

Women Lawyers' Participation in Western Australian State Government Legal Agencies

State Solicitor's Office (SSO)

SSO employs 149 legal staff (including graduates and professional assistants). The following statistics are current from 10 February 2016.

SSO gender balance in relation to the full complement of legal staff is 51.6% women and 48.4% men; reflecting the gender ratio across the profession.

25% of SSO legal staff work part time. Of these 89.5% are women lawyers (34 women and 4 men).

Women lawyers comprise:

- 46% of legal practitioners classified at Class 4 (currently attracting full time salary of \$229,435) – 12 women and 14 men. Of the 12 women lawyers at this level, 6 women lawyers work part time.
- 60% of legal practitioners classified at Class 3 (currently attracting full time salary of \$193,945 to \$218,056). Of the 20 practitioners, 12 women lawyers and 8 men occupy these roles. Of the 12 women lawyers at this level, 10 women lawyers work part time.
- 68% of legal practitioners classified at Class 3 (currently attracting full time salary of \$175,256) - 15 out of 22 practitioners. Of the 15 women lawyers at this level, 9 work part time.
- 59% of legal practitioners classified at Level 7/8 (currently attracting full time salary of \$134,680 to \$159,726) - 13 out of 22 practitioners. Of the 13 women lawyers at this level, 7 work part time.
- 70.5% of legal practitioners classified at Level 6/7 (currently attracting full time salary of \$118,912 to \$127,450) - 12 out of 20 practitioners.
- 51.7% of legal practitioners classified at Level 4/5 (which includes restricted practitioners up to approximately 4 or 5 years PQE) - 15 women lawyers out of 29 practitioners.
- 50% of new articulated clerks commencing on 22 February 2016.

Legal Aid Western Australia (LAWA)

Legal Aid Western Australia currently employs a total of 144 lawyers of which 111 are women lawyers.

- Of the 9 SES lawyers, 6 positions are held by women lawyers.
- Of the 7 Division Heads, 4 positions are held by women lawyers.
- Of the 7 regional offices, women lawyers occupy 5 solicitor-in-charge positions.

Office of Department of Public Prosecutions (ODPP)

The ODPP has three Trial Teams which comprises nearly all lawyers in the ODPP. These teams undertake the vast amount of legal work that the ODPP does each year.

1. Of the three trial teams headed by a Consultant State Prosecutor (Salaries and Allowance Position) –2 out of 3 positions are held by women lawyers.
2. Of the three trial teams with a Practice Manager – 2 out of 3 positions are held by women lawyers.
3. A woman lawyer occupies the Senior Consultant State Prosecutor position.

Women lawyers not only comprise the majority of legal officers but are significantly represented in the leadership of the Office.