



GOVERNMENT HOUSE
QUEENSLAND

His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC Governor of Queensland

Kaye and Paul de Jersey are dedicated long-standing Queenslanders.

His Excellency was born in Brisbane in 1948, the third son of school teacher parents Ronald and Moya (both now deceased).

As a child he lived variously at Patrick Estate (outside Lowood in the Lockyer Valley), Coolabunia (outside Kingaroy), Maryborough and Longreach. His Excellency attended the Albert State School in Maryborough, and the Longreach State School, then the Ipswich Central Boys School as the family transitioned to Brisbane in 1959.

In 1960 and 1961 (his Scholarship examination year) His Excellency attended Ithaca Creek State School, then the Church of England Grammar School (Churchie) from 1962 to 1965. Academically he was fifth in the matriculating senior form at Churchie, and won a Commonwealth Scholarship to The University of Queensland, from which he graduated in Arts in 1969 and Laws (with Honours) in 1971.

During his secondary school years, His Excellency qualified with a Licentiate in Speech and Drama Australia (LSDA) through the Australian Music Examinations Board regime.

In the last year of his law studies in 1971, His Excellency was Associate to Sir Charles Wanstall, a Supreme Court Judge who went on to become the thirteenth Chief Justice of Queensland (1977-1982).

Also in December 1971, His Excellency married Kaye Brown, a qualified librarian (Associate of the Library Association of Australia) whom he met while she was working in the Law School library at St Lucia. She had utilized that qualification at various branch libraries at UQ, in the 1970's, including as Librarian in charge of the Architecture Library.





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The de Jerseys have three children, Carolyn, Alison and David, and three grandchildren, Alexander, Sophie and Lily. Carolyn is a secondary school teacher and psychologist, Alison is a solicitor, and David is a practising barrister. All members of the family reside in Brisbane.

While at university, His Excellency served for five years part-time in the Citizens' Military Force, in the Queensland University Regiment, and was commissioned as a lieutenant in 1969.

His Excellency was called to the bar at the end of 1971, upon graduation in law and marriage. At the bar he developed a broad common law practice with emphasis on commercial and constitutional law. His Excellency appeared in all Queensland courts, many times in the High Court of Australia, and twice in London before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. His Excellency was appointed as Her Majesty's Counsel (QC) in 1981.

His Excellency was appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1985, when aged 36 years. His subsequent 29 year judicial career included many circuit sittings throughout the State, at centres including Mt Isa, Longreach, Roma, Toowoomba, Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Maryborough and Southport. He served as Chair of the Queensland Law Reform Commission (1996-1997) and President of the Industrial Court of Queensland (1996-1997).

His Excellency was appointed as the 17th Chief Justice of Queensland on 17 February 1998, and served in that role for more than 16 years until 8 July 2014. His Excellency saw the court through a period of rapid technological change. His Excellency sat at both trial level and on appeal, and regularly in regional courts. With the consent of the Chief Judge, he exercised the criminal jurisdiction of the District Court on Thursday Island, and was the first State Chief Justice to conduct a murder trial in Longreach (where he had lived as a child). His regional visits took him to centres including Bamaga and Kowanyama (for courthouse openings) and Palm Island. In the year 2012, he led the metropolitan courts' move from the courthouse at 304 George Street, Brisbane to the Queen Elizabeth II Courts of Law at 415 George Street. He was instrumental at all stages of that new courthouse development.

Beyond the court, His Excellency was extensively involved in community and charitable endeavour, especially in Queensland. He served as Chairman of the Queensland Cancer Fund (1994-2001), President of the Australian Cancer Society (1998-2001), and a Trustee of the National Breast Cancer Foundation (1994-1999). His Excellency chaired the Council of QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Queensland's leading and signature medical research institute, from June 2013 until his appointment as Governor.



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His Excellency was a member of the Council of his old school “Churchie” from 1990 to 1997 and Chancellor of the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane (honorary legal adviser to the Archbishop) from 1991 to 2014. In 2014 he was named Chancellor Emeritus of the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane.

His Excellency served on the Centenary of Federation Committee (Queensland) (1998-2002), and chaired the Queensland Constitutional Convention which met at Gladstone in June 1999.

Beyond these shores, His Excellency was Visitor to the University of the South Pacific (2006-2009), and an Honorary Consultant to the Independent Commission on the Future of Policing (UK) (2012-2014), established after a succession of devastating riots ravaged Great Britain.

Also, from 2006, as Chair of the Judicial Section of Lawasia (the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific), he chaired a biennial Conference of Chief Justices of Asia and the Pacific held, over his term in that role, in Hong Kong, Ho Chi Minh City, Seoul and Singapore.

As Chief Justice of Queensland, he was Patron of many charitable organizations, including Art from the Margins, the BBC Indigenous Fund and the UQ Pro Bono Law Centre – as well as others associated more directly with the legal profession and the delivery of legal services.

In recognition of his contribution to the Australian community, His Excellency was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia in 2000, and awarded a Centenary Medal in 2003. His Excellency holds honorary doctorates from The University of Queensland (2000), the University of Southern Queensland (2008), and Griffith University (2014).

Throughout his adult life – in the family, in the community and in his profession – His Excellency has been strongly supported by his wife Kaye, who has an abiding interest in her family, literature, art, ballet and the theatre, and travel. Mrs de Jersey also is a graduate in Arts from The University of Queensland. She regularly accompanied His Excellency on his visits to regional centres throughout his judicial career, and continues to do so.

His Excellency was appointed the 26th Governor of Queensland on 29 July 2014.