



**SENATOR THE HON GEORGE BRANDIS QC
ATTORNEY-GENERAL
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS**

MEDIA RELEASE

APPOINTMENTS TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS TRIBUNAL

I am pleased to announce the appointment of the following Presidential Members to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for a period of five years:

- Justices of the Federal Court of Australia, the Honourable Tony Pagone and the Honourable Richard White, and
- Justices of the Family Court of Australia, the Honourable Janine Stevenson, the Honourable Victoria Bennett, the Honourable Colin Forrest and the Honourable David Berman.

I am also pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Damien J Cremean as a full time Senior Member for five years.

In addition, the Government has reappointed the following members of the Tribunal for a period of three years from 1 June 2015 to 31 May 2018:

- Mr Egon Fice as a full time Senior Member
- Mr Rodney Dunne and Ms Chelsea Walsh as part time Senior Members
- Brigadier Anthony Warner AM LVO (Rtd) as a part time Member

Brigadier Conrad Ermert (Rtd) has also been appointed as a part time Member for the period 1 June 2015 to 31 May 2017.

I would like to congratulate the appointees and look forward to the contribution they will make to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Biographies for the appointees are attached.

14 May 2015

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The Hon Justice Tony Pagone

Justice Pagone was appointed to the Federal Court of Australia on 21 June 2013. Prior to his appointment to the Federal Court, Justice Pagone was a judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria from 2007.

The Hon Justice Richard White

Justice White was appointed to the Federal Court of Australia on 21 August 2013. Prior to his appointment to the Federal Court, Justice White was a judge of the Supreme Court of South Australia from 2004.

The Hon Justice Janine Stevenson

Justice Stevenson was appointed to the Family Court of Australia on 18 May 2001. Prior to her appointment to the Family Court, Justice Stevenson was admitted to the Supreme Court of Victoria as a barrister and solicitor in 1984. She was an accredited arbitrator with the Australian Institute of Family Law and Arbitrators and Mediators.

The Hon Justice Victoria Bennett

Justice Bennett was appointed to the Family Court of Australia on 30 November 2005. Prior to her appointment to the Family Court, Justice Bennett was a federal magistrate in the Federal Magistrate's Court (now known as the Federal Circuit Court of Australia).

The Hon Justice Colin Forrest

Justice Forrest was appointed to the Family Court of Australia on 1 February 2011. Prior to his appointment to the Family Court, Justice Forrest was admitted to the Supreme Court of New South Wales as a barrister in 1987 and was admitted to the Queensland Bar in 1990. Justice Forrest practised predominately in family, child support and de facto relationships law, equity, wills and estate litigation.

The Hon Justice David Berman

Justice Berman was appointed to the Family Court of Australia on 18 July 2013. Prior to his appointment to the Family Court, Justice Berman was admitted to the Supreme Court of South Australia and the High Court of Australia as a barrister and solicitor in 1980. He was appointed Senior Counsel in 2010. Justice Berman practised exclusively in the area of family law and de facto relationships.

Dr Damien J Cremean

Dr Cremean is an experienced barrister, legal author, arbitrator and mediator. He is currently a member of numerous boards and committees including the Victorian Building Authority and the Business Licensing Authority in Victoria. Dr Cremean is a law lecturer at the University of Queensland and has previously been a lecturer at RMIT University, Melbourne University and Murdoch University.

Mr Egon Fice

Mr Fice was first appointed to the Tribunal as a part-time Member in June 2003 and was promoted to a Senior Member in 2010. For 16 years he specialised in insolvency and commercial litigation; first as a solicitor and then as a partner in Phillips Fox and later as a partner in Charles Fice.

Mr Rodney Dunne

Mr Dunne was appointed to the Tribunal in June 2010. Although previously a partner, he is now also a Special Counsel with the Adelaide law firm, DW Fox Tucker Lawyers, and is a qualified accountant. Between 1963 and 1981, he served with the Australian Taxation Office, in Adelaide and Canberra, including 4 years as an Australian Taxation Representative in London.

Mrs Chelsea Walsh

Mrs Walsh was appointed to the Tribunal in June 2010. Mrs Walsh has worked as a Senior Associate in the Taxation Department of Allens Arthur Robinson. Mrs Walsh has previously worked in the taxation departments of first tier law firms in both Perth and Sydney, as well as at boutique tax practices in Perth and Sydney. From 1999 to 2000, she worked as a Tax Attorney in the Tax Department of Fried, Frank, Harris Shriver & Jacobson in New York, NY.

Brigadier Anthony Warner AM LVO (Rtd)

BRIG Warner was first appointed to the Tribunal in June 2005. His military career included extensive command experience, tours on the personal staff of Governors General, pivotal operations and personnel staff appointments and UN peacekeeping on the Golan Heights and in Southern Lebanon. He was the Senior Defence representative in Western Australia in 1996–97 and in his final posting was Chief of Staff Land Headquarters in Sydney during a period of intense operational tempo, including the East Timor campaign and support to the Olympic Games. After separation from the Army in 2003, he was appointed to the independent committee convened by the Board of Western Power to report on the power supply crisis of February 2004. During October 2007–March 2008 he served on the independent panel appointed by the Prime Minister to review recognition for the battle of Long Tan and service in Ubon, Thailand. He is a sessional senior member of the Western Australian Administrative Tribunal, a member of the Mental Health Review Board of Western Australia and is Chief Executive Officer of the RAAF Association (WA Div) Inc.

Brigadier Conrad Ermert (Rtd)

BRIG Ermert was first appointed to the Tribunal in June 1991. BRIG Ermert is the Chairman of AMOG Holdings, a specialist engineering consultancy. He is a past Victorian State Chairman of the Institution of Engineers (Australia) and Chairman of Judges of the Engineering Excellence Awards. His Army career included active service in South Vietnam and he retired as Director General of Logistics. An electronics engineer, he holds an MSc in Guided Weapons, is a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers and a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.