



SENATOR DAVID FEENEY
Parliamentary Secretary for Defence

MR 33/11

Thursday, 12 May 2011

New Chair for the Independent Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Senator David Feeney, today thanked Emeritus Professor Dennis Pearce AO for his contribution to the independent Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal. He announced that the position of Chair of the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal will be advertised shortly.

“It was with great regret that I have accepted the resignation of the current chair of the Tribunal, Emeritus Professor Dennis Pearce AO.

“I have greatly valued his advice and have been impressed by the quality of the Tribunal’s reports on the difficult and sensitive issues that the Tribunal has been required to arbitrate,” Senator Feeney said.

Senator Feeney acknowledged: “This is a busy time for the Tribunal, given the commencement of the Victoria Cross Inquiry. However, I am confident that the rigorous selection process will find a new Chair with the experience, qualifications and expertise needed to lead the Tribunal.”

As well as leading particular inquiries like the Victoria Cross Inquiry, the Chair also manages the Tribunal, attends panel hearings and meetings, convenes meetings of the whole of the Tribunal when required, ratifies panel decisions and makes recommendations to the Australian Government on matters referred to the Tribunal for review.

In order to undertake such an important role, the Chair will:

- be well respected and have proven experience in leadership roles, although not necessarily in Defence or veterans areas,
- have a sound knowledge of the operation of government, and
- have a legal background or experience in administrative decision making.

Advertisements will be placed in a range of national newspapers shortly.

All inquiries for the position should be directed to:

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