

APPOINTMENT OF NEW FEDERAL MAGISTRATE

Attorney-General Philip Ruddock today announced the appointment of Dr Tom Altobelli as a Federal Magistrate.

"Dr Altobelli brings to his new position considerable experience and expertise in family law, mediation, and civil litigation," Mr Ruddock said.

Before taking up his appointment Dr Altobelli was Special Counsel to the family law practice of Watts McCray Lawyers and he also held the position of Associate Professor, School of Law, University of Western Sydney.

Dr Altobelli is an accredited specialist in the areas of Family Law, Children's Law, and Mediation. He was admitted to practice by the Supreme Court of New South Wales in 1981 and has practised mainly as a family lawyer and civil litigator since that time. Dr Altobelli will take up his appointment on 13 November 2006 and will be based in the Sydney CBD.

He is among the five additional Federal Magistrates to be appointed from additional funding provided to the Federal Magistrates Court in the 2006-07 Budget.

"I congratulate Dr Altobelli on his appointment to the Federal Magistrates Court and take great pleasure in wishing him every success in his new position," Mr Ruddock said.

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