



# Media Release

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF SENIOR COUNSEL FOR VICTORIA 2018

**Thursday, 29 November 2018**

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Anne Ferguson today announced the appointment of 25 new Senior Counsel for Victoria:

Raymond Gibson  
Andrew Ingram  
William Lye  
Francis O'Loughlin  
Peter Rozen  
Andrew Palmer  
David McAndrew  
Colin Mandy  
Richard Dalton  
Elizabeth Brimer  
Patrick Hannebery  
Tomo Boston  
Jennifer Firkin  
Diana Piekusis  
Christopher Archibald  
Dr Andrew Hanak  
Fiona Forsyth  
Anthony Strahan  
Cam Truong  
Dr Catherine Button  
Frances Dalziel  
Dr Michael Rush  
Juliet Forsyth  
Scott Smith  
Eugene Wheelahan

Chief Justice Ferguson said the 2018 silks were chosen from 84 applicants (66 men and 18 women) after a thorough consultation process with the Victorian Bar, the broader profession and the judiciary.

“The new silks are drawn from a wide range of backgrounds and areas of practice, and are highly regarded advocates and leaders in their fields,” the Chief Justice said.

“The successful applicants range in age from 43 to 61 and include the appointment of seven women.”

The Chief Justice said that of the 2,073 practising counsel in Victoria as at June 2018, 29.3 per cent (608) were women. For barristers of 15 years' experience and under, women comprise more than 40 per cent.

"Ideally, the composition of all levels of the legal profession would reflect the gender, cultural and ethnic diversity of Australian society," the Chief Justice said.

"Although there is a long way to go in this regard, we are edging forward to greater diversity and the Senior Counsel appointed today are part of that."

Background:

- In 2016 – 18 silks were chosen from 81 applicants (69 men and 12 women), including four women.
- In 2017 – 23 silks were chosen from 85 applicants (69 men and 16 women), including five women.
- In 2018, 25 silks were chosen from 84 applicants (66 men and 18 women), including seven women.
- In 2018, 23 judges have been appointed in Victoria from the ranks of Senior Counsel.

There will be a ceremonial sitting of the Supreme Court to welcome the new silks in the Banco Court on Thursday, 13 December at 9.15am. The proceedings will be web streamed and available to view live and on-demand.

#### **Supreme Court Media Contacts:**

##### **Sarah Dolan**

Communications and Public Affairs Director  
sarah.dolan@supcourt.vic.gov.au  
0429 815 763

##### **Andre Awadalla**

Media Coordinator  
media@supcourt.vic.gov.au  
0418 201 296