



Mike Lawless – Senior Reviewer - Canberra

Mike has extensive public sector experience, across several departments, covering legal matters, strategic policy, public sector legislation, litigation and personnel. Mike was an SES officer in the Departments of Immigration and Prime Minister and Cabinet for over 15 years. He managed major organisational reviews, significant procurement projects, development of new legislation and sensitive litigation. He has extensive private sector experience in conducting investigations under the Commonwealth and ACT public service legislation.

Mike now specialises in public service misconduct type inquiries and review of actions inquiries. He is very experienced in APS code of conduct investigations, preliminary assessments and ACT Shared Services appeal mechanisms. Mike has undertaken CPM Reviews work for the Departments of Defence, Environment, Human Services, Parliamentary Services, Fair work Ombudsman, Attorney-Generals, Finance, Agriculture, Customs, Medibank, The Australian National Audit office, the National Film and Sound Archives, the National Museum, NEHTA, AIHW, The ATO, ACT Shared Services and other ACT Directorates. Mike has a Bachelor of Arts (Economics) from Sydney University and a Bachelor of Laws from the Australian National University and is admitted to practice as a solicitor. Mike also has a certificate IV in Investigation (Government).

Mike has worked in the private sector as a solicitor and also as a consultant giving advice over wide areas in dealing with government agencies. In the APS Mike managed legal, personnel, training and development, evaluation and audit programs as well as policy programs. Mike worked closely with ministers, stakeholders, clients, and international institutions; managed major national policy and program consultation and negotiation processes and was responsible for significant legislative reform programs and the management of programs with large financial resources and extensive accountability requirements. He undertook sensitive negotiations with state and territory Governments, law enforcement and security agencies and the Governments of other countries.

Mike provided high levels of advice and counsel on personnel issues related to the transfer of functions and people, recruitment and promotion procedures, performance appraisal outcomes, and grievance processes. Mike has extensive experience in preparing administrative decision-making documents supporting ministerial and agency decisions subject to external scrutiny, including both judicial review by the High Court and Federal Court of Australia and review by the Ombudsman, the Human Rights Commission and the Privacy Commissioner.

Mike maintains his legislation and review expertise by using the APSC RSS feeds service, attendance at relevant local seminars, and participation in the CPM Annual Reviewers Conference.

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