



**ATTORNEY-GENERAL
THE HON PHILIP RUDDOCK MP**

NEWS RELEASE

23 June 2006

120/2006

APPOINTMENT OF FOUR NEW FEDERAL MAGISTRATES

Attorney-General Philip Ruddock today announced the appointments of Philip Burchardt, David Halligan, John O'Sullivan and Heather Riley as Federal Magistrates.

"Mr Burchardt, Mr Halligan, Mr O'Sullivan and Ms Riley bring to their new positions high level skills, experience and expertise," Mr Ruddock said.

Philip Burchardt has practised as a barrister in Victoria since 1989 and is a qualified arbitrator and mediator. He was previously a senior industrial officer with the Australian Universities Industrial Association, assistant general-secretary of the Federated Australian University Staff Association, and industrial officer for the Meat and Allied Trades Federation (Western Australian Division).

Mr Burchardt will take up his appointment on 10 July 2006 and will be based in Melbourne.

David Halligan was admitted to practice in 1974 and has been a Judicial Registrar with the Parramatta registry of the Family Court of Australia since 1991.

Mr Halligan will take up his appointment on 31 July 2006 and will be based in Parramatta.

Mr O'Sullivan was admitted to practice in Victoria in 2000. He has been a senior adviser to the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations since 2003.

Mr O'Sullivan has also worked as a lawyer with Telstra Corporation Limited and as a solicitor at Corrs Chambers Westgarth. In the past 12 years he has also been an industrial officer with the Metal Trades Industry Association (now Australian Industry Group) and with the New South Wales Farmers Association.

Mr O'Sullivan will take up his appointment on 10 July 2006 and will be based in Melbourne.

Heather Riley has practised as a barrister in Victoria since 1998 and is an accredited mediator.

She was previously a solicitor with the Australian Government Solicitor, where her work included appearances in the Commonwealth Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the Federal Court.

Ms Riley will take up her appointment on 3 July 2006 and will be based in Melbourne. She will do both family law and general federal law work.

Mr Burchardt and Mr O'Sullivan are among the six additional Federal Magistrates to be appointed as part of the Government's workplace relations reforms.

Mr Halligan will fill the vacancy left by the appointment of Federal Magistrate Judy Ryan to the Family Court of Australia.

"I congratulate Mr Burchardt, Mr Halligan, Mr O'Sullivan and Ms Riley on their appointments to the Federal Magistrates Court and wish them success in their new positions," Mr Ruddock said.

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