



The Australian Advocacy Institute and Victoria Legal Aid

ADVOCACY SKILLS WORKSHOP WORKSHOP INFORMATION, TIMETABLE AND TASK ALLOCATIONS v2 – 07/11



and



GROUPS

Wednesday 5 November 2025 - 5.00pm* to 6.30pm – ONLINE

Thursday 6 November 2025 - 5.00pm* to 6.00pm – ONLINE

** Zoom meeting will open for connection from 4.30pm*

Saturday 8 November 2025 - 8.45am to 3.45pm – IN-PERSON

VENUE: Commonwealth Law Courts, William Street, Melbourne

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Advocacy Skills Workshop

5, 6, 8 November 2025



Please read the information below immediately and thoroughly as it is important to your preparation and contribution to learning at this workshop.

Dear Workshop Participant,

The AAI is pleased to be able to provide this advocacy workshop for you and we are sure that you will find this course helpful in improving your advocacy skills. The purpose of this workshop is to help you with how to structure a case, how to prepare, how to ask purposive relevant questions, how to argue, and above all, how to be persuasive in court.

Workshop Program:

Part 1: Introductory Session 1. ONLINE – Wednesday 5 November, 2025 - Time: 5.00pm to 6.30pm

Part 2: Introductory Session 2. ONLINE – Thursday 6 November, 2025 - Time: 5.00pm to 6.30pm

Part 3: Advocacy Skills Workshop IN-PERSON – Saturday 8 November, 2025

Time: 8.45am to 3.45pm. - Venue: Commonwealth Law Courts, William Street, Melbourne

Workshop Format:

The following “**Timetable and Task Allocation**” details the format for this workshop. On the previous page you will find a table that allocates a GROUP and an ADVOCATE TASK NUMBER for each advocate.

Sessions 1 & 2 of this workshop will be conducted ONLINE using a dedicated ZOOM platform (See further details below).

For the IN-PERSON workshop on Saturday, Group Performance Sessions have been scheduled through the day. In those sessions you will break into smaller groups to individually **present your allocated advocacy tasks** before a Judge/Trainer in the same manner that you would present in court. You will find your allocated advocacy tasks set out within each session of the timetable.

Once you have finished each performance you will be given a review by the trainer. This review is designed to be positive, not critical. You will be given advice on ways that your individual performance can be improved using various advocacy skills, including a demonstration and an explanation of the particular skills relevant to your performance.

A note on the nature of the AAI Trainer Reviews:

The AAI philosophy behind the AAI skills training method is on identifying ways in which each advocate can improve their advocacy, based on his/her performance of each task during the workshop. The AAI trainer will suggest, then demonstrate a skill that will allow each individual advocate to improve. You will not necessarily be complimented on what you may have done well, but that does not mean you have not shown good skills in other areas. It is just a better use of the limited workshop time to encourage improvement over praise.

The Workshop Case Study: Why are we using a ‘criminal’ case study?

We acknowledge that for some of you, the workshop case study may not be from the jurisdiction you generally appear in. We use this case study deliberately as it is very good for the teaching of advocacy, demonstrating skills that can be readily used in any jurisdiction. The advocacy skills you will learn will be of universal application – the same skills apply regardless of the type of case, the jurisdiction you appear in or the side you appear on. This has been proven in three decades of advocacy instruction by the AAI.

We also acknowledge that performance roles have been allocated for either the Prosecution or the Defence. This allows the workshop to reflect and present argument from both sides and demonstrates the universal nature of the advocacy skills being taught.

Please **do not** get bogged down in your preparation with any legal technicalities within the case study. Don't research or bring statutes or precedents. Do not be distracted with "the law". Evidence is restricted to **only** that contained within the case study so you do not need to look outside the immediate information provided. We will not be concerned with jurisdictional procedure.

Preparation before the workshop:

This is a performance-based workshop.

You are required to prepare each of your set performance tasks between now and the commencement of the workshop. **Allow yourself time to prepare properly** – it is anticipated that you should allocate about 6+ hours to this preparation. Please prepare in advance – do not wait until after the Wednesday and Thursday online sessions.

Please also note that within the workshop group sessions, advocates will be called upon to act as the witness when other advocates are questioning their witness. **This may be you.** A thorough knowledge and understanding of the facts of the case study will help both you and your colleagues get the most out of the workshop. It is obvious that you will expect your witnesses to be prepared ... so you will be too!

If you are not totally familiar with the requirements of any particular advocacy task, you may find it helpful to refer to the "Specific Advocacy Tasks" summary at the end of the Materials document.

You have also been provided with a pdf copy of the "AAI Advocacy Manual", which contains detailed chapters on each of the advocacy tasks you will be presenting. Unfortunately, copyright restrictions require this version to be 'read only' and thus cannot be printed. You are **not** required to bring a copy to the workshop, rather use this Manual in your preparation and for future reference.

Presenting your set tasks:

You will see in the timetable task allocations that a time limit has been set to present each task. Please prepare the whole of the task, even though the time allocation means you may not finish your presentation. Your review will be on that part of the task you present, not the parts you may not have reached.

Please note the format for sessions 4 & 6. Each advocate will first outline to the trainer (**1 minute**), part of their **closing address** on the point or points on which they intend to question the witness, **then** immediately question (up to **5 minutes**) that witness to achieve the point/s on which that argument is based.

Online format and log-on instructions for Wednesday/Thursday ONLINE sessions:

These sessions will be conducted using the ZOOM platform, with advocates required to log-on from their own computer. A log-on link is in the timetable below and is also on the AAI Workshop Webpage under each workshop day heading. The same log-on details will be used each day.

On Saturday, dress is casual. Morning tea and a light lunch will be provided. Please let the AAI Coordinator know of any dietary requirements.

Please contact the AAI Coordinator by email [aai@advocacy.com.au] should you have any questions regarding the format, your preparation or tasks required at the workshop.

Regards



Scott Wallace
General Manager, Australian Advocacy Institute.
Email: aai@advocacy.com.au

Workshop Timetable

Wednesday 5 November 2025 - ONLINE

4.30 to 5.00pm

Advocates log-on to Zoom Workshop.

Click on this link for automatic log-on:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2716263497?pwd=cjZmOXRROUp0dUVpaTdaWEM2TEwyQT09>

(ID = 2716263497 Password = Advocacy)

SESSION 1 5.00 to 6.30pm (90 mins)

General Session	Introduction to Advocacy. Case Theory and Argument.
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Thursday 6 November 2025 - ONLINE

4.30 to 5.00pm

Advocates log-on to Zoom Workshop.

Click on this link for automatic log-on:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2716263497?pwd=cjZmOXRROUp0dUVpaTdaWEM2TEwyQT09>

(ID = 2716263497 Password = Advocacy)

SESSION 2 5.00 to 6.00pm (60 mins)

General Session	Techniques in Cross Examination. Communication in court.
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ADVOCATE TASK NUMBER

This is your advocate number and is used to determine which **TASKS** you will be performing in the timetable that follows.

	RED GROUP	BLUE GROUP
1	Daniel McGlone	Amanda Hurst
2	Emma Strugnell	Darcy Dempsey
3	Julia Kretzenbacher	Glenn Cooper
4	Julia Munster	Honorah Edwards
5	Naomi Smith	Iresha Siriwardana
6		John Blackley

Saturday 8 November 2025 – IN-PERSON

VENUE: Commonwealth Law Courts, William Street, Melbourne

SESSION 3 8.45am to 9.00am (15 mins)	
General Session	Introduction to the AAI trainers. Introduction to the workshop.

SESSION 4 9.00 to 10.00am (60 mins)	
<p>Group Session</p> <p>Performances in Group Per task: Address: 1 min., then E.I.C.: 4 min.</p> <p>Trainer Review: 5 min.</p>	<p><u>EVIDENCE-IN-CHIEF</u> Case Study: DPP v Nigel Bland</p> <p>TASK: Each advocate will first identify a point or points (no more than 2) to be made in their closing address about their allocated witness (below), and then immediately lead Evidence-in-Chief (4 minutes) from that witness to achieve the evidence necessary to make the point(s).</p> <p>Task Allocation and performance order: 4 minutes per performance</p> <p>Advocate 1. For Prosecution: Lead Evidence-in-Chief from witness Mr. Goldberg</p> <p>Advocate 2. For Defence: Lead Evidence-in-Chief from witness Mrs. Mabel Bland</p> <p>Advocate 3. For Prosecution: Lead Evidence-in-Chief from witness Snr. Sgt. Bruce</p> <p>Advocate 4. For Defence: Lead Evidence-in-Chief from witness Mr. Nigel Bland</p> <p>Advocate 5. For Prosecution: Lead Evidence-in-Chief from witness Ms. Mary Pappas</p> <p>Advocate 6. For Defence: Lead Evidence-in-Chief from witness Mr. Nigel Bland</p> <p><i>Advocates should be completely familiar with all witness statements in order to play the role of the witness. Trainer will allocate witness role.</i></p>

MORNING TEA BREAK - provided 10.00 to 10.15am (15 mins)

SESSION 5 10.15 to 11.00am (45 mins)	
General Session	<p>10.15 to 10.45 - CASE THEORY (30 mins)</p> <p>10.45 to 11.00 - Private revision by Advocates (15 mins)</p>

SESSION 6 11.00am to 12.15pm (75 mins)	
Group Session Performances in Group Per task: Address: 1 min., then Cross Exam.: 5 min. Trainer Review: 5 min.	<u>CROSS EXAMINATION</u> Case Study: DPP v Nigel Bland TASK: Each advocate will first identify a point or points (no more than 2) to be made in their closing address about their allocated witness (below) , and then immediately Cross Examine (5 minutes) that witness to achieve the evidence necessary to make the point(s). Task Allocation: 5 minutes per performance Advocate 5. For Prosecution, Cross Examine witness Mrs Mabel Bland Advocate 6. For Defence, Cross Examine witness Snr. Sgt. Bruce Advocate 1. For Prosecution, Cross Examine witness Mr Nigel Bland Advocate 2. For Defence, Cross Examine witness Snr. Sgt. Bruce Advocate 3. For Prosecution, Cross Examine witness Mr Nigel Bland Advocate 4. For Defence, Cross Examine witness Mr Goldberg <i>Advocates should be completely familiar with all witness statements in order to play the role of the witness. Trainer will allocate witness role.</i>
SESSION 7 12.15 to 12.45pm (30 mins)	
Group Session	Techniques in Witness Handling

LUNCH BREAK 12.45 to 1.15pm (30 min) – Light lunch provided.

SESSION 8 1.15 to 2.05pm (55 mins)	
Group Session Performances in Group Per task: 3 min. Trainer Review: 3 min.	<u>REPEAT PERFORMANCES</u> Case Study: DPP v Nigel Bland TASK: Advocates repeat an earlier allocated task performance, taking into account earlier performance review comments. Order of Performance: Trainer to allocate.

SHORT BREAK 2.10 to 2.15 (5 mins)

SESSION 9 2.15 to 3.30pm (75 mins)	
Group Session Performances in Group Per task: Performance: 6 min. Trainer Review: 6 min.	<u>CLOSING ADDRESS</u> Case Study: CDPP v Nigel Bland TASK: Present a final argument as per the task allocations Task Allocation: 6 minutes per performance Advocate 3. Present a Closing Argument for the Prosecution Advocate 2. Present a Closing Argument for the Defence Advocate 1. Present a Closing Argument for the Prosecution Advocate 4. Present a Closing Argument for the Defence Advocate 5. Present a Closing Argument for the Prosecution Advocate 6. Present a Closing Argument for the Defence

SESSION 10 3.30 to 3.45pm (15 mins)	
General Session	CLOSING SESSION