

Official Opening

The Hon Michael Black AC
Chief Justice
of the Federal Court of Australia

THE HON MICHAEL BLACK AC Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia

Chief Justice Black was born in 1940. After attending schools in Australia, Egypt and England he received his further education at Wesley College, Melbourne and at the University of Melbourne where he studied law and then tutored in politics.

From 1964 until his appointment as Chief Justice in January 1991 he practised as a barrister. He became Queen's Counsel in 1980 and specialised in appellate work before the High Court of Australia and other appellate courts. He also appeared in notable cases in the fields of constitutional, commercial and industrial law as well as planning and environment law. Cases in the field of constitutional law included the Tasmanian Dam Case and the other constitutional cases concerning the Lemonthyme and Daintree World Heritage areas.

At the time of his appointment as Chief Justice he held the office of the Defence Force Advocate and was a member of the Board of the Royal Melbourne Hospital and Chairman of its Ethics Committee. He was a member of the Victorian Bar Council, the Foundation Chairman of the Victorian Bar's Course of Instruction for New Barristers and a member of the Council of the Leo Cussen Institute for Continuing Legal Education.

On Australia Day 1998, Chief Justice Black was made a Companion in the Order of Australia for service to the law, to the legal profession and to the judiciary.

Chief Justice Black has had a particular interest in legal education and in teaching at various levels. His interests outside the law include architecture, history and matters maritime. He delivered the F.S. Dethridge Memorial Lecture in 1999 on the topic of *Admiralty Jurisdiction and the Protection of Seafarers*.

As Chief Justice of the Federal Court he has, as well as his judicial duties, a statutory responsibility for the administration of the Court.