

## MR A C NEAL

### CURRICULUM VITAE RELEVANT TO NATIVE TITLE

TONY NEAL signed the Bar Roll on 8 December 1977 and has been in active practice ever since. Over the years Mr Neal developed a wide-ranging civil practice which has, since the early nineties, included an increasing component of aboriginal land claims/native title.

Tony Neal's interest in this area commenced when acting as Counsel assisting the Aboriginal Land Commissioner under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*. Mr Neal acted in this capacity for approximately six years. This work involved numerous land claims in various parts of the Northern Territory, including the high-profile and long-running *Kenbi* claim near Darwin.

Through the course of this work Mr Neal became very familiar with aboriginal cultural attitudes to land and with anthropological theorising regarding aboriginal social organisation and land tenure. Because of his developing expertise in this area he was briefed in the landmark *Yorta Yorta* native title claim, appearing at the trial and the appeals to both the full Federal Court and the High Court.

Mr Neal took silk in 2003.

Since *Yorta Yorta* Mr Neal has been briefed with increasing frequency in native title matters, both for applicants and respondents. He has regularly appeared as counsel for the State of Victoria, particularly the *Wotjobaluk*, *Gunditjmara* and *Gunai/Kurnai* claims. These claims have involved lengthy mediation phases, mostly under the auspices of the Federal Court. He has also been engaged to advise applicants in various native title claims in Cape York. In 2009 co-mediated stages of one of the Cape York claims with a member of the National Native Title Tribunal.

Mr Neal maintains an active interest in aboriginal land law/native title and anthropology. He is a member of the Federal Court Native Title Users Group and has advised in several matters as part of the Court's *pro bono* scheme. He has contributed articles to various professional journals and is a regular attendee and sometimes speaker at the annual IATSI Native Title Conference.

Through his lengthy career at the Bar and his now substantial experience in the area of aboriginal land law/native title, Mr Neal brings to native title litigation a range of substantive knowledge and forensic skills particularly adapted to the unique legal and cultural challenges of this branch of the law.