



25th Anniversary of establishment of the Office of Director of Public Prosecutions

Wednesday, 20 October 2010 3:00 pm
Magistrates Courts, Level 9

We are particularly reminded of the high significance of the work of the public prosecution service when discomfited by adverse public reaction to controversial decisions – and this is common to the DPP and the Courts.

Also common to both institutions is resilience. In my own 25 year judicial experience, I have been reassured by the capacity of both institutions to ride through turbulence, with public confidence eroded only temporarily.

In any event, those controversial cases are fortunately infrequent, and we must not overlook the mass of uncontroversial work daily accomplished.

In that 25 year career, I have followed the work of the DPP with considerable interest, noting its enduring independence and progressively increasing professionalism. Successive directors have discharged an inherently difficult role in their own distinctive and effective ways.

Now aged 62, I am allowed some nostalgic latitude. Around the year 1970 I spent an interesting and defining 18 months as a clerk in the prosecution section of the Solicitor General's office, a section which worked very effectively in then current conditions. But that office as then structured obviously could not accommodate the particular demands of our current situation four decades on, with longer more complex trials, with recourse to enabling technology, and where we face different things, like the need to communicate differently with jurors – in a generation from A to Z whatever they are now.



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To my observation, our Queensland prosecutors are dealing effectively with these contemporary challenges, and successive directors are to be congratulated for their leadership in ensuring that.

It is a very good thing that we pause this afternoon to reflect on this office, at this milestone.

In respectfully commending all involved in our State prosecution service, I express my own personal confidence in its continuing effective operation, a confidence which I know my judicial colleagues share with me.