

Parliamentary Counsel (Agency Head) NSW Parliamentary Counsel's Office

The Parliamentary Counsel's Office (PCO) is a Public Service executive agency that provides the Government with a comprehensive and integrated range of high quality services for drafting and developing legislation, publishing legislation and providing advice and information about legislation to government. PCO also provides drafting services to non-government Members of Parliament, and provides public access to legislation through the authorised NSW legislation website. PCO is a vital link in the legislative process, working with Cabinet, Parliament and officers from government agencies to meet the parliamentary program and the subordinate legislation program. PCO also works with other organisations to promote uniform legislation and plain language, and to further refine the content, appearance and availability of legislation.

As an executive agency in the Premier and Cabinet cluster, PCO is responsible to the Premier. The Parliamentary Counsel is the Agency Head, and is the State's senior professional legislative counsel and the key role in the Statute law making process of NSW. The Parliamentary Counsel also personally drafts legislation of a complex or sensitive nature. Key challenges of the role include ensuring that the Office continues to produce high quality legislation within tight timeframes, frequently under significant pressure and subject to a high level of critical scrutiny; managing competing priorities of Ministries, agencies and Members of Parliament; and managing stakeholder expectations, including advising and guiding on process requirements and timeframes.

The role requires admission as a legal practitioner with a current practising certificate as a barrister; supported by extensive legislative drafting experience. Candidates will need to demonstrate deep knowledge of state laws and constitutional law, parliamentary and legislative processes, and legislative publishing processes and technology. Experience in managing a legislative drafting and publishing operation, including strategic financial and people management capabilities, will also be essential.

PCO is committed to promoting workforce diversity in employment, recognising that a diverse workforce provides opportunities for improving service delivery. PCO is committed to the NSW Government's goals of a workplace culture displaying fair practices and behaviours, and improved employment access and participation for diversity groups.

For a confidential discussion please call Felicity Stalley at Omera Partners on 02 8922 7204.

For a copy of the role description please email ktinkler@omerapartners.com and to apply, please email your cover letter and CV to PCO@omerapartners.com

Applications close: 5 February 2018