

APPOINTMENT OF NEW FEDERAL MAGISTRATES

Attorney-General Philip Ruddock today announced the appointment of Mr Michael Burnett, Mr Stephen Coates and Ms Leanne Spelleken as federal magistrates.

"Mr Burnett brings to his new position more than 20 years of experience in general civil and commercial law as well as considerable expertise in Alternative Dispute Resolution," Mr Ruddock said. Mr Burnett, who has practised at the Queensland Bar since 1985, will take up his appointment on 24 November 2006 and will be based in Brisbane.

Mr Coates and Ms Spelleken are both experienced family law practitioners.

"Mr Coates is a barrister at the Brisbane Bar specialising in family law, and Ms Spelleken is currently a Senior Registrar with the Family Court," Mr Ruddock said. Mr Coates will commence on 27 November 2006 and will be based in Cairns. He will be the first federal judicial officer to be based there.

Ms Spelleken will be based in Brisbane and is due to commence on 11 December 2006.

"I congratulate all three new magistrates on their appointment to the Federal Magistrates Court and take great pleasure in wishing them every success in their new positions," Mr Ruddock said.

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