

# The Public Defenders

Annual Review

2017 - 2018

The Hon. Mark Speakman MP  
Attorney General  
52 Martin Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Attorney General,

**2017 – 2018 Annual Review**

Pursuant to section 17 of the *Public Defenders Act 1995*, I am pleased to forward the Public Defenders' report for the year ending 30 June 2018 for tabling in Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Ierace', written in a cursive style.

Mark Ierace SC  
Senior Public Defender

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## Foreword

This year was marked by both consolidation and significant change. The Public Defenders continued to play a central role with other agencies in the Rolling List Court and special call-overs, in order to reduce the NSW District Court trial backlog. Special call-overs were conducted in the District Court sitting at Newcastle, Wollongong, Lismore, Wagga Wagga and Port Macquarie. In Newcastle alone, 41 trials were resolved, either being no-billed or becoming pleas of guilty to the original or negotiated charges.

In December 2017, the NSW Bureau of Crime, Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) released its final report on the Rolling List Court (the RLC), which was an initiative of the Public Defenders, together with the NSW Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Following a randomised controlled trial of 109 trial briefs split between the RLC and the normal criminal courts in the Downing Centre, the report concluded that “the statistical analyses establish that the RLC was much more effective in obtaining early guilty pleas and reducing listing and processing delay for eligible indictable matters than the general list of the NSW District Court”.

We also worked cooperatively with other agencies to facilitate a smooth transition to the new committal scheme, known as “Early Appropriate Guilty Pleas”, following the commencement of the relevant legislation on 30 April 2018. Our website was updated with comprehensive reference papers for private and public practitioners, both solicitors and barristers, and we took part in a number of seminars for practitioners and judicial officers throughout the State, explaining the new procedure.

There were significant changes in personnel with the addition of four new positions, following a temporary increase in funds to assist with the District Court trial backlog. We welcomed Madeleine Avenell and Paul Coady, both previously of Maurice Byers Chambers.

We farewelled both Deputy Senior Public Defenders (Craig Smith SC returned to the private Bar and Peter McGrath SC was appointed NSW Deputy Director, Public Prosecutions), and two Public Defenders who had been with us since the 1990's - Chrissa Loukas SC, who returned to the private Bar and Helen Cox, who retired.

Three new deputies were appointed; Richard Wilson, Michael King and, nine days into the following financial year, Sophia Beckett. Michael King has particular responsibilities concerning regional Public Defenders, which reflects our increasing presence outside the metropolitan area.

A particular highlight for this year's annual conference was the opportunity to hear about the Uluru Statement from the Heart and take up the invitation to “walk with “our First Nations people on the journey to constitutional recognition and reform by enshrining a First Nations Voice in the constitution.

As part of this journey we will continue our support of the Walama Court proposal and our input into the *Bugmy* project, amongst other things – to provide a breadth of resources for the profession with the aim of increasing awareness and expertise, and hopefully positive change.

Mark Ierace SC  
**Senior Public Defender**

## **The Role of Public Defenders**

Public Defenders are barristers appointed as independent statutory officers by the Governor of NSW under the *Public Defenders Act 1995* (“the Act”).

The principal duty of a Public Defender is to represent socially and economically disadvantaged persons charged with serious criminal offences who have been granted legal assistance, either by Legal Aid NSW, The Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT (ALS) or other community legal centres.

## **Organisational Structure and Duties of Public Defenders**

### **The Senior Public Defender**

The Senior Public Defender, Mark Ierace SC, is responsible to the Attorney General for the proper exercise of his functions under the Act. Those functions are set out in detail at Section 8(1) and include:

- the making of arrangements and giving of directions to ensure the effective and efficient conduct of Public Defenders’ work;
- providing advice and assistance to Public Defenders and monitoring their work;
- consulting with the Legal Aid NSW, the Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT (ALS) and other community legal centres (CLCs) on the provision of legal assistance to legally assisted persons; and
- advising the Attorney General on law reform.

The Senior Public Defender also conducts a Supreme Court trial and appellate practice in addition to his management and legal policy responsibilities.

### **Deputy Senior Public Defenders**

The Act provides that the Governor may appoint one or more Deputy Senior Public Defenders. There are currently three Deputy Senior Public Defender positions which are occupied by Sophia Beckett, Michael King and Richard Wilson who were appointed mid-year when Craig Smith SC and Peter McGrath SC resigned to take up other roles. Michael King, who is based in Wagga Wagga took up the newly created role of Deputy Senior Public Defender Regional, to look after the interests of regionally- based Public Defenders.

The functions of a Deputy Senior Public Defender include assisting the Senior Public Defender as required in addition to the conduct of trial and appellate practices. The Senior and Deputy Senior Public Defenders form the management team for chambers and also work together on high level policy and law reform matters.

### **Functions of Public Defenders**

The functions of a Public Defender are set out at Section 10 of the Act and include:

- advising and appearing in criminal proceedings
- advising on matters referred by the Senior Public Defender

- carrying out other related functions as may be specified by the Attorney General in consultation with the Senior Public Defender and,
- providing representation in Parole Board and mental health legislation proceedings and related matters.

The Senior Public Defender may establish written guidelines on the exercise of the above functions of the Public Defenders, however this does not derogate “from the authority of a Public Defender in respect of the conduct of any proceedings” (section 6 (4)).

### **Appointment of Public Defenders**

The terms of appointment under the Act were changed in 2007 to remove life tenure for Public Defenders appointed after the commencement of the new provisions. Public Defenders may now be appointed for a period of up to seven years following a probationary period of 12 months as an Acting Public Defender.

Public Defenders appointed for a seven year term must have their performance reviewed under the *Guidelines for the Appointment of Public Defenders* by a review committee at the conclusion of each seven year period. They may be appointed for a further seven years if recommended by the review committee. The Senior Public Defender and Deputy Senior Public Defenders are appointed for renewable terms of seven years.

There are now 29 Public Defender positions for the whole of NSW. Four of these positions have been created with the provision of additional funding to help address the District Court backlog.

Two Public Defender positions are fully funded by Legal Aid NSW on an ongoing basis as set out in the annual service level agreement available on our website.

As barristers, Public Defenders are bound by the *Legal Profession Uniform Conduct (Barristers) Rules 2015* and related legislation and are therefore subject to the same disciplinary regime for professional conduct as other counsel.

## Highlights of the year

### Significant Appeal Cases

#### *Parente v R* [2017] NSWCCA 284

In *Parente* the Court of Criminal Appeal overturned the longstanding sentencing principle under *Clark* (NSWCCA 15.9.1990) that drug trafficking in any substantial degree should lead to a full-time custodial sentence, concluding such principle was incompatible with judicial sentencing discretion and should no longer be applied. The correct approach is to apply general sentencing principles with consideration given to the importance of deterrence and community protection in drug matters as well as the maximum penalty and standard non-parole period applicable to those offences. A sentencing judge should first determine whether no sentence other than imprisonment is appropriate, the length of such sentence and then whether any alternatives to full-time incarceration are available and appropriate.

#### *Allen v Ewing* [2017] NSWSC 1696

In this case the issue was the jurisdiction of the Local Court to consider a challenge to the validity of a search warrant in criminal proceedings before that Court. Hamill J ruled that the Local Court, hearing a substantive criminal matter, has jurisdiction to consider a collateral attack on the validity of a warrant. He further ruled that the challenge to the warrant could go beyond an error on the face of the warrant and that the Local Court could receive relevant and admissible evidence in order to determine the challenge. In this case the accused intended to challenge the warrant on the basis that police had already commenced the search and that inadequate and incomplete information had been provided to the issuing officer.

### The “Rolling List Court” (RLC) program

The aim of this program is to resolve trial matters by early case management, thus reducing the time taken from committal to finalisation and ultimately addressing some of the factors leading to the current backlog of cases in the NSW District Court.

This initiative was developed in collaboration with the Chief Judge of the NSW District Court, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution (ODPP), Legal Aid NSW and Public Defenders. It is based on the successful model in place in certain regional courts with a local Public Defender and Crown Prosecutors. Counsel are typically briefed earlier than in other metropolitan courts, and the ongoing working relationships between them and their respective instructing solicitors from Legal Aid NSW and the ODPP leads to a more efficient disposition of matters. The close co-operation and daily interaction of these personnel builds a level of professional trust and communication which enables issues in a trial or sentence matter to be identified at an earlier stage. It saves time and expense if the matter can be resolved before trial by an early plea of guilty or appropriate charge modification.

The pilot program began in the Downing Centre District Court in April 2015, with two Public Defenders and two Crown Prosecutors, instructed by a specific team of Legal Aid NSW and ODPP solicitors. One Judge is allocated to manage the work of the court. The criteria for referral of a trial to the RLC are:

- it is an in-house legal aid matter with an estimate of no more than two weeks
- there are no co-accused

- there are no fitness issues and;
- the offence is a State prosecuted matter.

This year **138 matters were completed in the RLC**. In its final report on the evaluation of the program the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) found that “more than half (58.0%) of the matters balloted to the RLC resolved in a guilty plea before the trial date compared to 22.0 per cent of the matters randomised to the general list of the NSW DCC”.<sup>1</sup> BOCSAR also noted that the matters that resolved in a guilty plea before trial in the RLC occurred much earlier in the process (151 days) as compared with the control courts (220 days).

At its conclusion, the report stated “RLC proved effective at obtaining early guilty pleas and reducing delay in the processing of indictable criminal matters”<sup>2</sup> with the findings suggesting that some elements of the RLC such as early briefing and pre-trial negotiations could benefit the overall efficiency of the NSW District Criminal Courts.

### **Special Call-Overs in the District Court**

The scheduling of special call-overs in the NSW District Criminal Courts is one of the strategies employed by NSW justice agencies to help reduce the District Court trial backlog. The aim of the special call-overs is to target unresolved trials listed at designated courts with the aim of encouraging appropriate guilty pleas by defendants on the advice of defence counsel and in negotiation with Crown Prosecutors and the ODP.

Public Defenders assisted with special call-overs held in the District courts at Lismore, Newcastle, Port Macquarie, Wagga Wagga, Wollongong and Sydney (Commonwealth matters only). The most effective call-overs were at Lismore, Newcastle and Sydney with an estimated resolution of **between of 52-55 per cent of matters listed**.

The success of these special call-overs is due to the close co-operation between Public Defenders, Legal Aid NSW, ALS, the ODP and Crown Prosecutors, Judges, court staff and Corrective Services in ensuring the whole process runs as efficiently as possible.

### **Long and Complex District Court Trials**

This is an additional strategy adopted by this office to assist in the reduction of the District Court backlog. The aim is to give priority to accepting briefs for long and complex trials listed in the Sydney District Court. Trials listed for six weeks or more were targeted with the aim of ensuring these matters were closely case managed and, where possible, resolved at the earliest opportunity.

Of the nine trials completed within this category, one defendant pleaded guilty plea before trial and five defendants pleaded guilty in the first week of the trial.

### **Service Level Agreements**

Formal arrangements for access to our services are contained in service level agreements (“SLAs”), which are negotiated annually with Legal Aid NSW and the ALS.

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<sup>1</sup> Crime and Justice Bulletin, Contemporary Issues in Crime no. 208, The NSW Rolling List Court Evaluation :Final Report, December 2017.p1

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

The SLAs set a framework for the type of work undertaken by Public Defenders, with priority given to more serious, lengthy and complex matters in the District, Supreme and higher appellate courts. By focusing on these high-cost matters, Public Defender services are used in the most efficient and effective manner. These agreements ensure we regularly consult with the parties and help maintain strong relationships with Legal Aid NSW and ALS.

The SLAs also set out the regional and metropolitan sittings of the Supreme and District Courts covered by Public Defenders. We aim to balance our resources to ensure that regional and remote communities have equal access to Public Defenders whenever possible.

Public Defenders are located at Orange (1), Lismore (1), Newcastle (2), Tamworth (1), Port Macquarie (1), Wollongong (1) and Wagga Wagga (2). One Public Defender is located at the Parramatta Justice Precinct. Representation in regional and non-metropolitan court sittings now accounts for approximately 48 per cent of our work.

About 85 per cent of the work briefed to Public Defenders comes directly from Legal Aid NSW lawyers, or from private lawyers who have obtained a grant of legal aid for their client. The remaining 15 per cent is briefed by the ALS or other community legal centres.

### **Determining Priorities by Service Level Agreements**

The acceptance and allocation of briefs to Public Defenders is largely determined by the service level agreements with Legal Aid NSW and ALS. The purpose of these agreements is to ensure the most cost effective use of our mutual resources. The types of matters where Public Defenders are briefed include:

- Supreme Court trials
- long and/or complex District Court trials
- circuit work at nominated regional centres
- appellate work in the High Court, Court of Criminal Appeal and Court of Appeal; and
- committal hearings involving serious criminal charges.

Public Defenders may also appear in coronial inquiries either at the request of Legal Aid NSW, the ALS or the Crown Solicitor's Office.

Public Defenders also provide representation at circuit sittings of regional District and Supreme Court sittings as needed.

## Annual Statistics for matters completed 2017-18

	STATE	C'WEALTH	TOTAL
Children's Court	18	0	
Coroner's Court	2	0	2
Local Court	70	5	75
Drug Court	0	0	0
District Court	590	14	604
State Parole Authority	0	0	0
Supreme Court	78	4	82
Mental Health Review Tribunal	0	0	0
CCA Advices	117	11	128
Court of Appeal Advices	1	0	1
High Court Advices	7	0	7
CCA Appeals	39	1	40
Court of Appeal Appeals	0	0	0
High Court Appeals	1	0	1
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>958</b>		

Public Defenders are often briefed in lengthy and complex trials to help contain the cost of such matters. The allocation of a Public Defender to these trials will have an impact on the total number of matters completed in the year as they are not available to do other trials. Preparation time is also extensive given the voluminous briefs provided in such matters.

Comparison of matters completed over consecutive financial years are therefore not necessarily indicative of increasing or decreasing workloads or productivity and any comparison of annual figures should be treated with caution.

This year Public Defenders **accepted 1,112 requests** for assistance and **declined 2,328 requests**. Matters are declined for a number of reasons, including conflict of interest or more commonly, due to the unavailability of a Public Defender to accept the brief because of other work commitments.

The distribution of work (matters completed this year) across the various court jurisdictions is approximately as follows:

- District Court, 63%
- Supreme Court, 9%
- Court of Criminal Appeal, 17%
- High Court, 0.1%
- Local and Children's Courts, 10%.

The ratio of matters in Sydney compared with regional and non-metropolitan courts is 52:48. This slight imbalance is largely due to the number of CCA matters which are all heard in Sydney. **Preparation time amounted to 2,884 days** with an additional **3,208 conference hours** spent with solicitors, clients and witnesses. This year Public Defenders spent **1,959 days in court**.

## **Other Assistance Provided**

Public Defenders are an important point of contact for the legal profession. This year they provided **200 recorded instances of assistance** to the profession on legal, ethical and practice issues either by telephone or brief written advices.

Our website is a valuable research tool for the profession, students and the general public. Sentencing tables and other resources on the website are used by practitioners and the judiciary, who regularly comment on the usefulness of this resource.

## **Public Defenders and the Justice System**

Public Defenders are an integral part of the justice system. Their extensive experience as criminal barristers is well recognised by all participants in the administration of criminal justice.

In addition to providing representation to legally aided clients, Public Defenders play an important role beyond the courtroom through their involvement in government and other committees tasked with policy development.

## **Committees of the NSW Bar Association and Related Bodies**

Public Defenders work closely with the NSW Bar Association at many different levels with a number of Public Defenders being members of the following committees;

- The NSW Bar Association's Criminal Law Committee
- First Nations Committee
- Indigenous Barristers Strategy Working Party and the Indigenous Barrister's Trust
- Joint Working Party on Over-representation of Indigenous People in the Criminal Justice System
- Professional Conduct Committee
- Legal Aid Committee
- Law Council of Australia National Law Committee
- Wellbeing Committee

## **Participation in Justice Agency committees**

- Crime and Justice Reform Committee
- Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse Criminal Justice Working Group
- Child Sexual Assault Evidence Pilot Committee
- Child Sexual Assault Judicial Reforms and Monitoring Implementation Group
- District Court Criminal Listing Committee
- Walama Court Working Group (previously the District Court Working Group)

- Legal Aid NSW Specialist Barristers and Solicitors Panels, including the Children’s Criminal Law panel
- Legal Practitioners Consultative Group
- *Just Connect* AVL Implementation Committee
- Standing Inter-agency Advisory Committee on Court Security
- The *Bugmy* Evidence Project – a joint project of Norton Rose Fulbright and the ALS
- Western NSW Community Legal Centre Committee

## **Law Reform**

An important function of Public Defenders under the Act is the provision of advice to the Attorney General and the Department of Justice on law reform. Public Defenders are routinely invited to make submissions on criminal law reform at the request of the NSW and Australian Law Reform Commissions, NSW Sentencing Council and Parliamentary Committees of Inquiry. In addition, a number of Public Defenders participate in law reform committees and advisory groups.

Written submissions made during the year include the following:

- EAGP reforms and regulations
- Consultation on additional proposals for the Victims in the Criminal Justice System package
- Criminal Legislation Amendment ( Child Sexual Abuse) Bill 2018
- Ombudsman Review of *Terrorism ( Police Powers ) Act 2002*
- Protections for certain witnesses giving evidence
- Review of the *Surveillance Devices Act 2007*
- Review of the operation of NSW offence of strangulation
- Various Justice Legislation Miscellaneous amendment proposals

## **Continuing Professional Education**

Public Defenders are invited to speak at seminars and conferences conducted by Legal Aid NSW, the Aboriginal Legal Service, Young Lawyers, the NSW Bar Association and tertiary institutions.

We provide tutors for readers at the Bar, internships for law students undertaking external placement programs and practical legal training, as well as year 10 high school work experience opportunities. Public Defenders provide mentoring under various programs including the Lucy Mentoring Program and the NSW Bar Association’s Aboriginal Mentoring Program.

Public Defenders are also industry partners with the University of Sydney “Not Guilty” Project, where students from various faculties work collectively to assess cases referred to their group to investigate and assess the prospects of success for judicial or administrative review.

Public Defenders also undertook an intensive weekend course on DNA and two Public Defenders participated in the Australian Advocacy Institute Vulnerable Witness Advocacy Training Program.

### **Annual Conference**

The annual Criminal Law Conference continues to be a drawcard for the profession within NSW and interstate.

Themes for this year were human rights and indigenous issues including a presentation by keynote speaker, Julian McMahon AC SC on criminal law and human rights. The Hon Justice Stephen Rothman AM spoke on the impact of *Bugmy* and *Bunda* on sentencing.

We were also privileged to have Thomas Mayor, a delegate to the Convention on the Uluru Statement from the Heart and Teela Reid, solicitor with Legal Aid NSW, speak on the *Uluru Statement of the Heart*. Delegates were invited to sign the declaration after the presentation. For more details about the Uluru Statement see [www.1voiceuluru.org](http://www.1voiceuluru.org).

Luke Grant, Assistant Commissioner, Corrections Strategy and Policy, discussed the proposed alternatives to imprisonment reform package followed by a panel discussion on the “Koori Court Proposal” or as it is now called - The Walama Court project.

The conference was formally opened by the Attorney General, the Hon. Mark Speakman. A full copy of the program and conference papers can be located at our website [www.publicdefenders.nsw.gov.au](http://www.publicdefenders.nsw.gov.au).

### **Newcastle Day of Practical Advocacy**

Public Defenders held another very successful “Day of Practical Advocacy” seminar in Newcastle in response to local interest to repeat our first seminar aimed at regional practitioners in 2015. Speakers included Newcastle and Sydney-based Public Defenders on topics covering complicity; evidence-in-chief; sentencing; trial preparation and stress and the criminal law. Judge Gartelmann SC spoke on “Taking the Point” and Judge Bright addressed on “The Use of Court Time”.

### **Under 5s practical advocacy training**

This course is designed to provide practice-based learning to junior counsel with five or less years’ experience at the Bar. The course runs over a six month period with one session per month, and limited to a maximum of 24 participants to enable interaction with the presenters. Speakers include District Court Judges, Crown Prosecutors and Public Defenders.

### **Other seminars**

This year we held the following seminars for the profession:

- Implementation of the “early appropriate guilty pleas” (EAGP) legislative reforms.
- Advocacy training for ALS trial advocates

## Funding and Accountability

### Funding

The primary source of funding is the Department of Justice. The Public Defenders' **budget for this financial year was \$11,065,000** which represents the net cost of services. Employee-related expenses continue to represent about 85 per cent of the budget.

**Additional funding of \$1,735,000** was provided by the NSW Government as part of the continuing strategy to address the District Court backlog. This enabled the recruitment of the fourth additional Public Defender to meet our obligations under the criminal justice backlog reduction program.

Additional revenue is obtained under the SLAs from:

- **Legal Aid NSW**, which provided **\$900,860**. This amount funds two Public Defender positions and provides partial funding for one legal research officer.
- The **ALS**, which provided **\$177,000**.

(Full details of the Public Defenders' budget are available from the NSW Department of Justice.)

### Accountability

The Public Defenders are accountable to the Attorney General and his Department through the provision of reports on agreed performance indicators which are based on the number of completed briefs within defined parameters. Regular reports may also be provided on the progress of business plan initiatives, financial management and risk assessments.

Annual statistics are provided to Legal Aid NSW and the ALS as required under the service level agreements.

Although Public Defenders are not public servants the office has adopted the administrative policies and procedures of the Department. Administrative support staff are public servants and therefore bound by both the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013* and *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*.

Senior clerks employed by the Public Defenders are responsible for the day-to-day management of administrative, human resources and financial matters.

### Business Plan

Most of our resources continue to be directed to assisting with the District Court backlog strategies through our ongoing commitment to the Rolling List Court and attendance at special call-overs. Both have proved to be very effective strategies to help reduce the number of pending trials.

Another challenge has been the introduction of the "Early Appropriate Guilty Plea" reforms which commenced on 30 April 2018. We worked closely with Legal Aid NSW and the ODPP to provide comprehensive resources on our website to assist practitioners with the new procedure.

An additional strategy of focussing on long and complex trials listed at the Sydney District Court was implemented to further assist with reducing the backlog. This will have greater impact in the following year although initial results seem promising in reducing the duration of these trials.

### **Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPAA)**

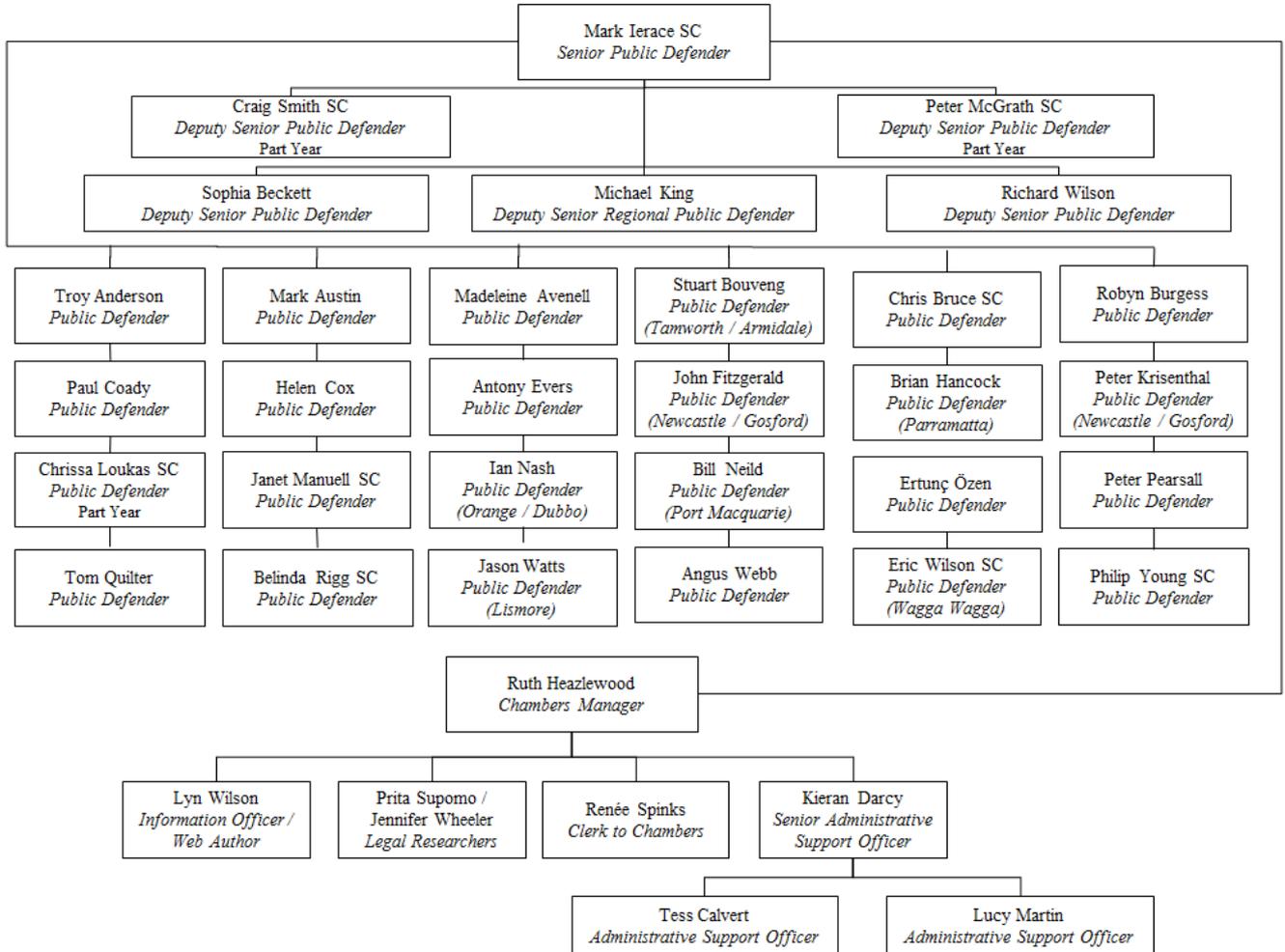
Public Defenders meet the requirements of the GIPA Act to provide open access to information for the public where possible and without charge. Our website provides access to the following documents:

- Annual reports
- Service Level Agreements
- Relevant legislation
- Guidelines for Appointment of Public Defenders
- Legal research materials
- Information on internships
- Papers prepared by Public Defenders
- Conference papers

Legal professional privilege precludes access to clients' information.

We have had no requests made under GIPAA this year.

## Organisational Chart as at 30 June 2018



## Public Defenders 2017-2018

<b>Senior Public Defender (SPD)</b>		
Mark Ierace SC	appointed 7 year term	16.07.2007
	re-appointed 7 year term	14.07.2014
<b>Deputy Senior Public Defenders (DSPD)</b>		
Craig Smith SC	acting	13.06.2006
	fixed term appointment*	13.06.2008
	appointed DSPD 7 year term	18.09.2014
	resigned	29.03.2018
Peter McGrath SC	appointed DSPD 7 year term	23.01.2017
	resigned	29.03.2018
Sophia Beckett	acting	29.03.2016
	short term	30.05.2016
	secondment as Crown Prosecutor	01.07.2016
	fixed term appointment*	29.03.2017
	appointed DSPD 7 year term	09.07.2018
Michael King	acting	30.08.2010
	fixed term appointment*	30.08.2011
	appointed DSPD 7 year term	14.05.2018
Richard Wilson	acting	23.01.2012
	fixed term appointment*	23.01.2013
	appointed DSPD 7 year term	14.05.2018
<b>Public Defenders</b>		
Troy Anderson	acting	15.05.2017
	fixed term appointment*	15.05.2018
Mark Austin	permanently appointed	05.06.1995
Madeleine Avenell	acting	29.01.2018
Stuart Bouveng	acting	15.08.2016
	fixed term appointment*	15.08.2017
Chris Bruce SC	permanently appointed (currently part-time)	26.04.1988
Robyn Burgess	acting (part-time)	13.12.2000
	permanently appointed (part-time)	10.11.2005
Paul Coady	acting	29.01.2018
Helen Cox	permanently appointed (currently part-time)	17.07.1995
Antony Evers	acting	14.07.2014
	fixed term appointment*	29.03.2017
John Fitzgerald	acting	25.01.2010
	fixed term appointment	25.01.2011
Brian Hancock	acting	29.08.2005
	fixed term appointment*	29.10.2009
	re-appointed 7 year term	29.10.2016
Peter Krisenthal	acting	14.07.2014
	fixed term appointment*	09.09.2015
Chrissa Loukas SC	permanently appointed	17.07.1995
	resigned	01.01.2018
Janet Manuell SC	acting	06.02.2007
	fixed term appointment*	13.06.2008
	re-appointed 7 year term	24.06.2015
Ian Nash	acting	23.01.2012
	fixed term appointment*	23.01.2013
Bill Neild	acting	05.09.2016
	fixed term appointment*	05.09.2017
Ertunc Ozen	acting	27.05.2013
	fixed term appointment*	03.06.2014
Peter Pearsall	permanently appointed	06.12.2001
Tom Quilter	acting	08.05.2017
	fixed term appointment*	08.05.2018
Belinda Rigg SC	acting	27.01.2004
	permanently appointed	13.07.2006
Jason Watts	acting	03.06.2013
	fixed term appointment*	27.05.2014
Angus Webb	permanently appointed	15.07.1996
Eric Wilson SC	acting	27.01.1998
	permanently appointed	09.08.2001
Philip Young SC	permanently appointed	24.07.2002

\* Appointment for fixed term of 7 years renewable under 2007 amendments to the Act.

## **Contact Details**

The Public Defenders are located at

Public Defenders Chambers  
23/1 Oxford Street  
DARLINGHURST NSW 2010

DX 11545  
SYDNEY DOWNTOWN

### **Telephone**

(02) 9268 3111

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### **Email**

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### **Website**

[www.publicdefenders.nsw.gov.au](http://www.publicdefenders.nsw.gov.au)

### **Chambers Manager**

Ruth Heazlewood

### **Clerk to Chambers**

Renee Spinks

### **Hours**

Monday to Friday between the hours of 8.30am and 5.00pm