)(i)	8.5	The balance of the trust account ledgers reconcile with the trust account cash book.				
s44(2)(b)(ii)	8.6	The law practice maintains a list of trust ledger accounts showing the name, identifying reference and the balance of each and a short description of the matter to which each relates.				
s44(2)(b)(iii)	8.7	The list of trust ledger accounts shows the date it was prepared.				
s44(3)	8.8	The reconciliation statements are:				
s44(3)(a)		prepared within 15 working days after the end of the month concerned				
s44(3)(b)		reviewed by a principal of the law practice				
s44(3)(c)		annotated in a way that evidences the completion of the review by the principal of the law practice				
s44(3)(d)		kept by the law practice				
	8.9	All reconciling items have been reviewed.				
	8.10	The trust account balance as at 31 March been confirmed.				
	8.11	The approved ADI statement balance agrees with the balance shown on the reconciliation statement as at 31 March.				
		Trust trial balance statements				
	8.12	Any discrepancies between the trial balance and cash book have been satisfactorily noted, explained and subsequently adjusted.				
	8.13	All debit balances listed on any trust trial balance statement have been rectified as soon as practicable after the time when the debit balance should have become apparent.				
	8.14	Details of overdrawn trust ledger accounts are included at Item 3 of Form 4 – Law Practice Declaration & Trust Money Statement, including duration of debit balance and method of restoration (if applicable).				

s48(10)

2.7

		th controlled money re a law practice that receives controlled money deposits the money in a	control	led mo	ney ac	count as directed.
Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments
s251	1.1	Controlled money been received, held or disbursed during the applicable period.				If "NO" go to Division 4
	1.2	The name of the controlled money account includes: (if opened after 1 July 2007)				
s47(1)(a)		the name of the law practice				
s47(1)(b)		the expression "controlled money account" or the abbreviation "CMA" or "CM A/c"				
s47(1)(c)		the purpose of the account and particulars sufficient to distinguish the account from any other account kept by the law practice				
s47(2)	1.3	Written directions have been obtained to open the controlled money account.				
Objective i required pa	is to ensu	money receipt re that a controlled money account receipt is issued promptly in respect of are properly recorded.				ey received and the
Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments
s48(2)	2.1	The law practice maintains a single controlled money receipt system for the receipt of controlled money for all its controlled money accounts.				
s48(3)	2.2	A controlled money receipt is made out for the receipt of controlled money excluding interest received into the controlled money account.				
s48(5)	2.3	The controlled money receipts are in duplicate.				
		Note: The receipt, containing the required particulars, must be made out in duplicate, whether by way of making a carbon copy or otherwise, unless at the time the receipt is made out those particulars are recorded by computer program in the register of controlled money.				
s48(6)(h)	2.4	The receipts include the name of the law practice, or the business name under which the law practice engages in legal practice, and the expression "controlled money receipt".				
	2.5	Controlled money receipts include the following required particulars:				
s48(6)(a)		the date the receipt is made out and, if different, the date of receipt of the money				
s48(6)(b)		the amount of money received				
s48(6)(c)		the form in which the money was received				
s48(6)(d)		the name of the person from whom the money was received				
s48(6)(e)		the name of the person on whose behalf the money was received				
s48(6)(e)		the matter description				
s48(6)(e)		the matter reference				
s48(6)(f)		the purpose of the receipt				
s48(6)(g)		the name of and other details identifying the controlled money account to be credited				
s48(6)(i)		the name of the person who made out the receipt				
s48(6)(j)		the number of the receipt				
	2.6	Controlled money receipts are:				
s48(9)		consecutively numbered				
		issued in consecutive sequence				

The original of any receipt that is cancelled or not delivered is kept.

Part 3 - Controlled money withdrawal

Objective is to ensure that all withdrawals of controlled money are carried out in accordance with the Act and Regulation and that a written record disclosing the required particulars is kept for each withdrawal of controlled money.

writter record discressing the required particulars is kept for each withdraward controlled money.										
Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments				
s50(2)	3.1	The withdrawal occurred by cheque or EFT.								
s50(3)	3.2	The withdrawal occurred under the direction of, or with the authority of:								
s50(3)(a)		an authorised principal of the law practice								
s50(3)(b)(i)		an authorised legal practitioner associate								
s50(3)(b)(ii)		an authorised Australian legal practitioner who holds an unrestricted practising certificate authorising the receipt of trust money								
s50(3)(b)(iii)		2 or more authorised associates jointly								
s50(4)	3.3	A computerised or written record of the required particulars has been kept for each withdrawal.								
s50(5)	3.4	At the time of the withdrawal, if the required particulars were recorded by a computer program; a written record has been kept to ensure the accuracy of the particulars recorded by the computer program.								
s50(6)	3.5	The following required particulars have been recorded:								
s50(6)(a)		the date and number of the transaction								
s50(6)(b)		the amount withdrawn								
s50(6)(c)		if the transfer was made by EFT, the name and number of the account to which the amount was transferred and the relevant BSB number,								
		OR relevant information as detailed in the EFT Guidelines for payments that do not use a BSB and account number								
s50(6)(d)		the name of the person to whom payment was made to or, if the payment was to an ADI, the name or BSB number of the ADI and the name of the person receiving the benefit of the payment								
s50(6)(e)		the name of the person on whose behalf the payment was made and the matter reference								
s50(6)(f)		the purpose for which the payment was made								
s50(6)(g)		the person or persons effecting, directing or authorising the withdrawal								
s50(7)	3.6	The particulars are recorded in the order in which the payments are made.								
s50(7)	3.7	The particulars are recorded separately for each controlled money account.								

Part 4 - Register of controlled money

Objective is to ensure that all records relating to controlled money accounts are properly kept in the controlled money register.

Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments
s51(1)	4.1	The law practice maintains a register of controlled money.				
s51(1)	4.2	The controlled money register consist of the records of controlled money movements.				
s51(2)	4.3	A separate record of controlled money movements is kept for each controlled money account.				
s51(3)	4.4	The record of controlled money movements records the following information:				
s51(3)(a)		the name of the person on whose behalf the controlled money is held				
s51(3)(b)		the person's address				
s51(3)(c)		the matter				
s51(3)(d)		changes to any of the information above				

s51(9)(b)

Part 4 – Register of controlled money (Continued)									
Objective is	to ensur	re that all records relating to controlled money accounts are properly kep	t in the	contro	lled mo	ney register.			
Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments			
s51(4)	4.5	The following particulars are recorded in the record of controlled money movements:							
s51(4)(a)		the date the controlled money was received							
s51(4)(b)		the number of the receipt							
s51(4)(c)		the date when the money was deposited in the controlled money account							
s51(4)(d)		the name of and other details clearly identifying the controlled money account							
s51(4)(e)		the amount of the controlled money deposited							
s51(4)(f)		sufficient details to identify the deposit							
s51(4)(g)		any interest received							
s51(4)(h)		details of any payments from the controlled money account, including the particulars required to be recorded under s50 of the Regulation							
s51(5)	4.6	The particulars of receipts and payments were entered into the register after the controlled money was received or payment was made by the law practice.							
s51(6)	4.7	Interest and other income received in relation to the controlled money has been entered into the register after the law practice was notified of its receipt.							
s51(7)	4.8	The law practice has kept all supporting information, including ADI statements and notifications of interest received, relating to controlled money as a part of its trust records.							
Part 5 - Con	trolled	money listing of accounts							
Objective is	to ensur	re that listing of controlled money are prepared within 15 working days of	each n	nonth f	or the p	eriod under review.			
Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments			
s51(8)	5.1	The law practice prepared, and kept as a permanent record, a statement as at the end of the named month, within 15 working days. The statement contained a list of the practice's controlled money accounts that contained the name, number and balance of each account in the register, a short description of the matter to which each account relates and the date the statement was prepared.							
s51(9)	5.2	The statement was:							
s51(9)(a)		reviewed by a principal of the law practice							

annotated in a way that evidences the completion of the review

Division 4 – Transit money

Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments
s253	1.1 The law practice received transit money during the applicable period.Note: If Transit money is received in cash, it must be deposited to the trust account in accordance with s255 of the Act.				If "NO" go to	
						Division 5
	1.2	The law practice records and maintains brief particulars sufficient to identify the relevant transaction and any purpose for which the money was received.				

Division 5 – Trust money subject to a specific power

Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments
s254	1.1	The law practice or an associate of the law practice been given a power to deal with trust money (whether alone or jointly with another person) during the applicable period.				If "NO" go to Division 6
	1.2	The law practice has kept:				
s56(2)(a)		a record of all dealings with the money to which the practice or associate is a party				
s56(2)(b)		all supporting information in relation to the dealings				

Division 6 - Register of powers and estates

Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments
s254	1.1	The law practice or an associate of the law practice acted or is entitled to act alone or jointly with the law practice or one or more associates of the practice, in relation to trust money.				If "NO" go to Division 7
s57(1)	1.2	The law practice has kept a register of powers and estates. (The law practice is not required to make an entry in the register if the law practice or associate is required to act jointly with 1 or more persons who are not associates of the law practice)				
s57(3)	1.3	The register records:				
s57(3)(a)		the name and address of the donor and the date of each power				
s57(3)(b)		the name of the deceased in relation to each estate and the date of death of the deceased of which the law practice or associate is executor or administrator				

Division 7 – Investment of trust money

Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments
s238	1.1	The law practice invested trust money referred to in s238(3) of the Act. Note: Section 238(3) reads:				If "NO" go to Division 8
		"money that is entrusted to or held by a law practice for investment purposes, whether on its own account or as agent, is not trust money for the purposes of this Act, unless:				
		(a) the money was entrusted to or held by the practice				
		(i) in the ordinary course of legal practice, and				
		(ii) primarily in connection with the provision of legal services to or at the direction of the client, and				
		(b) the investment is or is to be made				
		(i) in the ordinary course of legal practice, and				
		(ii) for the ancillary purpose of maintaining or enhancing the value of the money or property pending completion of the matter or further stages of the matter or pending payment or delivery of the money or property to or at the direction of the client."				
s55(1)	1.2	The law practice has kept a register of the investment.				
s55(2)	1.3	The register records the following information for each investment:				
s55(2)(a)		the name in which the investment is held				
s55(2)(b)		the name of the person on whose behalf the investment is made				
s55(2)(c)		the person's address				
s55(2)(d)		particulars sufficient to identify the investment				
s55(2)(e)		the amount invested				
s55(2)(f)		the date the investment was made				
s55(2)(g)		the source of the investment				
s55(2)(h)		details of any documents evidencing the investment				
s55(2)(i)		details of any interest received from the investment or credited directly to the investment				
s55(2)(j)		details of the repayment of the investment and any interest, on maturity or otherwise				

Division 8 - Matter files

Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments
	1.1	The matter files selected are a representative sample of open files and those matter files closed during the period under examination.				
	1.2	Source records have been sighted to confirm the accuracy of records in the trust account receipts and payments cash book and the trust account ledger.				
	1.3	There is no evidence of trust money not being recorded into the trust records of the law practice.				

Division 9 – Office account

Section	Item		YES	NO	N/A	Comments
	1.1	The matter files selected are a representative sample of open files and those matter files closed during the period under examination.				
	1.2	Source records have been sighted to confirm the accuracy of records in the trust account receipts and payments cash book and the trust account ledger.				