The Excellence in Government Decision-making course is a unique, valuable and cost-effective resource for students, lawyers and public servants.

Why has this course been developed?
The course builds on AGS’s existing reputation for excellence in administrative law training. It draws on the expertise of the Faculty of Law to create a learning experience unmatched in Australia for breadth, detail and practical relevance.

Who should attend?
All those who work in government would benefit from the course. It is of particular relevance to decision-makers and those with any involvement in decision-making processes, to administrative law practitioners, to new agency staff, to policy officers and to lawyers.

What does the course cover?
The course is an in-depth survey of administrative law, with an emphasis on decision-making principles and current developments. The topics which will be covered include:

— Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975: merits review in the social security context, including the role of the Social Security Appeals Tribunal
— Ombudsman Act 1976: the important contributions of the Immigration Ombudsman to public administration
— Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977: the continuing relevance of statutory judicial review
— Freedom of Information Act 1982: review of FOI decisions and the possibility of a Commonwealth Information Commissioner
— Privacy Act 1988: the possible creation of a statutory cause of action for breach of privacy and relevant Australian precedents on quantum.

The course will also consider:

— justiciability, standing and remedies
— the major judicial review grounds
— the use of the prerogative writs and section 39B of the Judiciary Act 1903
— the impact of international law on Australian decision-making.

Each topic will be considered with reference to the latest developments in the case law and legislation, and with an eye to future developments in the field.

What are the arrangements?
The course will be offered in the week of 7 September 2009 at AMA House, 42 Macquarie Street, Barton ACT. The cost is $3450 (GST inclusive), which includes drinks on 7 September and dinner on 10 September 2009, all sessions and course materials and the option of obtaining credit from the Faculty of Law at Diploma or Masters level. For enrolment, see the insert to this brochure. You may also wish to consult the Postgraduate Law Guide, University of Sydney, at:

www.law.usyd.edu.au/fstudent/coursework/units

Faculty of Law admission requirements
Applicants who wish to undertake a Master of Laws (LLM) degree require an undergraduate law degree with a minimum of a credit average. A number of specialist degrees offered by the Law School will accept an undergraduate degree, or an equivalent tertiary qualification, in disciplines other than law. Applicants to the Master of Administrative Law and Policy (MALP), for example, will be considered if they hold a degree in law, economics, government, social work or another relevant discipline. They will still need a credit average to be considered for entry. Applicants who wish to be considered for the LLM or specialist degrees may find more information on admission from the Law School’s website www.law.usyd.edu.au/fstudent/coursework or by contacting the Law School at law.info@usyd.edu.au or on (02) 9351 0351.

Students in the Master of Administrative Law and Policy course who have not completed a law degree will be required to complete the compulsory unit Legal Reasoning and the Common Law System.
Excellence in Government Decision-making

The Faculty of Law of the University of Sydney and the Canberra office of the Australian Government Solicitor are pleased to announce that we will offer a new week-long Administrative Law intensive course in 2009 called ‘Excellence in Government Decision-making’. The course is a unique, valuable and cost-effective resource for students, lawyers and public servants.

Program and presenters

AGS presenters will focus on the fundamentals and practicalities of administrative law. This will include a survey of administrative law concepts and institutions, with an emphasis on decision-making principles and current developments. AGS solicitors and counsel with involvement in major administrative law litigation will speak during the course.

The Faculty of Law will provide topical lectures and discussions concerning particular administrative law subject areas such as justiciability and remedies, ultra vires and procedural fairness, and the impact of international law on decision-making. Each lecture will be provided by a faculty expert in the subject area.

The course will be presented by a team of leading University of Sydney academics and experienced AGS practitioners. Details of the team are overleaf.

The week-long course will include Monday drinks and Thursday dinner, to which guest speakers and all attendees and presenters will be invited.

Outcomes

— Excellent understanding of administrative law in the government context. This will include in-depth coverage of fundamental concepts, relevant practices, current developments and topical issues in administrative law.
— Certificate of completion jointly issued by the Faculty of Law and AGS.
— Option to complete an item of assessment through the Faculty of Law, with full course credit at Diploma or Masters level (see back page for conditions and Faculty of Law admission requirements).
Justin Davidson joined AGS’s Information Access Team in the Canberra office Litigation Group in 2003. Prior to that, he worked within a litigation team in the Department of Finance and Administration. As a lawyer in the Information Access Team, Justin regularly provides verbal and written advice on the Freedom of Information Act 1982, the Privacy Act 1988, the Archives Act 1983 and secrecy provision issues, as well as representing a range of Commonwealth and ACT agencies in Administrative Appeals Tribunal and Federal Court litigation matters.

In addition, Justin has attained accreditation as a trainer through the Australian Institute of Management. Justin also has experience teaching within universities, including a number of years as a tutor in Commercial Law at the Australian National University.

Justin Hyland joined AGS in 2001 after four years as a Senior Legal Officer with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority. Prior to that, he worked in private legal practice in Canberra for several years. Justin heads the specialist Information Access Team within the Litigation Group in the Canberra office. He acts as both advocate and instructing solicitor on behalf of Commonwealth government departments and agencies in freedom of information and other matters brought before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. Justin also provides oral and written legal advice to clients on various administrative law issues, including matters involving freedom of information, privacy, statutory interpretation, practice and procedure and records management.

Justin is an experienced trainer. He has designed and presented training packages for a wide range of Commonwealth and state government agencies, including presentations for senior executives. Justin also regularly presents general administrative law and freedom of information law training.

Kirsty Windeyer is a senior lawyer with the Information Access Team. She is responsible for litigation involving Commonwealth government departments and agencies in matters brought before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the Federal Court. Kirsty also provides oral and written legal advice to clients on matters involving freedom of information, disciplinary proceedings, privacy, and archives.

Before joining AGS in 2001, Kirsty spent several months as a senior researcher with the Senate Committee Office. She had previously held the position of Principal Solicitor at the Women’s Legal Centre (ACT Region) and has also worked in academia and in private litigation practices with Sydney commercial firms.

Kirsty has significant experience in drafting and presenting training packages for clients, particularly in the fields of administrative law, privacy and freedom of information law.
Professor Margaret Allars
Margaret Allars is a Professor in the Faculty of Law. She is the author of *Introduction to Australian Administrative Law* (1990), *Administrative Law: Cases and Commentary* (1997) and many articles and book chapters, as well as the administrative law title in *Halsbury’s Laws of Australia*.

In 1993 Professor Allars chaired the Australian Government Inquiry into the Use of Pituitary Derived Hormones in Australia and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, which reported in 1994. During 1995–96 she chaired the National Pituitary Hormones Advisory Council, and in 1997 she was Acting Head of the Department of Law. She is a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and a member of the Rules Committee of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal in New South Wales.

Professor Allars teaches undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Administrative Law, Public Law, and Environmental Law, and the postgraduate course Environmental Dispute Resolution.

Dr Andrew Edgar
Andrew Edgar is a lecturer in the Faculty of Law, specialising in administrative law and environmental law.

Dr Edgar’s research focuses on judicial review and merits review of environmental decisions. He has written numerous articles and edited legal publications such as the *Local Government and Planning Law Guide* and the *Australian Digest of Law*.

Dr Edgar teaches undergraduate courses in Administrative Law, Public Law, and Environmental Law, and the postgraduate course Environmental Dispute Resolution.

Nicola Franklin
Nicola Franklin is a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Law, specialising in administrative law and environmental law. She is Deputy Director of the Australian Centre for Climate and Environmental Law and Coordinator of the Postgraduate Environmental Law Program.

Nicola Franklin is co-editor, with Dr Tim Stephens, of the *Asia Pacific Journal of Environmental Law*, and chairs the Warringah Development Review Panel.

She teaches courses in the areas of administrative law, public law, environmental and planning law and dispute resolution, corporate environmental responsibility, sustainable development and local government.

Her publications include *Environmental and Planning Law in New South Wales* (co-authored, 2007) and *Review of Administrative Action* (with Mark Aronson, 1987).

Professor Mary Crock
Mary Crock is Professor of Public Law in the Faculty of Law. She helped to establish and run the Victorian Immigration Advice and Rights Centre Inc in Melbourne, now known as the Refugee and Immigration Law Centre (Vic). She has worked with Australian Senators (most notably in 1999–2000 on an inquiry into Australia’s Refugee and Humanitarian Program) and with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (preparing a report in 2000 on the Immigration Detention Centre at Curtin, near Broome in remote Western Australia).

Mary has a long standing interest in the intersections between legal scholarship and legal practice. She has assumed leadership roles as Chair of various migration law related committees for the Law Institute of Victoria, the Law Society of New South Wales and the Law Council of Australia and has served on the Executive Committee of the Refugee Council of Australia.

Professor Crock is an examiner for all of Australia’s specialist accreditation programs for lawyers in the area of immigration law. Her contribution was acknowledged in 2007 by her appointment as an Honorary Specialist in this field.