



MEDIA RELEASE

DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT

We are pleased to advise of the appointment of Annmarie Lumsden to the role of Director. Ms Lumsden replaces Suzan Cox QC who retires on 12 November 2021 after 19 years of service as Director and 30 years with Legal Aid.

Ms Lumsden comes to the role from Legal Aid NSW, where she has served as the Director, Crime for the past 5 years. In addition, Ms Lumsden has served in numerous roles in Legal Aid NSW in a career spanning 23 years, including as Acting Deputy CEO, Director of Strategic Planning and Policy, Acting Director of Family Law, Director of Grants and Solicitor Advocate (Criminal Law). Ms Lumsden became an Accredited Specialist in Criminal Law in 1999.

Duncan McConnel, Chair of the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission, said, “Ms Lumsden is a highly accomplished senior leader of a large, complex legal aid organisation with an unparalleled level of experience, as would be expected for the most senior role in Legal Aid in the Territory.

“Annmarie has been instrumental in driving reform both within the criminal justice system and more broadly, in the areas of domestic and family violence, family law and child protection, the right to silence and double jeopardy”.

Ms Lumsden brings substantial experience in issues of indigenous incarceration and justice, including the establishment of an Aboriginal people’s sentencing court in the District Court of NSW, the Bugmy Justice Project and work on initiatives to reduce indigenous incarceration, including reviewing the impacts of continuing detention and extended supervision regimes on Aboriginal people.

The Attorney-General acknowledged the outstanding work of outgoing Director Suzan Cox QC, “who has been a magnificent role model for lawyers with a passion for justice, in particular, advancing the cause of women lawyers and advocating for just for the disadvantaged.” Annmarie follows in that tradition as a strong advocate for reform across a wide range of areas including advocacy and the Courts.

The Commission and its staff look forward to working with Ms Lumsden, who will commence as Director on 6 December 2021.

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