



**Swearing in of the Hon Justice Ann Lyons
as a Judge of the Supreme Court, Trial Division
Banco Court
Monday 10 July 2006, 2.30pm**

**The Hon P de Jersey AC,
Chief Justice**

In welcoming all present this afternoon, I acknowledge with pleasure the presence of the Honourable the Attorney-General, Judges of the District Court, the Federal and Family Courts, Magistrates, Tribunal members and retired Judges. Some of our colleagues are not within the jurisdiction, and would regret their inability to be present.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome Justice Lyons to the Supreme Court.

As a matter of entirely irrelevant but nevertheless interesting detail, Her Honour is the 100th appointee to the Supreme Court in its almost 145 year history – I say almost, because the court reaches that milestone on 7 August.

Her Honour's appointment means the court temporarily comprises 25 Judges: the recent appointment of Justice Holmes as a Judge of Appeal was in anticipation of Mr Justice McPherson's forthcoming retirement on 23 September.

Justice Lyons comes to the court from her position as inaugural President of the Guardianship and Administration Tribunal, which was established in the year 2000. Her discharge of that demanding and sensitive role has attracted strong commendation and applause. As President, Her Honour presided over the more complex cases coming before that Tribunal, involving such inherently difficult issues as sterilization, termination of pregnancy, end of life decisions, and complex financial management concerns.

Her Honour's experience as a decision-maker has been quite various, including five years as legal member of the Social Security Appeals Tribunal, and a term as an assessor under the *Health Practitioner (Professional Standards) Act*, involved in disciplinary proceedings concerning medical practitioners.



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Admitted as a solicitor in the year 1977, Justice Lyons practised in litigation, focusing on the areas of criminal, tort and family law. She graduated as a Master of Laws in the year 1997. For almost a decade, she tutored and lectured in contract and constitutional law and other legal subjects at the Queensland University of Technology. For two years prior to her appointment to the Guardianship and Administration Tribunal, she was employed as an anti-discrimination lawyer in the legal services division of Queensland Rail, responsible for the conciliation of claims prior to their reaching the Tribunal.

Her quasi judicial experience included her serving, for some 13 years, as an assistant Judge in the Brisbane Catholic Regional Matrimonial Tribunal.

Justice Lyons has substantially involved herself in community affairs, including serving for two years on the Mater Private Hospital Research Ethics Committee.

Married with four children, Her Honour brings to the Supreme Court a diverse experience of life and the law, and we wish her well as she undertakes this substantial and significant responsibility.