

From: [HETHERINGTON, Pat](#)
To: [WORSWICK, Bronwyn](#)
Subject: Fw: § 22 [REDACTED] - Application for discretionary payment [HWLE-MATTER.C0221403.1210104] [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Tuesday, 1 April 2025 4:28:03 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[20250331 § 22 \[REDACTED\] submission to Dep Finance re act of grace payment_Final\(1288546983.1\)\(1297642583.1\).pdf](#)
[Enclosure 2 - HWLE Invoices - redacted\(1297641983.1\).pdf](#)
[Enclosure 1 - Letter to § 22 \[REDACTED\] 26 July\(1297641923.1\).pdf](#)
[20250331 Letter to DF discretionary payments section re request for Act of Grace Payment\(1272187543.1\)\(1297641603.1\).pdf](#)
[20250331 § 22 \[REDACTED\] application for act of grace payment\(1297792853.1\).pdf](#)

From: FITZGERALD, Ellen
Sent: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 3:35:52 PM
To: HETHERINGTON, Pat
Cc: § 22 [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: § 22 [REDACTED] - Application for discretionary payment [HWLE-MATTER.C0221403.1210104] [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
 Pat, for noting.

From: Jasper Lambe
Sent: Monday, 31 March 2025 6:23 PM
To: SFC@finance.gov.au
Cc: jenny.wilkinson@finance.gov.au; glyn.davis@pmc.gov.au; LYE, Michael ; Stephen Coyle
Subject: § 22 [REDACTED] - Application for discretionary payment [HWLE-MATTER.C0221403.1210104]

Dear Discretionary Payments Section.

We act for § 22 [REDACTED]. We attach § 22 [REDACTED]'s application for an act of grace payment, with enclosures and a covering letter.

We are instructed to copy to this correspondence the Secretaries of the Departments of Finance, Social Services and Prime Minister and Cabinet. That is because, for reasons that should be apparent from the enclosed submission, § 22 [REDACTED]'s application and the Commonwealth's response to it have the potential to broadly affect the Commonwealth's interests.

Our client would be grateful for your confirmation of receipt by return email.

Regards

Jasper

Jasper Lambe
 Special Counsel



Level 9, 85 Macquarie Street | Hobart TAS 7000
 Phone +61 3 6210 6226
jlambe@hwle.com.au | www.hwlebsworth.com.au

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Cyber fraud warning - please note that HWL Ebsworth will not notify you of a change to the firm's bank account details via email. If you are in any doubt, please telephone your known contact at the firm, with their known contact details, to verbally confirm the relevant bank account details prior to transferring funds electronically. Similarly, we may contact you to verify payment details in particular circumstances.

If you receive this communication by mistake we prohibit you from using it in any way and do not waive client legal privilege. Please notify us,

delete the communication (and any attachments) and destroy all copies. We do not represent or warrant that this communication is free from computer viruses or other defects. You are responsible for all loss or damage caused directly or indirectly by the use of this communication. If you do not receive all of the email or attachments please notify us immediately by reply email. Please do not click on any links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and have verified that the communication is genuine. This notice should not be deleted or altered.

**Tax Invoice No: 1734313**

s 22

Date of Issue: **11 Apr 2024**
 Our Reference: **JYL-1210104**
 Your Reference: **No**
 Final Invoice:

Responsible Partner: Stephen Coyle**RE: APSC Taskforce - breach investigation - s 22****For Professional Services to 31 March 2024**

	Fees	GST	Total
Professional Services Rendered	17,802.80	1,780.28	19,583.08
Total Professional Fees Rendered			\$19,583.08
Total Amount of GST			\$1,780.28
Total Tax Invoice Amount Due			\$19,583.08

This account is due and payable within 20 days.

With Compliments

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Coyle', written over a light grey background.

HWL Ebsworth Lawyers

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Professional Fees					
Date	Narrative	Initials	Hours	Rate (\$)	Amount (\$)
04 Dec 2023		JYL	s 47(1)(b)		
06 Dec 2023		JYL			
07 Dec 2023		JYL			
13 Dec 2023		JYL			
13 Dec 2023		JYL			
13 Dec 2023		STC			
13 Dec 2023		STC			
19 Dec 2023		JYL			
19 Dec 2023		JYL			
19 Dec 2023		JYL			
19 Dec 2023		STC			
21 Dec 2023		JYL			
04 Jan 2024		STC			
04 Jan 2024		STC			
05 Jan 2024		STC			
08 Jan 2024		STC			
15 Jan 2024		JYL			
15 Jan 2024		JYL			
15 Jan 2024		JYL			
15 Jan 2024		STC			
16 Jan 2024		JYL			
16 Jan 2024		STC			

Professional Fees					
Date	Narrative	Initials	Hours	Rate (\$)	Amount (\$)
17 Jan 2024		JYL			
17 Jan 2024		JYL			
17 Jan 2024		JYL			
17 Jan 2024		JYL			
17 Jan 2024		STC			
18 Jan 2024		JYL			
19 Jan 2024		JYL			
19 Jan 2024		JYL			
19 Jan 2024		JYL			
19 Jan 2024		STC			
19 Jan 2024		STC			
19 Jan 2024		STC			
19 Jan 2024		STC			
20 Jan 2024		STC			
23 Jan 2024		JYL			
23 Jan 2024		STC			
01 Feb 2024		STC			
01 Feb 2024		STC			
06 Feb 2024		JYL			
06 Feb 2024		JYL			
06 Feb 2024		STC			
06 Feb 2024		STC			



Professional Fees					
Date	Narrative	Initials	Hours	Rate (\$)	Amount (\$)
07 Feb 2024		JYL	s 47(1)(b)		
Total Professional Fees Rendered					\$17,802.80

Summary Fees by Lawyer					
Initials	Name	Position	Rate (\$)	Hours	Amount (\$)
JYL	Jasper Lambe	Senior Associate	s 47(1)(b)		9,522.80
STC	Stephen Coyle	Partner			8,280.00
Total Professional Fees Rendered					\$17,802.80

HWL EBSWORTH LAWYERS - REMITTANCE ADVICE

ABN: 37 246 549 189
Our Ref: JYL-1210104

Tax Invoice Number: 1734313
Date of Tax Invoice 11 April 2024

Payor Name: s 22
Payor No.: C0221403

Payment Terms 14 days

1. BANK TRANSFER (EFT)

Please fax this advice to 1300 365 323 (within Australia) or +613 9981 3404 (International) or email to accounts@hwle.com.au stating the tax invoice number and the amount paid.

Transfer amount: AUD \$19,583.08 to our account
Bank: Westpac, 114 William Street, Melbourne 3000.
Swift code: WPACAU2S
BSB: 033-003 Account: 313388


2. CREDIT CARD

We accept Visa, Mastercard and American Express.

Please quote HWLE Biller Code, client payor code and invoice number with payment.

 **Online:** www.payway.com.au/make-payment using the HWLE Biller Code **114231**

and Client Payor **C0221403** and Invoice Number 1734313.

 **Telephone:** Call 1300 885 175 for automated phone banking using the HWLE Biller Code **114231** and Invoice Number **1734313** as your reference.

***Credit card payment incur surcharge: Visa (1%) / Mastercard (0.90%) and AMEX (1.75% plus applicable GST)**

3. CHEQUE

Please return this advice with your cheque payable to HWL Ebsworth Lawyers for AUD \$19,583.08.

The Accounts Department
PO Box 3
Collins Street West, Melbourne
VIC 8007 Australia

Tax Invoice Number: 1734313

We do not accept cash

If you dispute your legal costs you may:

- a. Seek an assessment of your legal costs under Division 3.27 of the Legal Profession Act within 12 months of the date of this tax invoice;
- b. Seek to have a cost agreement set aside by the Supreme Court under Section 288 of the Legal Profession Act.



Tax Invoice No: 1779132

s 22

Date of Issue: **01 Jul 2024**
 Our Reference: **JYL-1210104**
 Your Reference: **No**
 Final Invoice:

Responsible Partner: Stephen Coyle

RE: APSC Taskforce - breach investigation - s 22

For Professional Services to 28 June 2024

	Fees	GST	Total
Professional Services Rendered	4,706.20	470.62	5,176.82
Total Professional Fees Rendered			\$5,176.82
Total Amount of GST			\$470.62
Total Tax Invoice Amount Due			\$5,176.82

This account is due and payable within 20 days.

With Compliments

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "HWL Ebsworth Lawyers".

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Professional Fees					
Date	Narrative	Initials	Hours	Rate (\$)	Amount (\$)
06 Feb 2024		JYL	s 47(1)(b)		
07 Feb 2024		JYL			
12 Feb 2024		JYL			
14 Feb 2024		STC			
14 Feb 2024		STC			
14 Feb 2024		STC			
16 Feb 2024		JYL			
20 Feb 2024		JYL			
20 Feb 2024		STC			
21 Feb 2024		STC			
22 Feb 2024		JYL			
22 Feb 2024		STC			
20 Mar 2024		JYL			
21 Mar 2024		JYL			
21 Mar 2024		STC			
21 Mar 2024		STC			
22 Mar 2024		JYL			
26 Mar 2024		MOA			
26 Mar 2024		STC			
Total Professional Fees Rendered					

Summary Fees by Lawyer					
Initials	Name	Position	Rate (\$)	Hours	Amount (\$)
JYL	Jasper Lambe	Senior Associate	s 47(1)(b)		3,042.20
MOA	Max Astner	Law Graduate			42.20

Summary Fees by Lawyer					
Initials	Name	Position	Rate (\$)	Hours	Amount (\$)
STC	Stephen Coyle	Partner	s 47(1)(b)		1,621.80
Total Professional Fees Rendered					4,706.20

HWL EBSWORTH LAWYERS - REMITTANCE ADVICE

ABN: 37 246 549 189
Our Ref: JYL-1210104

Tax Invoice Number: 1779132
Date of Tax Invoice 1 July 2024

Payor Name: s 22
Payor No.: C0221403

Payment Terms 14 days

1. BANK TRANSFER (EFT)

✉ Please fax this advice to 1300 365 323 (within Australia) or +613 9981 3404 (International) or email to accounts@hwle.com.au stating the tax invoice number and the amount paid.

Transfer amount: AUD \$5,176.82 to our account
Bank: Westpac, 520 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000.
Swift code: WPACAU2S
BSB: 033-003 Account: 313388

2. CREDIT CARD

We accept Visa, Mastercard and American Express.

Please quote HWLE Biller Code, client payor code and invoice number with payment.

🖨 **Online:** www.payway.com.au/make-payment using the HWLE Biller Code **114231**

and Client Payor **C0221403** and Invoice Number 1779132.

📞 **Telephone:** Call 1300 885 175 for automated phone banking using the HWLE Biller Code **114231** and Invoice Number **1779132** as your reference.

***Credit card payment incur surcharge: Visa (1%) / Mastercard (0.90%) and AMEX (1.75% plus applicable GST)**

3. CHEQUE

📄 Please return this advice with your cheque payable to HWL Ebsworth Lawyers for AUD \$5,176.82.

The Accounts Department
PO Box 3
Collins Street West, Melbourne
VIC 8007 Australia

Tax Invoice Number: 1779132

We do not accept cash

If you dispute your legal costs you may:

- a. Seek an assessment of your legal costs under Division 3.27 of the Legal Profession Act within 12 months of the date of this tax invoice;
- b. Seek to have a cost agreement set aside by the Supreme Court under Section 288 of the Legal Profession Act.



Tax Invoice No: 1779215

s 22

Date of Issue: **01 Jul 2024**
 Our Reference: **JYL-1210104**
 Your Reference: **No**
 Final Invoice:

Responsible Partner: Stephen Coyle

RE: APSC Taskforce - breach investigation - s 22

For Professional Services to 26 June 2024

	Fees	GST	Total
Professional Services Rendered	5,020.90	502.09	5,522.99
Total Professional Fees Rendered			\$5,522.99
Total Amount of GST			\$502.09
Total Tax Invoice Amount Due			\$5,522.99

This account is due and payable within 20 days.

With Compliments

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "HWL Ebsworth Lawyers".

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Professional Fees					
Date	Narrative	Initials	Hours	Rate (\$)	Amount (\$)
14 Feb 2024		JYL	s 47(1)(b)		
14 Feb 2024		JYL			
20 Feb 2024		STC			
21 Feb 2024		STC			
23 Feb 2024		JYL			
23 Feb 2024		MOA			
26 Feb 2024		MOA			
29 Feb 2024		MOA			
29 Feb 2024		MOA			
29 Feb 2024		STC			
29 Feb 2024		STC			
05 Mar 2024		JYL			
05 Mar 2024		MOA			
05 Mar 2024		STC			
05 Mar 2024		STC			
Total Professional Fees Rendered					\$5,020.90

Summary Fees by Lawyer					
Initials	Name	Position	Rate (\$)	Hours	Amount (\$)
JYL	Jasper Lambe	Senior Associate	s 47(1)(b)		
MOA	Max Astner	Law Graduate			
MOA	Max Astner	Law Graduate			
STC	Stephen Coyle	Partner			
Total Professional Fees Rendered					5,020.90

HWL EBSWORTH LAWYERS - REMITTANCE ADVICE

ABN: 37 246 549 189
Our Ref: JYL-1210104

Tax Invoice Number: 1779215
Date of Tax Invoice 1 July 2024

Payor Name: s 22
Payor No.: C0221403

Payment Terms 14 days

1. BANK TRANSFER (EFT)

✉ Please fax this advice to 1300 365 323 (within Australia) or +613 9981 3404 (International) or email to accounts@hwle.com.au stating the tax invoice number and the amount paid.

Transfer amount: AUD \$5,522.99 to our account
Bank: Westpac, 520 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000.
Swift code: WPACAU2S
BSB: 033-003 Account: 313388

2. CREDIT CARD

We accept Visa, Mastercard and American Express.

Please quote HWLE Biller Code, client payor code and invoice number with payment.

🖥 **Online:** www.payway.com.au/make-payment using the HWLE Biller Code **114231**

and Client Payor **C0221403** and Invoice Number 1779215.

☎ **Telephone:** Call 1300 885 175 for automated phone banking using the HWLE Biller Code **114231** and Invoice Number **1779215** as your reference.

***Credit card payment incur surcharge: Visa (1%) / Mastercard (0.90%) and AMEX (1.75% plus applicable GST)**

3. CHEQUE

📄 Please return this advice with your cheque payable to HWL Ebsworth Lawyers for AUD \$5,522.99.

The Accounts Department
PO Box 3
Collins Street West, Melbourne
VIC 8007 Australia

Tax Invoice Number: 1779215

We do not accept cash

If you dispute your legal costs you may:

- Seek an assessment of your legal costs under Division 3.27 of the Legal Profession Act within 12 months of the date of this tax invoice;
- Seek to have a cost agreement set aside by the Supreme Court under Section 288 of the Legal Profession Act.



Tax Invoice No: 1780088

s 22

Date of Issue: **08 Jul 2024**
 Our Reference: **JYL-1210104**
 Your Reference: **No**
 Final Invoice:

Responsible Partner: Stephen Coyle

RE: APSC Taskforce - breach investigation s 22

For Professional Services to 1 July 2024

	Fees	GST	Total
Professional Services Rendered	37,501.40	3,750.14	41,251.54
Total Professional Fees Rendered			\$41,251.54
Total Amount of GST			\$3,750.14
Total Tax Invoice Amount Due			\$41,251.54

This account is due and payable within 20 days.

With Compliments

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "HWL Ebsworth Lawyers."

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Matter Billing History					
Date	Invoice No.	Fees	Disbursements	GST	Invoice Total
11 Apr 2024	1734313	17,802.80	0.00	1,780.28	19,583.08
01 Jul 2024	1779132	4,706.20	0.00	470.62	5,176.82
01 Jul 2024	1779215	5,020.90	0.00	502.09	5,522.99
08 Jul 2024	1780088	37,501.40	0.00	3,750.14	41,251.54
Total		\$65,031.30	\$0.00	\$6,503.13	\$71,534.43

Professional Fees					
Date	Narrative	Initials	Hours	Rate (\$)	Amount (\$)
20 Dec 2023		JYL	s 47(1)(b)		
22 Mar 2024		JYL			
22 Mar 2024		JYL			
22 Mar 2024		JYL			
22 Mar 2024		JYL			
25 Mar 2024		JYL			
27 Mar 2024		JYL			
27 Mar 2024		JYL			
01 Apr 2024		STC			
01 Apr 2024		STC			
01 Apr 2024		STC			
04 Apr 2024		STC			
09 Apr 2024		JYL			
10 Apr 2024		JYL			
10 Apr 2024		STC			
11 Apr 2024		JYL			
11 Apr 2024		JYL			
11 Apr 2024		JYL			
11 Apr 2024		STC			

Professional Fees					
Date	Narrative	Initials	Hours	Rate (\$)	Amount (\$)
11 Apr 2024		STC	s 47(1)(b)		
12 Apr 2024		JYL			
12 Apr 2024		JYL			
12 Apr 2024		JYL			
01 Jun 2024		STC			
01 Jun 2024		STC			
02 Jun 2024		STC			
02 Jun 2024		STC			
02 Jun 2024		STC			
02 Jun 2024		STC			
02 Jun 2024		STC			
02 Jun 2024		STC			
02 Jun 2024		STC			
02 Jun 2024		STC			
02 Jun 2024		STC			
03 Jun 2024		JYL			
03 Jun 2024		JYL			
03 Jun 2024		JYL			
03 Jun 2024		STC			
04 Jun 2024		BWY			
04 Jun 2024		JYL			
04 Jun 2024		JYL			
04 Jun 2024		JYL			
04 Jun 2024		STC			
05 Jun 2024		BWY			
05 Jun 2024		JYL			
05 Jun 2024		JYL			
05 Jun 2024		JYL			

Professional Fees					
Date	Narrative	Initials	Hours	Rate (\$)	Amount (\$)
05 Jun 2024		JYL	s 47(1)(b)		
05 Jun 2024		JYL			
06 Jun 2024		BWY			
06 Jun 2024		JYL			
06 Jun 2024		JYL			
06 Jun 2024		JYL			
06 Jun 2024		JYL			
06 Jun 2024		JYL			
06 Jun 2024		STC			
07 Jun 2024		JYL			
11 Jun 2024		JYL			
13 Jun 2024		JYL			
13 Jun 2024		JYL			
13 Jun 2024		JYL			
13 Jun 2024		JYL			
13 Jun 2024		STC			
14 Jun 2024		JYL			
14 Jun 2024		JYL			
14 Jun 2024		STC			
14 Jun 2024		STC			
15 Jun 2024		JYL			
16 Jun 2024		JYL			
17 Jun 2024		BWY			
17 Jun 2024		BWY			
17 Jun 2024		JYL			
17 Jun 2024		JYL			

Professional Fees					
Date	Narrative	Initials	Hours	Rate (\$)	Amount (\$)
17 Jun 2024		JYL	s 47(1)(b)		
17 Jun 2024		JYL			
17 Jun 2024		MOA			
18 Jun 2024		JYL			
19 Jun 2024		JYL			
19 Jun 2024		JYL			
19 Jun 2024		JYL			
19 Jun 2024		JYL			
19 Jun 2024		JYL			
19 Jun 2024		JYL			
19 Jun 2024		JYL			
19 Jun 2024		JYL			
19 Jun 2024		JYL			
19 Jun 2024		JYL			
19 Jun 2024		MOA			
19 Jun 2024		STC			
19 Jun 2024		STC			
19 Jun 2024		STC			
19 Jun 2024		STC			
20 Jun 2024		JYL			
20 Jun 2024		JYL			
20 Jun 2024		JYL			
20 Jun 2024		JYL			
20 Jun 2024		STC			
21 Jun 2024		JYL			
21 Jun 2024		STC			
21 Jun 2024		STC			

Professional Fees					
Date	Narrative	Initials	Hours	Rate (\$)	Amount (\$)
21 Jun 2024		STC	s 47(1)(b)		
22 Jun 2024		JYL			
22 Jun 2024		JYL			
24 Jun 2024		JYL			
24 Jun 2024		JYL			
24 Jun 2024		JYL			
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24 Jun 2024		JYL			
25 Jun 2024		JYL			
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25 Jun 2024		JYL			
26 Jun 2024		JYL			
26 Jun 2024		JYL			
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26 Jun 2024		JYL			
26 Jun 2024		JYL			
27 Jun 2024		JYL			
27 Jun 2024		JYL			
27 Jun 2024		JYL			
27 Jun 2024		JYL			
27 Jun 2024		JYL			
27 Jun 2024		STC			
28 Jun 2024		BWY			
28 Jun 2024		JYL			

Professional Fees					
Date	Narrative	Initials	Hours	Rate (\$)	Amount (\$)
28 Jun 2024		JYL	s 47(1)(b)		
28 Jun 2024		JYL			
28 Jun 2024		JYL			
28 Jun 2024		JYL			
28 Jun 2024		STC			
01 Jul 2024		JYL			
01 Jul 2024		JYL			
Total Professional Fees Rendered					\$37,501.40

Summary Fees by Lawyer					
Initials	Name	Position	Rate (\$)	Hours	Amount (\$)
BWY	Bradley Yeomans	Solicitor	s 47(1)(b)		
BWY	Bradley Yeomans	Solicitor			
JYL	Jasper Lambe	Senior Associate			
MOA	Max Astner	Law Graduate			
STC	Stephen Coyle	Partner			
Total Professional Fees Rendered					37,501.40

HWL EBSWORTH LAWYERS - REMITTANCE ADVICE

ABN: 37 246 549 189
Our Ref: JYL-1210104

Tax Invoice Number: 1780088
Date of Tax Invoice 8 July 2024

Payor Name: s 22
Payor No.: C0221403

Payment Terms 14 days

1. BANK TRANSFER (EFT)

✉ Please fax this advice to 1300 365 323 (within Australia) or +613 9981 3404 (International) or email to accounts@hwle.com.au stating the tax invoice number and the amount paid.

Transfer amount: AUD \$41,251.54 to our account
Bank: Westpac, 520 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000.
Swift code: WPACAU2S
BSB: 033-003 Account: 313388

2. CREDIT CARD

We accept Visa, Mastercard and American Express.

Please quote HWLE Biller Code, client payor code and invoice number with payment.

🖨 **Online:** www.payway.com.au/make-payment using the HWLE Biller Code **114231**

and Client Payor **C0221403** and Invoice Number 1780088.

📞 **Telephone:** Call 1300 885 175 for automated phone banking using the HWLE Biller Code **114231** and Invoice Number **1780088** as your reference.

***Credit card payment incur surcharge: Visa (1%) / Mastercard (0.90%) and AMEX (1.75% plus applicable GST)**

3. CHEQUE

📄 Please return this advice with your cheque payable to HWL Ebsworth Lawyers for AUD \$41,251.54.

The Accounts Department
PO Box 3
Collins Street West, Melbourne
VIC 8007 Australia

Tax Invoice Number: 1780088

We do not accept cash

If you dispute your legal costs you may:

- Seek an assessment of your legal costs under Division 3.27 of the Legal Profession Act within 12 months of the date of this tax invoice;
- Seek to have a cost agreement set aside by the Supreme Court under Section 288 of the Legal Profession Act.



Tax Invoice No: 1805165

s 22

Date of Issue: **30 Aug 2024**
 Our Reference: **JYL-1210104**
 Your Reference: **No**
 Final Invoice:

Responsible Partner: Stephen Coyle

RE: APSC Taskforce - breach investigation - s 22

For Professional Services to 30 August 2024

	Fees	GST	Total
Professional Services Rendered	2,300.20	230.02	2,530.22
Total Professional Fees Rendered			\$2,530.22
Total Amount of GST			\$230.02
Total Tax Invoice Amount Due			\$2,530.22

This account is due and payable within 20 days.

With Compliments

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "HWL Ebsworth Lawyers."

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- Melbourne
- Norwest
- Perth
- Sydney

Professional Fees					
Date	Narrative	Initials	Hours	Rate (\$)	Amount (\$)
04 Jul 2024		STC	s 47(1)(b)		
12 Jul 2024		JYL			
12 Jul 2024		JYL			
12 Jul 2024		JYL			
12 Jul 2024		JYL			
12 Jul 2024		JYL			
12 Jul 2024		JYL			
12 Jul 2024		JYL			
12 Jul 2024		JYL			
12 Jul 2024		STC			
29 Jul 2024		JYL			
01 Aug 2024		STC			
19 Aug 2024		JYL			
19 Aug 2024		STC			
Total Professional Fees Rendered					\$2,300.20

Summary Fees by Lawyer					
Initials	Name	Position	Rate (\$)	Hours	Amount (\$)
JYL	Jasper Lambe	Senior Associate	s 47(1)(b)		
STC	Stephen Coyle	Partner			
Total Professional Fees Rendered					2,300.20

HWL EBSWORTH LAWYERS - REMITTANCE ADVICE

ABN: 37 246 549 189
Our Ref: JYL-1210104

Tax Invoice Number: 1805165
Date of Tax Invoice 30 August 2024

Payor Name: s 22
Payor No.: C0221403

Payment Terms 14 days

1. BANK TRANSFER (EFT)

✉ Please fax this advice to 1300 365 323 (within Australia) or +613 9981 3404 (International) or email to accounts@hwle.com.au stating the tax invoice number and the amount paid.

Transfer amount: AUD \$2,530.22 to our account
Bank: Westpac, 520 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000.
Swift code: WPACAU2S
BSB: 033-003 Account: 313388

2. CREDIT CARD

We accept Visa, Mastercard and American Express.

Please quote HWLE Biller Code, client payor code and invoice number with payment.

🖨 **Online:** www.payway.com.au/make-payment using the HWLE Biller Code **114231**

and Client Payor **C0221403** and Invoice Number 1805165.

📞 **Telephone:** Call 1300 885 175 for automated phone banking using the HWLE Biller Code **114231** and Invoice Number **1805165** as your reference.

***Credit card payment incur surcharge: Visa (1%) / Mastercard (0.90%) and AMEX (1.75% plus applicable GST)**

3. CHEQUE

📄 Please return this advice with your cheque payable to HWL Ebsworth Lawyers for AUD \$2,530.22.

The Accounts Department
PO Box 3
Collins Street West, Melbourne
VIC 8007 Australia

Tax Invoice Number: 1805165

We do not accept cash

If you dispute your legal costs you may:

- a. Seek an assessment of your legal costs under Division 3.27 of the Legal Profession Act within 12 months of the date of this tax invoice;
- b. Seek to have a cost agreement set aside by the Supreme Court under Section 288 of the Legal Profession Act.



Tax Invoice No: 1816486

s 22

Date of Issue: **27 Sep 2024**
 Our Reference: **JYL-1210104**
 Your Reference: **No**
 Final Invoice:

Responsible Partner: Stephen Coyle

RE: APSC Taskforce - breach investigation - s 22

For Professional Services to 27 September 2024

	Fees	GST	Total
Professional Services Rendered	959.30	95.93	1,055.23
Total Professional Fees Rendered			\$1,055.23
Total Amount of GST			\$95.93
Total Tax Invoice Amount Due			\$1,055.23

This account is due and payable within 20 days.

With Compliments

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "HWL Ebsworth Lawyers."

HWL Ebsworth Lawyers

- Adelaide
- Brisbane
- Canberra
- Darwin
- Hobart
- Melbourne
- Norwest
- Perth
- Sydney

Professional Fees					
Date	Narrative	Initials	Hours	Rate (\$)	Amount (\$)
12 Sep 2024		JYL	s 47(1)(b)		
13 Sep 2024		JYL			
13 Sep 2024		JYL			
13 Sep 2024		JYL			
13 Sep 2024		STC			
20 Sep 2024		JYL			
20 Sep 2024		STC			
26 Sep 2024		JYL			
Total Professional Fees Rendered					

Summary Fees by Lawyer					
Initials	Name	Position	Rate (\$)	Hours	Amount (\$)
JYL	Jasper Lambe	Senior Associate	s 47(1)(b)		
STC	Stephen Coyle	Partner			
STC	Stephen Coyle	Partner			
Total Professional Fees Rendered					959.30

HWL EBSWORTH LAWYERS - REMITTANCE ADVICE

ABN: 37 246 549 189
Our Ref: JYL-1210104

Tax Invoice Number: 1816486
Date of Tax Invoice 27 September 2024

Payor Name: s 22
Payor No.: C0221403

Payment Terms 14 days

1. BANK TRANSFER (EFT)

✉ Please fax this advice to 1300 365 323 (within Australia) or +613 9981 3404 (International) or email to accounts@hwle.com.au stating the tax invoice number and the amount paid.

Transfer amount: AUD \$1,055.23 to our account
Bank: Westpac, 520 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000.
Swift code: WPACAU2S
BSB: 033-003 Account: 313388

2. CREDIT CARD

We accept Visa, Mastercard and American Express.

Please quote HWLE Biller Code, client payor code and invoice number with payment.

🖨 **Online:** www.payway.com.au/make-payment using the HWLE Biller Code **114231**

and Client Payor **C0221403** and Invoice Number 1816486.

☎ **Telephone:** Call 1300 885 175 for automated phone banking using the HWLE Biller Code **114231** and Invoice Number **1816486** as your reference.

***Credit card payment incur surcharge: Visa (1%) / Mastercard (0.90%) and AMEX (1.75% plus applicable GST)**

3. CHEQUE

📄 Please return this advice with your cheque payable to HWL Ebsworth Lawyers for AUD \$1,055.23.

The Accounts Department
PO Box 3
Collins Street West, Melbourne
VIC 8007 Australia

Tax Invoice Number: 1816486

We do not accept cash

If you dispute your legal costs you may:

- a. Seek an assessment of your legal costs under Division 3.27 of the Legal Profession Act within 12 months of the date of this tax invoice;
- b. Seek to have a cost agreement set aside by the Supreme Court under Section 288 of the Legal Profession Act.



Tax Invoice No: 1892993

s 22

Date of Issue: **24 Mar 2025**
 Our Reference: **JYL-1210104**
 Your Reference: **No**
 Final Invoice:

Responsible Partner: Stephen Coyle

RE: APSC Taskforce - breach investigation s 22

For Professional Services to 24 March 2025

	Fees	GST	Total
Professional Services Rendered	7,372.30	737.23	8,109.53
Total Professional Fees Rendered			\$8,109.53
Total Amount of GST			\$737.23
Total Tax Invoice Amount Due			\$8,109.53

This account is due and payable within 20 days.

With Compliments

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "HWL Ebsworth Lawyers."

HWL Ebsworth Lawyers

- Adelaide
- Brisbane
- Canberra
- Darwin
- Hobart
- Melbourne
- Norwest
- Perth
- Sydney

Professional Fees					
Date	Narrative	Initials	Hours	Rate (\$)	Amount (\$)
23 Oct 2024		JYL	s 47(1)(b)		
19 Dec 2024		STC			
07 Jan 2025		JYL			
07 Jan 2025		STC			
13 Jan 2025		JYL			
14 Feb 2025		JYL			
15 Feb 2025		JYL			
16 Feb 2025		JYL			
17 Feb 2025		JYL			
21 Feb 2025		JYL			
23 Feb 2025		JYL			
23 Feb 2025		STC			
24 Feb 2025		JYL			
25 Feb 2025		JYL			
26 Feb 2025		JYL			
26 Feb 2025		STC			
03 Mar 2025		JYL			

Professional Fees					
Date	Narrative	Initials	Hours	Rate (\$)	Amount (\$)
03 Mar 2025		STC	s 47(1)(b)		
04 Mar 2025		JYL			
04 Mar 2025		JYL			
04 Mar 2025		JYL			
04 Mar 2025		STC			
Total Professional Fees Rendered					\$7,372.30

Summary Fees by Lawyer					
Initials	Name	Position	Rate (\$)	Hours	Amount (\$)
JYL	Jasper Lambe	Senior Associate	s 47(1)(b)		
JYL	Jasper Lambe	Special Counsel			
STC	Stephen Coyle	Partner			
STC	Stephen Coyle	Partner			
Total Professional Fees Rendered					7,372.30

HWL EBSWORTH LAWYERS - REMITTANCE ADVICE

ABN: 37 246 549 189
Our Ref: JYL-1210104

Tax Invoice Number: 1892993
Date of Tax Invoice 24 March 2025

Payor Name: s 22
Payor No.: C0221403

Payment Terms 14 days

1. BANK TRANSFER (EFT)

✉ Please fax this advice to 1300 365 323 (within Australia) or +613 9981 3404 (International) or email to accounts@hwle.com.au stating the tax invoice number and the amount paid.

Transfer amount: AUD \$8,109.53 to our account
Bank: Westpac, 520 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000.
Swift code: WPACAU2S
BSB: 033-003 Account: 313388

2. CREDIT CARD

We accept Visa, Mastercard and American Express.

Please quote HWLE Biller Code, client payor code and invoice number with payment.

🖨 **Online:** www.payway.com.au/make-payment using the HWLE Biller Code **114231**

and Client Payor **C0221403** and Invoice Number 1892993.

📞 **Telephone:** Call 1300 885 175 for automated phone banking using the HWLE Biller Code **114231** and Invoice Number **1892993** as your reference.

***Credit card payment incur surcharge: Visa (1%) / Mastercard (0.90%) and AMEX (1.75% plus applicable GST)**

3. CHEQUE

📄 Please return this advice with your cheque payable to HWL Ebsworth Lawyers for AUD \$8,109.53.

The Accounts Department
PO Box 3
Collins Street West, Melbourne
VIC 8007 Australia

Tax Invoice Number: 1892993

We do not accept cash

If you dispute your legal costs you may:

- a. Seek an assessment of your legal costs under Division 3.27 of the Legal Profession Act within 12 months of the date of this tax invoice;
- b. Seek to have a cost agreement set aside by the Supreme Court under Section 288 of the Legal Profession Act.

31 March 2025

By Email Only

Discretionary Payments Section
Comcover and Discretionary Payment Claims Branch
Department of Finance
One Canberra Avenue
FORREST ACT 2603

Email: SFC@finance.gov.au
CC: jenny.wilkinson@finance.gov.au
glyn.davis@pmc.gov.au
§ 22 [@dss.gov.au](mailto:§ 22@dss.gov.au)

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Dear Discretionary Payments Section

APSC Code of Conduct investigation

Legal Costs

Request for Act of Grace Payment

- 1 We act for § 22
- 2 § 22 is a § 22 distinguished public servant. Between § 22 held various other § 22 with Commonwealth government departments during § 22 lengthy career.
- 3 On 1 August 2023, the Australian Public Service Commission Centralised Code of Conduct Inquiry Taskforce (**APSC Taskforce**) inquired into whether § 22 breached the Australian Public Service Code of Conduct (**Code**) (**Inquiry**). The Inquiry took some 12 months to complete. On 29 July 2024, the APSC Taskforce informed § 22 that the Inquiry into § 22 conduct had been terminated and no adverse findings or breaches of the Code would be recorded against § 22
- 4 § 22 self-funded § 22 legal representation in relation to the Inquiry after § 22 application for assistance under Appendix E of the *Legal Services Direction 2017* - at the commencement of the Inquiry - was denied.
- 5 In light of the APSC Taskforce's vindication of § 22 respectfully seeks reimbursement of the legal fees § 22 incurred in connection with the Inquiry, by way of an Act of Grace Payment under s 65 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth) (**PGPA Act**). § 22's Application for an Act of Grace Payment, with an attachment submission is enclosed with this letter.
- 6 This letter (and the application enclosed with it) is directed to the repository of the power to make an act of grace payment under s 65 of the PGPA Act. A copy of it is also provided to the Secretaries of the Departments of Finance, Social Services and Prime Minister and Cabinet,

Adelaide
Brisbane
Canberra
Darwin
Hobart
Melbourne
Norwest
Perth
Sydney

DOC ID 1272187543/V1

Level 9, 85 Macquarie Street, Hobart TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 504, Hobart TAS 7001 Australia

Telephone +61 3 6210 6200
Facsimile 1300 377 441 (Australia) +61 3 6111 0656 (International)
hwlebsworth.com.au

ABN 37 246 549 189

because (as will be apparent from the enclosed submission), the application and the Commonwealth's response to it have the potential to broadly affect the Commonwealth's interests.

- 7 Please contact Stephen Coyle or Jasper Lambe in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely

s 22



Stephen Coyle

Partner
HWL Ebsworth Lawyers

+61 2 6151 2166
scoyle@hwle.com.au

s 22



Jasper Lambe

Special Counsel
HWL Ebsworth Lawyers

+61 3 6210 6226
jlambe@hwle.com.au



Application for an Act of Grace Payment

What is an act of grace payment?

Act of grace payments may be made when the Finance Minister or delegate considers it is appropriate to do so because of special circumstances (section 65 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act)).

Act of grace payments are discretionary. There is no guarantee of an outcome in favour of the applicant.

What are special circumstances?

Special circumstances are not defined but may apply where a decision maker is satisfied that:

- an act of a non-corporate Commonwealth entity (NCE) has caused an unintended and inequitable result to the individual or organisation seeking the payment;
- Commonwealth legislation or policy has had an unintended, anomalous, inequitable or otherwise unacceptable impact on the claimant's circumstances; or
- the matter is not covered by legislation or specific policy, but the Commonwealth Government intends to introduce such legislation or policy.

Who can apply?

Any individual, company or other organisation can apply for an act of grace payment, either for themselves or for a third party if authorised. If a company applies for an act of grace payment, this form must be completed by an individual who is authorised to make this claim on behalf of the company (eg. director).

Claims are made in writing. Face-to-face meetings are generally not conducted.

The act of grace power is available to provide a remedy for the actions of NCEs. A list of NCEs is available on the [Finance website](#).

If your claim relates to an entity other than a NCE, Finance may be limited to considering issues arising from the application of legislation or broader policy issues. If your claim does not relate to the Commonwealth Government, Finance will be unlikely to be able to assist.

What happens after you apply

The investigation of an application will be a lengthy process. If you want to find out about the progress of your application, you can contact the Discretionary Payments Section.

Generally, Finance will seek information about your application from relevant NCEs.



Australian Government
Department of Finance

Application for an Act of Grace Payment

A copy of any information provided by another NCE will ordinarily be provided to you for an opportunity to comment, prior to a decision being made.

Once all relevant information is available, the request will be submitted for a decision as soon as practicable. You will be notified of the decision in writing.

Privacy notice

In accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988* and the Australian Privacy Principles, the information, including personal information, provided in relation to this application will be used to assess your claim for an act of grace payment and to notify you of the outcome of your claim. In order to assess your claim Finance will only share relevant information about your application with relevant Australian Government departments or agencies unless you have otherwise agreed or it is required or authorised by law. If you do not provide your personal information, Finance may be unable to process your application.

Please identify any information you consider should not be disclosed outside of Finance. Finance will consider your request and will determine if this request can be accommodated in the circumstances.

Further information on how your personal information will be handled, including how to make a complaint about the handling of your personal information, is contained in Finance's Privacy Policy.

Our Privacy Policy is available at: <https://www.finance.gov.au/publications/policy/department-finance-privacy-policy>. You can also contact Finance to obtain a copy.

For more information

Website:

<http://www.finance.gov.au/resource-management/discretionary-financial-assistance/>

Email: sfc@finance.gov.au

Freecall (except from mobiles): 1800 227 572

Where do I send this form?

Send the completed form to: sfc@finance.gov.au



Australian Government
Department of Finance

Application for an Act of Grace Payment

Part 1 (a): Personal details

Title	s 22
Surname (Family name)	
Given name(s)	
Date of birth	

Part 1 (b): Company details

Company name	
Authorised officer & position	

If you have completed Part 1(b) you must also complete the declaration at Part 5.

Part 2: Contact details

Postal address	s 22
Home Phone Number	
Work Phone Number	
Mobile Phone Number	
Email address	



Australian Government
Department of Finance

Application for an Act of Grace Payment

Part 3: Application details

Which NCE (Commonwealth department or agency) does your claim relate to?

Australian Public Service Commission

Have you sought review from the NCE in this matter or from another body e.g. the Ombudsman, a tribunal or a court?

~~(Please tick)~~ Yes ~~————~~ No N/A

If you have answered no, there may be other avenues of redress available to you. You should contact the relevant entity to try to resolve the matter.

If yes, who reviewed the matter and what was the outcome?

Please attach copies of review decisions

Not applicable.



Australian Government
Department of Finance

Application for an Act of Grace Payment

Part 4: Declaration for applicant

I declare that the information provided in this application, including in any attachments to this form, is true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. Should I become aware of any inaccuracies in the information provided I will inform the Discretionary Payments Section (sfc@finance.gov.au or 1800 227 572) as soon as practicable.

I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the Criminal Code Act 1995.

Signature

s 22

Date

28 March 2025

Part 5: Declaration for applicants on behalf of companies [complete if applicable]

I declare that I have the authority to make this application on behalf of:

Company name

Signature

Position

Date



Australian Government
Department of Finance

Application for an Act of Grace Payment

Part 6: Authority for Representative

Complete the following details if you would like another person or organisation to act on your behalf when dealing with Finance. The person you nominate can be anyone above the age of 18 years.

Representative's name	Stephen Coyle / Jasper Lambe
Their relationship to you (e.g. father, sister, guardian, accountant, lawyer)	Solicitor
Representative's organisation	HWL Ebsworth Lawyers
Postal address	Lvl 5, HWL Ebsworth Building, 6 National Circuit Barton ACT 2600
Home Phone Number	
Work Phone Number	(02) 6151 2166 / (03) 6210 6226
Mobile Phone Number	
Email address	scoyle@hwle.com.au / jlambe@hwle.com.au

Representative's Acceptance

I declare and accept that any personal information I am given access to under this arrangement is protected under Commonwealth legislation. I agree to access, use or disclose the information only as authorised by the person to whom the information relates.

Signature of person authorising the representative

Date

Signature of Representative

Date

From: [FITZGERALD, Ellen](#)
To: [WORSWICK, Bronwyn](#)
Cc: s 22; [PEARSON, Nicola](#); [HETHERINGTON, Pat](#); discretionarypayments; s 22
Subject: Re: Act of Grace Payment [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Monday, 7 April 2025 12:07:28 PM
Attachments: [image003.jpg](#)
[image004.jpg](#)
[image005.jpg](#)

Ok great thanks. Back half of the week is much more forgiving to get time in with Michael too - win-win! Speak then.

From: WORSWICK, Bronwyn
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 11:52:03 AM
To: FITZGERALD, Ellen
Cc: s 22; PEARSON, Nicola; HETHERINGTON, Pat; discretionarypayments; s 22
Subject: RE: Act of Grace Payment [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Dear Ellen

We anticipated this consultation request and are in the process of preparing a package as per our usual process for AoG consultation with DoF.

We will provide a high level summary for the Secretary and will be ready to discuss.

We will also prepare a more detailed response to send at officials level consistent with process given the high profile and sensitivity of the Robodebt related legal expenses issues.

Response should be ready by Wednesday at earliest.

Many thanks

Bronwyn

Bronwyn Worswick

Chief Counsel

Privacy Champion

Legal Services Group

Department of Social Services

E: s 22 @dss.gov.au **M:** s 22

Executive Officer: s 22 **E:** s 22 @dss.gov.au

Executive Assistant: s 22



The Department of Social Services acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, water, culture and community. We pay our respects to the Elders both past and present.

Note: This email and any attachments may contain confidential or legally privileged information (and neither are waived or lost if this email has been sent to you by mistake). If you are not the intended recipient, you must not use, disclose, copy or retain it. If you have received it in error, please let me know by reply email and then delete this email from your system and do not retain any copy. Recipients within DSS should seek assistance from DSS Legal before disseminating this email to third parties or using this advice for a different matter.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: FITZGERALD, Ellen
Sent: Monday, 7 April 2025 11:45 AM
To: HETHERINGTON, Pat; WORSWICK, Bronwyn
Cc: s 22
Subject: FW: Act of Grace Payment [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Pat/Bronwyn,

As you expected, Jenny has come to Michael to seek further information to assist with their briefing on s 22's application for an act of grace request.

Could you please have a look at the below? It may be worth grabbing time with Michael to discuss. While his day tomorrow is tight, I may be able to squeeze you in at 9am if that suits your availability and ability to provide advice by that time?

Thanks,

Ellen

From: Wilkinson, Jenny <Jenny.Wilkinson@finance.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 4 April 2025 6:24 PM
To: LYE, Michael s 22 @dss.gov.au
Cc: Antone, Rachel s 22 @finance.gov.au; Wilson, Meagan s 22 @finance.gov.au; s 22 s 22 @finance.gov.au; Windeyer, Richard s 22 @finance.gov.au
Subject: Act of Grace Payment [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Michael

As you may be aware, on 31 March 2025, HWL Ebsworth Lawyers submitted an act of grace request on behalf of **s 22** to the Department of Finance.

The request is for an act of grace payment equivalent to the legal fees **s 22** paid in responding to the Australian Public Services Commission Centralised Code of Conduct Inquiry Taskforce regarding a potential breach of the Australian Public Service Code of Conduct.

The Discretionary Payments area of my department is currently assessing this request. To assist with the assessment, it would be helpful to understand the reasons why **s 22** was denied legal assistance under Appendix E of the *Legal Services Direction 2017*.

I would be grateful to receive any information you are able to share in this regard, briefings or otherwise.

Jenny



Jenny Wilkinson PSM

Secretary

Department of Finance

T: **s 22** **E:** jenny.wilkinson@finance.gov.au

A: One Canberra Ave, Forrest ACT 2603



From: [LYE, Michael](#)
To: Jenny.Wilkinson@finance.gov.au
Cc: [s 22 @finance.gov.au](#); [Wilson, Meagan](#); [s 22](#); [Windeyer, Richard](#); [FITZGERALD, Ellen](#); [s 22](#)
Subject: RE: Act of Grace Payment [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Tuesday, 15 April 2025 5:03:13 PM
Attachments: [Correspondence from Secretary Michael Lye Ref_EC25-001001.pdf](#)
[image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)

Dear Secretary Wilkinson

Please see attached the letter from Michael in response to your email of Friday 4 April.

Regards

[s 22](#) | Executive Officer to the Secretary | Michael Lye

Department of Social Services | [E: s 22 @dss.gov.au](mailto:s 22 @dss.gov.au) | [P: s 22](#) | [M: s 22](#)

From: Wilkinson, Jenny <Jenny.Wilkinson@finance.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 4 April 2025 6:24 PM

To: LYE, Michael [s 22 @dss.gov.au](#)>

Cc: Antone, Rachel [s 22 @finance.gov.au](#)>; Wilson, Meagan

[s 22 @finance.gov.au](#)>; [s 22](#)

[s 22 @finance.gov.au](#)>; Windeyer, Richard

[s 22 @finance.gov.au](#)>

Subject: Act of Grace Payment [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Michael

As you may be aware, on 31 March 2025, HWL Ebsworth Lawyers submitted an act of grace request on behalf of [s 22](#) to the Department of Finance.

The request is for an act of grace payment equivalent to the legal fees [s 22](#) paid in responding to the Australian Public Services Commission Centralised Code of Conduct Inquiry Taskforce regarding a potential breach of the Australian Public Service Code of Conduct.

The Discretionary Payments area of my department is currently assessing this request. To assist with the assessment, it would be helpful to understand the reasons why [s 22](#) was denied legal assistance under Appendix E of the *Legal Services Direction 2017*.

I would be grateful to receive any information you are able to share in this regard, briefings or otherwise.

Jenny



Jenny Wilkinson PSM

Secretary

Department of Finance

T: [s 22](#) **E:** jenny.wilkinson@finance.gov.au

A: One Canberra Ave, Forrest ACT 2603



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Michael Lye
Secretary

Ref: EC25-001001

Via email only

Ms Jenny Wilkinson PSM
 Secretary, Department of Finance
 One Canberra Avenue
 FORREST ACT 2603

Dear Ms Wilkinson PSM

Thank you for your correspondence of 4 April 2025 in relation to the Act of Grace application submitted by HWL Ebsworth Lawyers on behalf of s 22

I note s 22 seeks, via an Act of Grace payment, the reimbursement of \$83,229.41 for s 47F legal fees incurred in connection with the Australian Public Services (APS) Code of Conduct inquiry (**Inquiry**) referred to the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC), pursuant to paragraph 41(2)(k) of the *Public Service Act 1999* (PSA).

s 22 first applied to the Minister for Social Services for legal assistance under Appendix E of the *Legal Services Directions 2017* (LSDs) in relation to the Inquiry on 22 February 2024. As required under paragraph 24 of Appendix E of the LSDs, the Department of Social Services (**the department**) immediately notified the Office of Legal Services Coordination (OLSC) of the application, seeking policy advice to assist the Minister to determine the application.

OLSC advised that a referral of a past accountable authority to the APS Commissioner under section 41(2)(k) of the PSA is not excluded from the scope of Appendix E of the LSDs and therefore, s 22 was eligible to apply for legal assistance. However, OLSC also advised that granting legal assistance would lead to an inconsistent and inequitable outcome between people in equivalent circumstances, and this would generally not be in the interests of the Commonwealth.

This is because referrals to the APS Commissioner under sections 41A or 41B of the PSA are excluded from Appendix E of the LSDs by operation of paragraph 2A. This means that current accountable authorities, as well as current and past public servants, are excluded from applying for legal assistance for like APSC inquiries.

Consistent with OLSA's advice, s 22's application was denied by the Minister for Social Services, the Hon Amanda Rishworth MP, on 15 March 2024.

Noting the advice from OLSA was determinative in the Minister's decision to refuse s 22's request, I recommend you consult with Ms Katherine Jones PSM, Secretary of the Attorney-General's Department in deciding the Act of Grace application.

I am conscious of the profoundly damaging impact of the Robodebt scheme on the lives of so many Australians, and the importance of the APSC inquiring into the conduct of those responsible. However, these and other investigations have also detrimentally affected a number of APS members who were ultimately found to have had no responsibility for the Robodebt scheme. There should always be proper accountability for those who wilfully breach the APS Code of Conduct. However, in this unique scenario, I encourage due consideration of the circumstances of all affected individuals when claims for discretionary assistance are assessed.

My department would be happy to provide further information if required and would be grateful for an update once the matter is decided.

Regards

s 22

[Redacted signature]

15 April 2025

From: [PEARSON, Nicola](#)
To: s 22
Subject: FW: FOR ACTION: Act of grace - Decision Letter - s 22[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Thursday, 15 January 2026 3:19:39 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[20251211 - Decision Letter - s 22.pdf](#)

Nicola Pearson

Acting Deputy Chief Counsel

Legal, Audit and Assurance Group

Department of Social Services

E: s 22 [@dss.gov.au](#) **M:** s 22 **P:** s 22

M Tu W Th F

The Department of Social Services acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, water, culture and community. We pay our respects to the Elders both past and present.

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From: WORSWICK, Bronwyn s 22 [@dss.gov.au](#)>
Sent: Thursday, 15 January 2026 1:11 PM
To: PEARSON, Nicola s 22 [@dss.gov.au](#)>
Subject: FW: FOR ACTION: Act of grace - Decision Letter - s 22[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

FYA

From: s 22 [@finance.gov.au](#)>
Sent: Thursday, 15 January 2026 1:06 PM
To: WORSWICK, Bronwyn s 22 [@dss.gov.au](#)>
Cc: HETHERINGTON, Pat s 22 [@dss.gov.au](#)>; FITZGERALD, Ellen s 22 [@dss.gov.au](#)>; Antone, Rachel s 22 [@finance.gov.au](#)>
Subject: FOR ACTION: Act of grace - Decision Letter - s 22[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Good afternoon, Bronwyn, Pat, and Ellen

Please find attached a decision letter in relation to an act of grace request submitted on behalf of s 22.

s 22's representative will be advised of the decision today.

Once Finance has received the relevant payment details, we will forward these to the Department of Social Services, to enable your agency to make payment.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please let me know.

Kind regards

s 22



s 22 A/g Assistant Secretary
Comcover and Discretionary Payment Claims Branch
Risk, Claims & Regulatory Reform Division
Department of Finance
T: s 22 | M: s 22
E: s 22 [@finance.gov.au](mailto:s 22@finance.gov.au)
A: One Canberra Avenue, Forrest ACT 2603



Australian Government
Department of Finance

Our Reference: EC25-001614

Mr Jasper Lambe
Special Counsel
HWLE Lawyers

By email only: jlambe@hwle.com.au

Dear Mr Lambe

Act of grace request – s 22

I refer to the request submitted on behalf of s 22 for an act of grace request of \$83,229.41, received by the Department of Finance (Finance) on 31 March 2025.

s 22 has sought an act of grace payment equivalent to the legal fees s 22 incurred responding to the Australian Public Service Commission Centralised Code of Conduct Inquiry Taskforce.

Decision

I am an authorised delegate for the purposes of section 65 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act). I have decided, under section 65(1) of the PGPA Act, to authorise an act of grace payment of \$83,229.41 in this instance.

Finance will liaise with the Department of Social Services to give effect to this decision.

Yours sincerely

s 22

Rachel Antone
First Assistant Secretary
Department of Finance
11 December 2025

Our Ref: SC:BY:1210104

Your Ref: LEX53499

30 January 2026

Ms Nicola Pearson
Acting Deputy Chief Counsel
Department of Social Services

Email: s 22 @dss.gov.au

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Dear Nicola

Act of Grace Payment - s 22

We act for s 22 in relation to s 22 request to the Department of Finance (**Finance**) for an act of grace payment for the sum of \$83,229.41 (**Application**).

On 11 December 2025, Finance resolved pursuant to a written decision to authorise the Application for the full amount of \$83,229.41 pursuant to section 65(1) of the *Public Governance Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth) (**Decision**).

The Decision advises that the Department of Social Services are required to give effect to the Decision. A copy of the Decision is **enclosed**.

s 22 has provided HWLE Lawyers with the **enclosed** authority to receive the funds on s 22 behalf.

Accordingly, we kindly request that the funds be distributed to our trust account. The details of our trust account are as follows:

Account Name: HWL Ebsworth Lawyers Law Practice Trust Account
BSB: 032-729
Account: 248787
Bank: Westpac, 14 Franklin Street, Manuka ACT 2603
Swift Code: WPACAU2S

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Kind regards

s 22

Stephen Coyle
Partner
HWLE Lawyers

T +61 2 6151 2166 | E scoyle@hwle.com.au
Level 5, HWL Ebsworth Building, 6 National Circuit
Barton ACT 2600

s 22

Bradley Yeomans
Solicitor
HWLE Lawyers

T +61 2 6151 2180 | E byeomans@hwle.com.au
Level 5, HWL Ebsworth Building, 6 National Circuit
Barton ACT 2600

HWLE.COM.AU

From: s 22
To: [PEARSON, Nicola](#)
Cc: [HETHERINGTON, Pat](#); [FITZGERALD, Ellen](#); [Antone, Rachel](#); [WORSWICK, Bronwyn](#); [Wilson, Meagan](#)
Subject: RE: FOR ACTION: Act of grace - Decision Letter - s 22[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Wednesday, 4 February 2026 5:30:38 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Thank you, Nicola.

Kind regards

s 22



s 22 Director
 Discretionary Payments Section
 Comcover and Discretionary Payment Claims Branch
 Department of Finance
T: s 22 | **M:** s 22
E: s 22 [@finance.gov.au](mailto:s22@finance.gov.au)
A: One Canberra Avenue, Forrest ACT 2603



The Department of Finance acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we work and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and future. [Artwork story.](#)

Making flexibility work – if you receive an email from me out of office hours, please note that I am sending it at a time that is convenient to me. I do not expect you to read or reply until it is convenient for you.

M T W T F

From: PEARSON, Nicola s 22 @dss.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 4 February 2026 5:14 PM
To: s 22 @finance.gov.au>
Cc: HETHERINGTON, Pat s 22 @dss.gov.au>; FITZGERALD, Ellen s 22 @dss.gov.au>; Antone, Rachel s 22 @finance.gov.au>; WORSWICK, Bronwyn s 22 @dss.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR ACTION: Act of grace - Decision Letter - s 22[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Dear s 22

I confirm we have actioned payment for s 22's Act of Grace decision - payment should be made into the HWLE trust account on Friday 6 February 2026.

Regards

Nicola Pearson

Acting Deputy Chief Counsel

Legal, Audit and Assurance Group

Department of Social Services

E: s 22 @dss.gov.au **M:** s 22 **P:** s 22

M Tu W Th F

The Department of Social Services acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, water, culture and community. We pay our respects to the Elders both past and present.

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From: s 22 @finance.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 15 January 2026 1:06 PM
To: WORSWICK, Bronwyn s 22 @dss.gov.au>
Cc: HETHERINGTON, Pat s 22 @dss.gov.au>; FITZGERALD, Ellen s 22 @dss.gov.au>; Antone, Rachel s 22 @finance.gov.au>
Subject: FOR ACTION: Act of grace - Decision Letter - s 22[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Good afternoon, Bronwyn, Pat, and Ellen

Please find attached a decision letter in relation to an act of grace request submitted on behalf of s 22.

s 22's representative will be advised of the decision today.

Once Finance has received the relevant payment details, we will forward these to the Department of Social Services, to enable your agency to make payment.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please let me know.

Kind regards

s 22



s 22 | A/g Assistant Secretary
Comcover and Discretionary Payment Claims Branch
Risk, Claims & Regulatory Reform Division
Department of Finance

T: s 22 | M: s 22

E: s 22 [@finance.gov.au](mailto:s22@finance.gov.au)

A: One Canberra Avenue, Forrest ACT 2603

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Name	Amount (GST inclusive)
s 22 [REDACTED]	\$83,229.41