



## **Dr Jennifer Beard - Senior Reviewer – Melbourne**

Dr Jennifer Beard has over twenty years experience delivering legal services to clients and consumers within the private and academic sectors, including over 5 years experience as a statutory appointed reviewer at the Commonwealth and state levels. Jenny has particular proficiency in public decision-making and merits review, writing policy and procedure, and providing advice and training in administrative law principles, statutory interpretation and the development and implementation of solutions (such as decision-making frameworks and manuals).

Jenny is a Barrister of the Victorian Supreme Court with a current practising certificate; she teaches, trains, researches, and gives advice on administrative law at the Melbourne University Law School; and she is a current sitting member of the Victorian Firearms Appeals Committee, an independent statutory body established under the Firearms Act (Vic).

As a reviewer, Jenny draws on her previous experience as a full-time member of the Commonwealth Refugee and Migration Review Tribunals (now incorporated into the AAT) reviewing decisions of the Immigration Department; a member of university disciplinary hearings and “special consideration” committees, and currently as a member of the Victorian Firearms Appeals Committee reviewing decisions of the Victorian Police Commissioner. Jenny’s tribunal work means that she is highly experienced in undertaking investigations and reviews of actions following procedural rules and practice in an organised, efficient manner; and in writing decisions and recommendations fairly, reasonably and skilfully.

In all of her work, Jenny exercises a strong sense of fairness and demonstrates her ability to exercise impartial judgement, to give balanced and sound advice and make lawful, high quality decisions in a timely manner. Her on-going appointment to various panels and/or committees demonstrates the confidence others have in her ability to critically evaluate facts, to identify and assess relevant evidence, and use good judgment in decision-making.

Jenny appreciates the need to work efficiently and to deadlines. Jenny has a reputation for a calm and thoughtful approach to taskings. This natural attribute is important in reviews because it assists clients, witnesses, legal representatives and other stakeholders to remain calm and unpressured themselves. The pressures on those involved in investigations because of fear, anger, humiliation, loss, hope, reputation, etc. can make review work extraordinarily stressful. As a reviewer, Jenny works hard to ensure that those pressures are well managed and mediated.

Jenny possesses highly developed oral and written communication skills as a result of her work as a decision-maker and an advocate in various capacities and as a teacher and academic. She utilises those skills to provide professional reviews that demonstrate integrity and to build trusting relationships.

Jenny has a Ph.D. in law from the School of Law at Melbourne University, an LLM in Public International Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science and a Bachelor of Arts (Honours)/Bachelor of Laws (Honours) from the Australian National University/University of Vienna.

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