



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

Media Release
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Local Appointment of Family Court Judge to Newcastle

Attorney-General, Robert McClelland, today announced the appointment of local barrister Mr Stewart Austin to the Newcastle registry of the Family Court of Australia.

Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP, supported this announcement and was particularly pleased to see a local practitioner gain such a prestigious position.

"Mr Austin is to be congratulated on this important appointment," Ms Grierson said.

"I am confident that he will continue the established Newcastle Registry tradition of collaborative engagement with the legal profession, and all user groups, to enhance the service provided by the Family Court."

Mr Austin will take up his appointment to the Family Court in July 2009, which follows on from the retirement of the much admired Hon Justice Mullane in September 2008.

Mr Austin will become the Newcastle Registry's second resident judge, joining Justice Judy Ryan.

He is the first judge appointed under the Rudd Labor Government's transparent process for judicial appointments.

"I look forward to working with him," Ms Grierson said.

Media contacts: 4926 1555

Canberra
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Ph: 02 6277 4221
Fax: 02 6277 8461



Newcastle
427 Hunter Street
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300
Ph: 02 4926 1555
Fax: 02 4926 1895
www.sharongrierson.com