

Role Description

Senior Office Assistant, Counting and Results



LG.165D

Department/Agency	NSW Electoral Commission
Division/Unit	Corporate
Role number	LG.165D
Classification/Grade/Band	Casual
ANZSCO Code	139999
PCAT Code	N/a
Date of Approval	October 2023
Agency Website	www.elections.nsw.gov.au

Agency overview

The New South Wales Electoral Commission exists to deliver trusted and independent systems, processes, oversight and engagement that support democracy in New South Wales.

Our vision is to maintain confidence in the integrity of the democratic process and make it easy for people to understand and participate.

Our work includes:

- running elections
- communicating with and engaging the public
- providing trusted processes for political participants (including candidates, parties, donors, third-party campaigners, lobbyists and associated entities) to comply with their legal obligations, and regulating their compliance
- supporting transparency by overseeing and publishing disclosures of political donations and expenditure and registers of political parties, candidates, agents, third-party campaigners, political lobbyists and associated entities; advising on and advocating for improvements to legislation
- investigating possible offences and enforcing electoral laws.

Responsibility for these functions is divided under legislation between the 3-member NSW Electoral Commission (an independent statutory body) and the NSW Electoral Commissioner (an independent statutory officer). Our staff are employed in the NSW Public Service under the Government Sector Employment Act 2013. The head of our staff agency is the NSW Electoral Commissioner, who is also an ex officio member of the NSW Electoral Commission.

The NSW Electoral Commission and Electoral Commissioner exercise their functions independently and are accountable to the NSW Parliament, through its Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, with respect to the administration of elections and the regulation and enforcement of electoral and lobbying laws. Our four Divisions - Elections, Funding, Disclosure, Compliance and General Counsel, Information Services and Corporate - collaborate closely, to enable us to deliver end-to-end democratic processes and effective engagement with our stakeholders and audiences.

Our strong and positive working culture is reflected in our organisational behaviours - Collaborative, Customer-centred; Solution focused, Transparent and Responsive - and anchored in the NSW Public Service values of Integrity, Trust, Service and Accountability.

Primary purpose of the role

The Senior Office Assistant, Counting and Results is responsible for managing the counting of ballot papers (initial counts) undertaken in the Returning Officer's office.

The role is responsible for the accurate and efficient recording of election results. The role also supervises Office Assistants who provide support to ensure the effective management of the election.

Key accountabilities

- Manage the conduct and coordination of counting including set up of areas for ballot paper counts in accordance with processes and procedures.
- Provide training and support to counting staff.
- Manage the secure allocation of ballot papers during the counting process.
- Monitor progress of counting and provide updates to scrutineers and the Returning Officer.
- Ensure data entry operations are completed accurately and in accordance with required timelines.
- Provide high quality customer service to stakeholders in a professional manner.
- Act with integrity, impartiality and transparency in the conduct of the election.

Key challenges

- Support and supervise Office Assistants to ensure they are completing election counts and data entry operations efficiently.
- Support the Returning Officer in responding to enquiries in a professional and timely manner.
- Work in collaboration with the Returning Officer in managing multiple tasks concurrently to a strict timetable, in a high-volume work environment.
- Maintain a high degree of accuracy in the completion of tasks, whilst maintaining confidential information.

Key relationships

Internal

Who	Why
Returning Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Escalate issues, seek advice, receive instructions and provide support in managing election counts.
Returning Officer Support Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receive support and information to ensure election outcomes are delivered.
Senior Office Assistants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborate with other Senior Office Assistants to complete functions of the Returning Officer's office.
Office Assistants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supervise Office Assistants in the management of election counts.

External

Who	Why
Electors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide quality customer service, enabling electors to participate in the voting process.
Party workers, scrutineers and candidates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide information and customer service in a politically sensitive environment.

Role dimensions

Decision making

Under the direction of the Returning Officer, the Senior Office Assistant, Counting and Results manages the counting of ballot papers and recording of results.

Reporting line

Returning Officer

Direct reports

Office Assistants

Budget/Expenditure

N/a

Essential requirements

- Demonstrated experience in supervising a team of staff in a customer focused environment with competing priorities.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently with minimum supervision.
- Demonstrated computer skills and knowledge of the MS Office suite, particularly MS Word and Excel, and ability to use electronic devices.
- Excellent organisational skills with demonstrated experience working under pressure whilst maintaining accuracy and attention to detail.
- Political neutrality with no affiliation to political parties, candidates, elected members or lobbyists/third party campaigners.
- Reasonable level of spoken English.
- Enrolled to vote in Australia.

Capabilities for the role

The [NSW public sector 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
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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
- Support a culture of integrity and professionalism
- Understand and help others to recognise their obligations to comply with legislation, policies, guidelines and codes of conduct
- Recognise and report misconduct and illegal and inappropriate behaviour
- Report and manage apparent conflicts of interest and encourage others to do so

Intermediate

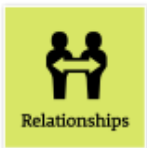


Communicate Effectively

Communicate clearly, actively listen to others, and respond with understanding and respect

- Focus on key points and speak in plain English
- Clearly explain and present ideas and arguments
- Listen to others to gain an understanding and ask appropriate, respectful questions
- Promote the use of inclusive language and assist others to adjust where necessary
- Monitor own and others' non-verbal cues and adapt where necessary
- Write and prepare material that is well structured and easy to follow
- Communicate routine technical information clearly

Intermediate



Commit to Customer Service

Provide customer-focused services in line with public sector and organisational objectives

- Focus on providing a positive customer experience
- Support a customer-focused culture in the organisation
- Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the services provided and relay this knowledge to customers
- Identify and respond quickly to customer needs
- Consider customer service requirements and develop solutions to meet needs
- Resolve complex customer issues and needs
- Cooperate across work areas to improve outcomes for customers

Intermediate



Deliver Results

Achieve results through the efficient use of resources and a commitment to quality outcomes

- Seek and apply specialist advice when required
- Complete work tasks within set budgets, timeframes and standards
- Take the initiative to progress and deliver own work and that of the team or unit
- Contribute to allocating responsibilities and resources to ensure the team or unit achieves goals
- Identify any barriers to achieving results and resolve these where possible
- Proactively change or adjust plans when needed

Intermediate



Plan and Prioritise

Plan to achieve priority outcomes and respond flexibly to changing circumstances

- Understand the team and unit objectives and align operational activities accordingly
- Initiate and develop team goals and plans, and use feedback to inform future planning
- Respond proactively to changing circumstances and adjust plans and schedules when necessary
- Consider the implications of immediate and longer-term organisational issues and how these might affect the achievement of team and unit goals
- Accommodate and respond with initiative to changing priorities and operating environments

Intermediate



Technology

Understand and use available technologies to maximise efficiencies and effectiveness

- Demonstrate a sound understanding of technology relevant to the work unit, and identify and select the most appropriate technology for assigned tasks
- Use available technology to improve individual performance and effectiveness
- Make effective use of records, information and knowledge management functions and systems
- Support the implementation of systems improvement initiatives, and the introduction and roll-out of new technologies

Intermediate



Manage and Develop People

Engage and motivate staff, and develop capability and potential in others














- Collaborate to set clear performance standards and deadlines in line with established performance development frameworks
- Look for ways to develop team capability and recognise and develop individual potential
- Be constructive and build on strengths by giving timely and actionable feedback
- Identify and act on opportunities to provide coaching and mentoring
- Recognise performance issues that need to be addressed and work towards resolving issues
- Effectively support and manage team members who are working flexibly and in various locations
- Create a safe environment where team members' diverse backgrounds and cultures are considered and respected
- Consider feedback on own management style and reflect on potential areas to improve

Intermediate

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.

Capability group/sets	Capability name	Description	Level
 Personal Attributes	Display Resilience and Courage	Be open and honest, prepared to express your views, and willing to accept and commit to change	Intermediate
 Personal Attributes	Manage Self	Show drive and motivation, an ability to self-reflect and a commitment to learning	Intermediate
 Personal Attributes	Value Diversity and Inclusion	Demonstrate inclusive behaviour and show respect for diverse backgrounds, experiences and perspectives	Intermediate
 Relationships	Work Collaboratively	Collaborate with others and value their contribution	Intermediate
 Relationships	Influence and Negotiate	Gain consensus and commitment from others, and resolve issues and conflicts	Foundational
 Results	Think and Solve Problems	Think, analyse and consider the broader context to develop practical solutions	Foundational
 Results	Demonstrate Accountability	Be proactive and responsible for own actions, and adhere to legislation, policy and guidelines	Intermediate
 Business Enablers	Finance	Understand and apply financial processes to achieve value for money and minimise financial risk	Intermediate
 Business Enablers	Procurement and Contract Management	Understand and apply procurement processes to ensure effective purchasing and contract performance	Foundational
 Business Enablers	Project Management	Understand and apply effective planning, coordination and control methods	Foundational
 People Management	Inspire Direction and Purpose	Communicate goals, priorities and vision, and recognise achievements	Foundational
 People Management	Optimise Business Outcomes	Manage people and resources effectively to achieve public value	Foundational
 People Management	Manage Reform and Change	Support, promote and champion change, and assist others to engage with change	Foundational