

## Media Release

Friday, 9 February 2024 10.00am

The office of the Ombudsman is very pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. David Robinson to the position of Deputy Ombudsman. Mr Robinson has previously served as the Acting CEO and Director Operations over a period of 8 years employment with the Corruption and Crime Commission. He is currently Deputy Director General, People, Culture and Standards in the Department of Justice. His commencement date will be Monday 19 February for a five-year term (the term provided for in the *Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1971*).

“I am simply delighted that someone of Mr Robinson’s extensive expertise and vast experience will take on this senior statutory role within the office of the Ombudsman. The institution of the Ombudsman has a vital role to play in protecting and promoting the rule of law, good governance and human rights. Mr Robinson is rightly very highly regarded within Western Australia, and he will be a champion of these great principles.” said the Ombudsman, Chris Field PSM.

The office also recognises Ms Mary White, who has retired from the role of Deputy Ombudsman after two terms and ten years, and a total period of service to the Office of 17 years.

“Ms White brought a prodigious work ethic, deeply thoughtful and caring approach to all of her work. Her innumerable legacies include establishing a reportable conduct scheme to protect children in Western Australia from harm.” said the Ombudsman. “I thank her for her service to Parliament and the great State of Western Australia.”

### **About the office of the Ombudsman**

The Ombudsman is completely independent of the Government of the day and reports only to Parliament. The office of the Ombudsman plays a vital role in mediating the power of the State by providing citizens the ability to have allegations regarding government actions impartially and independently investigated. Further, over the last 17 years, the Office has grown from 26 staff to over 70, as successive Governments and the Parliament have asked the Office to take on new functions, including a scheme that requires over 4000 organisations to report harm to children and ensure it is investigated; and to protect women from men’s violence and children from harm through the investigation of all child deaths and family and domestic violence fatalities. The current Ombudsman is the first Australian to be elected the President of the world body for Ombudsman, as recognised by the United Nations, the International Ombudsman Institute.

**Ends**

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