

I write to nominate for a position as a civil society member of the Open Government Forum ('OGF'). I am currently the Executive Director of Law Firms Australia ('LFA'). LFA is a membership-based company representing Australia's leading multi-jurisdictional law firms, and a constituent member of the Law Council of Australia. I was formerly a senior adviser to New South Wales Government Ministers (including the Attorney-General and the Minister for Planning), and an associate to a judge on the Federal Court of Australia. I am also a young Australian (28).

I provide the following information in relation to each of the selection criteria.

1. demonstrated support of OGP's Mission and Strategy and the Open Government Declaration

Having worked both within and with government, I understand that quality of governance is improved through: appropriate transparency in decision making; responsible use of data; civic participation, and; embracing technology to engage with communities.

2. expertise relevant to the Open Government Partnership, including existing or probable future Australian Open Government commitments;

From my time working in government, and now in engaging with the policy work of the Law Council of Australia, I have a keen appreciation for the policy rationale for, and processes related to, the following matters:

- Federal and state freedom of information legislation (including proactive and informal release of information);
- Use of government data to improve services (for instance, the work of the NSW Data Analytics Centre);
- Anti-corruption bodies and measures (including state corruption commissions);
- Government procurement of services; and
- Political donations and funding.

3. demonstrated ability to engage broad and diverse community networks;

As a Ministerial adviser, I was required to listen to, and draw upon, the knowledge and perspectives of a diverse range of stakeholders. This was particularly relevant when working for the Minister for Planning due to the Minister's responsibility for determining major, and often polarising, infrastructure and energy projects. It was also important to engage with relevant community groups and industry bodies to seek their opinions on and inform them of, for example, pending legislative amendments or project proposals.

4. previous experience working with and influencing government; and

I regularly engage with federal and state government departments and agencies on legal policy issues as the Executive Director of LFA, having made numerous submissions to reviews and having appeared before a Senate Committee. I also have a deep understanding of government decision making from my experience as a ministerial adviser.

5. the desirability of maintaining some continuity between successive Forums, balanced with the desirability of reaching new communities and reflecting emerging open government priorities.

I have not previously held a position on the OGF, however I would, as a young Australian, be able to provide different perspectives on emerging issues such as: privacy; data sharing and protection; social and new media platforms, and; government engagement with young people.