



2010

AGS Legal training program

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ADVANCED MODULE

FOI Exemptions

Target group

Employees who have attended our 'Introduction to FOI' course, or have equivalent training or experience in another FOI jurisdiction. FOI decision-makers, in particular, will benefit from attending.

Course outline

This course is designed to significantly advance the knowledge and skills of FOI decision-makers and practitioners in assessing whether documents ought to be exempt from release. The course has been designed to familiarise participants with the Act as it will operate following the amendments which commence from 1 November 2010.

Four different scenarios have been written to cover in detail all exemptions commonly in issue when making FOI decisions. Each scenario focuses on one of four themes:

- documents of a particular type (cabinet and legal documents)
- the effect of release of documents (protecting relationships and confidences)
- conditional exemptions and the public interest
- protection of private interests.

Participants work in small groups to explore and then work through the particular procedures with guidance from the presenter. This is a hands-on course and the participants will prepare documents and make decisions in these matters. A manual containing material on the exemption provisions is provided.

Most importantly, the presenter's considerable practical experience in FOI matters will help FOI decision-makers and practitioners to become familiar with the best way of approaching decisions on the applicability of exemption provisions following the changes to the exemption provisions from 1 November 2010.

Objectives

Participants will have a good understanding of the exemption provisions of the FOI Act and be able to identify issues and make good decisions on the applicability of exemption provisions under the new exemption regime which commences on 1 November 2010.

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Presenters

Our presenters are experienced AGS lawyers who have a great depth of knowledge of the government environment, and who practise extensively in the areas of information access and administrative law.

Duration

This is a full-day course commencing at 9 am and concluding at 4.30 pm. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided.

Cost

Standard fee – \$850.00 (inclusive of GST) per person.

If three or more people from one agency attend the same course on the same day *or* if one person attends three or more courses in the same week of training – \$765.00 (inclusive of GST) per person.

No more than 20 people will be accepted on each course, and courses will only be conducted if we receive sufficient nominations.

For further information on our calendar training, in-house or customised courses, please contact **Di Harvey on T 02 6253 7126** or **Kirstin Hewitt on T 02 6253 7436**, or email cbrtraining@ags.gov.au.

Website

For a full review of AGS services, visit www.ags.gov.au