



# Hon Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General  
Minister for Justice

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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**22 August 2011**

### **NEW PRIVACY COMMISSIONER APPOINTED**

The NSW Attorney General, Greg Smith SC, today announced the appointment of Dr Elizabeth Coombs as NSW Privacy Commissioner.

Dr Coombs currently works as a consultant on governance and accountability issues, and has undertaken assignments for a range of NSW public sector agencies.

Over the past 25 years she has held senior positions within the public sector, including Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Fair Trading, acting Director General of the Department of Juvenile Justice and Assistant Director General of the NSW Premier's Department. Her experience also includes roles in service agencies and state-owned corporations.

Since leaving the public service in mid-2007, Dr Coombs has served as Commissioner of the NSW Local Government Grants Commission and as an independent chair of audit and risk committees.

Mr Smith said Dr Coombs would be an impartial advocate for the protection of privacy in her new role.

"Dr Coombs will help ensure government agencies comply with information protection principles, advise the community on privacy issues and research the impact that developments in technology, policy and the law could have on privacy," Mr Smith said.

Dr Coombs will replace John McAteer, who has served as Acting Privacy Commissioner for 13 months.

"I thank Mr McAteer for his strong work in raising public awareness about privacy issues and wish Dr Coombs every success in the role," Mr Smith said.

Dr Coombs will start as Privacy Commissioner in early November. Her appointment runs for five years.