

  
**From:** Greg Cooper  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 11 April 2012 1:59 PM  
**To:** DL-CL Staff  
**Cc:** Barry Leahy; Ryan Haddrick  
**Subject:** Directions in relation to briefing counsel

**Crown Solicitor**

**Crown Law**

Dear all

The Attorney-General had directed me to circulate the attached directions in relation to the briefing of private counsel.

The Attorney-General wishes to make it clear that the only criteria to be used in the identifying and briefing of private counsel are professional merit and value for money.

The Attorney-General wishes to also make it clear that to make best use of taxpayers' money, junior counsel are to be engaged – unless a compelling case can be made for the briefing of senior counsel.

Please see details at:

[http://clconnect.justice.qld.gov.au/tools\\_and\\_support/policy\\_procedure/counsel.aspx](http://clconnect.justice.qld.gov.au/tools_and_support/policy_procedure/counsel.aspx)

These directions are to be of effect immediately.

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***Solutions for Government***

11/04/2012

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Thursday, April 12

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## Directions in relation to briefing counsel

- Fees payable to counsel
- Find counsel (Bar Association Barristers Directory)

### Directions to be applied

- The only criteria to be used in choosing to engage a particular counsel are professional merit and value for money - all other criteria are irrelevant.
- Unless a compelling case can be made for the briefing of senior counsel and approval given by the Director-General in that regard, junior counsel are to be briefed.
- Consult relevant officers across the Practice or search on line for appropriately qualified and experienced counsel. Bar Association Barristers Directory.
- Aim to maximise the pool of suitable counsel.
- Ensure compliance with the *Information Privacy Act 2009*, take all reasonable steps to ensure that counsel are engaged under 'service arrangements'.
- Ensure that a Senior Principal Lawyer or Assistant Crown Solicitor (or a more senior officer) is consulted before briefing the proposed counsel and the fees to be applied.
- Consult with clients regarding selection and engagement of counsel and the proposed fees.

### Reporting

Make a note for the file as well as centrally in your team as to what steps were taken to determine the most meritorious and appropriate counsel for each matter.

#### Note

- All fees are to be marked on the brief prior to delivery of the brief to counsel.
- Ensure that a copy of the backsheet with any counsel fees marked up is kept in a central register in each team's office.

### Review of Counsel Pool Process

ACSS are to regularly review counsel briefed (at least quarterly) with a view to increasing the pool of counsel.

### Responsibility

DCSS and ACSS have the responsibility for increasing the pool of counsel used.

Senior DCSS have the responsibility for reporting to SLT monthly on the briefing of counsel by their Branches.

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### What's on?

<	April 2012						>
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30	1	2	3	4	5	

Supervision module two - Developing your leadership style

19/04/12 Time management

27/04/12 Crown Law Social Club cocktail party

02/05/12 Supervision module three - Giving feedback

09/05/12 Statutory Interpretation training workshop

5 » See all

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Robert Marsh

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Last updated: 12-Apr-2012

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- Find a template
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- Make an accommodation issue/request
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- Look for a job
- Find out more about the LCC
- View our organisation
- Find out about training
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 QLUpdate - weekly news email  
 Queensland Legislation (OQPC)  
 Queensland Courts  
 Australasian Legal Information Institute (AUSTLII)  
 Australian courts, parliaments and governments  
 Land Title Practice Manual  
 Land Title Practice Manual Licence Agreement



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 GovNet directory advanced search  
 Queensland Government Executive Directory  
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 Yellow Pages  
 Crown Law alphabetical phone list  
 Crown Law Internal phone list

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 Dictionary  
 News.com.au  
 Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)  
 Power Couriers  
 Thesaurus

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 Travelmate  
 Qantas  
 Virgin Blue

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