

Role Description

Solicitor Advocate VI

Cluster/Agency	Justice / Crown Solicitor's Office
Division/Branch/Unit	Legal Practice Group
Location	Sydney
Classification/Grade/Band	Legal Officer Grade VI
ANZSCO Code	271311
Role Number	Various
PCAT Code	1118192
Date of Approval	31 July 2015
Agency Website	www.cso.nsw.gov.au

Overview

The Crown Solicitor's Office (CSO) is the largest provider of legal services to the NSW Government and its agencies, and the sole provider of legal services in all matters which are regarded as being core to Government functions. The CSO provides core legal services to the NSW Government on a cost recovery basis and competes with the private sector for general legal work.

The CSO, headed by the Crown Solicitor, is a Public Service Executive agency related to the Department of Justice under the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013*. The CSO's business initiatives are linked to the Department's and Government's goals and directions in terms of the delivery of quality client services and responsiveness to the needs of the NSW Government and its agencies.

The CSO's vision is to be:

- the legal service provider of choice for NSW Government Agencies.
- the legal services employer of choice.

The CSO provides quality legal services to the NSW government and its agencies.

Legal services are provided to the clients of the Crown Solicitor through specialist Legal Practice Groups. The Crown Solicitor heads a Legal Practice Group focusing on Government Law issues. Other Legal Practice Groups are organised into four Legal Divisions, and each Division is headed by an Assistant Crown Solicitor. Each Legal Practice Group is headed by an executive lawyer at Director level.

The Corporate Services Division comprises: Finance & Support Services; People & Culture; Information Management & Technology; Information Services, Marketing & Communications and Legal Support. The Division drives practice consistency and excellence in corporate service delivery. With a strong client focus, it delivers critical corporate functions to support the delivery of excellent legal services.

Primary purpose of the role

Provide professional, efficient and cost effective advocacy services within one or more specialist Practice Group, to ensure the provision of high quality and client focussed legal services which contribute to the achievement of the CSO's business goals.

Key accountabilities

- Provide advocacy services ethically and in accordance with clients' instructions, tender and legislative requirements and CSO policies, procedures, guidelines and precedents to ensure the highest quality of legal advice and representation.

- Prepare advices, including undertake research, on issues in matters in relation to which the role is providing advocacy services.
- Comply with legal services panel requirements and CSO practice management standards, policies and procedures including: accurately and contemporaneously recording time spent on legal matters; estimating costs and disbursements; checking draft bills; updating client reports and contributing to the development and maintenance of precedents; in order to assist the commercial operation of the CSO.
- Contribute (as required) material for tenders submitted by the CSO relevant to the Group, prepare draft articles for the CSO Newsletter and group e-bulletins and participate in the delivery of legal seminars and training to clients to promote CSO as the legal service provider of choice.
- Enhance legal knowledge and skills by attending professional development and in-house training opportunities to ensure achievement of agreed performance levels and capability development.

Key challenges

- Responding to competing and urgent demands of legal matters of significance to the State whilst keeping abreast of current developments in the areas of law in which the Practice Group specialises.
- Perform untied legal work in competition with the private sector given budget constraints and operating as a Public Service Executive Agency.

Key relationships

Who	Why
Internal	
Assistant Crown Solicitor, Director/s Legal Practice Groups, Special Counsel	To receive supervision, guidance and advice in the conduct of legal matters and to provide assistance to them in the conduct of their matters.
Solicitors with carriage of matters and their supervising solicitors	To receive instructions and to provide advocacy services and advices.
External	
Clients, Counsel, witnesses, experts, other members of the legal profession and court officials	To conduct legal matters.

Role dimensions

Decision making

Decide the priority to be afforded to the performance of work relating to matters assigned to the role, subject to any direction by the supervising solicitor, court requirements and clients' instructions.

Decides the manner in which advocacy matters are to be presented, including decision as to conceding or negotiating points, calling of witnesses or other evidentiary matters.

Reporting line

On legal matters - to the Assistant Crown Solicitor, Director Legal Practice, Special Counsel or Solicitor with carriage of matters.

On non-legal matters – in accordance with supervision structure.

Direct reports

Nil.

Budget/Expenditure

The role exercises financial delegations in accordance with the CSO's Delegations.

Essential requirements

- Admission or eligibility for admission as a legal practitioner in NSW.
- Highly developed advocacy and legal skills and extensive experience which enable provision of advocacy and advice in highly complex legal matters in which the Practice Group specialises.
- Undertake Criminal Record Check and Working with Children Check.
- Travel for regional or interstate court and other commitments subject to the application of any discrimination legislation (including in respect of carer's responsibilities).





Capabilities for the role

The NSW Public Sector Capability Framework applies to all NSW public sector employees. The Capability Framework is available at www.psc.nsw.gov.au/capabilityframework

Capability summary

Below is the full list of capabilities and the level required for this role. The capabilities in bold are the focus capabilities for this role. Refer to the next section for further information about the focus capabilities.

NSW Public Sector Capability Framework

Capability Group	Capability Name	Level
 Personal Attributes	Display Resilience and Courage	Advanced
	Act with Integrity	Advanced
	Manage Self	Advanced
	Value Diversity	Adept
 Relationships	Communicate Effectively	Advanced
	Commit to Customer Service	Adept
	Work Collaboratively	Adept
	Influence and Negotiate	Advanced
 Results	Deliver Results	Adept
	Plan and Prioritise	Adept
	Think and Solve Problems	Advanced
	Demonstrate Accountability	Intermediate
 Business Enablers	Finance	Foundational
	Technology	Intermediate
	Procurement and Contract Management	Foundational
	Project Management	Intermediate

Focus capabilities

The focus capabilities for the role are the capabilities in which occupants must demonstrate immediate competence. The behavioural indicators provide examples of the types of behaviours that would be expected at that level and should be reviewed in conjunction with the role's key accountabilities.

NSW Public Sector Capability Framework

Group and Capability	Level	Behavioural Indicators
Personal Attributes Display Resilience and Courage	Advanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay calm and act constructively in highly pressured and unpredictable environments Give frank, honest advice in the face of strong, contrary views Accept criticism of own ideas and respond in a thoughtful and considered way Welcome new challenges and persist in raising and working through novel and difficult issues Develop effective strategies and show decisiveness in dealing with emotionally charged situations, difficult and controversial issues
Personal Attributes Manage Self	Advanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act as a professional role model for colleagues, set high personal goals and take pride in their achievement Actively seek, reflect and act on feedback on own performance Translate negative feedback into an opportunity to improve Maintain a high level of personal motivation Take the initiative and act in a decisive way
Relationships Communicate Effectively	Advanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present with credibility, engage varied audiences and test levels of understanding Translate technical and complex information concisely for diverse audiences Create opportunities for others to contribute to discussion and debate Actively listen and encourage others to contribute inputs Adjust style and approach to optimise outcomes Write fluently and persuasively in a range of styles and formats
Relationships Work Collaboratively	Adept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage a culture of recognising the value of collaboration Build co-operation and overcome barriers to information sharing and communication across teams/units Share lessons learned across teams/units Identify opportunities to work collaboratively with other teams/units to solve issues and develop better processes and approaches to work
Relationships Influence and Negotiate	Advanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influence others with a fair and considered approach and present persuasive counter-arguments Work towards mutually beneficial win/win outcomes Show sensitivity and understanding in resolving acute and complex conflicts Identify key stakeholders and gain their support in advance Establish a clear negotiation position based on research, a firm grasp of key issues, likely arguments, points of difference and areas for compromise Pre-empt and minimise conflict within the organisation and with

NSW Public Sector Capability Framework

Group and Capability	Level	Behavioural Indicators
		external stakeholders
Results Deliver Results	Adept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take responsibility for delivering on intended outcomes • Make sure team/unit staff understand expected goals and acknowledge success • Identify resource needs and ensure goals are achieved within budget and deadlines • Identify changed priorities and ensure allocation of resources meets new business needs • Ensure financial implications of changed priorities are explicit and budgeted for • Use own expertise and seek others' expertise to achieve work outcomes
Results Think and Solve Problems	Advanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake objective, critical analysis to draw accurate conclusions that recognise and manage contextual issues • Work through issues, weigh up alternatives and identify the most effective solutions • Take account of the wider business context when considering options to resolve issues • Explore a range of possibilities and creative alternatives to contribute to systems, process and business improvements • Implement systems and processes that underpin high quality research and analysis
Business Enablers Project Management	Intermediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform basic research and analysis which others will use to inform project directions • Understand project goals, steps to be undertaken and expected outcomes • Prepare accurate documentation to support cost or resource estimates • Participate and contribute to reviews of progress, outcomes and future improvements • Identify and escalate any possible variance from project plans