

The Hon Terence John Higgins AO

The Hon Terence John Higgins served a resident Judge of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory and a Judge of the Federal Court of Australia from 2 July 1990 to 13 September 2013. He was appointed Chief Justice on 31 January 2003 and served in that position until his retirement on 13 September 2013. On 9 June 2008 he was appointed an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia. He was born in Hobart, Tasmania but was educated at St Augustines Christian Brothers College in Yarraville, Victoria, and later, at St Edmund's College, Canberra and the Australian National University, Canberra. After completing articles of clerkship with J J O'Neill Solicitors he was admitted as a barrister and solicitor in the ACT in 1967 and served at the bar from 1984 being appointed as Queen's Counsel (ACT, NSW and Victoria) in 1987. He was Vice President of the ACT Bar Association from 1988 until his judicial appointment in 1990. Justice Higgins began practising law with J J O'Neill, solicitor in 1967 and remained until 1971 when he became partner in the law firm Higgins, Faulks & Martin (formerly Higgins & Faulks). In 1981 that firm became Higgins Solicitors and he remained a partner until 1984 when he went to the ACT Bar.

The former Chief Justice is currently the Immediate Past President of the National Royal Life Saving Society of Australia, the President of the ACT Branch of Royal Life Saving Society of Australia, Chairman of Youth Care Canberra and a member of the Australian Academy of Forensic Sciences ACT Chapter. Present member of University of Canberra Faculty Board since February 2009. Patron of Reserve Forces Day Council since 2008. In the past he has been involved in various committees and associations including National President of the Royal Life Saving Society of Australia (1997-2003; 2009-2011), Board Member Open Family Australia (1988-2010), Chair of the ACT Community Law Reform Committee (1994-96), Senior Member of the ACT Gaming and Liquor Authority (1987-90), Chairman of SEC Board 1990-2003 and President, Senior Common Room of John XXIII College ANU (1993-95). He was appointed to ADHREC (Australian Defence Forces Human Research Ethics Committee) in 1993 (then called ADMEC (Australian Defence Medical Ethics Committee)) and served on the committee until 2011. On 27 June 2003 he was appointed Honorary Air Commodore of No. 28 (City of Canberra) Squadron RAAF. On 23 April 2004 the Chief Justice was inducted as Honorary Ambassador for the ACT by the Chief Minister, Mr Jon Stanhope MLA. Adjunct Professor, University of Canberra 16 June 2011 to 16 June 2014.