

BACKGROUND

Tara is a Principal Advisor with Proximity and is a very experienced Australian Government lawyer with expertise in administrative law, litigation, government advising, health law, privacy and contract law. Tara particularly enjoys advising program and policy areas on how they can operate in statutory frameworks.

Tara advises the Australian Government on decision making processes; structure of government entities, interpretation and drafting of legislative instrument; government contracts; litigation in the Federal Court and AAT; access to records and privacy and secrecy provisions.

Tara has specialist skills in the following:

Statutory interpretation including advising on complex legislation, how policy and program areas apply legislation and how external entities maintain compliance with the legislation.

Administrative law training on good decision making, statements of reasons and administrative law appeal rights. Training Commonwealth government staff with wide ranging backgrounds and Boards and Committees.

How administrative law and commercial law work together in legislation and how Commonwealth clients regulate in this space.

Tara's extensive experience as an Australian Government lawyer brings particular value to program and policy areas when considering how they can best administer statutory frameworks.

EXPERTISE

Administrative Law

Tara is currently advising Industry on venture capital law under the Venture Capital Act 2002 and associated taxation legislation. She has provided many advices interpreting these statutes, drafted delegations and authorisations, advised on secrecy provisions and confidential information provisions, and advised how Boards, Committees, decision-makers and officers regulate and ensure compliance with these statutes.

Legislative instruments – Tara has drafted multiple legislative instruments for Health under the National Health Act 1953 to implement a new program of on-line prescribing for doctors in hospitals and to include changes in the law for therapeutic goods more broadly. This work involved close cooperation with Office of Legislative Drafting and interactions with numerous Commonwealth entities. Tara's work saw the program rolled out on time, enabling the introduction of innovative prescribing practices.

Training - Tara has reduced risk of challenge by preparing and delivering training to legal officers, Commonwealth policy and program area officers,

Board and Committee members on 'Good decision making', 'Statements of Reasons' and administrative law generally. For example, Tara delivered training to over 500 staff in the TGA and more recently at Industry.

Councils, Committees and Boards – Tara has advised and presented on administrative law issues to a variety of senior Commonwealth councils and entities. This included advising the NHMRC Council, the Industry and Science Australia board, and Innovation, Investment Committee.

Freedom of information, privacy and public interest disclosure

Tara advised the Privacy and Legislative Advice team in DHS for six months. She triaged and provided advice on many privacy issues each day in the complex areas of child support benefits, Medicare benefits and social security benefits. She worked with many teams in DHS to advise on their mandatory secrecy provisions including advice on reducing risk in complex scenarios where the use and sharing of information was required within DHS, with other agencies and with the police.

Dispute resolution and litigation

Tara worked for two years as an Associate to a Senior Member of the Commonwealth Administrative Appeals Tribunal. In this role Tara was responsible for researching complex administrative law questions, drafting statements of reasons for decision, preparing research reports and improving and developing procedures within the Tribunal. She worked closely with lawyers and representatives from many different Commonwealth departments. This experience has provided Tara with deep knowledge and understanding of public sector dispute resolution and litigation matters.

Using her experience from her work at the AAT, Tara has assisted and represented Commonwealth clients (including Industry, Health, NHMRC and Comcare) with their Federal Court and AAT litigation. She has appeared in litigation and prepared all forms of documentation for litigation including T-docs, Statement of Reasons and Facts and Contentions, affidavits, briefs and settlement.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Prior to joining Proximity Legal, Tara worked with DLA Piper in 2011 and with DLA Phillips Fox from September 1997 to October 2009. During her working career she had two children.

Prior to her work with DLA, Tara worked for two years (from 1995 to 1997) as an associate to Senior Member Barbour (later the NSW Ombudsmen) at the Commonwealth Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

In 1994 Tara worked for Professor Margaret Allars on a Federal Inquiry including researching and drafting the Report of the Inquiry into the use of Pituitary derived hormones in Australia and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.

She has also worked for Comcare Australia and at Vizzone, Ruggero Solicitors (1991-92).

QUALIFICATIONS

- › Master of Laws - Government and Commercial law (Australian National University 2008)
- › Unrestricted practicing certificate, 2014
- › Bachelor of Laws (Australian National University, 2004)
- › Bachelor of Science (Australian National University, 2004)
- › Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice (NSW College of Law, 1995)
- › Certificate course in Bioethics (Curtin University, 1998)
- › Admitted as a lawyer of the Supreme Court of the ACT (2000)
- › Admitted as a lawyer of the Supreme Court of New South Wales (1995)