



 **ACT Ombudsman**

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24 May 2021

The Hon Joy Burch MLA
Speaker of the ACT Legislative Assembly
Legislative Assembly
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Speaker

I am writing to advise you of my decision to retire, with effect 31 July 2021. I will be advising my staff of this decision on Wednesday 26 May, after which I imagine my decision will be publicly known. Until then I'd be grateful if this advice could be kept confidential.

As you know, by longstanding arrangement, as the occupant of the role of Commonwealth Ombudsman, since 2017 I have also been the ACT Ombudsman.

It has been a privilege to serve the people of Canberra and the Legislative Assembly. During my term, I have been particularly pleased to have overseen a broadening and growth in the role of the ACT Ombudsman, reaching well beyond day-to-day complaint handling to oversight of the reportable conduct scheme; the inspectorial role with respect to the ACT Integrity Commission; oversight of strengthened FOI laws; and a support role to the Judicial Council.

As Commonwealth Ombudsman I have oversight responsibilities for the AFP. From that vantage point I've also been pleased to have been able to shine a particular light on aspects of the operations of the Canberra policing arm of the AFP, which I hope has had a beneficial impact at both a national and local level.

I have been grateful for the support I have received during my term from members of the Assembly, Ministers, and officials.

I also wish to advise that the Commonwealth Attorney-General has agreed that the current Deputy Ombudsman, Ms Penny McKay will act in the Ombudsman role for a period after I have left while substantive recruitment action is underway. I also understand that the substantive role will be publicly advertised shortly.

I have written in similar terms to the Chief Minister.

Yours sincerely



Michael Manthorpe PSM
ACT Ombudsman

