



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Office of Parliamentary Counsel Statement of Expectations

Delivering the Government's priorities and objectives

The Government has a significant legislative reform agenda, including high priority, large and complex reform projects. As the principal provider of legislative drafting services, OPC is central in delivering the Government's legislative agenda.

I expect OPC to provide high-quality, timely legislative drafting services that are responsive to Government's strategic priorities and election commitments, including by:

- supporting and working closely with the Parliamentary Business Committee as it sets legislative priorities,
- measuring and reporting on OPC's performance, and
- considering, in consultation with the Attorney-General's Department, opportunities for operational efficiencies to better support OPC's delivery of Government priorities and engagement with instructing agencies.

Supporting Ministers and departments in the delivery of legislation

I expect OPC to support all Ministers and their departments in delivering legislative priorities, including by:

- supporting Ministers and their agencies to deliver legislative projects, including working with agencies to resolve any potential impediments to the delivery of legislative projects,
- working with the Secretary of the Attorney-General's Department on mechanisms to enhance the management and delivery of legislative projects across the Commonwealth, and
- leading training and capacity-building efforts, to enhance capability across agencies to engage in the legislative process.

Maximising drafting capacity

I expect OPC to make the most efficient and effective use of its resources to implement the Government's legislative agenda, including by:

- fully utilising existing resourcing to maximise drafting capacity, including through recruiting, training and retaining experienced drafters, and
- prioritising the investment of additional resourcing provided to the Office to implement innovative solutions – including artificial intelligence and other technologies – to more efficiently deliver legislative drafting, with regular reporting on progress.

Maintaining best practice

With respect to further organisational matters, I expect OPC to:

- Uphold and promote the Australian Public Service Values and Code of Conduct,
- Comply with the requirements under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* and associated instrument and policies,
- Support its government lawyers to act consistently with the Australian Government Legal Service's Statement of Expectations of Australian Government Lawyers and General Counsel Charter (as applicable),

- Demonstrate best practice in privacy, security and information management, and comply with the relevant legislative requirements, and
- Publish its Statement of Intent outlining how OPC intends to implement this Statement of Expectations on its website, and subsequently reference the Statements in its Annual Report and Corporate Plan.

Relationship with Minister and portfolio

In support of these priorities, I expect OPC will continue to operate in a way that promotes collaboration and demonstrates accountability and transparency. In particular, I expect OPC to:

- continue to work cooperatively with my department, and key stakeholders outside the portfolio including instructing agencies, their Ministers and the Parliamentary Business Committee, to deliver the Government's legislative agenda,
- be responsive to any requests for information from my Office and department, and alert me to any significant events related to OPC's activities through clear, concise and timely advice, and
- keep me informed in a timely and comprehensive way about OPC's performance, the management of its existing and additional resources provided by the Government, and any other issues affecting its capacity to achieve its functions and the Government's priorities.

Michelle Rowland MP
Attorney-General

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