



2010

AGS Legal training program

GOVERNMENT LAW TRAINING MODULE

Spending Government Money – The Legal Framework for Officials

Target group

This course has been designed for financial and policy officers in *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (FMA Act) agencies who wish to understand their role as 'officials' of their agency, and their responsibilities in relation to spending government money. The course is also suitable for government lawyers who advise FMA Act agencies on financial management issues, including procurement, appropriations and governance.

Course outline

This half-day course focuses on the issues officers need to be aware of when they are involved in spending government money, and common areas of confusion, including:

- key concepts in the FMA Act, such as:
 - what is an agency?
 - who is an official?
 - what is 'public money'?
- spending approvals (reg 13 and reg 9)
- appropriations
 - understanding annual Appropriations Acts
 - standing/special appropriations, including special accounts
 - managing appropriations, including drawing rights
- handling of public money by outsiders, including new changes to these rules in 2009.

The course is interactive and examples and exercises will be used to illustrate key concepts. Comprehensive course materials will be given to each participant for use as future reference material.

Objectives

Participants will achieve an understanding of the structural elements of the framework surrounding the spending of government money, starting with the basic constitutional principles and moving forward into the essential concepts underpinning the FMA Act. By the end of the course, participants will understand the legal requirements that apply when they are involved in spending government money, as well as some of the more complex aspects of the framework, such as special accounts and section 31 ('relevant agency receipts').

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Presenters

Our presenters are AGS lawyers who have a great depth of knowledge of the government environment, and who practise extensively in the area of law covered by a particular session. They illuminate important principles with real-world examples, encourage active discussion of the issues and lead participants through practical problem-solving exercises.

Duration

This is a half-day course, either 9 am to 12.30 pm or 1.30 pm to 5 pm. The calendar indicates when sessions are being offered by either 'am' or 'pm'. Morning/afternoon tea will be provided.

Cost

Standard fee – \$560.00 (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 – \$504.00 (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 **cbtraining@ags.gov.au**.

Website

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