



# John Boersig PSM

- Chief Executive Officer,  
Legal Aid ACT, Australia

## BIOGRAPHY

Dr Boersig has led a distinguished career in the fields of law, education, and community service. Dr Boersig's passion for addressing social justice issues and inequality and for championing the cause of the underdog has been a driving force for his long and varied career.

Dr Boersig is the Chief Executive Officer of Legal Aid ACT. In this role, John has been a strong advocate for increased funding to community legal centres in the ACT, which service some of the territory's most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Prior to his appointment at Legal Aid ACT, Dr Boersig worked as an Assistant Secretary in the Federal Attorney-General's Department, making a significant contribution in the area of Indigenous law and justice and service delivery and human rights. His key achievements include leading the transition to contracted Indigenous legal aid services, which resulted in a smaller number of better equipped organisations providing legal assistance services, and overseeing the expansion of the Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Program, which improved access to legal and other services throughout rural and regional Australia for women and children who are victims of family violence. As Assistant Secretary of the Human Rights Branch he was responsible for the National Human Rights Consultation undertaken in 2009. For his exemplary work in the Attorney-General's department, John was awarded the Public Service Medal in the 2008 Queen's Birthday Honours list. The award was in recognition of "outstanding public service in the delivery of law and justice services to Indigenous Australians."

Dr Boersig was the inaugural principal lawyer of Newcastle Legal Centre at the University of Newcastle in 1994, and as a Senior Lecturer and Director of the Professional program. Here he combined his passion for law reform and community service with his energy and enthusiasm for teaching. He came to the University after having spent 10 years with the Aboriginal Legal Service of NSW.

Dr Boersig is also a past Presiding member of the Guardianship Tribunal of NSW. Dr Boersig has a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Sydney, and is an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Canberra.