



HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA

Public Information Officer

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STATEMENT BY CHIEF JUSTICE OF AUSTRALIA MURRAY GLEESON AC

THE DEATH OF SIR RONALD WILSON

Sir Ronald Wilson served as a member of the High Court of Australia between 1979 and 1989. He was a most distinguished judge and made a major contribution to the jurisprudence of the Court, especially in the areas of constitutional and criminal law.

Before his appointment to the High Court he was Solicitor-General for Western Australia. In that capacity he appeared in many major constitutional cases. He was a notable advocate and, in his capacity as Solicitor-General, was called upon to defend the interests of the States at a time when the Commonwealth was pursuing a policy of exploring the outer limits of its powers. When Sir Ronald was appointed to the High Court he brought with him a wealth of practical experience in, and a deep understanding of, constitutional law.

Following his retirement from the High Court in 1989, he continued to serve the community, especially in his role as president of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. Sir Ronald took a strong interest in human rights issues, including issues concerning the welfare of indigenous Australians. He also gave long and distinguished service to his church.

I extend my deepest sympathy to Lady Wilson and her family.