

THE HON NICOLA ROXON MP

Attorney-General
Minister for Emergency Management

MEDIA RELEASE

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APPOINTMENTS TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS TRIBUNAL

Attorney-General Nicola Roxon today announced seven new part-time appointments to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

The Tribunal provides independent merits review of administrative decisions made by Australian Government ministers, agencies and other tribunals.

In congratulating the group, the Attorney-General noted the diversity of appointees who represent a broad range of barristers, solicitors, academics and other professionals.

“I offer my congratulations to all those who have been appointed today and look forward to the contribution each will make to administrative justice in their new roles,” Ms Roxon said.

“The diversity of these appointees well reflects the broad and varied community that we live in.”

Ms Fiona Alpins, Professor Robert Deutsch and Mr Stephen Frost have been appointed as deputy presidents with taxation expertise.

Ms Gina Lazanas has been appointed as a senior member with taxation expertise.

Doctors Michael Couch, William Isles and Marian Sullivan have been appointed as members with medical expertise.

Ms Alpins will be based in the Tribunal’s Victorian Registry. Professor Deutsch, Mr Frost, Ms Lazanas and Doctors Couch and Isles will be based in the NSW Registry while Dr Sullivan will be based in the Queensland Registry.

The appointments were made in accordance with the Government’s *Merit and Transparency* policy for statutory appointments, introduced in 2008.

Biographical information on each of the appointees is attached.

For all media enquiries, please contact the Attorney-General’s Office on 02 6277 7300 or 0409 945 476

Ms Fiona Alpins

Ms Alpins has been a member of the Victorian Bar since 1996. She practises mainly in revenue law and has also practised in commercial law and administrative law. She was a Senior Fellow at the Faculty of Law, University of Melbourne in 2002 and 2004 05 where she lectured in superannuation law to post graduate students. From 1997 to 2002 she lectured at Central Queensland University in subjects including commercial law, contract law and taxation law. She is a Fellow of The Tax Institute.

Professor Robert Deutsch

Professor Deutsch is currently a professor of taxation in the School of Taxation and Business Law in the Australian School of Business at the University of New South Wales. Previously he was a professor in the University (1992 2006) special counsel at Henry Davis York Solicitors (2006 7) and a Director at KPMG (2007 11). He worked as a barrister in NSW from 1993 to 2006 while also a director of ATAX (1997 2001). Additionally, Professor Deutsch has practised as a solicitor. He was a partner (1990 1992), solicitor (1988 1989) and consultant (1986 1987) with Mallesons Stephen Jaques specialising in taxation law.

Mr Stephen Frost

Mr Frost has been a senior member of the Tribunal in New South Wales since 2009. He was a part-time member of the Tribunal from 2006 to 2009. He has been a part time judicial member of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal of NSW since 2010. Mr Frost was a tax partner at KPMG between 1995 and 2008 and was a tax manager at KPMG between 1989 and 1995. From 1977 until 1989 he worked at the Australian Taxation Office in both Sydney and Canberra. He is an accredited mediator and fellow of the Taxation Institute of Australia. He was admitted as a legal practitioner of the Supreme Court of New South Wales in 1989.

Ms Gina Lazanas

Ms Lazanas has been a partner at Balazs Lazanas and Welch LLP since 2009. She was previously a partner at Baker & McKenzie from 2002 until 2009 where she led the Australian Tax Group for three years and, prior to that, from 2000 to 2002, she was a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers. Between 2008 and 2011, Ms Lazanas was Chair of The Taxation Institute's GST Subcommittee and a representative at the Australian Taxation Office's National Tax Liaison GST Subcommittee. Currently Chair of The Tax Institute Legal and Dispute Resolution Subcommittee and a representative at the Australian Taxation Office's National Tax Liaison Dispute Resolution Subcommittee, Ms Lazanas has a particular interest in promoting early dispute resolution. In addition to being a member of the Taxation Institute, she is also a member of the Taxation Committee of the Law Council of Australia and a founding member and coordinator of the Hill GST Discussion Group.

Dr Michael Couch

Dr Couch has been a consultant occupational physician for more than 20 years. He has worked with a wide range of industries, including mining, manufacturing, police and other emergency services, transport, and State and Commonwealth Government departments. Over the past ten years he has worked as a medicolegal consultant, through a national medicolegal consultancy and his own practice (receiving referrals from a wide range of sources, including insurers, plaintiff solicitors and employers). He is an Independent Occupational Physician advising CGU Workers Compensation NSW. He was a Medical Appeal Panel member of the NSW Workers Compensation Commission from 2002 until 2006. He is currently a Medical Review Panel Member for the NSW Motor Accident Assessment Service. He is a fellow of the Australasian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and of the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine.

Dr William Isles

Dr Isles currently runs a private occupational health consultancy service. From 2009 to 2010 he was the manager of Medical Services at Qantas Airlines. Previously, he was a manager of Occupational Health Services (2000 2008) and a medical officer (1989 1999) at Qantas. In 1992 he completed a Masters in Public Health at the University of Sydney. He was in general practice in Brisbane from 1978 to 1987. He is a fellow of the Australian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and board member of the Australasian Medical Review Officer Association.

Dr Marian Sullivan

Dr Marian Sullivan is a psychiatrist, and for more than 25 years has been in active clinical practice in adult, child and adolescent psychiatry. She is a Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, and holds further college certification in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. She has been an executive member of the Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists. Dr Sullivan has had involvement with the teaching of medical students and postgraduate trainees in psychiatry, and was previously the editor of the Bulletin for the Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. From 2006 to 2010 Dr Sullivan was a member of the Medical Board of Queensland, and from 2006 was the chair of the Board's Health Assessment and Monitoring Committee, which supervised impaired practitioners. Dr Sullivan has been an examiner for the Australian Medical Council. In 2008, Dr Sullivan was an invited delegate to the Australian 2020 Summit.