

Cabinet, has been appointed as the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security.

New Commonwealth Ombudsman

Mr Ron McLeod AM, formerly Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security, was appointed as the new Commonwealth and Defence Force Ombudsman on 19 February 1998.

Mr McLeod has extensive high-level knowledge of, and experience in, public administration. He holds the degree of Bachelor of Commerce from Melbourne University. He has served in a broad range of portfolios, including Deputy Secretary in the Department of Defence, is a member of the Advisory Council of the Australian Archives organisation and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management.

Former President of Council appointed to the Federal Court

On 27 August 1998, the Attorney-General announced the appointment of the Hon Justice Susan Kenny, a Judge of the Court of Appeal of Victoria, as a Judge of the Federal Court of Australia. Justice Kenny will take up her appointment on 16 October 1998.

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission

On 8 March 1998 the Attorney-General announced the appointment of Professor Alice Tay AM as President of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission and of Ms Susan Halliday as Sex Discrimination Commissioner.

Professor Tay took up her appointment on 1 April 1998. Professor Tay's experience in human rights extends over more than 20 years. She was formerly

Challis Professor of Jurisprudence with the University of Sydney Faculty of Law and Director of the University of Sydney Centre for Asian and Pacific Law. She is also a Member of the International Legal Services Advisory Council.

Ms Halliday took up her position on 28 April 1998. At the time of her appointment she was Assistant Director with the Business Council of Australia, Chair of the Board of the National Centre for Women Swinburne University of Technology, a Member of the Board of the Australian Student Traineeship Foundation, a Member of the Board of Australians against Child Abuse and a former Assistant Director of the Council for Equal Opportunity in Employment.

Ms Elizabeth Hastings' appointment as Disability Discrimination Commissioner was completed on 19 December 1997. The Human Rights Commissioner, Mr Chris Sidoti, was appointed acting Disability Discrimination Commissioner with effect from 18 December 1997, pending the creation of the new Human Rights and Responsibilities Commission.

Merit Protection and Review Agency

The Minister assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service, Dr David Kemp, announced two part-time appointments to the Merit Protection and Review Agency on 6 July 1998. The Merit Protection and Review Agency is responsible for the external review of decisions and actions affecting Commonwealth public sector employees in relation to their employment.

Mr Mark Paterson and Professor Bob Officer have been appointed to positions