
Catherine Langman

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proximity

BACKGROUND

Catherine is a Senior Advisor with Proximity. She has over 20 years experience advising the Australian Government on legislation and assisting with the development of new legislative schemes.

Catherine also has many years of experience as a legal trainer, having devised and presented training on a broad range of legal subjects to government lawyers and non-lawyers.

EXPERTISE

From 1995–2009, Catherine worked in the Australian Government Solicitor's Office of General Counsel advising Government agencies on a wide range of matters, with a particular focus on:

- › Statutory interpretation
- › Constitutional law
- › Administrative law
- › Environmental law
- › Legislative development
- › Drafting of legislative instruments

Secondments

Catherine has undertaken many significant secondments to Departments and agencies including the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development Environment, Health, Climate Change and the Office of the Regulator of Indigenous Corporations. As part of these secondments, Catherine worked on the development of a number of new legislative schemes or major amendments to existing legislation.

Details of some major secondments are as follows.

Secondment to the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

Catherine undertook an 8-month secondment to the Department in 2016 to assist with the implementation of the new governance and legislative arrangements for Norfolk Island. Key areas of work included:

- › advising on the interpretation and effect of relevant Commonwealth, State and Norfolk Island legislation
- › advising on constitutional issues arising from proposed legislative changes;
- › assisting with the formulation of policy and legislative proposals
- › assisting in high-level negotiations with State delivery agencies
- › preparing drafting instructions.

Environment

Catherine provided substantial advice on the constitutional aspects of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* during its development. She was

then seconded for two years to the Environment Department to assist with the Act's implementation. Key areas of work during the secondment included:

- › advising policy-makers and senior managers on the interpretation of the Act
- › providing strategic advice on administrative mechanisms and processes for its implementation
- › reviewing and advising on proposed decisions under the Act and statements of reasons for those decisions
- › advising on issues raised in litigation relating to the Act
- › reviewing and drafting legislative instruments made under the Act.

Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC)

Catherine was seconded to ORIC to assist in the preparation of regulations to be made under a new Act regulating Indigenous Corporations. This project involved:

- › identifying where regulations were required under the Act
- › consulting with and advising the Registrar on the policy to be given effect in the regulations
- › developing drafting instructions and working with the legislative drafters through to finalisation of the regulations.

Legal policy work

- › Led a team to research and draft a report (2009) on domestic violence laws in Australia and New Zealand for the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children.
- › Worked with a team in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet tasked with the development of a new national workers' compensation scheme.
- › As a policy officer in the Department of Health, carried out policy and legislative development work on new legislation to prevent double-dipping in compensation and medicare payments.

Training

Catherine worked for 7 years as a Senior Specialist with the Australian Government Solicitor's Training Services team. In this role, Catherine delivered training on diverse legal subjects to public sector lawyers and non-lawyers.

Catherine also developed many training courses, including specialised, tailored training for particular clients, such as:

- › a suite of courses for the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development on the legal regimes applying in Australia's territories, which she presented in Canberra, Perth and Christmas Island to Commonwealth and Western Australian government administrators
- › a comprehensive training program for new government lawyers.

Catherine's training practice also included, as part of the Australian Government Solicitor's pro bono program, the provision of extensive training to Papua New Guinea

Government lawyers. She developed a suite of courses that were based on PNG legislation and case law and were tailored to the specific kinds of work undertaken by the lawyers. With a team of AGS lawyers, Catherine presented these courses over a 6-year period.

QUALIFICATIONS

- › Baseline security clearance.
- › Bachelor of Laws (University of Adelaide)
- › Bachelor of Arts (Political Science) (University of Adelaide)
- › Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice (University of South Australia)
- › Admitted as a lawyer of the Supreme Court of South Australia and the High Court.