

MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE CLAIMS

Our team of highly qualified and experienced doctors at Medico-Legal Opinions can provide reports (in all specialities) regarding medical negligent claims, both **Plaintiff & Defendant.**

- ◆ Medical negligence/ malpractice
- ◆ Nursing Home abuse
- ◆ Wrongful death
- ◆ Cancer-related
- ◆ Product liability
- ◆ Cosmetic surgery claims
- ◆ Personal injury

Please call Linda — All enquiries welcome and assistance given verbally.

- ◆ Opinion only — files can be forwarded
- ◆ Reports clearly and incisively written
- ◆ Applicant seen on request

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STEWART BROWN: NEW FEDERAL MAGISTRATE

Following a long and varied career in the law — fifteen years practising in the Northern Territory — Darwin lawyer Stewart Brown will take up the post of Federal Magistrate on 5 November this year.

The appointment has been welcomed by Law Society President Mr Ian Morris.

Mr Brown has lived and worked on both sides of the so-called "Berrimah Line". He moved to Alice Springs from Melbourne in 1986 where he worked for the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Service for eight years.

After a move to Darwin in 1994 Mr Brown worked as a barrister from James Muirhead Chambers before becoming head of the Family Law Section of NT Legal Aid. Mr Brown later took up an appointment as Registrar of the Family Court of Australia where he performed delegated judicial duties, particularly in contested interim hearings in children's matters, child and spousal maintenance, divorce applications and applications for the enforcement of property orders.

For six months until March this year, he was the Executive Officer of the Law Society Northern Territory.

His appointment as Federal Magistrate is an additional appointment over and above the 16 federal magistrates the Howard Government announced it would appoint during the first year of the operation of the Federal Magistrates Service. Other Federal magistrates are based across Australia in Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Townsville, Canberra, Newcastle, Parramatta, Sydney and Launceston.

As well as sitting in Darwin, Mr Brown will travel on circuit to Adelaide and to regional centres and will hear cases using video and audio conferencing.

The Federal Magistrates Service recently celebrated its first anniversary after 12 months of hearings in family law, sex and racial discrimination and business disputes. During its first year



Stewart Brown

more than 3500 applications for final family law orders, 3000 interim applications in children's and property matters were filed and more than 2000 general federal law matters, including administrative law, bankruptcy and trade practices matters were filed.

The Service started hearing less complex Family Court and Federal Court cases on 3 July 2000. It is also available for litigants in other federal areas of law including administrative law, bankruptcy, human rights and trade practices.

Recently the Service's jurisdiction was extended to migration matters. The Federal Magistrates Service Legislation Amendment Act 2001 allows people who currently have to take migration cases to the Federal Court to file less complex matters in the Federal Magistrates Service.

Mr Brown was admitted to practise as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria in 1982. He is currently the Northern Territory Deputy Coroner.

His appointment to the Service was also welcomed by the Federal Attorney General Mr Daryl Williams who said that he had "every confidence that [Mr Brown] will perform his duties diligently and with distinction."