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New Registrar-General

David Lisson has been appointed as the Registrar-General, Registrar of Birth, Deaths & Marriages and Public Trustee.

After a 15 year career as a private barrister and solicitor in British Columbia, Canada, David immigrated with his family to Australia in 1994 where he joined the then Department of Law in Darwin as a senior solicitor in the Litigation Division. He has appeared at all levels of the courts in Australia, including the High Court, and has had conduct of a number of landmark decisions. He became Director of the Litigation Division in early 1998 and has overseen the re-establishment of the capacity of the legal services to government in strategic, sensitive and whole of government issues.

Amended LTO Forms and New Forms

New Registrar-General's Directions regarding forms and amended forms has been gazetted on 24 April 2013. It will be compulsory from 1 July 2014 to use the new forms. Instruments lawfully executed prior to 1/7/2014 will still be able to be registered. Documents executed after that date in the old format will require approval by the Registrar-General before acceptance.

The new forms are available on the Land Titles Website:

www.nt.gov.au/justice/bdm/land_title_office/forms.shtml

Or contact the Office Manager Nicholas McGrath on 8999 7415 for copies of the forms by email.

New Registrar-General's Directions

New Registrar-General's Directions have been issued on 24 April 2013. These replace all previous directions issued. A full list of qualified witness is available on the Land Titles Website:

www.nt.gov.au/justice/reggeneral/directions.shtml

The main changes have been to separate Northern Territory qualified witnesses from interstate witnessing requirements.

Northern Territory

Schedule 1 Witnesses to Instruments *Land Title Act* remains unchanged.

- A commissioner for oaths
- A member of the Legislative Assembly
- A Legal practitioner
- A person holding office under the *Supreme Court Act*, the *Justices Act*, the *Local Court Act* or the *Registration Act*
- A member of the Police Force
- A person licensed as a Conveyancing agent or real estate agent under the *Agents Licensing Act*
- A notary public

The following persons may also witness execution of instruments in the Northern Territory

Annexure A

- Accountant
- Branch or Lending Manager of a bank, building society, credit union or the Territory Insurance Office
- Chief Executive officer of a local government council constituted under the *Local Government Act*
- Headmaster or Principal of a Northern Territory school
- Justice of the Peace
- Licensed surveyor under the *Licensed Surveyors Act*
- Medical practitioner
- Pharmacist
- Postmaster or Manager of a post office

A State or Territory within Australia

Annexure B

- Accountant
- Branch or Lending Manager of a bank, building society or credit union
- Commissioner for Declarations
- Commissioner for Oaths
- Commissioner for taking Affidavits
- Deputy Registrar of Titles
- Deputy Registrar-General
- Headmaster or Principal of a school
- Justice of the Peace
- Legal Practitioner
- Licensed Conveyancing Agent
- Licensed Real Estate Agent
- Licensed Surveyor
- Medical practitioner
- Member or Officer of a Police Force
- Notary Public
- Pharmacist
- Postmaster or Manager of a post office
- Recorder or Titles
- Registrar of Titles
- Registrar-General
- Town clerk or Chief executive officer of a local government council