

Reach your true potential. It is time to join our Government team.

We know that it's a big step to change jobs at any time and even more so during a pandemic. We also know that Sparke Helmore is a firm where you can reach your true potential and that joining us now could be the best career move you ever make. You will:

- Join a proudly Australian firm with close to 140 years of stability and sustained growth; a firm with the business of government at the very heart of everything we do.
- Become a trusted member of our national Government Practice Group, a team that has grown significantly in the last decade to become one of the most well-regarded in the market. As the second largest private provider for Commonwealth legal services for the last three years—and top five provider for the last eight years—the team is dedicated to building even stronger relationships with all government departments and agencies. We are committed to providing broad geographical and technical coverage to provide the highest quality service across the board.
- Work with an exceptional client base. Government work involves some of the most interesting and complex work that you will experience in any area of law. You will be involved in matters that will engage and challenge you and give you unparalleled opportunity to grow and deepen your expertise through collaboration with others just as passionate as you are about providing support to our public sector clients.
- Enjoy a firm that makes it all about you—your career, your development, your life. You will have access to exceptional leaders and mentors who take the time to work with you and help you reach your true potential. You will have access to our market-leading training programs.
- Work with a diverse, genuine and friendly group of people who are ready to make you feel welcome from day one.

So, what are you waiting for?

How do we compare?

9 offices | 14 partners | 139 employees | 2 specialty areas

- **Government Administrative**
- **Government Commercial**

We are honoured to have been acknowledged many times for the calibre of our Government practice – for our commitment to an exceptional client experience, technical excellence and to the people who make our team what it is. We have been a finalist for Government Team of the Year awards over the years and our lawyers—junior and senior—have been up for individual awards in recognition of their expertise and dedication to the sector. Many of our lawyers feature in Chambers, Legal 500, Best Lawyers and Doyle's as leaders in their field.

What did a recent recruit say about their experience of joining us?



"My decision to move to Sparke Helmore during the uncertain economic environment was an easy one because of Sparke Helmore's exceptional reputation as a client-centric firm within the Government sector and Canberra's legal industry. The firm's focus on buildings its ranks even during uncertain times gave me a strong sense of comfort because it showed me that the firm has a planned growth agenda and appreciates the value and fresh perspectives that new people can bring."

Rushil Sharma

Senior Associate, Government team, Canberra

Why did two of our partners join us not once, but twice?



"Sometimes you need to leave home to really appreciate it. That might sound kitschy, but it really does encapsulate how I feel about Sparke Helmore."

Bernadette Rayment

Partner, Government team Sydney (joined in 2000, left in 2014, and re-joined in 2017)



"I came back for a lot of reasons but, mostly, it's because Sparke Helmore has the people I want to work with."

Liana Westcott

Partner, Government team, Canberra (joined in 2005, left in 2014, and re-joined in 2018)

As a firm, we are proud to be recognised two years running as an Employer of Choice for Gender Equality by WGEA. Alongside our commitment to Diversity & Inclusion, we are also committed to giving back to the communities in which we live and work. We are a signatory to the voluntary National Pro Bono Target of an average of 35 pro bono hours per lawyer, which is a target we exceed each year. Our dedication to providing justice for vulnerable people led to us being a finalist for Pro Bono team of the year at the Lawyers Weekly Law Awards as well as a finalist for Corporate Citizen Firm of the Year at the Australasian Law Awards.

**WHY JOIN
SPARKE HELMORE?**



What do our team members say about us?

In our most recent engagement survey, members of our Government team shared with us some of the positives that come with being part of a team and a firm that is committed to supporting everyone in reaching their true potential.

94% said that their partner/manager behaved in a way that is consistent with the core values of the firm.

95% said that Sparke Helmore is a good place to work.

92% said that people are treated with respect at Sparke Helmore regardless of their job.

89% said that they had the opportunity for personal development and growth at the firm.

92% said that they worked with people willing to help each other, even when it means doing something outside their usual activities.

91% said that Sparke Helmore is committed to the fair treatment of all employees regardless of age, race, ethnic background, gender orientation or disability.

Source: The Pulse Firm Engagement Survey 2019

How did one of our newest partners flourish and build their career with us?



"When I joined Sparke Helmore, it was on the basis that I would be given the opportunity to develop as a lawyer. Not only has this happened beyond what I could have hoped for, but Sparke Helmore's truly national practice has given me opportunities to meet new clients and to work in a variety of practice areas across the country."

Michael La Vista
Partner, Government team, Adelaide
(made Partner in 2020)

Boosting your experience through secondment opportunities

To provide service excellence to our government clients, we need to fully understand their needs, their culture and the context in which they operate every day. We do this in a number of ways, one of which is embedding our lawyers with the client directly in their working environment. And that's why we encourage you to experience a secondment—one, a couple or even many. The choice is yours to make. Secondments are a big part of how we work with government and is one way we seek to maximise the value we add.



"Working with a client on secondment gives you the opportunity see how the client's organisation works from the inside. You will be involved in projects you may not otherwise see and stretch your skills in ways you may not anticipate. My own experience has included a broad range of privacy work including advice and training to internal business areas, privacy assessments, responding to breaches and engaging with regulators and other departments on the client's behalf, all in four months. So far, I have been able to apply what I have learned on secondment to assist other clients and help develop the firm's privacy practice."

Jonathan Crass
Associate, Government Team , Canberra



"My secondment has been a great opportunity to try something new and develop my skills and knowledge in a more specialised area. I have gained a better understanding of the client's needs and developed professional and personal relationships which will help me become a better lawyer when I return to Sparke Helmore."

Eleanor Elliott
Lawyer, Government Team , Melbourne

What are we saying?

We are committed to sharing knowledge with our clients and the market. You can listen to some of our most recent podcasts from across the firm including our Government team talking about COVIDsafe litigation in the AAT as well as issues in procurement probity and contracting.

You can also take a look at our Sparke Helmore [LinkedIn page](#) to see all the things we are doing and the issues we are passionate about—and that maybe you are passionate about, too.

Click on this (link video)

to hear from members of the Government team, as they share with you why you can be confident that joining Sparke Helmore is the right move for you.

