



Hon Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

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RETIREMENT AGE RAISED FOR PROSECUTORS AND PUBLIC DEFENDERS

Some of the state's most experienced prosecutors and public defenders will be able to extend their careers by up to seven years, with the compulsory retirement age being raised to 72, NSW Attorney General Greg Smith SC announced today.

"The NSW Government does not want to see talented crown prosecutors and public defenders forced into retirement prematurely when they are mentally sharp and still have a great deal to offer the NSW justice system," Mr Smith said.

The retirement age will be increased from 65 to 72 for a range of positions, including:

- Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions;
- Solicitor for Public Prosecutions;
- Senior Crown Prosecutors;
- Deputy Senior Crown Prosecutors;
- Crown Prosecutors;
- Senior Public Defenders; and,
- Public Defenders

The new compulsory retirement age will apply to all those appointed to these positions since 1 November 2007.

"Increasing the retirement age to 72 will make senior positions within the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Public Defenders Office more desirable, which will help to attract the highest calibre of candidate," Mr Smith said.

The changes will mirror existing retirement requirements for judicial officers, the Director of Public Prosecutions, and future Solicitors General.

"It is in the interests of consistency and fairness to apply the same retirement age of 72 to these senior statutory positions within the law," Mr Smith said.

The NSW Government will also move to increase the independence of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions by removing a requirement that the Executive Director of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions report to the Attorney General. The Executive Director, who is responsible for the efficient and economical management of the functions, resources and activities of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, will continue to report to the Director of Public Prosecutions.