

The Chambers of the Future. Can changes to how barristers work improve diversity, equality and accessibility to or at the bar?

Are you a solicitor who is thinking about or has already made plans to come to the bar? Are you a solicitor who decided not to come to the bar because of a work practice that you perceived as a barrier to you working as a barrister? Do you brief barristers and have some insight into the use of modern technology in this process? Do you want to provide your perspective on how modern work structures could be implemented to enhance diversity, equality and accessibility at the bar?

The Diversity and Equality Committee and the Accessibility Panel of the Bar Association have established a joint working group to explore how technological developments, working remotely, and other flexible work arrangements may have an impact, positive or negative, on diversity, equality and accessibility at the bar.

The joint working group is currently planning how best to capture relevant information to answer these questions. Investigation models being considered include structured interviews or focus groups. These could be conducted with a wide range of stakeholders that may include barristers, clerks, and prospective barristers found in the ranks of both solicitors and law students. The information gathered may inform future policy decisions of the Bar Association.

If you, or anyone you know, has an interest in sharing relevant experiences or wants to have some other input into the issues being investigated please contact Ellyse Matterson, Policy Lawyer at ematterson@nswbar.asn.au