

MEDIA RELEASE

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Top honour for Commission Chief Executive

The Corruption and Crime Commission has paid tribute to its Chief Executive, Mr Ray Warnes, who has today been awarded a Public Service Medal for his outstanding service to the Commission and his contribution to the public sector in senior roles over more than 30 years.

Commissioner John McKechnie said Mr Warnes was a most deserving recipient and his contribution to the Commission since his appointment in August 2015 had been immense.

“Mr Warnes has not only provided first-class advice, support and guidance to me as Commissioner, but he has been a transformative leader who has run an effective and dynamic organisation, led much-needed reforms, and been instrumental in making the Commission a highly effective and respected agency,” he said.

“Mr Warnes embodies public sector ethics of accountability and integrity. He leads by example and has always demonstrated the highest personal integrity, an exceptional work ethic and a willingness to innovate and reform.

“The current strength and good public standing of the Commission is, in large part, down to his vision, leadership and professionalism.”

The strength of Mr Warnes’ leadership was particularly demonstrated during the 14 months from April 2020 to June 2021 when he led the Commission while it was without a fulltime Commissioner. Working with a part-time Commissioner and his Executive colleagues, Mr Warnes ensured the momentum on important internal reforms was maintained, as was the Commission’s operational tempo.

Mr Warnes has initiated and led organisational change across the Commission; transformed its approach to corporate governance; and elevated the Commission’s approach to witness welfare to a point where it is considered best practice across Australia.

He has been described as a ‘quiet achiever’ under whose leadership the Commission’s relationship with the WA Police Force has moved from ‘challenging’ to professional and highly productive.

His keen interest in technology to promote reform and efficiency has also underpinned major updates to the Commission’s IT systems which has led to a more capable, nimble Commission and more informed decision-making.

Prior to joining the Commission, Mr Warnes’ demonstrated his exceptional leadership and

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engagement skills, and his commitment to innovation, during almost 20 years with the Department of Justice where he was seen as a 'go to' executive for difficult and major change.

His drive to be an 'early adopter' included the successful implementation of an electronic case management system for courts (recognised across Australia as a leading example of a courts records system) and the introduction of video technology in courts to support remote and vulnerable witnesses, and enable the secure presentation of prisoners without transport.

Other major projects in which Mr Warnes played a lead role included the delivery of the new District Courts building as a Public Private Partnership, the introduction of the State Administrative Tribunal, the development of the David Malcolm Justice Centre (which was opened a month before he joined the Commission), as well as the delivery of several new and upgraded regional courts.

His deep commitment to justice, and to improving outcomes for Aboriginal people engaged in the justice system, was also a key driver behind initiatives including the establishment of the Kalgoorlie Aboriginal Community Court, the implementation of tri-state Cross Border Justice arrangements and improved support for Aboriginal people as they navigated the courts system.

The Public Service Medal is an honour which recognises the outstanding public service of state, territory and local government employees.

Mr Ray Warnes most deservedly joins an elite group of Western Australian public servants whose outstanding contributions and careers are recognised by this Medal.

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