

Changing of the guard as the NT welcomes a new Attorney-General

On Tuesday 29 August, Northern Territory Attorney-General Peter Toyne announced his resignation from Parliament.

“Today I announce my retirement from the NT Ministry, effective midnight Friday 1 September. I will also be leaving Parliament once the Chief Minister arranges the necessary by-election for my seat of Stuart,” he said.

“I am retiring as a result of medical advice. While it is always difficult to leave public life, I have accepted the time has come.

“It has been a privilege to serve Territorians in the roles I have been given over the past 10 years and I believe my efforts have delivered some benefit. I have always believed that to lead is to serve.

Dr Toyne has held the seat of Stuart for 10 years and has served as a Minister in the portfolios of Primary Industry and Fisheries, Sport and Recreation, Corporate and Information Services, Communications, Regional Development, Justice and Attorney-General and Health.

Dr Toyne counts among his achievements a raft of law reform, including the removal of mandatory sentencing and most recently the criminal responsibility reforms. Prison reform and community justice initiatives have been at the forefront of his efforts in the portfolio.

While the Minister for Health, Dr Toyne worked on achieving increased funding to allow efficiencies in service delivery and has been a constant advocate for child and maternal health.

With the retirement of Dr Toyne from Parliament, Deputy Chief Minister Syd Stirling has taken up the Justice portfolio and the role of Attorney-General.

He is also the Deputy Chief Minister, Treasurer and Minister for Statehood.

Mr Stirling has been the Member for Nhulunbuy since 1990 and his personal interests include Australian history, politics and the union movement, reading, fishing and Australian Rules Football.

The Law Society Northern Territory would like to welcome Mr Stirling to his new role as Attorney-General. We look forward to continue a close



working relationship with the position.

Mr Stirling has certainly taken on the job at an exciting time, with a raft of legislative reform and the recent introduction of the Legal Profession Bill 2006, which will result in significant changes for the legal profession.

Winding down, or is it all really just beginning?

Dr Peter Toyne and welcomed Syd Stirling as the Attorney-General. Mr Stirling probably thought it was something of a “hospital pass” to be left with the job of introducing our new Bill, but all indications are that he is settling into the role with enthusiasm and we are confident of continuing a productive relationship with government through the Attorney’s office.

Finally, as the festive season cranks up, I trust that you will all be able to find some time for celebration, rest and relaxation, so that you are all ready to attack the challenges of 2007 with enthusiasm. You should note that the LSNT will be holding Christmas Drinks for members again this year, on Tuesday 21 November, 5pm-7pm at the Novotel Atrium, please RSVP on 8981 5104 and we will look forward to seeing you there.