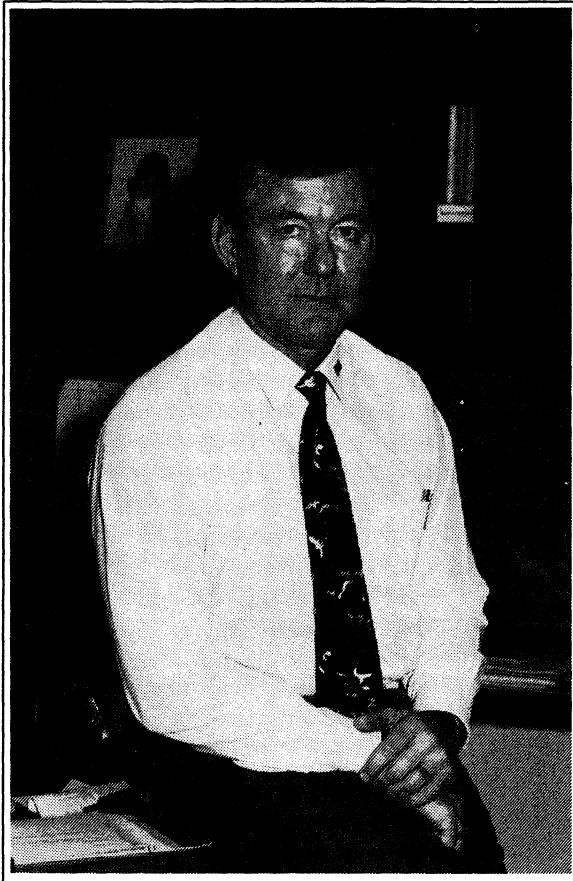


Profile

Northern Territory's New Attorney-General



The Attorney-General, the Hon Denis Burke, MLA

The recent Cabinet reshuffle in the Legislative Assembly produced a new Attorney-General for the Northern Territory.

The Hon Denis Burke, MLA as well as being Attorney-General also holds the portfolios for Health, Work Health, the Liquor Commission and the Menzies School of Health.

Mr Burke entered politics in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly seat of Brennan at the 1994 elections and was appointed to the Ministry in 1995 following the retirement of former Chief Minister, Marshall Perron.

His initial appointment to the Ministry was as Minister for Power and Water, Work Health and TIO. This appointment occurred at a time of industrial

unrest which he was successful in settling.

Before entering the political arena, Mr Burke had a distinguished army career spanning 25 years, beginning as a National Serviceman in 1969 and rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

During his time in the Army, Mr Burke served as a UN Observer in the Middle East in Beirut, Lebanon, the Sinai and Egypt. He spent some time as an exchange instructor at the US Army Armour School at Fort Knox. He was the Chief of Staff of the Land Component during Ex Kangaroo '92 and CO for the 2nd Cavalry regiment at Waler Barracks.

Mr Burke is married with two sons and lives in the Brennan electorate at Palmerston.

Book Review

Sentencing – Some Key Issues
Andros Karpidis (ed)
La Trobe University Press, 1995
RRP \$19.95

First published in 1995 by La Trobe University Press, *Sentencing – Some Key Issues* does not attempt to provide a comprehensive discussion of sentencing principles for use by Practitioners. However, in a series of six chapters spanning a hundred and sixty three pages there are in-depth articles on a number of current sentencing issues from infringement notices through to the Reformed Magistrates' Courts in Victoria.

The most useful article for criminal lawyers is entitled "New Wine in Old Bottles - The Sentencing Discount for Pleading Guilty" by John Willis. This is a detailed analysis of the leading decisions in Australia given by Courts after a plea of guilty. The author quotes at length from the judgment of the Northern Territory Court of Appeal in Jabaltjari. The New South Wales innovation of a Sentence Indication Hearing is discussed. An accused, considering pleading guilty in NSW, can gain an indication of the sentence he would receive if he were to plead guilty to the indictment in the Supreme or District Courts in NSW.

The book would be of primary interest to those advising or making policy in the Department of Law. However, any Practitioner involved in the Criminal Justice System would do well to read Chapter 3 (33 pages). The articles are extensively annotated and there is a list of the Australian authorities to aid in plea performance and planning.

Reviewer: *Martin Carter*