

# OPP New Barrister Development Program

## Join a new specialist course

The Office of Public Prosecutions (OPP) New Barrister Development Program is a specialist course designed to:

- introduce the work of the OPP to new barristers with an interest in criminal law, as well as new barristers who might not yet have considered a criminal practice but are curious to find out more
- enhance the knowledge, skills and confidence of new barristers at the Victorian Bar
- support new barristers to take on OPP briefs, appear on behalf of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), and build a rewarding prosecution practice
- provide opportunities for connection between new barristers and OPP Crown Chambers.

The program includes structured educational sessions (including CPD points) led by the Chief Crown Prosecutor, Senior Crown Prosecutors and experienced OPP solicitors and social workers. The sessions will provide practical knowledge and guidance on topics including:

- Prosecutorial duties
- Disclosure
- Preparing a plea and sentencing submissions
- Working with victims and witnesses.

Participants will also have access to targeted OPP resources and opportunities for support and advice from Crown Prosecutors and Senior Crown Prosecutors.

## Program dates for 2023/24

In 2023, the program will run on 24 November 2023 and is open to new barristers who signed the Roll during 2022/23.

In 2024, we expect to run the program at the conclusion of each Bar Reader's Course:

- End of March Bar Readers' Course: Monday 6 or Tuesday 7 May, 2024  
Open to new barristers who complete the March 2024 or October 2023 Bar Readers' Course
- End of September Bar Readers' Course: Monday 21 or Tuesday 22 October, 2024  
Open to new barristers who complete the September 2024 or March 2024 Bar Readers' Course.

## Where prosecution work can take you

Building a prosecution practice with the OPP as a new barrister provides a gateway to:

- interesting, challenging and increasingly complex work that has real impact on the Victorian community
- appearance work in the Magistrates', Children's, County and Supreme Courts of Victoria (as counsel and junior counsel)
- opportunities to work alongside and develop professional connections with solicitors, social workers, and Crown Prosecutors from Victoria's largest criminal legal practice
- career pathways that could include Senior Counsel, Crown Prosecutor, Public Defender, or judicial officer.

The OPP prosecutes serious crime on behalf of the DPP, who represents the Victorian community. OPP solicitors prepare cases and brief external counsel, in-house advocates, and Crown Prosecutors to appear in court on behalf of the DPP. The OPP also supports victims and witnesses during the prosecution process.

The OPP prosecutes a range of indictable crime including:

- serious drug offences
- serious assault and injury offences
- armed robbery
- aggravated burglary
- fraud
- sexual offences
- serious driving offences
- manslaughter, murder, and occupational health and safety matters involving death or serious injury.

Counsel briefed by the OPP appear in:

- committal hearings in the Magistrates' Court
- plea and sentence hearings in the County and Supreme Courts
- trials in the County and Supreme Courts
- appeals to the County Court, Court of Appeal and High Court

as well as:

- contravention matters (breaches of certain types of orders)
- detention and supervision order matters
- mental impairment and unfitness matters.

Find out more about who we are what we do on our website [opp.vic.gov.au](http://opp.vic.gov.au).

## How to apply

To express your interest in the 24 November 2023 program, please register your name and email address with the Victorian Bar Education Team by **Friday 10 November 2023** via this [link](#).

Places are limited.

## Program for 24 November 2023

The program will be held in person at the OPP at 565 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.

Tea, coffee, morning and afternoon tea, and lunch will be provided.

Time	Session
9 - 9.30am	Registration and tea/coffee
9.30 - 10am	Welcome
10 - 11am	Prosecutorial duties
11 - 11.30am	Morning tea
11.30am - 12.15pm	Preparing a plea + sentencing submissions (including how to avoid common errors)
12.15 - 1pm	Working with victims and witnesses
1 - 2pm	Lunch
2 - 2.45pm	Disclosure
2.45 - 3.00pm	Afternoon tea
3 - 4pm	Session details TBC
4pm	Program concludes