

Information for applicants

Assistant Editorial and Publishing Officers—APS4 (Broadband B—APS Levels 4 to 6)

The Office of Parliamentary Counsel is seeking applications from people to work as members of a small team in the publications group, undertaking editorial and legislative publishing duties. The main functions of the publications group are to provide editorial services for draft legislation and compilation and registration services for the Federal Register of Legislation (www.legislation.gov.au).

The successful applicants will work in a team to assist in the delivery of these services. The successful applicants will be flexible, highly motivated team players, with a high level of attention to detail, good computer skills and a strong service orientation.

Accessing information

Information about OPC and advertised positions is available on OPC's website at www.opc.gov.au. If you require further information after obtaining the selection documentation, you can contact Aasha Swift on (02) 6120 1340, Andrew McLeod on (02) 6120 1383, or send in a request to jobs@opc.gov.au.

Where to send applications

You may send your application to the Recruitment Officer at OPC by email, post or fax. Please ensure that you have attached the Job Application Coversheet which is available at the back of this information pack and is also located on OPC's website.

Email	jobs@opc.gov.au (Your application, including any supporting documents, must be an attachment in Microsoft Word, RTF or PDF format.)
Postal address	Office of Parliamentary Counsel Locked Bag 30 Kingston, ACT 2604
Fax no.	(02) 6120 1403

Closing date for applications

The closing date for applications is: 5:00 pm on Tuesday 19 September 2017.

Extension of closing date for applications

The selection committee has a discretion to accept late applications. If you cannot forward your application by the closing date, you should ask the contact officer, preferably in writing, before the closing date, whether a late application would be accepted by the selection committee.

1. Duty Statement

1 As a member of a small team, perform editorial and legislative publishing duties including the following:

- (a) formatting draft Bills and instruments for printing;
- (b) proofreading and editorial checking of draft Bills, instruments and other documents;
- (c) preparing accurate electronic compilations of Acts, legislative instruments and other types of legislation;
- (d) registering instruments and instrument compilations on the Legislation Register;
- (e) publishing Gazette notices, Bills, Acts and other legislative documents on the Legislation Register;
- (f) researching amending legislation and checking, editing and researching compilations prepared by other Assistant Publishing Officers;
- (g) conducting research using appropriate computer-based research tools;
- (h) screening phone calls and handling routine inquiries;
- (i) other administrative duties as directed.

2. Selection criteria

1 Well developed administrative support skills, including:

- (a) a high level of word processing and data entry skills;
- (b) a sound knowledge of Microsoft Office products, in particular Word;
- (c) attention to detail.

2 Well developed written and oral communication skills including a sound knowledge of English grammar, usage, spelling and punctuation.

3 Good understanding of legislative processes and structures, and the capacity to read and understand legislation and research legislative queries.

4 An ability to work effectively as a team member, manage relationships, and work effectively with other people, under supervision and guidance from more senior staff.

5 The ability to contribute new ideas and maximise the benefits of change, including the identification of opportunities to improve the efficiency of business processes.

6 Well developed organisational skills.

7 An ability to train other staff in the duties of the position.

3. Remuneration and other conditions

Salary

3.1 Annual Salary: \$65,804 to \$71,449

Superannuation

3.2 OPC offers eligible new employees superannuation choice, in line with the requirements of the *Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992*.

3.3 If you have a preserved benefit in either the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme or the Public Sector Superannuation defined benefit Scheme, you should declare it to OPC, and seek guidance from Comsuper, before accepting an offer of employment. The telephone number for Comsuper is 13 23 66.

Terms and conditions of employment

3.4 OPC staff are covered by the Office of Parliamentary Counsel Enterprise Agreement 2016-2019. The agreement is available on OPC's website (www.opc.gov.au).

4. How to apply

Content of applications

General

4.1 Your application should consist of the following:

- (a) job application coversheet located at the end of this information pack;
- (b) employment history;
- (c) details of your academic qualifications, if applicable (tertiary);
- (d) names and contact details of two referees who are prepared to provide a reference for you;
- (e) a 'one page statement' providing examples of your skills, knowledge, experience and achievements that demonstrates your capability against the selection criteria and the duties of the position.
- (f) documents evidencing your qualifications, and your Australian citizenship, if applicable.

4.2 You may be required to complete a proficiency exercise before an interview, and OPC may seek additional information from you.

5. What happens after you apply

The selection committee

5.1 The selection process will be conducted by a committee made up of two or three members. The committee is responsible for advertising the position, conducting the selection process and making a report to the First Parliamentary Counsel.

Interviews

5.2 If you are selected for an interview, you will be given a couple of days' notice before you are required to attend the interview. If you are unable to attend the interview at the scheduled time, it may be possible to organise another time.

5.3 Before the interview, you should familiarise yourself with OPC's work. You can do this by obtaining a copy of our Annual Report and *OPC's drafting services: A guide for clients*. Both are available on our website and can be sent to you on request.

5.4 At the interview, you will be asked questions relating to the functions of the job and your skills, knowledge and experience. You can prepare for the interview by thinking about questions that may be asked by the selection committee and how you could answer them.

5.5 It is important that you are able to talk about the skills, knowledge and experience on which you have based your application. The selection committee makes its decision on referee reports and on material presented by you in your written application and at the interview. It is up to you to convince the selection committee that you are the best person for the job.

5.6 At the interview, you will be given the chance to ask questions about the job. Questions about general conditions of employment (salary, leave, etc.) can also be asked at the interview. You can find a summary of the conditions of employment on our website, and a copy can be sent to you on request.

5.7 The selection committee may contact persons you have named as referees, and other persons whom it thinks are appropriate, to assist it in making a decision, to confirm its impressions of you or to confirm information provided by you.

The committee's recommendation

5.8 After all the applicants who were selected for interview have been interviewed, the selection committee will make a recommendation to First Parliamentary Counsel about the applicant the committee considers is the best person for the job. If First Parliamentary Counsel approves the committee's recommendation, an offer of employment or promotion will be made to the recommended applicant. If the offer is accepted, all other applicants will be advised that they were unsuccessful in applying for the job. If the recommended applicant does not accept the job, other applicants who were ranked as suitable may be offered the job in order of ranking.

6. Other information

About OPC

6.1 OPC is a Commonwealth government agency established under the *Parliamentary Counsel Act 1970*. OPC is headed by First Parliamentary Counsel (*FPC*) and two Second Parliamentary Counsel.

6.2 OPC provides timely, high quality legislative drafting and publication services. These include drafting and advisory services for Commonwealth Bills, legislative instruments and other instruments as well as comprehensive public access to Commonwealth legislation, particularly through the Federal Register of Legislation website.

6.3 OPC has about 100 staff. This consists of the 3 statutory officers referred to in paragraph 6.1, and other staff employed under the *Public Service Act 1999*. These other staff include approximately 40 drafters, 40 publications staff, and 17 corporate services staff.

Location

6.4 OPC is located at Level 4, PWC Building, 28 Sydney Avenue, Forrest, Canberra ACT.

A participative work environment

6.5 OPC has in place a Workplace Consultative Committee.

6.6 The Workplace Consultative Committee is an official forum for communication between management and staff representatives about operational and other matters.

6.7 OPC staff also participate in decision-making through a number of other less formal meetings and consultation processes.

Website

6.8 Our website is www.opc.gov.au.

Other documents you may want to look at

6.9 Below is a list of other documents that you may wish to have a look at in deciding whether to apply and how to frame your application (especially if you are unfamiliar with legislative drafting work and the nature of the work done by OPC). These documents are available on our website or can be sent to you on request.

1. OPC Annual Report
2. Office of Parliamentary Counsel Enterprise Agreement 2016-2019
3. Performance Management Program for Corporate Services and Publications staff
4. OPC's drafting services: A guide for clients
5. The Legislative Instruments Handbook
6. The Federal Register of Legislation website (www.legislation.gov.au)

7. Some general Australian Public Service (APS) matters

Eligibility for employment in the APS

General

7.1 Your employment is subject to you meeting the required standards relating to character and health and physical fitness. The relevant checks will be done within the first three months of employment.

Australian citizenship

7.2 An Agency Head may only engage a person who is not an Australian citizen as an APS employee if the Agency Head considers it appropriate to do so. If you are selected for interview and you are not an Australian citizen, you must let the selection committee know.

7.3 OPC's policy is that jobs in OPC will be filled by people who are Australian citizens, or certain non-citizens who intend to become Australian citizens.

7.4 FPC may consider it appropriate to employ a non-citizen, as an ongoing or non-ongoing employee, if the non-citizen is a permanent resident and the non-citizen:

- (a) is an outstanding applicant for the position; or
- (b) is the only person found suitable for the position; or
- (c) if several positions are being filled—is suitable for one of the positions and the number of positions exceeds the number of citizens who have been found suitable.

7.5 If OPC engages a non-citizen who is a permanent resident, the person's engagement is conditional upon becoming an Australian citizen within a specified time after commencing employment in OPC. Normally the specified time is 6 months, however, FPC will consider the circumstances of the non-citizen, and the person's eligibility for Australian citizenship, when determining the specified time in which the person is to become an Australian citizen.

7.6 A person who, while not a permanent resident, has a right to live and work indefinitely in Australia, may also be engaged in the circumstances set out above. If OPC engages such a person, the person's engagement is conditional upon becoming a permanent resident within a specified time after commencing employment in OPC and becoming an Australian citizen within a specified time after becoming a permanent resident. FPC will consider the circumstances of the non-citizen, and the person's eligibility for permanent residency and Australian citizenship, when determining the specified time in which the person is to become a permanent resident and an Australian citizen.

If you have recently received a redundancy payment

7.7 There is a prohibition (exceptional circumstances can apply) on the engagement as an ongoing APS employee of a person who has received a redundancy benefit from the APS or the Parliamentary Service Department and whose redundancy benefit period has not elapsed. If you have received a redundancy benefit that may fit the criteria above, include the information in your application.

Security clearances

7.8 OPC staff have access to material that is classified in the interests of national security or is otherwise sensitive. Your employment is subject to you obtaining a security clearance to the Baseline level within the first 6 months of employment. The contact officer can give you information about how this is done.

Probation

7.9 Engagement of an APS employee is usually made on probation. Employment on probation enables your conduct and work to be assessed to determine your suitability for continued employment.

APS Values, Employment Principles and Code of Conduct

7.10 The APS Values and APS Employment Principles, contained in sections 10 and 10A of the *Public Service Act 1999*, are important to the way in which all staff perform their work in OPC. The APS Values, APS Employment Principles and the Code of Conduct (contained in section 13 of the *Public Service Act 1999*) are not simply aspirational statements of intent. All APS employees are required to uphold the APS Values and APS Employment Principles and comply with the Code of Conduct. A copy of the APS Values, APS Employment Principles and the Code of Conduct is attached to this document.

7.11 The APS Values are designed to:

- (a) provide the philosophical underpinning for the APS; and
- (b) reflect public expectations of the relationship between public servants and the Government, the Parliament and the Australian community; and
- (c) articulate the culture and operating ethos of the APS.

An equal opportunity employer

7.12 The Australian Public Service values and promotes equal employment opportunity, and the filling of a vacant position within OPC will be determined solely on the basis of merit.

Diversity in the workplace

7.13 The Australian Public Service values and promotes workplace diversity.

7.14 Workplace diversity requires that people from diverse backgrounds are not disadvantaged in competing for Australian Public Service careers. It also recognises the positive contribution that a diverse workforce can make to organisational effectiveness.

Smoke-free workplace

7.15 OPC promotes a smoke-free workplace. OPC has a policy that will not allow staff to leave the workplace, other than during scheduled meal breaks, to smoke.

APS Values

The APS Values are as follows:

- (a) ***Impartial***—The APS is apolitical and provides the Government with advice that is frank, honest, timely and based on the best available evidence.
- (b) ***Committed to service***—The APS is professional, objective, innovative and efficient, and works collaboratively to achieve the best results for the Australian community and the Government.
- (c) ***Accountable***—The APS is open and accountable to the Australian community under the law and within the framework of Ministerial responsibility.
- (d) ***Respectful***—The APS respects all people, including their rights and their heritage.
- (e) ***Ethical***—The APS demonstrates leadership, is trustworthy, and acts with integrity, in all that it does.

APS Employment Principles

The APS is a career-based public service that:

- (a) makes fair employment decisions with a fair system of review; and
- (b) recognises that the usual basis for engagement is as an ongoing APS employee; and
- (c) makes decisions relating to engagement and promotion that are based on merit; and
- (d) requires effective performance from each employee; and
- (e) provides flexible, safe and rewarding workplaces where communication, consultation, cooperation and input from employees on matters that affect their workplaces are valued; and
- (f) provides workplaces that are free from discrimination, patronage and favouritism; and
- (g) recognises the diversity of the Australian community and fosters diversity in the workplace.

APS Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct requires that an APS employee must :

- (1) behave honestly and with integrity in connection with APS employment.
- (2) act with care and diligence in connection with APS employment.

- (3) when acting in connection with APS employment, treat everyone with respect and courtesy, and without harassment.
- (4) when acting in connection with APS employment, comply with all applicable Australian laws.
- (5) comply with any lawful and reasonable direction given by someone in the employee's Agency who has authority to give the direction.
- (6) maintain appropriate confidentiality about dealings that the employee has with any Minister or Minister's member of staff.
- (7)
 - (a) take reasonable steps to avoid any conflict of interest (real or apparent) in connection with employee's APS employment.
 - (b) disclose details of any material personal interest of the employee in connection with the employee's APS employment.
- (8) use Commonwealth resources in a proper manner and for a proper purpose.
- (9) not provide false or misleading information in response to a request for information that is made for official purposes in connection with the employee's APS employment.
- (10) not improperly use inside information or the employee's duties, status, power or authority:
 - (a) to gain, or seek to gain, a benefit or an advantage for the employee or any other person; or
 - (b) to cause, or seek to cause, detriment to the employee's Agency, the Commonwealth or any other person.
- (11) at all times behave in a way that upholds:
 - (a) the APS Values and Employment Principles; and
 - (b) the integrity and good reputation of the employee's Agency and the APS.
- (12) while on duty overseas, at all times behave in a way that upholds the good reputation of Australia.
- (13) comply with any other conduct requirement that is prescribed by the regulations.

Note: Regulation 2.1 of the Public Service Regulations provides that an APS employee must not, except in the course of his or her duties as an APS employee or with the Agency Head's express authority, give or disclose, directly or indirectly, to any person any information about government business or anything of which the employee has official knowledge.



JOB APPLICATION COVERSHEET

Position applied for:

Job title/classification: _____

How did you learn PS Gazette / APSjobs website OPC website
 about this position? Other

Personal Details:

Title: Mr Mrs Ms Miss Dr Other

Given name/s: _____ Last Name: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____ Mobile: _____

Email (optional): _____

Postal address: _____

Are you a member of any of the following equity groups—please indicate which ones(s):

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Non-English speaking background Person with a disability

Nationality:

Are you an Australian Citizen? Yes No

If no: do you have permanent resident status? Yes No

have you applied for Australian citizenship? Yes No

Current employment details:

Employer: _____

Job title/position held: _____

Employee of the APS? Yes No Ongoing Non-ongoing

APS Classification: _____ AGS No: _____

Do you hold a current security clearance? Yes No Level: _____

Have you received a redundancy benefit from an APS agency or the Parliamentary Service Department and your redundancy benefit period has not yet elapsed? Yes No

Qualifications:

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____