

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FOR GOVERNMENT

Can I engage a lawyerbank lawyer through the Australian Government Legal Services Multi-Use List (LSMUL)?

Yes. "lawyerbank" is a trading name of DFC Legal Pty Ltd (ACN 159 266 583), which is on the LSMUL in the categories of:

- ✓ Government and Administrative Law;
- ✓ Corporate and Commercial Law; and
- ✓ Dispute Resolution and Litigation.

What background and experience do your lawyers have?

lawyerbank lawyers are talented senior practitioners with outstanding technical acumen in the fields of commercial law, administrative law, and / or litigation. Our lawyers generally have over five years of experience (most having more than 10) and have worked in well-respected law firms, at a Senior Associate level or above, and/or highly regarded in-house legal teams, at the Principal Legal Officer / Director level or above.

lawyerbank lawyers all have a significant amount of experience acting for the Commonwealth and as such understand the legal and policy framework within which Commonwealth agencies operate. In addition:

- ✓ our corporate lawyers are well versed in all types of commercial transactions including purchase and sales arrangements, IP and ICT transactions, corporate restructuring, finance and banking, property and construction matters, licences and leases of real and personal property and insurance and regulatory compliance;
- ✓ our administrative lawyers are accustomed to advising on complex issues arising under portfolio legislation; legislative processes and programs, legislative instruments and delegations; FOI, privacy and government accountability and transparency regimes; and Government decision-making to ensure decision-making processes are legally valid and will survive judicial review or similar challenges; and
- ✓ our team of litigators is experienced in providing high quality advice, litigation management and dispute resolution in a range of Courts, Tribunals, Commissions and Inquiries. We have particular expertise in instructing and appearing in the Federal Court, Administrative Appeals Tribunal, and the Australian Human Rights Commission, as well as mediating disputes, and providing expert determination, case appraisal and decision auditing services.

Why would I choose a lawyerbank lawyer for a secondment over a lawyer from one of our panel firms?

In short, because lawyerbank offers high quality lawyers at rates that are generally more competitive than the top tier firms. By focusing on secondments, lawyerbank has lower overheads than typical law firms. The traditional law firm model also discourages firms from wanting to place their senior lawyers on secondment. The best talent of a law firm is worth more in the office, working across multiple matters at an hourly rate, instead of being out on secondment at a flat daily rate.

Because we have a leaner model than traditional law firms, lawyerbank pays its lawyers the majority of the money they make on secondment. This helps us attract and retain great people, who enjoy being remunerated well for doing high-quality, interesting and varied work.

Finally, when you choose a lawyerbank lawyer to be embedded in your team, instead of a lawyer from one of your panel firms, that person will not have a conflict of interest in managing the provision of work to your panel firms. A number of our key government clients find this an added bonus when engaging lawyers through lawyerbank.

How long can a lawyerbank lawyer be on secondment for?

We have lawyers available that can fill both long and short term positions. There's no minimum or maximum period for lawyerbank secondments. We aim to be as flexible as possible to meet your requirements.

Are lawyerbank lawyers engaged on a full-time or part time basis?

Our lawyers can be engaged on a full-time or part-time basis depending on your requirements. Our lawyers work anywhere between one and five days per week in relation to secondments to meet the needs of each client. We can also perform work up to a pre-agreed set number of hours on a virtual secondment basis to provide a greater level of flexibility to meet resourcing demands (see below).

What is a virtual secondment?

A virtual secondment arrangement involves a lawyerbank lawyer working from their own office rather than working at your office. Under this arrangement you purchase a defined number of hours over a period and have lawyerbank perform the work as you need it. If you don't use all the hours that's no problem. We'll only bill you for the work that we perform.

This type of arrangement is ideal when you are uncertain about the consistency of work, perhaps because of an unpredictable project, dealing with sudden staff shortages or responding to ad hoc work. The virtual secondment model allows you to better control your legal budget by not paying for a fixed term secondment when the workflow doesn't warrant it.

Virtual secondment work is generally performed on an hourly basis but at rates that take into account the nature of the arrangement. With any virtual secondment arrangement our lawyers are available to attend your office as you need.

Can I engage a lawyerbank lawyer on a project basis or for a particular matter?

Yes. While many lawyerbank lawyers work on secondment, lawyerbank lawyers are also available to work on one-off projects and matters including to providing relief assistance with the business as usual workload, or to provide senior expertise for high profile, complex or contentious matters.

How do you vet your lawyers?

We only appoint lawyers that have significant legal experience and a sound understanding of the legislative and regulatory framework applying to Commonwealth agencies. Before appointing our lawyers we spend considerable time with them, discussing their experience and understanding how they approach their work. We ensure they have suitable references from previous employers and have requisite skills to work effectively in the Commonwealth environment.

Do I get to pick my lawyerbank lawyer?

Yes. We generally suggest one or more lawyers that would be suitable given the nature of the work you need performed. Where multiple lawyers are available and have the relevant experience we will provide you with their CVs so you choose who you prefer and on what basis.

How do I get a quote to use a lawyerbank lawyer or find out more?

If you would like to obtain a quote for a lawyerbank lawyer or if you have any other questions please contact Vanessa Smith or Edward Eyers:

- ✓ Vanessa Smith: vanessa.smith@lawyerbank.com.au or 0418 846 575
- ✓ Edward Eyers: edward.eyers@lawyerbank.com.au or 0458 068 869