

**Opening of the Seventh Colloquium of  
The Judicial Conference of Australia  
31 May 2003**

**His Honour Mr John Anictomatis AO  
The Administrator of the Northern Territory**

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

It is my pleasure to be here today to open the Seventh Colloquium of the Judicial Conference of Australia.

I understand that the objectives of the Judicial Conference all relate to the public interest in maintaining a strong and independent judiciary within a democratic society that adheres to the rule of law.

In your travels around this beautiful city you may already have observed that Government House is close to Parliament House and the Supreme Court. Within this small area, and as in all other Australian jurisdictions, separation of the powers of the Legislative, Executive, and Judiciary is recognised and practiced.

This year's colloquium will be addressing a range of topics that are of interest and relevance to the Northern Territory community.

The Northern Territory, and Darwin in particular, has been home to refugees and migrants from a very large number of national and ethnic backgrounds. Multiculturalism and racial tolerance are great success stories in the Australian community, but no where more so than here in the Northern Territory.

I understand you will also be addressing issues such as the notion of traditional indigenous laws and their part in our judicial system, and the relationship between the judiciary and the media.

Like many things in life, law is heavily based in tradition and precedent, but it is also ever evolving and developing. Events such as this conference play a crucial role in that development. To hear others views, to share ideas, to seek to ever improve, are all part of the process of improvement and advancement.

Those involved in the judiciary (and all the research and support that goes with it) must be diligent, patient and philosophic. Some things will take longer than others, but many of their efforts will come to fruition.

May I therefore commend your efforts at this conference, which must certainly prove useful to the governments and communities you represent.

At the same time I trust you will enjoy your time in our wonderful city of Darwin.

Thank you