



THE HON. CHRISTIAN PORTER MP
Attorney-General

Media Statement

Friday, 5th October 2018

New Race Discrimination Commissioner

Australia's new Race Discrimination Commissioner will take up the position on Monday, 8th October 2018.

Mr Chin-Leong Tan has been appointed to the position for a term of five years.

Mr Tan is a well-known and recognised leader in the multicultural community and I congratulate him on this significant appointment. Mr Tan's story is like that of so many Australians who were born overseas and chose to make a new life in Australia.

Because of the opportunities presented by and available in Australia, Mr Tan pursued his tertiary education in Australia and made Australia his home. After completing degrees in Arts and Law, Mr Tan practiced as a lawyer for over twenty years in Australia.

Since 2015, Mr Tan has been the Director of Multicultural Engagement at Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne and led the development of a Charter of Cultural Diversity, resulting in the University being awarded at the 2017 Victorian Multicultural Excellence Awards.

Between 2011 and 2015, Mr Tan served as the Chairperson and Commissioner of the Victorian Multicultural Commission. At the 2017 Victorian Multicultural Excellence Awards ceremony he was honoured with an Acknowledgement of Service in recognition of his dedicated service to the Victorian Multicultural Commission.

He has also been a member of the Victorian Police Commissioner's Human Rights Strategic Advisory Group, a member of Victoria's Department of Premier and Cabinet's Multicultural Services Delivery Inter-Departmental Group and a member of the Victorian Government's Ministerial Council for a Multilingual and Multicultural Victoria.

Mr Tan also has extensive experience within the legal profession having served on various local council bodies and associations, providing him with great experience in a range of community engagement activities, including with Australia's multicultural communities.

Mr Tan has served as a member of the Australian Football League's Multicultural Focus Group, and is a well-respected community leader on a range of community and public affairs issues.

I am confident that Mr Tan will make a valuable contribution to our community by representing all Australians and upholding our values through his role as Race Discrimination Commissioner with the Australian Human Rights Commission.

Mr Chin-Leong Tan

Bachelor of Laws Australian National University

Bachelor of Arts La Trobe University

- 2015 -2018 Director, Multicultural Engagement at Swinburne University of Technology
- Chair of Swinburne University's Cultural Diversity Strategic Framework Steering Council
 - Member of the Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group
- 2011-2015 Chairperson and Commissioner (and effective CEO and Head of Agency) of the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC)
- 2011-2014 Joint-Chairperson of the Police and Community Multicultural Advisory Committee (PACMAC)
- 2014-2015 Member of the Victorian Police Chief Commissioner's Human Rights Strategic Advisory Group
- 2011-2015 Member of the Victorian Government Ministerial Council for a Multilingual and Multicultural Victoria
- 2011-2015 Member of the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Multicultural Services Delivery Inter-Departmental Group
- 2012-2015 Responsibility for the operation and management of eight Multicultural Community Regional Advisory Councils across Victoria
- 2014 Member of the Asian Cup 2015 Steering committee
- 1987-2011 Legal practice, with particular focus and expertise in commercial and property law, including, as:
- Partner at Kennetan Lawyers
 - Senior Associate and Consultant at Gadens Lawyers
 - Partner at Van Fisher and Associates
 - Principal of Braxton Lawyers.

Affiliations and Memberships

- Member of the AFL Multicultural Focus Group 2015 - 16
- La Trobe Asia – Former Advisory Board Member
- Fellow of Williamson Community Leadership Group
- Member of Law Institute of Victoria 1987 to 2012
- Past President – Chinese Professional and Business Association
- Admitted to practice at the Supreme Court of Victoria and the High Court of Australia