

# Office of Parliamentary Counsel

## Role of client advisers

Client advisers are senior drafters from whom client agencies can obtain quick off-the-cuff advice about drafting matters that arise, for instance, in the course of preparing a Cabinet submission or drafting instructions. Some examples of these matters are:

- options for legislative approaches; and
- matters which are necessary, desirable or acceptable for inclusion in legislation.

Advice on programming issues should be sought from First Parliamentary Counsel rather than the agency's client adviser.

While the provision of in-depth advice early in the development of legislative proposals would be generally desirable, OPC does not currently have the resources to provide this sort of service.

Client advisers should not be used instead of the Attorney-General's Department as a source of formal advice on the need for legislation. Nor should client advisers be used to advise on matters within the policy responsibility or expertise of the Attorney-General's Department.

The client adviser system is not intended to be a substitute for the development, maintenance and use of legislative expertise within agencies.

Client advisers do not necessarily end up drafting the legislation for the clients they advise. The allocation of drafting tasks within OPC involves constant balancing of OPC's resources and the demands of the Government's legislation program.

## Client Advisers as at 19 February 2009

Client Department/Agency	OPC Contact	Phone
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Iain McMillan	6270 1416
Attorney-General	Iain McMillan	6270 1416
Australian Customs Service	Paul Lanspeary	6270 1429
Australian Public Service Commission	Peter Quiggin	6270 1405
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy	Keith Byles	6270 1446
Civil Aviation Safety Authority	Marina Farnan	6270 1417
Comcare	Toni Walsh	6270 1425
Defence	Claire Parkhill	6270 1423
Education	John King	6270 1412
Employment and Workplace Relations	Marina Farnan	6270 1417

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts	Daniel Lovric	6270 1420
Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs	Louise Finucane	6270 1424
Finance and Deregulation	John King	6270 1412
Foreign Affairs	Liza Quinn	6270 1438
Health and Ageing	Paul Lanspeary	6270 1429
Human Services	John King	6270 1412
Immigration and Citizenship	Claire Parkhill	6270 1423
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government	Toni Walsh	6270 1425
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research	Claire Parkhill	6270 1423
Prime Minister	Peter Quiggin	6270 1405
Resources, Energy and Tourism	Nick Horn	6270 1415
Trade	Liza Quinn	6270 1438
Treasury	Nick Horn	6270 1415
Treasury (Revenue)	Daniel Lovric	6270 1420
Veterans' Affairs	Louise Finucane	6270 1424