Attorney-General Dr Peter Toyne today announced the appointment of Mr Tony Fitzgerald to the post of Anti-Discrimination Commissioner of the Northern Territory.

Dr Toyne said Tony Fitzgerald would bring extensive and broad knowledge and expertise to the role, and importantly a sharp focus on mediation to discrimination complaints.

"I am pleased to announce the appointment of Tony Fitzgerald, a long term Territorian who is a well known advocate of mediation.

"Tony Fitzgerald has practised law in the Territory for 17 years in a range of positions that include Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal legal aid services, practising as a barrister and running a private legal practice.

"Mr Fitzgerald’s most recent appointment as Senior Mediator and Coordinator at Resolve Family Mediation Service underscores his management, legal and mediation expertise - a valuable skill combination that will lend well to the position of Anti-Discrimination Commissioner.

The role of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner is to carry out investigations and hearings into discrimination complaints in a conciliatory manner and to promote understanding and best practice in principles of equal opportunity.

A snapshot of Tony Fitzgerald’s recent appointment and relevant experience:

Member of LEADR (Lawyers Engaged in Alternative Dispute Resolution)

Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Commerce, University of Melbourne

- Deputy Director, Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission 1990-1994
- Lecturer and tutor, Northern Territory University Law Faculty (Evidence & Torts) 1995
- Bond University Dispute Resolution Centre trainer 1997
- Mediator, Native Title Tribunal (Mt Isa region) 1998
- Mediator Work Health Authority and Lands and Mining Tribunal since 1999
- Facilitator victim/offender conferences for Dept of Justice (Corrections) and NT Police Diversion Unit since 1999
- Trainer East Timorese mediators 2000 & 2002

Tony Fitzgerald is a member of the NT Law Society, and President of the Northern Territory Dispute Resolution Association.

It is expected Mr Fitzgerald will commence the position of Anti-Discrimination Commissioner at the end of October.