



**Valedictory Ceremony to mark the retirement of
Mr K T Toogood PSM, Principal Registrar and Administrator
Banco Court
Wednesday 12 July 2006, 9:15am**

Chief Justice's remarks

On Friday of this week, Mr Ken Toogood, our Principal Registrar and Administrator, will retire after more than 41 years of public service. He is in fact the longest serving of any of the 23 Supreme Court Registrars and 14 District Court Registrars, who have served these courts over the last 145 years. We meet this morning to acknowledge, with gratitude, that distinguished service, and to wish Mr Toogood and his wife Sandra well as they progress into a new phase of their lives.

I am pleased to welcome to the Banco Court the Attorney General, Judges of the District Court, the Federal and Family Courts, Magistrates and Tribunal members, the Director General and Deputy Director General, and retired Judges, as well as Mrs Sandra Toogood and our Registrar's family and friends. Those Judges of the Supreme and District Courts who cannot be here would wish to be associated with my remarks.

Mr Toogood joined the court service in 1965. Rising through that service, he has at some time or other held almost every major position within it. He was appointed Registrar in 1988, and in 2001 as Principal Registrar, Supreme and District Courts. In 2003 his position was reconstituted as Principal Registrar and Administrator, embracing the previously styled Court Administrator role.

Mr Toogood's responsibilities have been comprehensive, extending for example to his being Registrar of the Planning and Environment and Children's Courts, and the Health Practitioners and Legal Practice Tribunals, and he has served with dedication on the Rules Committee, the Solicitors Admissions Board and latterly the Legal Practitioners Admissions Board, and also the Public Records Review Committee.

His responsibilities have not been confined to Brisbane – they extend across the State.



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His approach has been innovative and progressive, marked by superior leadership and communication skills, with utter dedication to the public interest.

Many achievements may be attributed to him.

In 1998, for example, he introduced the concept of filing court documents by post, a concept not previously considered appropriate to the then court culture.

He excelled in the implementation of the Uniform Civil Procedure Rules. He was instrumental in the establishment of a system for the waiver of fees for impecunious litigants.

In 1996 and 2003, he led major reform involving the amalgamation of court registry services in Brisbane. That led to the provision of central counter location points to improve client services.

He was substantially involved in the development of the jurisdiction accorded court Registrars to determine applications in court, freeing up valuable judicial resources for devotion to more complex matters. He was also comprehensively involved in the development of the alternative dispute resolution thrust within the court, and the civil case management system, both of which have streamlined the progress within the system of those cases which must proceed to adjudication. He has been instrumental in fostering improved collegial relations in the Registrar network throughout the State, enhancing service delivery.

It was, incidentally, Mr Toogood who initiated the courts' participation in Queensland Day celebrations since the year 2000, arranging guided tours of the courts that day each year for members of the community who might not otherwise visit them. Hundreds of Queenslanders have taken advantage of this opening, as many as 345 on 6 June this year.



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Mr Toogood has worked well with his staff, encouraging and mentoring them in the pursuit of legal studies for their own advancement and the future benefit of the courts. A number have with his encouragement moved on to become Magistrates, legal practitioners, and consultants in the field of court technology and service.

The programmes and initiatives promoted by Mr Toogood have undoubtedly contributed to the high standing of the Supreme and District Courts of Queensland, both here and within the national constellation.

In the year 2005 Mr Toogood achieved the distinction of an award, through the Australia Day Honours List, of a Public Service Medal. The citation says that it was awarded “for outstanding public service as Principal Registrar of the Supreme and District Courts of Queensland and for enhancing service delivery by Queensland Court Registries”. As the Director-General would confirm, those awards are not easily come by.

The Principal Registrar necessarily works in close consultation with the Judges of both courts. Mr Toogood’s professionalism, courtesy and friendliness have ensured that has been a most pleasant and productive relationship. We Judges would hope he counts us among his friends. This is I believe the first time a valedictory ceremony has been held in this courtroom for someone other than a Judge: confirmation of the high esteem in which we hold our long-serving Principal Registrar.

In farewelling Mr Toogood today, we also should note the recent retirement – on 7 July – of other long-standing Registry officers: the Senior Deputy Registrar, Mr Eric Kempin, after 39 years of service to the courts; Mr John Bingham, after 40 years service, for 18 years Registrar of the courts at Cairns; Mr Pat Gould, after 36 years service; and Mr Danny Coppolecchia, after 32 years service, in recent times as Senior Client Relations Officer. Also, Mr Ian McEwan, the highly respected Director of the State Reporting Bureau, retired on 7 July after 16 years devoted service. Other officers of the Bureau who retired on 7 July were Mr Doug Harris, after more than 41 years in the public service, 40



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with justice, and Mr Michael Cook and Ms Gayle Goschnick, each after 37 years of service.

We honour all those officers for their distinctive and massive public contribution, and wish them all well as they enter new chapters of their lives. And we note with gratitude, in addition, the undoubted support of their spouses and other family members over so many years.

Please pardon my recourse to a cliché, but these particular departures do mark the end of an era for the court service, as well as denoting quite remarkable turnings in the lives of those who now leave these precincts. They all carry with them our most sincere thanks, and warmest good wishes.

It is my pleasure in conclusion to present Mr Toogood with his retirement medallion.