



Mark Speakman
Attorney General

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW CEO FOR LEGAL AID NSW

Legal Aid NSW has welcomed its first Aboriginal Chief Executive Officer with the appointment of Brendan Thomas, the current Deputy Secretary of the Department of Justice.

Attorney General Mark Speakman said “Brendan Thomas has a strong track record of designing and implementing reforms providing services for victims of domestic violence and for Aboriginal communities – both key priority areas for Legal Aid NSW.”

“Brendan will bring his extensive experience in the justice sector to support the state’s most vulnerable people, including people with mental health issues, intellectual disabilities, the elderly and people in remote and regional areas.” Mr Speakman said.

Mr Speakman said “Brendan has worked for the Department of Justice for more than 20 years. He worked his way up to a senior role in 2004 and has been a leading force in both criminal and civil justice reforms ever since.”

Mr Thomas said: “I’m really excited about working with the wonderful and committed people of Legal Aid NSW to improve access to justice for disadvantaged people.”

“As an Aboriginal Australian and as a long-time advocate for increased access to justice for all, I look forward to ensuring Legal Aid NSW continues to assist Aboriginal communities, victims of domestic violence, the homeless, and anyone else in need of legal advice,” Mr Thomas said.

Mr Thomas replaces Bill Grant OAM who retired in December 2016 and sadly passed away the following month. Mr Grant provided visionary leadership to the largest legal aid commission in the country for a total of eleven years.

Media

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Legal Aid NSW is an independent statutory body which provides legal services in criminal, family and civil law matters, including free legal advice and assistance services at about 250 locations across NSW. It also assists clients with legal representation before courts and

provides duty services at courts and tribunals. For more information visit
www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au