

# Lead prosecutors heading to Darwin for discussions

A major gathering of heads of prosecuting offices is to take place in Darwin in the Northern Territory of Australia from 6 to 10 May this year.

The 7th Biennial Heads of Prosecuting Agencies Conference (Commonwealth), or HOPAC, will be hosted by the Northern Territory's Attorney-General Dr Peter Toyne and the Director of Public Prosecutions, Rex Wild QC.

The meeting will be attended by at least 25 to 30 Directors of Public Prosecutions, or their equivalents, from mainly former or current Commonwealth countries.

The first meeting of HOPAC took place in Sydney in 1991. Attendance at this original conference was by invitation which stated:

*The aim of the conference is to give heads of prosecution agencies an opportunity to meet and to discuss matters of contemporary significance, general principle and issues of practical importance.*

The conference was therefore designed to bring together heads of prosecuting agencies of Commonwealth jurisdictions for the purpose of meeting and exchanging different points of view.

It was the answer to specific operational needs.

Subsequently, meetings have taken place in Ottawa (1993), London (1995), Wellington (1997), Sigatoka (1999) and Edinburgh (2001).

The NT ODPP was represented by the previous Director at the first three such conferences.

Most other Australian jurisdictions are represented at these meetings. Current Director Mr Wild attended the conferences in NZ, Fiji and Scotland.

## *invaluable*

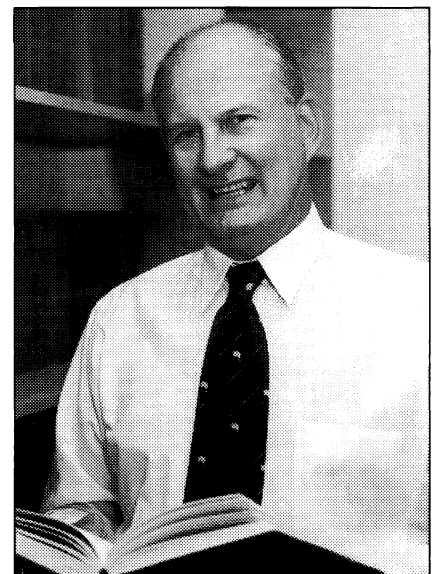
These conferences have proved invaluable in providing a forum for:

- sharing knowledge and networking
- international co-operation
- an aid in movements towards consistency in legislation.

Invitations have already been accepted by Directors, or their equivalents, from all Australian jurisdictions, New Zealand, England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Hong Kong, Canada, Singapore and Papua New Guinea.

There will be formal functions at Parliament House (Tuesday 6 May) and Government House (Wednesday 7 May).

The bench, magistrates and members of the law profession will be invited to one or more of these functions to meet the overseas and interstate visitors.①



Above: NT DPP Rex Wild QC...co-hosting HOPAC with the Attorney-General.

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