

# Victorian Government Solicitor's Office

## Essentials for the VPS



Wednesday 28 March 2018

The Victorian Government Solicitor's Office (VGSO) presents 'Essentials for the VPS', an educational series designed for new members of the Victorian Public Service (less than 5 years of service). Throughout the series, experienced VGSO lawyers will deliver interactive workshops on fundamental legal topics to audiences of up to 20-40 people.

Each session will be structured so as to provide attendees with essential knowledge regarding key areas of law and is therefore suitable for those with beginner to intermediate skill in the relevant area.

**Duration:** 1.5 hour session

**Audience:** VPS employees with less than 5 years service

**Skill level:** Beginner - intermediate

**Lunch included**

## Statutory Interpretation

### Read, Understand, Apply

Government lawyers often face the task of interpreting statutory provisions. Leaving aside the rare case where there has been an authoritative judicial decision on the legislation, determining meaning can be difficult. The High Court has told us many times that statutory construction 'starts and ends with the text'. But what does this mean? And what do you do in the middle?

This workshop will break down statutory construction into practical steps. It will explain the principles of statutory interpretation (including the principle of legality), the meaning of legislative intention, the place for interpretation legislation and the importance of the constitutional framework (including privative clauses). It is aimed at Government lawyers seeking to learn or to refresh their knowledge of the principles of statutory interpretation.

Participants in this workshop are able to claim the following CPD points:  
**1 CPD Unit Professional Skills, 0.5 CPD Unit Substantive Law.**

#### Date

Wednesday 28 March 2018

#### Time

1:15pm - 2:45pm  
(Lunch served from 1:00pm)

#### Venue

Rooms 7 & 8, Level 27  
121 Exhibition Street  
Melbourne

#### Cost

\$150 per participant (+GST)

#### Registration

[marketing.team@vgso.vic.gov.au](mailto:marketing.team@vgso.vic.gov.au)



### Rachel Amamoo, Managing Principal Solicitor

Rachel advises on novel and complex questions of law, particularly in relation to constitutional issues (including the powers and privileges of parliament), statutory interpretation and government liability in negligence. With a background in commercial litigation prior to her work with Government, Rachel has a depth of experience in diverse areas of law, which assists her to identify and clarify key issues for her government clients.



### Edwina Smith, Principal Solicitor

Edwina practises primarily in administrative law (judicial and merits review), constitutional law, statutory interpretation and torts. She has extensive experience conducting litigation on behalf of government clients in high profile and complex matters. Edwina is the co-chair of VGSO's Constitutional Law and Intergovernmental Relations practice group