

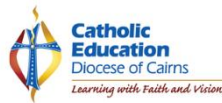
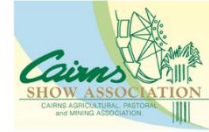
BUSINESS LIAISON ASSOCIATION

CAIRNS LAWYERS LEGAL

ESSAY COMPETITION



2026 AWARD SPONSORS



CAIRNS LAWYERS LEGAL ESSAY COMPETITION

About the Business Liaison Association (BLA)

The Business Liaison Association (BLA) is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to building meaningful connections between education and industry across Far North Queensland – from Cardwell to the Torres Strait and west to the Tablelands and Gulf.

Each year, we empower more than 12,000 students from over 37 schools to explore diverse career pathways, engage with industry mentors, and make informed choices about their futures. By bridging the gap between the classroom and the workplace, we help young people step confidently into their next chapter – and in the process, strengthen the local workforce.

BLA embraces multicultural diversity and First Nations perspectives, fostering respect, understanding, and inclusion for all cultures and identities.

Our Mission

To inspire, inform, and empower the next generation while forging lasting partnerships between schools, business, tertiary institutions, and the community. Together, we're cultivating a skilled, sustainable regional workforce ready for tomorrow's opportunities.

Our Cairns Lawyers Legal Essay Competition Sponsors

Hosted by the Business Liaison Association (BLA) in partnership with local schools and community stakeholders in Cairns, North Queensland.

The Business Liaison Association extends its sincere appreciation to Cairns Lawyers for their valued sponsorship of the Cairns Lawyers Legal Essay Competition.

Through their ongoing support, we continue to strengthen pathways between education, training, and employment, empowering the next generation of legal professionals across Far North Queensland.

Overview

The Cairns Lawyers Legal Essay Competition provides senior students studying Legal Studies the opportunity to demonstrate excellence in legal research, written communication, and critical thinking.

The competition encourages students to engage with contemporary legal issues and develop their analytical and argumentative writing skills. It also aims to strengthen connections between schools, the legal profession, higher education institutions, and the broader community while promoting potential career pathways in law, policy, advocacy, and public service.

Categories

Schools may nominate student essays from **Year 11 and Year 12 Legal Studies students**.

The competition consists of **two categories**:

Category Eligibility

Year 11 Students currently studying Year 11 Legal Studies

Year 12 Students currently studying Year 12 Legal Studies

When submitting essays, schools must clearly indicate **which category the student is entering**.

Conditions of Entry

- Entries must be submitted through the **Legal Studies Department** of the participating school.
- Schools are responsible for coordinating submissions and endorsing student entries.
- Essays must meet the **current Legal Studies assessment criteria** and curriculum standards.
- All referencing, footnotes, and bibliographies must comply with **current senior school curriculum standards**.
- Essays must be the **original work of the student**.

Prize & Bursaries

Please note that **each category will receive the same prize allocation per student**:

First Place (each category): \$250

Second Place (each category): \$160

Encouragement Award (each category): \$120

Prizes will be awarded to the **top three entries in each category**.

Process

1. School-Based Submission

- Applications must be submitted through the **Legal Studies Department of the participating school**. This process ensures appropriate coordination, internal review of student work, and centralised communication with the competition coordinator.

2. Submission Format

- A **hard copy of each student's essay**, accompanied by a **completed Application Form**, must be submitted. Submissions should be delivered or posted to:

Mr Scott Clarke

Cairns State High School

PO Box 5643, Cairns QLD 4870

sclar116@eq.edu.au

3. Deadline for Entries

- All entries must be received no later than **Monday, 20 July 2026 (Week 2, Term 3)**
- Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances.

4. Required Materials

Each school's submission must include:

- A **completed Application Form for each student**, signed by the student and endorsed by the school coordinator.
- A **typed essay** that meets Legal Studies assessment requirements.
- Appropriate **referencing, footnotes, and bibliography** compliant with senior curriculum standards.
- Any **supporting notes or references** required by the curriculum.
- An **entry fee of \$88.00 (incl. GST) per school** applies to cover administrative costs.
- There is **no limit to the number of student entries per school**.
- Entry fees are **non-refundable**.

5. Consent and Ethical Standards

- By entering, students and schools provide consent for photographs and video footage to be taken during interviews, awards event and used for promotional purposes by BLA and its partners.
- Entries must be the original work of the student. The use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini) is not permitted in drafting or writing the submission materials. All submissions must be the student's own original works. Submissions found to breach this condition will be disqualified.
- Students and schools are encouraged to positively promote their achievements on social media and acknowledge support from the Business Liaison Association.
- BLA reserves the right to withdraw awards, bursaries, or recognitions in instances where a recipient publicly defames, misrepresents, or undermines the values or reputation of the BLA, community stakeholders, or their affiliated partners.

Payment Information

An invoice of **\$88.00** will be issued to **each** school on the official closing date of the award.

Awards Night Presentation

Winning students will be formally recognised at the invitation-only Aspire Awards Presentation Evening, details as follows:

- Date: Thursday, 17 September 2026
- Time: 4:45 pm – 7:30 pm
- Venue: Cairns Performing Arts Centre (CPAC)

Award Recipient Requirements

- All award recipients are required to attend the Awards Ceremony in full formal school uniform, in accordance with their school's uniform policy.
- A formal invitation will be issued to each recipient, parent, and their respective school.

Application Form

Please forward the application to both:

Posted or delivered to:

Mr Scott Clarke

Cairns State High School

PO Box 5643, Cairns QLD 4870

Emailed to:

Abigail Peter

Business Liaison Association

events@bla.org.au

Student Candidate Information

Legal Name: _____ Preferred Name: _____

Mobile: _____ DOB: _____

Email: _____ Year Level: _____

Address: _____

Please note: *If a student is unable to attend the Awards Night, a parent or guardian will be invited to attend and accept the award on the student's behalf.*

Parent Name: _____ Parent Mobile: _____

Parent Email: _____

School Information

School Name: _____ Office Ph: _____

Teacher's Name: _____ Teacher's Mob: _____

Teachers Email: _____

Name of Subject: _____ Level of Achievement: _____

Teacher's signature: _____ Date Signed: _____

Principal to Complete

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Terms and Conditions

I confirm that I have read and understood the guidelines, eligibility criteria, and all information accompanying this application. I declare that the submitted work is my original work and has been completed within the past twelve (12) months. If I am selected as a winner of this Competition, I grant permission to the Business Liaison Association (BLA) to reproduce, publish, and promote my work across media platforms, including, but not limited to, television, associated websites, and social media platforms (including Facebook and similar channels). I acknowledge that my work may attract media interest on behalf of the Business Liaison Association, and I agree to make myself reasonably available for related promotional and media activities where practicable.

Student Signature

Date