

## EXPERT WITNESS TRAINING



Expert Opinion Services regularly hold expert witness training workshops to examine the fundamentals of communication between experts and the courts, and to provide practical instruction in the preparation of reports, the giving of evidence and withstanding cross-examination. Issues pertaining to expert evidence such as report writing, subpoenas, bias and conferencing with advocates will also be covered in a court setting.

Expert Witness Training workshops have been conducted through EOS (formerly Unisearch) at the University of New South Wales for over 18 years. The benefits of training are evident to the experts, our clients and the courts.

Calls from the judiciary for the better education of expert witnesses in relation to their role, duties and presentation of evidence have been reflected in our course content. The core components of our expert witness training include the following topics:

- Overview of the litigation process: theory and strategy;
- Role and structure of the courts;
- Court etiquette;
- Role of the expert;
- Overview of the rules of evidence;
- Report writing and communication skills
- Conflict of interest issues;
- Necessary inclusions in reports;
- Codes of conduct for expert witnesses;

- The process of examination and cross-examination.

### **WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

These workshops would be particularly useful to anyone involved in preparing expert reports that may be used for litigation or those who would like to access some “survival skills” in relation to giving evidence in court. The training would also be suitable to those on the periphery of expert opinion provision who may not have the detailed knowledge of the subject required to best perform their duties.

### **SCOPE OF WORKSHOP**

*Expert Opinion Services* is committed to the professional development of our experts. Workshops are tailored to participants needs and background but generally include the following areas:

### **INTRODUCTION: THE LITIGATION PROCESS**

- The Litigation Process; Theory and Strategy
- Role of the courts
- Role of the expert
- Rules of evidence

### **CASE STUDY**

- Attendees will be guided through a problem scenario

### **REPORT WRITING**

- Structuring a report
- Communication style and language
- Conflict of interest
- Necessary inclusions

### **GIVING EVIDENCE IN COURT**

- Expert Conduct Guidelines
- Preparation for hearing; Rules that apply to preparation of witnesses
- Persuasive presentation of expert opinion
- The process of questioning at a hearing: examination in chief, re-examination and cross-examination
- Techniques for dealing with cross examination