

OZZIE GETS A JOB

HOW I LANDED A JOB WITH THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STATE GOVERNMENT

AND HOW YOU CAN TOO



OZZIE JONES | [OZZIEGETSAJOB.ONLINE](https://ozziegetsajob.online)

PROLOGUE

Not too long ago, I was broke, jobless, and delivering UberEats just to survive. Today, I work for the Western Australian State Government – and I've never been happier

Hey there, I'm Ozzie – a public officer working here in Western Australia. I'll be honest with you: I never saw myself working in government: federal or state. I spent most of my career in the private sector – chasing KPIs, working long hours, dealing with tough clients, and constantly worrying about job security.

What I didn't realise back then was how badly it was burning me out. I was helping make someone else rich while living contract to contract, always one restructure away from being let go. Once, I even had my role terminated because the company decided they had overhired. (The same company that begged me to join them just weeks earlier.) No matter how well I performed, I was never in control.

Then came the crash.

I lost my job. I had bills piling up, no savings, and a family to support. I applied for jobs every single day while doing hundreds

of UberEats deliveries just to put food on the table. I had to rely on Centrelink but it was far from enough. Things got worse when our landlord gave us a month's notice to move out – and anyone in Perth knows how brutal (and expensive) the rental market can be.

I still remember the breaking point clearly.

One afternoon, while dropping off my tenth delivery of the day, I had tears running down my face. I pulled over and parked by the road, completely overwhelmed. I wasn't angry – I was exhausted, defeated. I asked God why things had become so hard. I asked for forgiveness. And I begged Him to show me a way out.

That night, I kept delivering. Because life had to go on.

The next day... a miracle.

I received an email inviting me for an interview at a Western Australian government department.

It was just a six-month contract role – but for me, it felt like a lifeline. I swore I would not waste the chance. I prepared like my life depended on it. It actually did.

Weeks after I submitted my application, I stepped into my first day as a public servant. Months later I was made a permanent employee.

Since then, I've never looked back. This job has given me some purpose, stability, and a future. And now, I want to help you get there too, as someone from the inside.

In this book, I'm going to walk you through exactly how I did it – and how you can too:

- **How to prepare for the 5 stages of application**
- **How to prepare a CV and cover letter for public sector recruiters**
- **How to prepare for interviews the right way**
- **How to avoid the common mistakes that get people rejected**
- **Use my proven 33-point power checklist to help you through your own journey**

Whether you're starting from scratch, burnt out from the private sector, or simply want a more meaningful career – this guide is for you.

Let's get started.

CHAPTER 1

MY JOURNEY INTO PUBLIC SERVICE

Before I show you how to land a state government job, let me take you through my own journey – step by step. If you're somewhere in this process right now, just know: I've been there and you are not alone.

13 November - Jobless Era Begins

I became jobless at the most unfortunate time. It was end of the year and most companies have frozen their recruitment. I had little savings, but I applied for Jobseeker from Centrelink to get some help. It took some time to get through the process and when I did get assistance, the amount was too little. I even applied to Woolies and Coles (even KFC) and was rejected. In the end, I had to start delivering food on UberEats to earn income.

20 February – Received Job Alert

After January, the job market was picking up slightly. I was in constant job hunting mode and I knew that in order to get ahead of the competition, I had to apply for jobs sooner than others. Other than manually checking the job sites every few hours daily, I had

registered myself to receive job alerts. This was how I found my current job. I saw the job opening via an email alert.

27 February – Application Submitted

There were not many jobs that fit my experience and expertise. But I saved the jobs that I thought would be a good fit for me. That night, after an exhausting day, I stayed up late, tailored my CV and cover letter to every line of the position description. I highlighted the skills they were after, showed how I met the criteria, and submitted everything at 4am. I was hopeful... and tired. But it felt right. I did the best I could.

12 March – Received Interview Invitation

I was in the middle of my UberEats shift, scrolling through emails during a break, and there it was – "Interview Confirmation". My heart stopped. I couldn't believe it. I texted my partner straight away. The email from the recruiter included the interview date, time, venue... even a list of interviewers. I had two weeks to prepare.

26 March – Interview Day

I wore my suit – no tie. I arrived early. A friendly lady greeted me and led me to a prep room. She handed me a printed sheet: the exact questions the panel would ask. I had 10 minutes to scribble bullet points that would help me through the interview.

The interview started. Four people. A mix of formal and friendly. I answered confidently. What they didn't know was how much this interview meant to me. How badly I needed this job.

26 March – Thank You Email Sent

After the interview, I emailed the recruiter and asked her to forward my thank you email to the panel. I also messaged the panelists via LinkedIn. Later that evening, I was back in my car, delivering food to strangers, trying not to overthink what had just happened.

27 March – Reference Check Commenced

One of my referees messaged me – he had received the reference request. He said he gave a glowing review. I took that as a positive sign. Things were moving.

2 April – Post-Interview Follow-Up

A week later, I followed up with the recruiter. She replied – they were still trying to reach another one of my referees. Turns out, her work email blocked the reference request email. I provided an alternate personal email instead. My referee replied to the request quickly and gave a strong reference. It shudders me to think what would happen if I didn't follow up with the recruiter. They would have probably failed my interview because they were unable to contact my references.

The Long Wait (And 3 More Follow-Ups)

Three agonising weeks went by. I had another job interview in the meantime, but I was still hopeful for this job.

- 10 April: Recruiter says HR is finalising things.
- 17 April: Still no word. I asked if there's anyone else I can contact. "Just follow up with me," the recruiter said.
- 22 April: A different recruiter replied, blaming HR backlog. I thanked her anyway.

By this point, I was spiralling. It had been nearly four weeks since my interview. I had been unemployed for almost 6 months. I honestly thought they had picked someone else. I felt crushed.

24 April – Pool Appointment Email

I was driving when I saw the email notification. I pulled over. The subject line read: "Recruitment Outcome – Pool Ref XXXXX". I took a deep breath.

The message said: "You have been successful in being appointed to the pool."

I was elated. But wait – does that mean I got the job? Or not? I wasn't sure. It was signed by an Executive Director, so I knew it was official, but... still unclear.

25 April – Follow-Up for Clarity

I emailed the recruiter (again). She congratulated me and said someone from the panel would be in touch soon. I took that as confirmation. Kind of.

2 May – Second Follow-Up (Still No Contact)

A week passed. No word. I emailed again. This time no reply. I started convincing myself: Maybe I was only good enough for the pool, but not the job.

Maybe they already hired someone else? Depression kicked in. I couldn't even get out of bed some mornings. I was exhausted.

12 May – Notification of Success from HR

3:32pm. I received the email:

“Congratulations on being offered a position...” I ran to tell my partner. I wanted to scream.

But then: “Once all pre-employment prerequisites have been met, we will issue your contract.”

Right. Not a done deal yet. Still had to pass the police clearance and submit documents. I did both that day.

14 May – Letter of Offer

Finally, the official offer arrived. It was a 6-month fixed term contract. It didn't matter. I HAD A JOB.

I forwarded the email to my partner. That night, we had smiles at the dinner table again. For the first time in a long time.

3 June – First Day on the Job

I woke up early. Put on a fresh shirt and made myself some instant coffee (yuck). Took the bus and arrived at the office. Met the team. Received my pass card and laptop. Did my onboarding training.

I still remember sitting at my new desk thinking: I'm a public officer now. My new journey has begun.

CHAPTER 2

MY PROCESS : A STEP BY STEP GUIDE

They say hindsight is 20/20 – let me walk you through my process so yours can be better.

Everyone's experience applying for state government jobs is a bit different – different departments, different roles, different recruiters and/or hiring managers – but most follow the same general processes.


After going through the full cycle myself (with plenty of sweat and uncertainty along the way), I can summarise the journey into 5 key stages:

- Stage 1: The Job Hunt
- Stage 2: The Application
- Stage 3: Preparing for the Interview
- Stage 4: The Interview
- Stage 5: Post Interview

In terms of importance to your success, I'd say:

- Stages 1–2: 40%
- Stages 3–4: 40%
- Stage 5: 20%

Let's unpack each one.



**Thanks for reading the free
chapter.**

**If you'd like to learn more in
detail on how to land a job
with the WA state government,
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