



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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PETER SHERGOLD AC TO CHAIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION BOARD

One of Australia's most experienced public administrators, Professor Peter Shergold AC, has been appointed incoming Chairman of the Board of the NSW Public Service Commission.

Professor Shergold will immediately start to oversee a working group in the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet to develop the details of roles and functions of the new Commission.

Former NSW Director General Brendan O'Reilly will lead the working group, bringing his extensive public sector experience to help shape the new body.

Premier Barry O'Farrell said today he was determined to build confidence in the NSW Public Service by restoring integrity and accountability in its operations.

He said his goal was to make the NSW Public Service the best in Australia.

Mr O'Farrell said he would implement his election promise to set up a Public Service Commission.

Professor Shergold is currently Chancellor of the University of Western Sydney and Macquarie Group Foundation Professor at the Centre for Social Impact.

He serves on the Board of AMP and the law firm Corrs Chambers Westgarth and not for profit groups such as the National Centre for Indigenous Excellence.

Mr O'Farrell said Professor Shergold was highly qualified and an ideal choice for the role.

He said Professor Shergold had been a CEO in the Australian Public Service for two decades, serving Prime Ministers and Ministers in both Coalition and Labor governments. He currently chairs advisory groups for the Commonwealth and Western Australian Governments.

"I want NSW to have the best qualified and most professional public service in the nation," Mr O'Farrell said.

“And that means we have to get rid of the politicisation and scapegoat mentality which has been a feature of the NSW Public Service over the last decade.

“I want public servants who can serve successive governments with equal commitment.

“The new Commission will ensure that public service positions are filled on the basis of merit and qualifications – not patronage or favouritism.”

Mr O’Farrell said the Commission would have four core roles:

- Establishing and enforcing high ethical standards – by setting a clear code of conduct and imposing sanctions where there are breaches of the ethical standards expected of public servants
- Strengthening public sector performance by creating a culture which attracts and retains the best employees
- Ensuring that public sector positions are appointed on merit
- Putting the citizen at the centre of service delivery, and ensuring the sector collaborates with not-for-profit organisations in providing responsive services

Professor Shergold said he was looking forward to the challenge of Chairing the new Board.

He said he anticipated the Public Service Commissioner and Board would be appointed in the second half of 2011.

“NSW is the biggest State and we deserve a Public Service that is an employer of choice,” he said.

“I know how many fine public servants already work in NSW.

“My aim is to work with them to help restore trust and confidence in the NSW public sector and create a culture where public servants have the confidence to give frank advice.

“We also need to be confident that our Public Service will deliver government programs on time, on budget and to the community’s expectations.

“I also hope to help NSW become known for its strong approach to public innovation – building on tradition to find new and improved ways of delivering public service.

“If we are able to build respect in the Public Service more people will want to pursue a career with us and that can only improve the quality of services in NSW.”

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