

Getting to grips with the new FOI Act

AGS Legal Training Program

The Governor-General has proclaimed 1 November 2010 as the day the *Australian Information Commissioner Act 2010* commences. The new Office of the Australian Information Commissioner will be established from that date and the majority of measures in the *Freedom of Information Amendment (Reform) Act 2010* will also commence on 1 November 2010.

The changes to the regime for FOI access requests (including changes to the exemption provisions in Part IV) will apply to requests for access received on or after 1 November 2010.

AGS has designed a full day course to guide practitioners through a detailed analysis of the most important changes to the FOI regime.

Issues covered in the full-day will include:

- the role of the Information and FOI Commissioners
- the new Information Publication Scheme
- various changes to FOI processing requirements
- changes to third party consultation
- review rights
- the new public interest test
- changes to FOI exemptions
- new vexatious applicant provisions.

The day will be a combination of lecture style presentation and practical exercises designed to familiarise participants with the practical operation of the Act post 1 November 2010. For those who attended our previous *Getting to Grips* course in 2009, the exercises have been completely re-written to cover different, and additional, topics of relevance to practitioners.

Presenters



Justin Hyland heads AGS's specialist Information Access Team. He is a leading expert on freedom of information and has advised a wide range of Commonwealth agencies on FOI matters since 2001. Justin also acts as both advocate and instructing solicitor in matters brought before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and regularly conducts FOI seminars and training sessions. Immediately before joining AGS, Justin was a senior legal officer with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority and was the Authority's FOI and privacy officer. Prior to that, Justin worked in private legal practice in Canberra for several years.



Justin Davidson joined the Information Access Team in 2003. Prior to that, he worked within a litigation team in the Department of Finance and Administration. As a lawyer in the team, Justin regularly provides verbal and written advice on the Freedom of Information Act 1982, the Privacy Act 1988, the Archives Act 1983 and secrecy provision issues, as well as representing a range of Commonwealth and ACT agencies in Administrative Appeals Tribunal and Federal Court litigation matters.



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Price: \$850 (GST inclusive)

Discounted price: \$765.00
(GST inclusive)

Discounted price

The discounted fee of 10% will apply if three or more people from the same agency attend the same course on the same day.

Please select the date you wish to nominate by marking 'x' in the appropriate box:

CANBERRA

- Tuesday 17 August
- Wednesday 22 September
- Thursday 21 October
- Friday 19 November

PERTH Thursday 29 July

ADELAIDE Monday 23 August

HOBART Friday 10 September

SYDNEY Wednesday 15 September

DARWIN Thursday 30 September

ATTENDEE DETAILS

NAME: _____

POSITION: _____

AGENCY: _____

BRANCH/SECTION: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

PAYMENT DETAILS

BY INVOICE TO: Mr/Ms/Mrs

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Card type: _____

Number:

Cardholder's name: _____

Expiry date: _____

Gross credit card amount: \$ _____

Cardholder's signature: _____

Please fax this form to **F 02 6253 7333**.
For more information please contact **Di Harvey on T 02 6253 7126**
or **Kirstin Hewitt on T 02 6253 7436**, or email cbtraining@ags.gov.au.

Payment by credit card with registration

If you wish to pay by credit card, please supply relevant details on our nomination form under 'BY CREDIT CARD'. Credit card details will not be processed until after the training event has been run.

Payment by EFT

Payments made by EFT should be accompanied by our invoice and reference numbers and paid to our account number: 092-009 918766 RBA.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Once a nomination form is received and a confirmation letter is issued, it assures your place on the course of your choice and confirms catering and venue bookings. Unless you advise this office within 24 hours of receipt of the confirmation letter that you will be unable to attend, the full attendance fee will still be payable. In such an event, please feel free to send another person from your agency in your place. Courses will only be run on the basis of our receiving sufficient nominations.

PRIVACY: AGS collects the information on this form solely for the purpose of administering its training program, including providing participants with information on enrolled and upcoming courses. The information is stored in a password protected database and is usually disclosed to a participant's employing agency upon request.