

Speakers

- Aimee Travers, *Senior Assistant at the Parliamentary Counsel*;
- Anne Lindsay, *Principal Registrar at the South Australian Civil & Administrative Tribunal (SACAT)*;
- Lesley Jayasuriya, *Clerk at the Crown Solicitors Office (CSO) and Associate at the SACAT*; and
- Lisa Dunlop, *Prosecutor at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP)*.



About this Guide

This Guide has been prepared by the 2020 Careers & Sponsorship Portfolio with the aid of other publicly available materials. The information should not be relied upon without independent verification, as it is solely advisory.

Key Takeaways

- All employees are exposed to an array of experiences, from legal research to regular court appearances, which develops a valuable skill set.
- Provides an alternative to commercial law firms whilst using a range of your legal skills, such as communication, critical thinking and interpersonal skills.
- Some government departments have internal legal teams whom work closely with government officials, whilst others work closely with everyday clients. This breadth makes for an interesting career!
- Government departments are an excellent way to be involved in government operations without becoming a politician.



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AULSS 2020 CAREERS IN PUBLIC LAW GUIDE

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Where Can I Apply?

The following list is non-exhaustive; however, it gives a variety of public law offices to which you can apply:

- Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT);
- Attorney-General's Department (AGD);
- Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC);
- Australian Government Solicitor (AGS);
- Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO);
- Australian Tax Office (ATO);
- Crown Solicitors Office (CSO);
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT);
- Director of Public Prosecutions - SA and Cth (DPP);
- Office of Parliamentary Counsel (OPC); and
- South Australian Civil & Administrative Tribunal (SACAT).

Application dates differ so it is best to keep an eye on the offices' individual websites. Openings are often also posted on the government job portals:

- South Australia: <https://iworkfor.sa.gov.au/>
- Federal: <https://www.apsjobs.gov.au/s/>

How to Apply?

The application process will always consist of a cover letter, CV and transcript; however, it is also becoming more common to include online character testing, more personalised questions and online interviews. Don't worry, so long as you prepare, and are true to yourself, your application will shine!



Crown Solicitors Office (CSO)

The offices of the Crown Solicitor and the Australian Government Solicitor advise the state and federal governments on legal issues. The State and Commonwealth Departments of Public Prosecutions are responsible for prosecuting criminal and certain commercial offences. If you are interested in public law, you may also want to consider many related departments such as the Legal Services Commission, the Equal Opportunity Commission or the ACCC.



Office of Parliamentary Counsel (OPC)

The OPC works in the Attorney Generals Department and is responsible for important legislative drafting and legal advice on legislative matters to Government, Members and Senators. If you are seeking a legal role which has close connections to government relations, the OPC is an excellent choice. In addition, the OPC provides an environment which is highly technical and driven by detail.



South Australian Civil & Administrative Tribunal (SACAT)

SACAT is a state tribunal which reviews civil law and administrative matters, ranging from landlord and tenant disputes, to merits review and freedom of information. This breadth of capability is what makes SACAT such an interesting place to work. It not only tests a range of legal disciplines that students learn at law school but also enables advocates to have a close relationship with a range of clients. Work at SACAT is also, an excellent stepping stone to other tribunals locally and nationally, such as the Australian Administrative Tribunal (AAT).

