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| **Classification/Grade/Band** | Clerk Grade 11/12 |
| **ANZSCO Code** | NA |
| **PCAT Code** | NA |
| **Date of Approval** | 10 March 2020 |

Primary purpose of the role

The Principal Policy Officer leads and manages a team in the development, delivery and implementation of a portfolio of policy initiatives and reforms that support organisational objectives and Government commitments.

Key accountabilities

* Lead and undertake research, analysis and review of complex policy issues, identifying emerging issues, and developing evidence-based options and strategies, to ensure problems are resolved and risks are mitigated
* Provide expert advice and information to inform relevant stakeholders and support policy directions
* Lead and manage team/s to support the Agency in meeting policy commitments and/or roll-out of significant policy initiatives
* Develop and implement strategies for the monitoring and evaluation of all policy initiatives to identify risks and issues and ensure the achievement of desired outcomes
* Lead and facilitate stakeholder engagement, consultation and negotiation on policy issues to identify and develop solutions and make recommendations that account for relevant factors and support sound policy decisions and approaches
* Oversee the preparation of reports, briefs and correspondence to inform or respond to Agency and/or Government requests

Key challenges

* Managing consultations and negotiations with diverse stakeholders, given the need to balance competing interests and demands which are often changing and unpredictable
* Providing accurate policy advice and recommendations on a range of complex issues, given the need to understand the problem and formulate responses within short-time frames, often without prior notice

Key relationships

| Who | Why |
| --- | --- |
| **Internal** |  |
| Manager | * Provide expert advice and contribute to decision making * Identify emerging issues/risks and their implications and propose solutions * Receive advice and report on progress towards business objectives and discuss future directions |
| Direct Reports | * Lead, direct, manage and support performance and development |
| Stakeholders | * Provide expert advice on a range of policy issues and strategies * Optimise engagement to achieve defined outcomes |
| **External** |  |
| Stakeholders | * Provide expert advice on a range of policy issues and strategies * Optimise engagement to achieve defined outcomes * Consult and negotiate on key policy issues |
| Vendors/Service Providers and Consultants | * Communicate service needs and facilitate routine business transactions * Monitor service delivery in line with agency requirements |

# Role dimensions

## Decision making

NA

## Reporting line

NA

## Direct reports

NA

## Budget/Expenditure

NA

# Capabilities for the role

The [NSW public sector capability framework](https://www.psc.nsw.gov.au/workforce-management/capability-framework/the-capability-framework) describes the capabilities (knowledge, skills and abilities) needed to perform a role. There are four main groups of capabilities: personal attributes, relationships, results and business enablers, with a fifth people management group of capabilities for roles with managerial responsibilities. These groups, combined with capabilities drawn from occupation-specific capability sets where relevant, work together to provide an understanding of the capabilities needed for the role.

The capabilities are separated into **focus capabilities** and **complementary capabilities**.

# Focus capabilities

*Focus capabilities* are the capabilities considered the most important for effective performance of the role. These capabilities will be assessed at recruitment.

The focus capabilities for this role are shown below with a brief explanation of what each capability covers and the indicators describing the types of behaviours expected at each level.

| FOCUS CAPABILITIES | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Capability group/sets** | **Capability name** |  | **Behavioural indicators** | **Level** |
| Personal Attributes | **Display Resilience and Courage**  Be open and honest, prepared to express your views, and willing to accept and commit to change | | Remain composed and calm and act constructively in highly pressured and unpredictable environments  Give frank, honest advice in response to strong contrary views  Accept criticism of own ideas and respond in a thoughtful and considered way  Welcome new challenges and persist in raising and working through novel and difficult issues  Develop effective strategies and show decisiveness in dealing with emotionally charged situations and difficult or controversial issues | Advanced |
| **Act with Integrity**  Be ethical and professional, and uphold and promote the public sector values | | Represent the organisation in an honest, ethical and professional way and encourage others to do so  Act professionally and support a culture of integrity  Identify and explain ethical issues and set an example for others to follow  Ensure that others are aware of and understand the legislation and policy framework within which they operate  Act to prevent and report misconduct and illegal and inappropriate behaviour | Adept |
| Relationships | **Communicate Effectively**  Communicate clearly, actively listen to others, and respond with understanding and respect | | Present with credibility, engage diverse audiences and test levels of understanding  Translate technical and complex information clearly and concisely for diverse audiences  Create opportunities for others to contribute to discussion and debate  Contribute to and promote information sharing across the organisation  Manage complex communications that involve understanding and responding to multiple and divergent viewpoints  Explore creative ways to engage diverse audiences and communicate information  Adjust style and approach to optimise outcomes  Write fluently and persuasively in plain English and in a range of styles and formats | Advanced |
| **Influence and Negotiate**  Gain consensus and commitment from others, and resolve issues and conflicts | | Negotiate from an informed and credible position  Lead and facilitate productive discussions with staff and stakeholders  Encourage others to talk, share and debate ideas to achieve a consensus  Recognise diverse perspectives and the need for compromise in negotiating mutually agreed outcomes  Influence others with a fair and considered approach and sound arguments  Show sensitivity and understanding in resolving conflicts and differences  Manage challenging relationships with internal and external stakeholders  Anticipate and minimise conflict | Adept |
| Results | **Deliver Results**  Achieve results through the efficient use of resources and a commitment to quality outcomes | | Use own and others’ expertise to achieve outcomes, and take responsibility for delivering intended outcomes  Make sure staff understand expected goals and acknowledge staff success in achieving these  Identify resource needs and ensure goals are achieved within set budgets and deadlines  Use business data to evaluate outcomes and inform continuous improvement  Identify priorities that need to change and ensure the allocation of resources meets new business needs  Ensure that the financial implications of changed priorities are explicit and budgeted for | Adept |
| **Think and Solve Problems**  Think, analyse and consider the broader context to develop practical solutions | | Undertake objective, critical analysis to draw accurate conclusions that recognise and manage contextual issues  Work through issues, weigh up alternatives and identify the most effective solutions in collaboration with others  Take account of the wider business context when considering options to resolve issues  Explore a range of possibilities and creative alternatives to contribute to system, process and business improvements  Implement systems and processes that are underpinned by high-quality research and analysis  Look for opportunities to design innovative solutions to meet user needs and service demands  Evaluate the performance and effectiveness of services, policies and programs against clear criteria | Advanced |
| Business Enablers | **Project Management**  Understand and apply effective planning, coordination and control methods | | Understand all components of the project management process, including the need to consider change management to realise business benefits  Prepare clear project proposals and accurate estimates of required costs and resources  Establish performance outcomes and measures for key project goals, and define monitoring, reporting and communication requirements  Identify and evaluate risks associated with the project and develop mitigation strategies  Identify and consult stakeholders to inform the project strategy  Communicate the project’s objectives and its expected benefits  Monitor the completion of project milestones against goals and take necessary action  Evaluate progress and identify improvements to inform future projects | Adept |
| People Management | **Manage and Develop People**  Engage and motivate staff, and develop capability and potential in others | | Define and clearly communicate roles, responsibilities and performance standards to achieve team outcomes  Adjust performance development processes to meet the diverse abilities and needs of individuals and teams  Develop work plans that consider capability, strengths and opportunities for development  Be aware of the influences of bias when managing team members  Seek feedback on own management capabilities and develop strategies to address any gaps  Address and resolve team and individual performance issues, including unsatisfactory performance, in a timely and effective way  Monitor and report on team performance in line with established performance development frameworks | Adept |

# Complementary capabilities

*Complementary capabilities* are also identified from the Capability Framework and relevant occupation-specific capability sets. They are important to identifying performance required for the role and development opportunities.

Note: capabilities listed as ‘not essential’ for this role are not relevant for recruitment purposes however may be relevant for future career development.

| COMPLEMENTARY CAPABILITIES | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Capability group/sets** | **Capability name** |  | **Description** | **Level** |
| Personal Attributes | Manage Self | | Show drive and motivation, an ability to self-reflect and a commitment to learning | Adept |
| Value Diversity and Inclusion | | Demonstrate inclusive behaviour and show respect for diverse backgrounds, experiences and perspectives | Adept |
| Relationships | Commit to Customer Service | | Provide customer-focused services in line with public sector and organisational objectives | Adept |
| Work Collaboratively | | Collaborate with others and value their contribution | Adept |

| COMPLEMENTARY CAPABILITIES | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Capability group/sets** | **Capability name** |  | **Description** | **Level** |
| Results | Plan and Prioritise | | Plan to achieve priority outcomes and respond flexibly to changing circumstances | Adept |
| Demonstrate Accountability | | Be proactive and responsible for own actions, and adhere to legislation, policy and guidelines | Adept |
| Business Enablers | Finance | | Understand and apply financial processes to achieve value for money and minimise financial risk | Intermediate |
| Technology | | Understand and use available technologies to maximise efficiencies and effectiveness | Intermediate |
| Procurement and Contract Management | | Understand and apply procurement processes to ensure effective purchasing and contract performance | Intermediate |
| People Management | Inspire Direction and Purpose | | Communicate goals, priorities and vision, and recognise achievements | Intermediate |
| Optimise Business Outcomes | | Manage people and resources effectively to achieve public value | Adept |
| Manage Reform and Change | | Support, promote and champion change, and assist others to engage with change | Intermediate |