

Sunday, 26 May 2019

Law Council welcomes new ministry, looks to relationship of trust, honesty and collaboration

The Law Council has welcomed the announcement of the Federal Government's new ministry and looks forward to a collaborative, consultative relationship with new and returning Ministers.

Law Council President Arthur Moses SC today congratulated re-appointed Attorney-General Christian Porter, who also adds Industrial Relations and Leader of the House to his portfolio. Mr Moses also congratulated the new Minister for Indigenous Australians, Ken Wyatt, the first Aboriginal Australian appointed to the portfolio.

"We look forward to working with the Government and the 46th Parliament in an honest and productive relationship for the benefit of all Australians and the rule of law," Mr Moses said.

"The role of First Law Officer is an important portfolio. It is critical that Attorneys-General enjoy a respectful and robust relationship with the national legal profession that is built on trust and transparency. I congratulate Mr Porter on his re-appointment and look forward to continuing to work with him to promote the rule of law and administration of justice.

"Access to justice through increased legal assistance funding, securing adequate resources for our courts and establishing a Commonwealth Integrity Commission, Federal Judicial Commission and transparent judicial appointments process are our key policy concerns. The Law Council will continue to advocate to the Attorney-General for their prompt implementation."

Mr Moses described Mr Wyatt's appointment to the Indigenous Australians portfolio as a defining moment in Australian politics.

"For the first time in the history of our federation, a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent been appointed as Minister for Indigenous Australians – this is a pivotal decision by the Prime Minister and one that will undoubtedly benefit all First Nations Australians," Mr Moses said.

"Establishing an Indigenous Voice to Parliament is a priority for the Law Council and we look forward to working with Mr Wyatt to ensure the future vision captured by the Uluru Statement of the Heart becomes a reality. The Law Council will seek a meeting with Prime Minister Morrison and Minister Wyatt at their earliest convenience to advance this significant issue.

"Improved justice outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is vital. We offer our expertise in this area to help formulate legislation to support Indigenous-led policy solutions."

Mr Moses also reiterated the Law Council's commitment to assisting and consulting with government, the opposition and cross-bench in relation to the formulation of effective legislation.

"Working with government to ensure laws passed through our Federal Parliament best serve the Australian people is at the core of our mission and of the utmost importance. We will continue to hold the government to account without fear or favour.

"We offer our assistance to the new parliament in the formulation of legislation that benefits all Australians and strengthens our democracy and the rule of law," Mr Moses said.

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The Law Council of Australia is the national voice of the legal profession, promoting justice and the rule of law.