

## Hear from our People



### **ANDREW SUDDICK** Managing Principal Solicitor, Workplace Relations & Human Rights

I've been with VGSO since 2006, having worked for private law firms in England and Australia. I have the chance to work with great people, interesting clients, and most of all, have fun.

I spent much of 2009-10 acting for the State in the Bushfires Royal Commission and I am now involved in a proposed class action against the State and in the defence of a multi-million dollar claim against the State in the Commercial Court.

My move to the VGSO was a conscious lifestyle choice: I was tired of working unreasonably long hours and not spending much time with my three young daughters. The VGSO understands the importance of work/life balance and walks the talk.



### **ELIZA BERGIN** Principal Solicitor, Administrative Law

In January 2010 I joined the Planning, Environment and Heritage team at VGSO after five years ultimately as a Senior Associate at a large commercial firm. It was not an easy decision as I enjoyed great work and love the area in which I specialise.

VGSO has not disappointed. Recently, I successfully ran two high-profile matters in the Supreme Court of Victoria for the State, including the Windsor Hotel proceeding (National Trust v Minister for Planning). I have appeared as advocate for clients in a number of planning and environment reviews before the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal and settled several disputes. Government clients appreciate a practical and commercial approach which is legally sound and technically correct.



### **DANIEL PERKINS** Senior Solicitor, Administrative Law

I really identify with my government clients and their values. The work we do at VGSO is in the public interest, and I find that a really fulfilling reason to come to work.

Some of the work I'm involved with is inspiring for example, working with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development on a program to get more three-year old children at risk of abuse an early start in kindergarten, to improve their developmental, social and educational outcomes.

At the VGSO I'm exposed to sharp legal minds, including experienced solicitors in the Office and some great counsel. We work with leading barristers on important matters and as a young lawyer you can learn a lot from them.

The VGSO offers a fun and respectful environment. During my time here I've grown a great deal as a practitioner. This development has included two client secondments, which hone your understanding of clients and policy skills. I've also grown as a manager, being entrusted to lead small teams. You're challenged to be your best from day one.



### **ELIZABETH MORROW** Solicitor, Victoria Police Centre

I joined the VGSO as an Articled Clerk in 2008. I've always wanted to work in Government law and enjoyed my constitutional and administrative law units at Uni.

After rotating through the Branches, I settled at the VGSO's headquarters at Victoria Police. You're able to do real work from the start, meet clients, handle files and be given a lot of responsibility. I also get to do both oral and written advice, which adds to the variety. Every day is different – I'm often involved with very unusual aspects of law, such as Sex Offenders Registry matters. I recently completed a three month secondment at the Victoria Police Legal Policy Unit, and got to know everyone really well – it's great to work closely with your clients!

The VGSO provided me with six months study leave last year and I travelled to the University of North Carolina to study international conflict processes and defence and security policy, all of which will be of use to me in my role, as I have recently advised on counter-terrorism and freedom of information matters.

My Branch is a fun place to work, friendly, collegiate and the work is always diverse. Highly recommended!

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*My key message to new lawyers is that legal practice can be great fun. Find the area that inspires you and the world is your oyster.*

Eliza Bergin

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