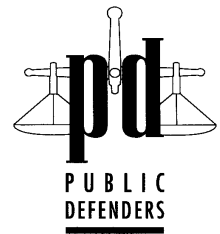


# **ANNUAL REVIEW**

2007 – 2008





22 December 2008

The Hon John Hatzistergos MLC  
Attorney General and Minister for Justice and Industrial Relations  
Level 33, Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Attorney

**2007 – 2008 Annual Report**

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 2008 for tabling in Parliament.

Yours sincerely

Mark Ierace SC  
Senior Public Defender



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## Foreword

This year has been one of both change and consolidation at the Public Defenders. Having completed my first year as Senior Public Defender I have an even greater admiration for the hard work, total commitment and high standards of Public Defenders.

Change came in the form of amendments to the *Public Defenders Act* with the removal of life tenure for new appointments. This was obviously a challenging time for all Public Defenders but particularly those who were employed as acting Public Defenders. The implementation and development of guidelines for reappointment were subject to negotiation but ultimately a suitable set of guidelines was achieved.

The positive outcome of this process was the appointment of Craig Smith, Janet Manuell and Nancy Mikhael as Public Defenders, under the new fixed term appointment guidelines.

At the same time a restructure of administrative support positions was finalised, resulting in the appointment of three new staff.

The resignation of Terry Golding in late May 2008 was a significant loss for the Public Defenders and the community he served in Taree and surrounding areas. Terry was appointed as a Public Defender in late 2003 and is highly regarded as an experienced and effective advocate. His resignation highlighted for me the rigours of working in regional NSW as a Public Defender. In particular, I am concerned about the high work demands on these Public Defenders, and their isolation from the daily support that regular contact with fellow Public Defenders can provide. I spent some time this year travelling to our regional offices to meet with our Public Defenders and others, including the local Legal Aid and Aboriginal Legal Service solicitors, court representatives, the local private profession and officers from the DPP, to discuss issues concerning their practices and how we can best support Public Defenders with their work.

Following these discussions I have realigned some of our services to regional NSW by allocating two Public Defender positions to cover Port Macquarie/Taree and Lismore/Coffs Harbour District Courts. These arrangements will take effect next financial year.

The involvement of two Public Defenders in the landmark terrorism trial highlights the importance of Public Defenders in the justice system. This case will perhaps be the longest criminal trial in NSW and is taking place at the newly opened Supreme Court at the Parramatta Justice Precinct. Richard Button SC and Dina Yehia, counsel acting for two of the accused, have shown remarkable dedication and resilience in the preparation and representation from the outset of these proceedings. The trial is expected to run well into next year.

The downside of their involvement in this trial is that we have less capacity to provide representation in Supreme Court and appellate matters. Over the last three years we have lost two Senior Public Defenders whose sole practice was Court of Criminal Appeal and High Court matters. This has resulted in a decrease in the number of such cases, despite the very hard work of the two current Deputy Senior Public Defenders who also have a trial practice and other Public Defenders who undertake this work. We are currently working with Legal Aid NSW to improve our management of these briefs to ensure that we can meet the demand for our service in these jurisdictions.

This year has seen the introduction of regular secondments between Crown Prosecutors and Public Defenders. The secondments, lasting between 6-12 months, have proved to be a valuable experience for both offices and have resulted in a deeper understanding and appreciation of the different pressures of being defence and prosecution counsel.

In a year of many challenges it is gratifying to note some other achievements. The appointment of Anthony Cook SC as senior counsel was one of the highlights of the year and is a very well deserved acknowledgement of his skill and experience as a criminal defence advocate.

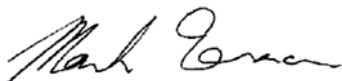
We were also immensely proud of Dina Yehia who received the Annual Terry Keaney Award in recognition of her longstanding dedication to assisting socially and economically disadvantaged people through her work with the Aboriginal Legal Service and as a Public Defender. Terry Keaney was a highly respected lawyer who devoted most of his legal career to representation of legally aided clients. Terry died suddenly soon after his appointment as an Acting Public Defender in 2005 and this award is made annually to a legal practitioner who best reflects his/her talents and dedication.

Our annual criminal law conference was another resounding success with over 220 participants attending, including some from interstate. This conference is a focal point for many criminal law practitioners to update their knowledge and share information in an informal and relaxed setting. The success of the conference is attributable to the hard work of the organising committee consisting of John Stratton SC and Dina Yehia and very ably assisted by Susan Lock, our Senior Administrative Support Officer.

Our conference is only one instance of the additional work undertaken by Public Defenders, with many giving up much of their limited free time to present papers at seminars and conferences and to provide training for students and young practitioners. They also provide telephone advice to any practitioner on ethical, evidentiary and other practice problems without hesitation – an invaluable service to the profession.

Change, although necessary and often welcome, also brings with it a certain level of anxiety. It is important therefore to sometimes stop and reflect on where we are heading as an organisation. A period of consolidation is also beneficial and allows us time to consider the impact of changes and plan for the future. To this end I am working towards a planning day for all Public Defenders and key support staff to identify our strengths and weaknesses and to develop strategies to further improve the way we manage our work. This will take place in the next financial year and I am looking forward to the opportunity to report on our progress following this event.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of all Public Defenders and our support staff who have given me incredible support in a sometimes challenging but undeniably rewarding year.



Mark Ierace SC

Senior Public Defender

## **Our Role**

Public Defenders are barristers and members of the New South Wales Bar Association. All Public Defenders are independent statutory officers, appointed by the Governor in Council pursuant to the *Public Defenders Act 1995*.

The terms of appointment under the *Public Defenders Act 1995* were amended this year to remove life tenure for Public Defenders appointed after the commencement of the new provisions. Under the amendments, Public Defenders may now be appointed for a period of up to seven years and may be reappointed after that term expires. The Senior and Deputy Senior Public Defenders are appointed for set but renewable terms.

Under the Act, the principal duty of a Public Defender is to represent legally assisted people charged with serious criminal offences and who have been granted legal aid by Legal Aid NSW (LAC), the Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited (ALS) or Community Legal Centres (CLCs).

As barristers, Public Defenders operate in a manner conforming to the rules and customs of the New South Wales Bar. The head of Chambers is the Senior Public Defender. Public Defenders are bound by the Bar Rules and are subject to the same disciplinary regime in relation to professional conduct as other counsel.

## **Functions of the Senior Public Defender**

The Senior Public Defender is responsible to the Attorney General for the due exercise of his functions under the Act. Those functions are set out in detail in 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, assistance to Public Defenders and monitoring their work;
- Consulting with Legal Aid NSW, Community Legal Centres and the Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited on the provision of legal assistance to legally assisted persons; and
- Advising the Attorney General on law reform.

Two Deputy Senior Public Defenders assisted the Senior Public Defender in his duties in this reporting period.

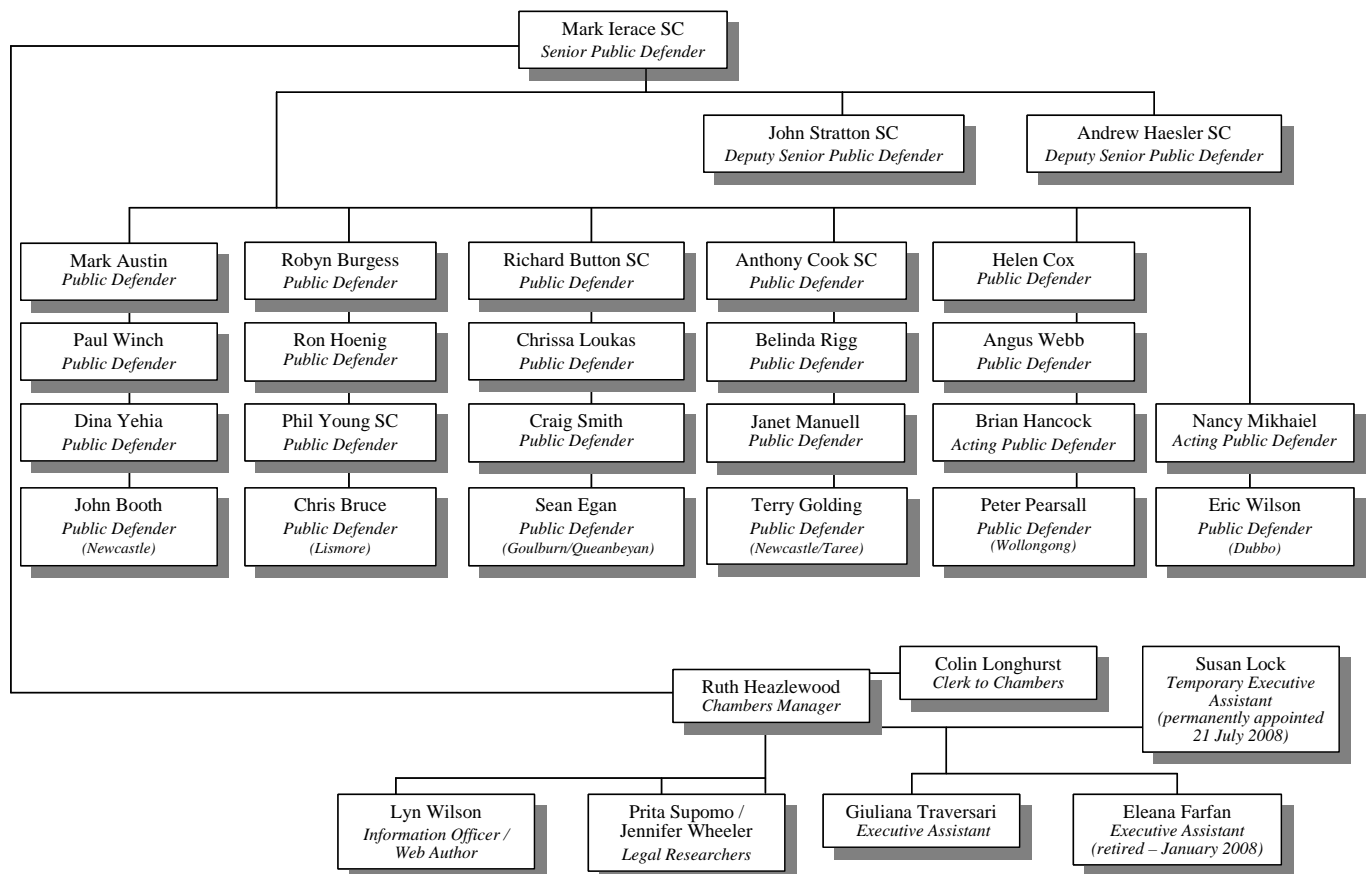
## **Functions of Public Defenders**

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 Act* proceedings and related matters.

The Senior Public Defender may also establish written guidelines on the exercise of the above functions by the Public Defenders.





## Service Level Agreements

Public Defenders represent legally assisted people as defined by our Act. Most of our matters are briefed by the LAC (about 86 per cent) either directly or by private solicitors acting under a grant of legal aid. Matters referred by the ALS accounts for about 14 per cent of our work. Public Defenders may also appear in certain coronial hearings at the request of the Crown Solicitor.

Formal arrangements for access to our services are contained in Service Level Agreements (SLAs), which are negotiated annually with the LAC and ALS. These agreements set a framework for the types of work undertaken by Public Defenders, with priority given to more serious and complex matters, such as appellate work and Supreme Court trials. By focussing on these high-cost matters, Public Defender services are used in the most efficient and effective manner.

An added benefit of the SLAs is that they enhance the level of communication between the parties. The agreements require regular consultation, which helps maintain strong relationships with the LAC 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. This year, five full-time Public Defenders were based at Dubbo, Lismore, Newcastle, Taree and Wollongong. Terry Golding, our Public Defender based at Taree, retired at the end of May. These Public Defenders appear predominantly in the District Court sitting in their regional area. One part-time Public Defender is based in Goulburn. Other Public Defenders attend regional District and Supreme Court sittings across NSW as determined by the SLAs and their availability.

Public Defenders receive funding from both the LAC and ALS under these agreements (see p.6).

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

Public Defenders have long been regarded as an integral part of the justice system. Their extensive experience and expertise as criminal barristers is well recognised by all participants involved in the administration of criminal justice. Both the LAC and ALS use the services of Public Defenders in difficult and complex cases whenever possible to ensure the most effective use of legal aid resources.

In addition to providing representation to legally aided clients, Public Defenders also play an important role beyond the courtroom through their involvement in government and other committees. The Senior Public Defender and Deputy Senior Public Defenders participate in the District and Supreme Court User Groups in addition to other committees listed below.

The Senior Public Defender is a member of the Sentencing Council, the Trial Efficiency Working Group, the Supreme Court Media Consultation Committee and other Court committees which aim to improve the administration of the criminal justice system in NSW.

Public Defenders also work closely with the NSW Bar Association and are actively involved in the Association's committees as well as being consulted on criminal law issues.

## **Funding and Accountability**

### *Funding*

The primary source of funding is the Attorney General's Department. The Public Defenders' budget for this financial year was \$6,623,946. This was the net position after adjustments were made for Crown liabilities and depreciation. Employee-related expenses continue to represent about 85 per cent of the total cost of services.

Additional revenue is derived from:

- The LAC providing \$651,566 under the current SLA – this funds two Public Defender positions and provides partial funding for one of our Legal Research Officers. This amount includes Commonwealth funding equivalent to one Public Defender salary plus on-costs;
- The ALS providing \$150,000 under the current SLA;
- Fees for the Public Defenders annual criminal law conference and other continuing legal education seminars; and
- Fees for use of the Public Defenders' conference room.

The Public Defenders' finances are managed by the Attorney General's Department and no separate accounting facility exists at Chambers.

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

### *Accountability*

The Public Defenders are accountable to the Attorney General and his Department through the provision of standard quarterly reports on agreed performance indicators, including human resources and financial information. We are also required to provide information for the Department's Annual Report.

Reports are also provided to the LAC on completed matters, including Commonwealth cases, for which we receive separate funding under the SLA. Ad hoc reports may be provided to the ALS as requested.

The Public Defenders are not public servants under the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002*. However, Public Defenders have adopted the administrative policies and procedures of the Department. Support staff are public servants and therefore bound by both the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002* and *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*.

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

### *Business Plan*

Improving our data systems continues to be a high priority. However, funding issues continue to delay the project. As an interim measure, considerable time and effort have been expended on cleaning up data and refining our manual system to more accurately collect and record the required reporting information. The data management system used by the LAC and DPP is now being considered as a possible option to assist with the development of our online booking and brief management software.

Another priority has been the provision of Public Defender representation in regional areas. The Senior Public Defender visited each regional area where a Public Defender is based to discuss wide ranging matters with that Public Defender and local LAC and ALS staff, including the impact of working in physical isolation from other Public Defenders, the need for additional Public Defenders, accommodation and IT support issues.

As a result of these discussions, there are plans to place more Public Defenders in country NSW, initially at Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour and Lismore. These positions will be filled from existing resources.

We also continued to work with the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Courts, the LAC and ALS to increase efficiency in proceedings by involving Public Defenders in cases at the earliest opportunity. This model has proved effective where Public Defenders are able to appear or advise in committal proceedings for murder and other very serious offences. The identification of issues at or following committal can reduce the amount of subsequent time in court and can often lead to an earlier resolution of the case.

A separate Supreme Court matters database has been established to identify matters capable of being settled prior to trial with the aim of making early contact with the Crown to resolve or clarify issues and to negotiate pleas where appropriate.

(Full details of our Business Plan can be seen on our website).

## **Legal Representation**

There are 24 Public Defenders for the whole of NSW, so it is inevitable that the demand for our services always exceeds our capacity. This year we accepted 1,386 requests for assistance and declined 1,023 requests.

The acceptance and allocation of briefs to Public Defenders is largely determined by the Service Level Agreements with the LAC and ALS. The aim of these agreements is to ensure the most cost effective use of our mutual resources. Set out below are the types of matters where Public Defenders are briefed:

- Supreme Court trials;
- Long and/or complex District Court trials;
- Circuit work at nominated regional centres;
- Appellate work in the High Court and Court of Criminal Appeal; and
- Commonwealth matters.

Public Defenders also appear in coronial inquiries either at the request of the LAC, the ALS or the Crown Solicitors Office. Public Defenders have also appeared in a number of important cases in the Northern Territory at the request of the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA).

Of the total number of matters completed:

- District Court matters comprise 47.5%
- Supreme Court 14%;
- CCA matters 25%;
- High Court matters 2%; and
- Local, Coroner's and Children's Court's comprise 10% of finalised cases.

Preparation time amounted to 3,348 days with an additional 3,147 conference hours spent with solicitors, clients and witnesses. This year, Public Defenders spent 2,300 days in court.

<b>Matters Completed 2007 - 2008</b>			
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Commonwealth</b>	<b>% of total</b>
High Court advices & appeals	19	1	2
Court of Criminal Appeal advices & appeals	229	11	25
Court of Appeal	9	0	0.9
Supreme Court trial & sentence matters	115	25	14
District Court trial & sentence matters	457	7	47.5
Local Court committals & related matters	80	3	8.5
Coroners Court	6	0	0.6
Children's Court	11	0	1.2
Northern Territory Magistrates & Supreme Court	3	0	0.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100</b>

<b>TOTAL MATTERS</b>	<b>976</b>
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<b>Other Assistance (non-court)</b>	<b>688</b>
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Despite ongoing vacancies in Public Defender positions throughout the year, we have increased the number of matters completed by 14 per cent, as compared with last year.

Targets were met or exceeded in all areas except for Court of Criminal Appeal matters. This reduction was not unexpected due to some rearrangement of CCA work following the resignation in mid-2007 of Chris Craigie SC, whose practice was solely dedicated to this jurisdiction. In addition, the allocation of Richard Button SC to the terrorism trial has also reduced our capacity to maintain the previous level of work in this area.

Last year saw considerable time spent on representation in the committals of those charged under the new terrorism legislation. This year the focus has shifted to the trial proceedings, which commenced in February 2008 at the Parramatta Justice Precinct Supreme Court. Two Public

Defenders, Richard Button SC and Dina Yehia have been briefed in this matter, which is expected to run well into 2009.

## Highlights

Public Defenders are regarded as one of the leading chambers of criminal defence barristers in NSW. Their reputation also extends beyond NSW as demonstrated by some of the cases mentioned below. These cases represent only a snapshot of the many cases conducted by Public Defenders.

- **CTM v The Queen** - This was a High Court Appeal against a decision of the NSW Court of Criminal Appeal that the defence of honest and reasonable mistake as to age did not apply to offences involving sexual intercourse with a person between the age of 14–16 years (s. 66C(3) *Crimes Act NSW*). The High Court found that the defence did apply.
- **Hillier v R** - A Public Defender was asked to appear in the ACT Court of Appeal to argue a complex issue involving a murder conviction, where a challenge was made to the method of DNA analysis and presentation of this material to the jury. The appeal was successful and a new trial was ordered.
- **R v F** - This was an extremely complex medical case with over 30 expert witnesses where a mother was accused of murdering two of her children and the attempted murder of a third child by the administration of toxic substance when the children were in hospital. After a painstaking examination of the evidence (consisting of nearly 100 folders), and a lengthy voir dire testing the Crown's experts, the Supreme Court Judge rejected key aspects of this evidence which led to the DPP not proceeding with the charges.
- The cases of **Winters**, **Cornwall** and **Tillman v Attorney General NSW** - These were the first three appeal cases under the new serious sex offenders legislation and were important in testing the parameters of the new legislation.
- **Nguyen v R** - This case dealt with the issue of the use of police evidence to explain coded messages used by drug dealers in intercepted telephone conversations.
- **Representation in the Northern Territory** – The Northern Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency once again sought the services of a Public Defender for a murder committal and trial. The Public Defender who appeared in this matter received a letter commending his "dedication and hard work."

## Secondments

This year saw the reintroduction of reciprocal secondments between the Crown Prosecutors and the Public Defenders.

The Attorney General, John Hatzistergos, promoted the reintroduction of secondments in 2007. Secondments of Public Defenders have occurred in previous years and have included transfers to the Criminal Law Review Division of the Attorney General's Department as well as to the Crown Prosecutors.

The section of the *Crown Prosecutors Act*, which provides for the Attorney General to arrange for secondments, is section 7A and was inserted in that Act in 1995. The corresponding section in the *Public Defenders Act* is section 15 and was also enacted in 1995.

The secondment is seen as an acting appointment and, as such, is limited in time by each of the relevant Acts to no more than 12 months at a time.

In the first term, Paul Cattini was seconded from the Crown Prosecutors and Anthony Cook SC, Public Defender, transferred to the Crown Prosecutors in Sydney. Paul took over Anthony's commitments in the Coffs Harbour District Court as well as his Sydney commitments in the District and Supreme Courts.

In the second term Ron Hoenig took up the secondment to the Crown Prosecutors whilst Paul Cattini remained with the Public Defenders.

Paul Cattini made the following observations of his time here at Public Defenders, noting:

*"If it is to continue, there must be more people from the Defenders willing to have a peek at life on the other side. It has always been my opinion that we are all on the same paddock, just wearing different Guernseys.*

*I have enjoyed this year at the Public Defenders very much and wish I could extend it at least for another year, if not longer."*

It should be noted that Ron Hoenig has agreed to continue his secondment for another six months and has commented that there is much to be learnt from both sides.

### **Other Assistance Provided**

Public Defenders also act as an important resource for the legal profession generally, through the provision of telephone and brief non-case written advices. This year, 688 instances of advice were provided to the profession on legal, ethical and practice issues. Often Public Defenders are asked to provide urgent telephone advice to practitioners calling from Court. Although this is often an interruption to the particular matter they are working on, all calls are taken and dealt with as soon as possible by any available Public Defender.

Our website is also a valuable resource for the profession, students and the general public with the site receiving at least 235,675 "hits" this year. The sentencing tables and other resources on our website are used by both practitioners and the judiciary, who regularly comment on the usefulness of this resource.

### **Law Reform**

An important function of Public Defenders under the Act is the provision of advice to the Attorney General and others on law reform. We regularly make submissions on criminal law reform at the request of the NSW and Australian Law Reform Commissions, Criminal Law Review Division and Parliamentary Committees of Inquiry. In addition, a number of Public Defenders participate in law reform committees and advisory groups.

The Senior Public Defender (or his delegate) has a statutory right as intervener in Guideline Judgments under the *Crimes Sentencing Procedure Act 1999*. No applications were made under these provisions this year.

Mark Ierace SC, Senior Public Defender was appointed as a member of the NSW Sentencing Council. The Council meets 10 times per year.

The Senior Public Defender is also a member of the Trial Efficiency Working Group and in that capacity met with the Chief Judge of the Victorian County Court, Judge Rozenes, to exchange information on strategies to improve efficiency in the courts.

### **Major written submissions were made on the following:**

- The NSW Law Reform Commission reference on changes to the Jury Amendment Bill 2007 on expanded juries for long criminal trials. Certain recommendations made in our submission were supported by the NSW Bar Association and ultimately adopted as part of the legislation.
- Submission to the NSW Sentencing Council on a review of the Periodic Detention Scheme.
- Submission on the NSW Ombudsman's Report on DNA sampling.
- Response on proposed amendments to the *Evidence Act* recommended by the joint Commonwealth, NSW and Victorian Law Reform Commissions.
- Submission to the NSW Parliamentary Committee inquiry on the prohibition of names of children involved in criminal proceedings.
- Submission on the NSW Sentencing Council's review of penalties for sexual assault offences.
- Submission to the Criminal Law Review Division on youth conduct orders.

### **Participation in Committees**

Public Defenders are frequently invited to participate on various committees involved with the administration of justice. This year Public Defenders were members of the following committees:

- The NSW Bar Association Criminal Law Committee.
- The NSW Bar Association Human Rights Committee.
- The Court of Criminal Appeal and Common Law Division Court Users Group.
- The Supreme Court Media Consultation Group.
- NSW Trial Efficiency Working Group.
- NSW Sentencing Council.
- The DNA Review Panel.
- International Criminal Law Congress Organising Committee.
- District Court Criminal Listing Committee.
- Australian Law Reform Federal Sentencing Committee.
- Australian Law Reform Review of the Evidence Act Committee.
- Western NSW Community Legal Centre Committee.
- The Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force.
- Two Public Defenders were elected members of the NSW Bar Council.
- Membership of International Bar Association Criminal Law Committee Taskforce.
- Sydney University Institute of Criminology Advisory Committee.
- University of Wollongong Law School Advisory Committee.
- Criminal Law Review Working Group.
- Department of Corrective Services Legal Practitioners Committee.

### **National and International Study Tours**

This year we were visited by the following:

- The CEO and a senior manager of the South African Legal Aid Board.
- Members of the Kyoto Bar Association.
- Queensland Public Defenders.

## **Indigenous Lawyers Program**

Since 2001, the Public Defenders have provided an Indigenous Law Graduates Program after the Attorney General approved funding under the Indigenous Justice Strategy. Funding of up to \$20,000 per graduate per annum is now provided under the Department's Aboriginal Program. The aim of the program was initially to assist aboriginal law graduates establish themselves at the NSW Bar.

The program has expanded in the last two years to include all law graduates needing assistance to move into their legal career, not just those wishing to go to the Bar. Funding can now be directed to pay for the practical legal training component necessary for admission to practise as a solicitor. Under this program, Public Defenders pay the course fees and the successful applicant is paid a wage based on a summer clerk's salary.

Applications are considered by one of the Deputy Senior Public Defenders usually in consultation with the NSW Bar Association, and, where relevant, the relevant faculty member of the tertiary institution.

This year we were able to assist two law graduates to complete their practical legal training and helped both find employment with Legal Aid NSW. We were also able to provide funding to Professor Larissa Behrendt to enable her to make the transition to the Bar.

## **Continuing Professional Education**

The Public Defenders Annual Criminal Law Conference is a draw card for criminal lawyers within NSW and beyond. This year we broke all attendance records with 221 practitioners attending.

In keeping with tradition, the Attorney General, the Honourable John Hatzistergos MLC, opened the conference. Our speakers included the Honourable Mary Gaudron AC QC, a former Justice of the High Court, who spoke on "Ethics and Appearing for the Unpopular" and Justice Lex Lasry QC, Judge of the Victorian Supreme Court, whose topic was "Appearing in Death Penalty Cases".

Other topics were cross-examination; violence and mental illness, the "Ice" epidemic, tendency and coincidence evidence; continuing detention orders for sex offenders and the nature of anxiety and how to manage it.

Public Defenders are highly sought after to speak at seminars and conferences conducted by the LAC, ALS, Young Lawyers, the NSW Bar Association, College of Law and other tertiary institutions. This year Public Defenders spoke at 40 conferences, talks, seminars and similar events, often in their own time on weekends, or after hours.

We also play an important role in providing tutors for criminal readers at the NSW Bar as well as providing instructors for the Bar Association Readers course and tutors for the Australian Institute of Advocacy.

Public Defenders continue to support law students with their external placement programs by offering volunteer opportunities throughout the year. We also provide a Public Defenders' prize as part of the University of NSW Law Faculty annual prize ceremony.

This year we continued our support of the Attorney General Department's involvement in the "Stepping into Law Program" by offering short term paid placement to a law student with a disability. The "Stepping into Law Program" is organised by the Australian Employers' Network on Disability for law students with a disability who are approaching the completion of their degree and provides valuable practical legal experience for those included in the program.



Our commitment to assisting students with disabilities also extends beyond this program and we were able to provide 16 weeks practical legal training for a paraplegic mature age law student. His previous career as a scientist proved to be a great assistance in one particularly demanding case involving volumes of complex medical evidence.

### Movements and Appointments as at the time of publication

		<b>Appointed</b>
<b>Senior Public Defender (SPD)</b>		
Mark Ierace SC	SPD originally appointed	16.07.07 16.07.07
<b>Deputy Senior Public Defenders (DSPD)</b>		
Andrew Haesler SC	DSPD originally appointed	28.07.05 24.01.95
John Stratton SC	DSPD originally appointed	28.07.05 10.03.97
<b>Public Defenders</b>		
Mark Austin		05.06.95
John Booth		09.08.01
Chris Bruce		26.04.88
Robyn Burgess	part-time	13.12.00
Richard Button SC		06.05.91
Anthony Cook SC		21.10.99
Helen Cox	part-time	17.07.95
Sean Egan	part-time	19.06.96
Terry Golding		24.11.03
	retired	30.05.08
Brian Hancock	acting acting (pending fixed term appointment)	29.08.05 29.10.08
Ron Hoenig		06.10.87
Chrissa Loukas		17.07.95
Janet Manuell		06.02.07
	fixed term appointment*	13.06.08
Nancy Mikhaiel	acting (pending fixed term appointment)	12.05.08
Peter Pearsall		06.12.01
Belinda Rigg		27.01.04
Craig Smith		13.06.06
	fixed term appointment*	13.06.08
Angus Webb		15.07.96
Eric Wilson		09.08.01
Paul Winch		21.10.99
Dina Yehia		28.07.99
Philip Young SC		24.07.02

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



## **Contact Details**

The Public Defenders' Chambers are located at

Carl Shannon Chambers  
Level 13  
175 Liverpool Street  
SYDNEY  
NSW 2000

DX 11545  
SYDNEY DOWNTOWN

### **Telephone**

(02) 9268 3111

### **Facsimile**

(02) 9268 3168

### **Website**

<http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/publicdefenders>

### **Chambers Manager**

Ruth Heazlewood

### **Clerk to Chambers**

Colin Longhurst

### **Hours**

Chambers are accessible to the public  
Monday to Friday between the hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm.