

ROBERT IAN VINER

CURRICULUM VITAE

Robert Ian Viner, AO QC was admitted by the Supreme Court of Western Australia in 1960 to practice as a Barrister and Solicitor. He is also admitted to practice in the High Court. He was appointed Queens Counsel in March 1984 and appointed an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia on 14 June 1999.

Ian Viner was born on the 21st January 1933 and educated at Bunbury primary and high schools, at 15 he joined a bank where he worked from 1948 to 1952. Then, after National Service Training in the Air Force, he studied for his matriculation and commenced studies at the University of Western Australia in 1954, graduating in 1958 with Honours in Law. He practised as a partner in a leading Perth law firm until 1964 when he joined the then newly established Western Australian Bar and practised as a Barrister in a varied common law, tax, commercial, industrial law and criminal practice.

In 1972 Ian Viner won the House of Representatives seat of Stirling for the Liberal Party in the election of that year and held that seat until the 1983 elections. Following the December 1975 election he was appointed Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in the first Fraser Ministry and continued successively in a number of Ministerial and Cabinet portfolios until 1983. Included in the portfolios were Minister Assisting the Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister, Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Defence Support and Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, Leader of the House of Representatives and Minister Representing the Attorney General in the House of Representatives.

As Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in the first Fraser Ministry (1975-1977) Ian Viner introduced the Northern Territory Land Rights Legislation (*Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*) into the Parliament, under which the first inalienable freehold land titles were issued to Northern Territory Aboriginals. He also introduced legislation for the incorporation of Aboriginal organisations (*Aboriginal Councils and Associations Act 1976*) and established Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advisory and representative bodies which led on to ATSIC, as well as developing economic, educational, health, land acquisition and social programmes the forerunner of programmes in place today.

From January 1995 to December 1997 Ian Viner was Deputy Chairperson of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation established by the Commonwealth's Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation Act 1991. He is a past co-chairman of Reconciliation (WA) Inc.

From May 1995 to December 1996 he was a Part-Time Member of the National Native Title Tribunal.

Ian Viner returned to practise as a Barrister in 1983, being appointed Queens Counsel in March 1984. In 1986 to 1989 he worked in executive and consulting capacities in commerce in Perth. He resumed Bar practice in 1990.

He continues to practise as a member of the Western Australian Bar in a varied practice in the fields of common law and equity, commercial and trade practice law, industrial law, Aboriginal law and native title.

In native title he has been involved in substantial native title determination proceedings in the Federal Court of Australia and significant negotiations with development proponents and the State of WA.

He is a past President of the Western Australian Bar Association Inc. (2001-2004) and a past President of the Australian Bar Association (2004-2005).

Ian Viner is an accredited LEADR mediator, approved to mediate referrals by the Supreme Court of Western Australia.

In 1995 he attended Harvard University Negotiation (including mediation) and Advanced Negotiation Workshops. He has mediated and participated in the mediation of legal and commercial disputes and native title.

He is a Past President of the Liberal Party, Western Australian Division.

He is presently Chairman of the Board of Governors of St. Mary's Anglican Girls' School, a member of the Legal Practice Board of Western Australia and a member of the Legal Contribution Trust established to administer the Solicitors' Guarantee Fund (WA).

Ian Viner is a Past Chairman of Anzoil NL (now Nuenco NL) an Australian publically listed oil and gas exploration company. Mr Viner is a Past President of the Australia Indonesia Business Council in Western Australia.

Ian Viner is an active hockey player, a former First Grade player in Perth representing Western Australia and Australia in Veteran's hockey. He was Captain of the first Australian Masters International Touring Team (1989-1990).

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