

BECOMING AN AUCTIONEER

Auctioneers are employed by auctioneering firms, valuers or real estate agents, stock agents and produce firms. Some work alone or in partnership as consultants.

You can work as an auctioneer without formal qualifications but you must have a **licence** granted by a magistrate and issued by a local clerk of courts.

To be eligible for a licence, you must be aged 18 or over and undergo a National Police Check. Auctioneers of dangerous or sensitive goods, such as firearms or live animals, may require additional licences.

GENERAL AUCTIONEER'S LICENCE

You will need this licence if you intend to carry on a business or conduct services as an auctioneer selling, offering for sale or reselling properties or other items. You can apply as an individual or for the benefit of a firm or corporation as a member, officer or employee. A general licence authorises you to act as, and carry on the business of, an auctioneer in WA for all classes of business.

The duration of a General Auctioneer's Licence is 12 months and you will have to re-apply annually.

INTERIM AUCTIONEER'S LICENCE

You may require this licence if you intend to temporarily act as an auctioneer on behalf of a licensed auctioneer.

An application for an interim licence may be made by:

- The licensed auctioneer;
- The firm or corporation specified in the licence; or
- The person seeking to be granted the interim licence.

This licence permits you to act as an auctioneer for up to 3 months or as specified on the licence and can be renewed. After 3 months you will have to make a re-application.

AUCTIONEER TRAINING

Although there is no requirement for a formal qualification, it is unlikely that you will be granted a licence by a magistrate without some evidence of training and in particular, knowledge of the Auction Sales Act 1973 and Regulations 1974. Evidence of attendance at formal training in the conduct of an auction and the legislative requirements will help to support your application.

REIWA regularly conducts training from introductory to advanced levels of auctioneer skill and the REIWA auction network contributes to the provision of ongoing professional development for WA auctioneers by bringing experienced auctioneers from all over Australia to encourage participation.

AUCTIONEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

There is an annual WA auctioneering championship to help develop professionalism in the industry and to showcase the skills of real estate auctioneers. The top two winners progress to entry into the Australasian Auctioneering Championships. You can start as a 'rookie' and then enter the full auction championship as your skill progresses. This additional skill can help with your profile as a real estate professional in WA, nationally and internationally.

REIWA CODE OF CONDUCT

The Auction Code of Conduct was introduced a decade ago as a consequence of approaches that were made to REIWA by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC). In discussions with the ACCC, and in consultation with you, our members, we expressed a desire to self-regulate the conduct of auctions, in preference to there being any Federal or State legislative intervention over and above the Auctions Sales Act, 1973, and general real estate and consumer law.

All **REIWA members** who conduct auctions are bound to comply with the Auction Code of Conduct.

OBTAINING A LICENCE

To be eligible for an auction licence you must:

- Complete an application form
- Obtain three character references
- Show proof of qualifications and experience to competently perform the duties of an auctioneer
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Be a fit and proper person
- Have your application approved through the Magistrate's Court
- Pay the fee applicable for the type of licence (\$179 as at Feb 2015).

Application forms for a General or Interim Auctioneer's Licence can be obtained by contacting:

Magistrates Court of WA, Perth Registry

501 Hay St, Perth, WA 6000

Telephone: (08) 9425 2222

You must submit all original documents by mail. Faxed, emailed or copies documents will not be accepted.

It will take no less than 35 days after making application for the licence to be approved and granted.

ORGANISING AN ADVERTISEMENT

You must organise an advertisement to allow any person or firm or corporation an opportunity to object to your application. You must only advertise if:

- You are a new applicant and have never been granted an auctioneers licence; or
- If you change the beneficiary of the auctioneers licence.



THE PROCESS

A court date has to be set in conjunction with the Registrar and is usually set at 35 days from the date of the advertisement in the newspaper. Once the court date is set, you can go ahead with the advert.

You must obtain a copy of the newspaper with your advertisement and keep a copy for your records. You must mail the original newspaper page – the whole page that contains your advert – to the Court.

LEGISLATION GOVERNING AUCTION LICENCE REQUIREMENTS

Auction Sales Act 1973

Auction Sales Regulations 1974