



HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA

Public Information Officer

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STATEMENT BY CHIEF JUSTICE OF AUSTRALIA MURRAY GLEESON AC

THE DEATH OF SIR HARRY GIBBS

Sir Harry Gibbs gave distinguished service to the Australian judiciary and to the nation. Before his appointment as a federal judge, he was a member of the Supreme Court of Queensland for six years. He was a member of the Federal Court of Bankruptcy and the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory for three years, and then he served on the High Court for 17 years, the last six as Chief Justice. He led the Court, at a difficult time in its history, with tact and dignity.

He was a master of the common law, and his judgments were regarded by judges in Australia and in other common law countries as of the finest quality. He was committed to the rule of law, and the integrity of the judicial process. He held strong opinions on issues of federalism, and had a deep understanding of constitutional principle.

I argued many cases before him as an advocate. He was a model of judicial courtesy and restraint.

All the members of the High Court extend their deepest sympathy to his widow and their children and grandchildren.