



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

NEWS RELEASE

18 August 2005

148/2005

APPOINTMENT OF TWO NEW FEDERAL MAGISTRATES

Attorney-General Philip Ruddock today announced the appointments of Kevin Laphorn and Keith Slack as federal magistrates.

“Mr Laphorn and Mr Slack are experienced practitioners who bring with them a wealth of expertise that will be invaluable to the Federal Magistrates Court,” Mr Ruddock said.

Kevin Laphorn has practised as a barrister in both Queensland and New South Wales since 1989. Mr Laphorn will take up his appointment on 29 August 2005 and be based in Newcastle.

“Mr Laphorn has worked in a diverse range of areas including family law disputes, child protection matters, regulatory and criminal prosecutions as well as administrative, coronial and civil cases,” said Mr Ruddock.

Keith Slack was admitted to practice as a solicitor in 1978 and as a barrister in 1992.

“Mr Slack has practised at the Queensland Bar since 1992, mainly in the area of family law. During his time as a solicitor from 1978-92 he also practised in criminal law and civil litigation,” said Mr Ruddock.

Mr Slack will take up his appointment on 12 September 2005 and will be based in Brisbane.

Mr Ruddock said the appointment of Mr Slack to Brisbane reflected the heavy workload of the Court in Brisbane.

“The appointment of a fourth federal magistrate in Brisbane demonstrates the desire of the Government and the Court to be flexible in making new appointments to ensure that resources are directed to the areas of most need,” said Mr Ruddock.

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