



**ADDRESS OF MR DAMIEN O'BRIEN QC ON THE OCCASION
OF A WELCOME CEREMONY FOR
DEPUTY CHIEF MAGISTRATE ANTHONY GETT
ON MONDAY, 12 APRIL 2021
BRISBANE**

1. May it please the court.
2. On behalf of the Bar Association of Queensland it gives me great pleasure to welcome and congratulate your Honour, on your appointment as Deputy Chief Magistrate of the Magistrates Court of Queensland.
3. **DEPUTY CHIEF MAGISTRATE GETT**, I extend particular welcome to
 - your wife – Sylvia;
 - your sons - Oscar and Lewis;
 - your father – Kenneth;
 - your sister – Catherine;
 - your brother - Stephen and his wife Kathryn and their children George and Ellen; and
 - your sister-in-law - Louise.

It is a particularly proud day for your family – it is wonderful that they can all be here.

4. We also welcome your many work colleagues and friends who have been able to join us here today.
5. Your Honour brings a wealth of experience to this role, having been previously appointed as a Magistrate in January 2013, and more recently, as Acting Deputy Chief Magistrate since October 2020.
6. Your Honour completed your secondary education at Brisbane Grammar School, and went on to complete a Bachelor of Visual Arts from Griffith

University in 1992. Your Honour then travelled to Japan where you worked and volunteered at various organisations, including as a Foreign Advisor at the Osaka Citizens Centre and as a Special Projects Coordinator at Osaka YMCA Gakuin Language Centre.

7. After some years, you decided to return to Australia and completed a Bachelor of Laws from the Queensland University of Technology in 2001.
8. You were called to the Bar in November 2001, and commenced your legal career at the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions in Brisbane. As a federal prosecutor, your Honour appeared as counsel in all courts from the High Court of Australia to the Magistrates Court of Queensland. You prosecuted both State and Federal offences, primarily in the areas of child exploitation and fraud. Of note is your work in assisting in the drafting of the *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Sexual Offences Against Children) Act 2010* which amended and introduced legislation concerning sexual offences against children. Your Honour worked at the DPP for over 10 years and in that time held numerous positions including Legal Officer, Principal Legal Officer and Acting Senior Assistant Director at the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions.
9. In January 2013, you were appointed Magistrate of the Magistrates Court of Queensland, a position you have held for the last eight years. Your Honour served as a Magistrate at the Cairns Magistrates Court from January 2013 to December 2015, after which you were based in Brisbane. Your leadership in this role was recognised when you were elevated to the position of Acting Deputy Chief Magistrate and Brisbane Courts Co-ordinator in October 2020. As a Magistrate your Honour managed committal and complex case lists.
10. Apart from court work, your Honour has performed various administrative roles including, among other things, overseeing the listing of matters before the court, liaising with key stakeholders, and drafting key documents such as Practice Directions and internal protocols. Your Honour has also been an active member of numerous judicial committees such as the Magistrates Criminal Law Committee, Magistrates Ethics Committee and Supreme Court Library Committee, to name a few. You are also the current Chair of various other committees such as the Magistrates Advisory Committee, Magistrates Cultural Diversity Committee and Magistrates Therapeutic Jurisprudence Committee.

11.As a Magistrate, your Honour was known for

- an outstanding commitment to your court work, particularly child protection matters;
- incredible work ethic – your Honour was known to start work at 5 in the morning;
- your calm nature - both in and out of court;
- your generosity - freely offering your time to others and mentoring junior lawyers;

12.Unsurprisingly then, your appointment has been welcomed by all quarters of the profession.

13.Beyond your work in the courtroom, your Honour is also a member of the Board of Directors of the International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law (Vancouver, Canada), an international non-profit organisation comprised of members of the judiciary, legal profession, law enforcement and academics from around the world. Since becoming a member of the society your Honour has organised two internal conferences in Brisbane involving delegates from around the world, and in 2019 received the President’s Medal for Service to the Law and Criminal Law Reform.

14.The Bar and its members extend to you and your family its best wishes on this well-deserved appointment. We thank your Honour for your continued service to the community and the profession, and wish you a long and successful tenure as Deputy Chief Magistrate.

15.May it please the court.