



Media release

From the Deputy Premier and Attorney-General

Wednesday, 4 November, 2009

TWO MORE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION BOARD MEMBERS

Deputy Premier and Attorney-General Rob Hulls today announced two new board members for the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (VEOHRC).

"I am pleased to announce that founder of Carman's Fine Foods Carolyn Creswell and former Commission Chairperson Michael Gorton AM have been appointed to the VEOHRC Board," Mr Hulls said.

"I congratulate both Ms Creswell and Mr Gorton on their appointments. They are stand out candidates who will do a fantastic job at the Commission.

"Ms Creswell and Mr Gorton bring a vast amount of experience and knowledge to the role and I look forward to their contribution in promoting equal opportunity and human rights in Victoria.

"This is an exciting time of change at the Commission and our new Board will shape its future, so the organisation can better respond to the needs of our diverse community."

Mr Hulls said Carolyn Creswell entered the world of business at the age of 18, when she bought a struggling bakery for \$1,000. In 1992, she began Carman's Fine Foods, which has since flourished into a global brand through her tenacity, hard work and determination.

"With her extensive business experience, Ms Creswell will be able to link the Commission into the needs of the business community and the effect of regulation on them," Mr Hulls said.

"Ms Creswell is an advocate for family-friendly work practices and is also involved in the Body Shop's Bizness Babes program, which works to help disadvantaged women start their own businesses."

Michael Gorton is a partner with Russell Kennedy Solicitors, and has had many years' involvement in charitable and community organisations.

Mr Hulls said Mr Gorton did an outstanding job as member of the Equal Opportunity Commission from 1994 to 1999, and following his return to the Commission as Chairperson in 2008.

"Mr Gorton has also held a number of other government roles and has been recognised with a number of awards, including the Paul Baker Prize for Administrative Law and Human Rights, Law Institute of Victoria," Mr Hulls said.

"In 2004, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia, particularly for his community service in relation to equal opportunity and Aboriginal reconciliation."

The two new board members join the recently announced board and VEOHRC Commissioner Helen Szoke.

The other board members are Executive Director of the Islamic Women's Welfare Council of Victoria Joumanah El Matrah, CEO of Australian Football League Foundation Jason Mifsud, Monash University Senior Lecturer and Deputy Director of the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law Paula Gerber, and CEO of Richmond Football Club Brendon Gale.

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