

Interesting times to come

As I get ready to start with the Law Society Northern Territory as its new Chief Executive Officer on 3 March, I am very much looking forward to the challenges involved.

For those of you who don't know me, I would like to outline my background.

I undertook law studies at the University of New South Wales, completed the College of Law Course and worked in country NSW legal practice for three years.

Wanting to do something a bit different, I obtained a job with the then NT Department of Law in Darwin in 1982 and joined the Executive and Policy division.

During the next 17 years (apart from a year when I was on maternity leave) I worked in a number of areas in the department and its successors.

As well as doing a considerable amount of policy work in a number of areas, at various times I held the positions of Acting Registrar General, Acting Registrar of Land and Business Agents, Registrar of Companies,

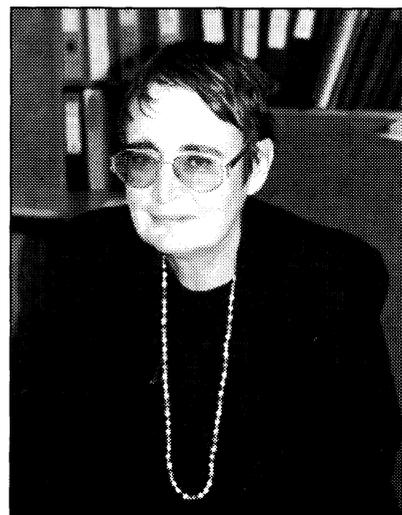
Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, Registrar of Associations and Registrar of Financial Institutions. I also spent a couple of months acting as Deputy Master of the Supreme Court.

I believe my regulatory and policy background and knowledge of how government operates will assist me in my new position with the LSNT.

I left government for "private industry" becoming General Manager of the Traditional Credit Union in 1999.

This involved a lot of planning, strategic and otherwise, liaising with Government as well as occasional crisis management.

It enhanced my knowledge of indigenous issues as well as the complexities involved in operating what is effectively a small business in a complex regulatory and operational environment.



Barbara Bradshaw, Chief Executive Officer LSNT

I thank Maria for the handover provided and other staff for the support provided to date and I am looking forward to further working with Ian, and with other members of the Council.

As to the main priorities in the position, one will be to assist the committees to advance the 13 Strategic Planning initiatives.

As regard specific issues, these include:

- Working through the complicated issues relating to Professional Indemnity Insurance and securing the best possible outcomes for the NT legal profession in what is a very complicated area.
- The Tort Law reform area and problems with the proposed personal liability reforms.
- Assisting the council in dealing with the Competition Policy recommendations in relation to the legal profession.
- Submissions to the Chief Justice relating to costs.
- Amendments to the Constitution and various rules.
- The proposals for national competency on Admission.
- Issues relating to the fidelity fund.

I am very pleased to be back working with the legal profession again.

A very interesting time is ahead. ①

Find that cheque

The Australian Payments Clearing Association has implemented a register of contact points at each financial institution for lost and stolen financial institution cheque inquiries.

The APCA sets and controls the rules and procedures governing Australia's payments clearing system.

The register is designed to help confirm valid issuance of cheques.

It lists contact details of institutions belonging to APCA for those wanting to know about the status of a financial institution cheque.

The register is available on APCA's website at www.apca.com.au

The site also features explanatory material about financial institution cheques including that they are not the same as cash and that they do not necessarily represent guaranteed payment.

The register can be found under payments information on the website.