



David Macgill - Senior Reviewer - Canberra

David has had over thirty years' experience in the public sector, including nineteen years in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, twelve of them at the SES level.

In the course of his career, David worked for five years as the Director of Legal Services in Comcare where he had responsibility for coordinating the agency's AAT workload and analysing AAT and Federal Court decisions for their impact on the application of the Safety, Compensation and Rehabilitation Act and Comcare's administrative operations. He had sole responsibility for the management of Federal Court appeals involving Comcare and prepared operational instructions on matters arising out of AAT and Federal Court decisions. The nature of this work required conceptual and analytical skills of a high order and an ability to make fair and sound decisions on the basis of the available information. As a result, he has a sound understanding of the principles of administrative law and the attributes of good decision-making.

David moved to Prime Minister and Cabinet in 1993 to head up the department's Legal Section and later the Legal Policy Branch. In these positions, he advised the Prime Minister and departmental executive on a wide range of legal policy matters, including FOI, privacy and administrative law policy and Ombudsman and Auditor-General policy. He also instructed the Australian Government Solicitor on public interest immunity claims and assisted in the establishment of several Royal Commissions.

In 1996, David served as the Secretary of the Commonwealth Paedophile Inquiry. In that role, he was responsible for the human and financial resources of the Inquiry, the preparation of the report and the arrangements for the taking of evidence from several high profile witnesses, including former Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Secretaries of the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and former and serving ambassadors on sensitive issues.

In 2003, David transferred to the Parliamentary and Government Branch in PM&C, where he provided advice to the Prime Minister on a wide range of issues, including the Public Service Act, the APS Values and Code of Conduct, ministerial standards of ethics and the Code of Conduct for ministerial staff, the Lobbying Code of Conduct and the Register of Lobbyists, the relationship between the APS and the Parliament and Ministers' offices, official witness guidelines and the application of the Caretaker Conventions. He returned to PM&C for the 2013 federal election as Special Adviser on the Caretaker Conventions.

In the course of his career, David has gained a reputation for fairness, integrity and sound judgement in the provision of advice to Ministers, their offices and senior APS employees on public service matters generally, issues around disclosures and code of conduct and ethical issues in particular.

David has a law degree from Edinburgh University.

Providing Reviews of Decisions and Actions, Workplace Investigations
and Related Strategic Advice to the Public Sector and Other Organisations