

# David Charles Metcalf | Curriculum Vitae



**Business name:** David Metcalf - Legislative Counsel  
ABN: 6447 428 0449  
13 Rosenthal Street, Campbell ACT 2612 Australia  
+61 408 491 192 | [david.metcalf@internode.on.net](mailto:david.metcalf@internode.on.net)

## Expression of interest for remote legislative drafting in any jurisdiction

**Background summary:** Following 19 years in the private sector, I have had 16 years' experience in drafting and settling legislation at ACT Parliamentary Counsel's Office (PCO). I retired in November 2020 having held the position of Deputy Parliamentary Counsel for 11 years with many periods of acting as Parliamentary Counsel as well as acting as Principal Registrar of the ACT Courts and Tribunal.

**Does my expertise fit with your need?** I am a generalist having drafted legislation for all levels of government. I am a consultant/contractor willing to undertake a range of legislative drafting work in any Australian or overseas jurisdiction. I can provide legislative consultancy or advisory work, on contract or retainer, either drafting or settling and developing junior drafter capability. Rates can be provided and/or negotiated.

**Qualified to draft:** I hold an unrestricted practising certificate issued by ACT Law Society from 13 November 2020 and have legal insurance coverage.

Examples of principal and subordinate laws I have drafted or settled and delivered include:

Financial Management Act;  
Long Service Leave (Portable Schemes) Act;  
Veterinary Practice Act;  
Electoral Act; Cemeteries and Crematorium Act; Building and Construction Legislation Bill;  
Revenue Legislation Bill;  
Litter Legislation Bill; Motor Accident Injuries Act;  
Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act (container deposit scheme);  
Controlled Sport Bill;  
Integrity Commission Act (establishment of Commission); Fisheries Legislation Bill; Lakes Act; and ensuring all legislation complies with the ACT Human Rights Act and Legislation Act to keep a cohesive, accurate, high quality statute book.

## Legislative drafting experience

- Drafting complex bills for ACT Legislative Assembly (and all parties including non-government members) and regulations for the Executive;
- Co-ordinating all drafting work for government Directorates, ACT courts and private members of Legislative Assembly; managing teams of drafters to deliver in a timely way;
- PCO representative for 10 years on the Courts Rules Advisory Committee - drafting and settling all Court rules during that time, and acting as Principal Registrar of the Courts on a number of occasions;
- National 'harmonisation' legislation (Work Health and Safety) via the work of the Council of Australian Governments i.e. drafting uniform legislation as required for the Parliamentary Counsels' Committee - for example, the national Model Work Health and Safety Regulation (hazardous chemicals and asbestos); and
- Advising policy officers on the implications and consequences of design and structure of legislative schemes such as the Integrity Commission Bill and the Motor Accident Injuries Bill.

---

## Qualifications and professional development

- Unrestricted practising certificate issued by ACT Law Society from 13 November 2020
- Bachelor of Laws (ANU) 1982 and Bachelor of Economics (ANU) 1978
- Master of Laws in Intellectual Property (ANU) partial completed 2005
- Multiple CALC conferences, CPD and corporate courses including public service ethics; business planning in the public sector; leadership training
- Enrolled as Barrister and Solicitor, High Court of Australia 1985
- Admitted as Barrister and Solicitor, ACT and Solicitor, NSW 1984

---

## Other qualities and experience:

- **Lawyer for 35 years** - admitted 1984 and in private practice from 1985 to 2004; 16 years' experience in drafting and settling legislation at ACT Parliamentary Counsel's Office (11 years as Deputy Parliamentary Counsel and many periods of acting as ACT Parliamentary Counsel – and as Principal Registrar of the Courts and Tribunal).
- **Depth of understanding of the public sector and the Westminster systems** – I have a depth of public sector knowledge, a strong public service orientation, and sense of accountability and integrity;
- **Excellent organisational and managerial skills** – in managing complex matters, multiple instructors and a large workload; I am calm under pressure;
- **Outstanding ability to influence and manage stakeholder relationships** – I have excellent communication and negotiation skills, and the ability to successfully build stakeholder relationships. Quote by former Judge Richard Refshauge articulates David's excellent communication and representation skills *'David's collegiality is an outstanding feature of his work. He has shown an ability to work with people of differing views and in challenging environments whilst maintaining his equilibrium and indeed, often engendering cooperation in the face of robust disagreement.'*

---

## Memberships and positions held

- Member, Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsel
- Member, ACT Law Society (and Chair, Functions and Law Week Committee 2017 – 2021)
- Member, ACT Bar Association
- Member, Australian Institute of Administrative Law
- Member, Wine Communicators Australia
- Member, Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology (ASVO) 2020 Wine Show Technical Advisory Committee
- Councillor, Royal National Capital Agricultural Society, 1993 - 2017
- Board Director, Royal National Capital Agricultural Society Board, 1997 - 2005
- Vice-President, Royal National Capital Agricultural Society Board, 2005 - 2010
- Chair, National Wine Show of Australia, 2010 - 2015
- Chair, Canberra Regional Wine Show Committee, 1998 – 2005

---

## Referees – contact details can be provided on request

- Ms Mary Toohey, Parliamentary Counsel, ACT Parliamentary Counsel's Office (2016-2021)
- Ms Sandra Georges, Parliamentary Counsel, ACT Parliamentary Counsel's Office (2009-2016)

## Career summary

<b>Date</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
2017 - Sep 2020	<b>Deputy Parliamentary Counsel</b>	ACT Parliamentary Counsel's Office, ACT Government, Australia
2016 & 2017	<b>Acting Parliamentary Counsel</b> <b>October - November 2016 (5 weeks)</b> <b>May - June 2017 (6 weeks)</b> <b>August - September 2017 (4 weeks)</b>	ACT Parliamentary Counsel's Office, ACT Government
2016, 2017 & 2018, 2020	<b>Acting Principal Registrar and Chief Executive Officer, ACT Courts and Tribunal</b> <b>July 2016 (2 weeks)</b> <b>December 2016 - January 2017 (4 weeks)</b> <b>October 2018 (2 weeks)</b> <b>June -August 2020 (10 weeks)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Support the Chief Justice, the Chief Magistrate and the President of the ACAT in the exercise of the administrative functions of the Supreme Court, Magistrates Court and the ACAT, and exercise other functions given to the principal registrar under Territory law.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Exercise the powers of the head of service relating to the appointment, engagement and employment of staff.</i></li> </ul>	ACT Courts and Tribunal, ACT Government
2012 & 2015	<b>Acting Parliamentary Counsel</b> <b>October- December 2012 (6 weeks)</b> <b>September - October 2015 (5 weeks)</b>	ACT Parliamentary Counsel's Office, ACT Government
2012 - 2020	<b>Deputy Parliamentary Counsel</b>	ACT Parliamentary Counsel's Office, ACT Government
2009 - 2012	<b>Acting Deputy Parliamentary Counsel</b>	ACT Parliamentary Counsel's Office, ACT Government
2005 - 2009	<b>Principal Drafter (L2)</b> <b>(including A/g Sept 2005 - April 2006)</b>	ACT Parliamentary Counsel's Office, ACT Government
2004 - 2005	<b>Senior Assistant Parliamentary Counsel (L1)</b>	ACT Parliamentary Counsel's Office, ACT Government
2000 - 2004	<b>Senior Associate - personal injury litigation (plaintiff &amp; defendant);</b>	Abbott Tout, Solicitors
1999 - 2000	<b>Associate</b>	Porter Parkinson & Bradfield, Solicitors
1995 - 1999	<b>Senior Associate</b>	Abbott Tout Harper & Blain, Solicitors
1991 - 1995	<b>Solicitor/Senior Associate</b>	Crossin Barker Gosling, Solicitors
1985-91	<b>Solicitor</b>	Sly & Weigall, Solicitors
1983 -84	<b>Policy Branch</b> <b>Class 9 (Assistant Director)</b>	Patents, Trade Marks & Designs Office
1983	<b>Consumer Affairs Branch</b> <b>Class 8</b>	Dept of Home Affairs & Environment
1980-83	<b>Class 6 and acting Class 8</b>	Dept of Business & Consumer Affairs