

26 October 2011

BILL GRANT TO RETURN AS HEAD OF LEGAL AID

The Attorney General, Greg Smith SC, today announced the appointment of Bill Grant OAM as Chief Executive Officer of Legal Aid NSW.

“I am delighted Mr Grant has agreed to return to the position of CEO of Legal Aid, after a four-year absence from the organisation,” Mr Smith said.

“Legal Aid’s service delivery thrived while Mr Grant was at the helm, resulting in him being awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the community and to the law.”

Mr Smith said he had become concerned that Legal Aid was straying from its core work of improving access to justice for those who cannot afford legal representation.

“I am confident Mr Grant will return the organisation’s focus to providing services for those most in need,” he said.

Mr Grant served as head of Legal Aid from 2001 to 2007. During that period, he also established a Legal Aid Human Rights Committee and a specialist unit to assist disadvantaged people involved in coronial inquests.

For the past four years, Mr Grant has been the Secretary-General of the Law Council of Australia – a body representing more than 50,000 legal practitioners.

Mr Grant graduated from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Laws in 1975. He began his career at the Crown Solicitor’s Office, where he worked in the prosecuting, constitutional law and special litigation branches.

He worked at the Attorney General’s Department between 1988 and 2001, reaching the position of Deputy Director General. In that period, he chaired the Victims Advisory Board and was a member of the NSW Privacy Committee and the NSW Legal Practitioners Board.

Mr Grant has also served as Acting Commissioner of the Health Care Complaints Commission.

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