



The Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (CDPP) has a national External Junior Counsel Panel and invites counsel from the junior bar to apply to join the Panel.

The CDPP receives briefs of evidence from 40 Commonwealth investigative agencies and 20 state and territory agencies. The CDPP manages its legal matters through its national practice group model and has six National Practice Groups dedicated to prosecuting categories of crime and supporting partner agencies in their investigations.



Working with external counsel

The CDPP often engages counsel to support some of the litigation work conducted by the Office.

An External Junior Counsel Panel was established in 2016. This approach allows the CDPP to increase the number of junior counsel briefed, improve gender equity in our briefing practices and create a quick and easy application process for members seeking to work with the CDPP.

About the Panel

The Panel is a list of advocates from the junior bar available for briefing by the Office, having been selected through an application process. Successful applicants will join the existing panel. The Panel does not apply to Senior Counsel and the engagement of Senior Counsel will not be by way of a Panel.

Counsel levels

There are two levels within the Panel.

LEVEL 1	Barristers who have been on the Roll for up to 3 years
LEVEL 2	Barristers who have been on the Roll for 3 years or more

Counsel will transition from Level 1 to Level 2 after 3 years at the bar, which will also mean an automatic fee increase to the lowest fee payable for a Level 2 barrister. The process will be that the new fee of \$1,100 will be set at the time of the next brief from the CDPP following counsel's 3rd anniversary at the bar.

The fee range guide for both levels is set out on page three of this document. This is a general guide only, and it is within the CDPP's discretion to set appropriate fees based on experience and performance.

The CDPP will review counsel's fees on a biennial basis, with the first review commencing 2 years from the commencement of the Panel. The biennial review will apply to counsel who have been briefed by the CDPP in the preceding two years.

How to apply

There is one application form for both levels, however applicants must address different selection criteria depending on the level applied for. Applicants will also need to nominate two professional referees (not CDPP staff). Applicants will not be interviewed, rather they will be assessed on their written application and experience.

Existing Panel members can update their experience, highlight recent achievements and update any other details by completing the Existing Counsel member update details form.

The selection process

A CDPP selection committee of senior lawyers consider applications and consult referees.

The selection committee may consult other people, internal and/or external to the CDPP, beyond the professional referees listed by the applicant.

Inclusion on the Panel does not guarantee work from the CDPP. In some circumstances, the CDPP may brief counsel who is not a member of the Panel.

Monitoring performance

Performance of Panel members engaged by the CDPP will be reviewed internally by relevant CDPP staff.

For more information

For more information, please email counselpanel@cdpp.gov.au.

Fee Range Guide

Classification	Indicia of experience	Fee Range Guide (Incl. GST) Maximum daily rate ^[1]
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 0 - 3 years on the Roll. > Limited or no experience as an advocate prior to signing the Roll. > Unlikely to have run a jury trial alone as counsel in the District or County Court. > Suitable for more complex summary work, less complicated jury trials or as junior counsel to a leader in a trial or appeal where a second counsel is required for analysis of the law or evidence. 	\$800 – \$1,100
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 3 years or more on the Roll. > In some circumstances, although counsel may have less than 3 years' experience, s/he may have come to the Bar with prior relevant advocacy experience overseas or as an in-house advocate with CDPP, Legal Aid, defence law firm or State or Territory DPP. > Similarly counsel may lack years on the Roll but possess specialist technical expertise in a non-criminal area which makes them more valuable for a particular class of work – e.g. specialist qualifications in forensic accounting. > The less experienced counsel within this level would normally have run jury trials alone as counsel or may have a growing reputation as a hard-working and effective junior counsel in appeals. They would be able to conduct less complex District or County Court trials or less complex appeals – perhaps more against sentence than conviction. > More experienced counsel within this level would be able to conduct more complex District or County Court trials or more complex appeals. > The most experienced counsel within this level would be capable of appearing as lead counsel in the most complex jury trials and appeals. 	\$1,100 – \$2,200

Short appearances in the nature of mentions, directions, taking sentence, taking judgment, which typically take an hour or less, will be paid on a flat fee basis of \$250 for junior counsel.

The hourly fee for preparation is calculated as one-seventh of the daily fee, which is capped at the daily appearance fee rate.

[1] Preparation is paid at the applicable daily rate and is determined in advance by the Office.