



Pru Goward

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Medical Research

Assistant Minister for Health

Minister for Women

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW PRESIDENT FOR NSW MENTAL HEALTH REVIEW TRIBUNAL

Minister for Mental Health Pru Goward today announced the appointment of his Honour Judge Richard Cogswell SC as President of the Mental Health Review Tribunal.

Ms Goward said Judge Cogswell is an experienced lawyer and existing District Court judge with extensive experience working with mental health legislation. He takes over the position this month from President, Professor Dan Howard SC who is retiring.

“I congratulate Judge Cogswell on his appointment to this esteemed and valuable position within the community which provides vital oversight of the mental health system in NSW, ensuring people who are mentally ill receive effective care and treatment,” Ms Goward said.

“Judge Cogswell brings a wealth of expertise to the role. He will be a tremendous asset to the Tribunal and the people of NSW, especially consumers, carers and families.”

As President, Judge Cogswell will provide leadership and oversee more than 130 members of the Tribunal who conduct reviews of persons involuntarily admitted to hospitals, persons on community treatment orders, and forensic and correctional patients.

Judge Cogswell has undertaken private and public practice at the NSW Bar, including roles as Crown Prosecutor from 1991 and NSW Crown Advocate from 2000-2007. In 2007 he was appointed a judge of the District Court of New South Wales, sitting in criminal and civil cases in Sydney, Parramatta and on country circuits.

Judge Cogswell said he was looking forward to taking over from his former colleague, and widely respected, Dan Howard.

“In sentencing offenders I have had to balance competing factors such as justice and mercy and, importantly, the protection of the community,” Judge Cogswell said.

“This new role will similarly require a balancing of important competing personal and public considerations.”

The Mental Health Review Tribunal is a quasi-judicial body constituted under section 140 of the Mental Health Act 2007. Its functions operate for people receiving either involuntary or voluntary treatment under the Mental Health Act and forensic and correctional patients under the Mental Health (Forensic Provisions) Act 1990.