

Lexis® Practical Guidance

Case Study

Adam Layton tells how CASA Engineering developed a more strategic approach to risk management with Lexis® Practical Guidance.



Adam Layton
General Counsel
CASA Engineering (CASA)

Overview

Adam Layton, General Counsel

CASA Engineering (CASA),
Queensland, Australia



CASA Engineering is one of Queensland's leading engineering, structural, mechanical and piping (SMP) contractors. CASA has grown from a small operation in Townsville 15 years ago, to being a leader in metal fabrication and cross discipline construction today.

In 2013, CASA decided to bring their legal outsourcing in-house, and recruited Adam Layton to establish the business front-end system. While working to give CASA a more strategic focus, Adam takes on a broad range of matters, as well as dispute resolution and litigation.

Adam entered the field of law in 2006 and became an Associate at Warlow Scott in 2011.

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”
Adam Layton

Whilst there are many varied challenges corporate counsel face across the Asia Pacific region, some things are certain - you are busy meeting the demands of multiple stakeholders, have local content requirements across many areas of law and need effective ways to manage your organisation's legal risk.

The following case study follows the journey of one LexisNexis® customer in Australia, and how he found the ideal solution to these common challenges.

Moving In-House

Facing a backlog of unresolved disputes and litigation, CASA Engineering decided to bring their previously outsourced legal services team in-house in 2013.

“We had zero in-house legal and outsourced whenever required, which made everything reactionary,” said Peter Casa, manager of CASA Engineering. “A lot could have been prevented if it was dealt with at the front end with a more strategic approach.”

“We had to think hard about what our core business needed and what was peripheral. Bringing legal processing in-house was imperative to the success of our business.”

CASA required a solution that would allow its new in-house lawyer, Adam Layton, to put measures in place to prevent disputes from the outset. Adam researched and compared solutions from multiple providers to build a support system that would help him to effectively direct internal legal strategies. As the only in-house lawyer at CASA, he also needed a system that covered a wide range of practice areas.

The Search

Adam spent months reviewing legal research solutions from multiple vendors, but was disappointed to discover how many were missing critical elements – such as referencing.

“With one provider, searches often returned a lot of broad, sweeping assertions as to the law that were clearly intended for non-legal audiences. There was no sign of referencing – no cases or commentary that stood behind the statements at all. Coming from private practice, and litigation in particular, I don't have the ability to simply accept that an editor's interpretation of the law is correct having regard to the particular facts of my case. Adequate, accurate referencing isn't optional in a legal research solution.”

“At the end of the day, Lexis® Practical Guidance saves me an enormous amount of time, which is really what’s at the heart of its appeal.”

Adam Layton

The Solution

In conjunction with a broader LexisNexis® research package, Adam chose Lexis® Practical Guidance as the ideal solution for CASA.

“I needed something that was straightforward and would cover a wide range of practice areas. Lexis® Practical Guidance stood out for its depth and quality of material – and it is backed up by excellent service.”

Lexis® Practical Guidance set itself apart from competing products through its intuitive search and browse functionality, regular legal content updates and comprehensive tools, combined with the links to deeper research that Adam needed.

Written by expert lawyers and designed according to practice area, Lexis® Practical Guidance provides access to a broad and comprehensive collection of legal information, resources and practical content to successfully deal with a legal matter.

Adam relies on Lexis® Practical Guidance to get him through matters on a daily basis.

Lexis® Practical Guidance in Action

Lexis® Practical Guidance allows users the ability to approach practice areas from the top-down, meaning they can start with the big topics and drill down accordingly. The navigation menu allows users to explore where they want to go; depending on how well-versed they are in the subject matter.

“Before Lexis® Practical Guidance, I would spend a lot of time searching for the right resource, then browsing through a daunting table of contents. These days, I use Lexis® Practical Guidance as my starting point. I can usually find what I’m looking for within the module itself – and if not, other links will take me where I need to go.”

Lexis® Practical Guidance helps users to understand the processes required behind a certain matter, and the context behind it. Checklists, practice tips, overviews and guidance allow users to easily understand and communicate what is involved in the area.

Lexis® Practical Guidance also houses forms and precedents so that users get the directly relevant resources for the task at hand.

“The Lexis® Practical Guidance material itself is more or less the product of what my research process would yield anyway. It’s stepping over all that and contextualising how it all fits in together.”

Developing the Industry

Prior to his quest for a legal research solution at CASA, Adam had been involved in the early stages of content and production testing for Lexis® Practical Guidance.

“I felt good about contributing to the development of a LexisNexis solution because of the positive impact it could have for the wider profession.”

“When I was a new practitioner, so often you get told to do something and you just don’t know where to start. The senior team doesn’t have time to step through it with you, and there was nothing really out there that would step you through what you need to do.”

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For a firm with young practitioners and for in-house lawyers, Lexis® Practical Guidance is a way of saving everyone time to spend on billable or strategic hours instead. It’s every lawyer’s dream.

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We understand you need a practical content workflow solution, and in local context. Lexis® Practical Guidance has been launched in both Hong Kong and China, with a broad range of practice area services currently available.

For more information about Lexis® Practical Guidance or to register for a free trial, visit www.lexisnexis.com.hk/pg or call +852 2179 7888.

