

## **FORMER JUDGE TED MULLIGHAN DIES**

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**Date:** September 19<sup>th</sup> 2011

Former South Australian Supreme Court judge Ted Mullighan, who conducted a landmark inquiry into the abuse of children in state care, has died.

He was 72.

Appointed by the State Government as the inquiry's commissioner in 2004, Mr Mullighan heard more than 1,500 allegations of abuse.

He was widely respected for his sensitive handling of stories from alleged abuse victims, some whom had never spoken before about their experiences.

Mr Mullighan's 600-page report with 54 recommendations was tabled in Parliament in 2008.

He found 242 children in state care in South Australia had been abused.

Mr Mullighan later headed up a separate inquiry into the abuse of Aboriginal children on the APY Lands.

Abuse victims received an apology from the SA Government, but some mounted a legal bid for compensation.

Mr Mullighan's inquiries prompted the SA Government to change child protection laws.

Mr Mullighan started his legal career in the 1960s, was Law Society president, a judge of the Supreme Court and chaired the organisation Reconciliation SA.

SA Premier Mike Rann says Mr Mullighan was a man of great humanity, patience and commitment.

## **FORMER SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SUPREME COURT JUDGE TED MULLIGHAN DIES**

**Author:** Verity Edwards

**Publication:** The Australian

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> September 2011

FORMER South Australian Supreme Court judge and champion for indigenous rights, Ted Mullighan QC, has died in Adelaide, aged 72.

Mullighan began practising law in 1962 and took silk in 1978.

He was appointed judge of the Supreme Court in 1989 and served as president of the South Australian Law Society for two years.

Acting South Australian Chief Justice Margaret Nyland said Mullighan had been a "greatly respected and much loved judge and exceptional legal advocate".

"We will remember him as a good friend, a proud man, a distinguished humanitarian who was a compassionate and committed advocate for those whose voices struggled to be heard," Justice Nyland said.

Mullighan was known for his commitment to helping young lawyers and as a promoter of Aboriginal reconciliation.

He was Counsel Assisting in six Royal Commissions, including acting as council for the victims of the 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires in their compensation claims.

Mullighan retired in 2004, but immediately accepted a brief to become the Commissioner of the Inquiry into Children in State Care.

The inquiry was expanded in 2007 to also include the sexual abuse of children on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands.

As result of both inquiries, more than 800 people came forward to tell their stories, and Mullighan reported 400 suspected abusers to police.

Premier Mike Rann yesterday paid tribute to Mullighan, particularly in his inquiries into the abuse of children in state care and on the APY lands.

"Both inquiries dealt with the abuse of young children in South Australia and both were very well served by Ted Mullighan's qualities of clear-minded compassion and conscientious commitment to his difficult task," Mr Rann said.

"It has been noted by others that he managed to gain the confidence of a section of the community who had never before been able to speak about their experiences."

"For this and for his many other contributions the community owes him a great debt and he will be sadly missed by South Australians from many different walks of life."

He is survived by his wife Jan and his five sons.

It is not yet known whether the family will be offered a state funeral.

## **FORMER SUPREME COURT JUSTICE TED MULLIGHAN DIES FROM CANCER**

**Author:** Sean Fewster

**Publication:** AdelaideNow

**Date:** September 16<sup>th</sup> 2011

A FORMER judge dedicated to rehabilitating criminals, protecting the vulnerable and championing Aboriginal people has died, aged 72.

Retired Supreme Court Justice Ted Mullighan, QC, died yesterday after a long battle with cancer.

Acting Chief Justice Margaret Nyland said the profession had lost a "greatly respected and much-loved" judge, as well as an "exceptional" advocate.

"We will remember him as a good friend, a proud man, a distinguished humanitarian who was a compassionate and committed advocate for those whose voices struggled to be heard," she said. "His service to the community was selfless."

Attorney-General John Rau said Justice Mullighan had left an "enormous" legacy.

"(He was) an inspiration to countless young lawyers," he said. "The community owes him a great debt for his painstaking and thorough work."

After a distinguished career, Justice Mullighan retired from the Supreme Court bench in 2004.

"I trust that the community will not always want to pursue the relentless goal of increasing punishment as a way of fixing society's current problems," he said at the time.

"I would very much like to work with offenders and help them realise the effects they have had on victims of their crimes."

He took that outlook with him to the Children in State Care Commission of Inquiry.

He examined more than 40 years worth of alleged sex abuse committed against wards of the state.

In July 2007, he floated the idea of paedophiles being counselled rather than jailed.

In April 2008, he tabled before Parliament a 600-page report.

He warned children would be vulnerable until the system was overhauled, but refused to give in to anger. "There are lots of other emotions (and) for me, probably sadness is foremost," he said.

"It gives a real determination to try and do it properly and get it right."

He is survived by his wife, Jan, and five sons.

Yesterday, Opposition Leader Isobel Redmond praised Justice Mullighan's career. "Ted gave a lot of South Australians hope and in many cases healing, simply by being a sympathetic listener," she said.

Education Minister Jay Weatherill - who played a key role in establishing the abuse inquiry - said Justice Mullighan was the first person ever to listen to the victims' stories.

"The gentleness and respect with which he treated those who came before the inquiry was an important part of their healing," he said.

"His wisdom and determination ensured the inquiry was met with universal acclaim."

Australian Defence Lawyers Association spokesman Craig Caldicott said: "We mourn the passing of a great jurist, a terrific man and a terrific judge."

## MULLIGHAN DIES FROM CANCER

**Publication:** News.com.au

**Date:** September 19<sup>th</sup> 2011

FORMER Supreme Court Justice Ted Mullighan, QC, has died after a long battle with cancer.

Lawyers and politicians this afternoon paid tribute to the highly-respected jurist who, throughout his career, championed restorative justice, victims' rights and Aboriginal issues.

Attorney-General John Rau said Justice Mullighan was "a great South Australian".

"He leaves an enormous legacy - as a barrister, Justice of the Supreme Court, champion of Aboriginal reconciliation, and as an inspiration to countless young lawyers," he said.

"The community owes him a great debt for his painstaking and thorough work in the very difficult role as the Commissioner of the Inquiry into Children in State Care."

After a long and distinguished career, Justice Mullighan retired from the Supreme Court bench in 2004.

One week later, he began the Children in State Care Commission of Inquiry.

Justice Mullighan and his team examined more than 40 years worth of alleged sex abuse committed against wards of the state.

In April 2008, he tabled before Parliament a 600-page report and referred 400 potential offenders to police for investigation.

He warned children would remain vulnerable unless the system was urgently overhauled.

Premier Mike Rann expressed his condolences to Justice Mullighan's family.

He said Justice Mullighan was "a man of great humanity, patience and commitment".

"For his many contributions, the community owes him a great debt and he will be sadly missed by South Australians from many different walks of life," Mr Rann said.

"As both counsel and judge, Ted Mullighan was involved in some of the most complex and landmark commercial and criminal cases.

"A man of great humanity, patience and commitment, Ted was an early supporter of innovation in the sentencing of Aboriginal defendants and was a prominent promoter of Aboriginal reconciliation.

“A mark of his dedication to service was that, after his retirement in 2004, he accepted one of the most difficult briefs of his life – as Commissioner of the Inquiry into Children in State Care.

“In 2007, he was also made Commissioner of the Children on APY Lands Inquiry..

“Both inquiries dealt with the abuse of young children in South Australia and both were very well served by Ted Mullighan’s qualities of clear-minded compassion and conscientious commitment to his difficult task.

“It has been noted by others that he managed to gain the confidence of a section of the community who had never before been able to speak about their experiences.”

Opposition leader Isobel Redmond said Justice Mullighan's death was a loss for the entire state.

"Ted gave a lot of South Australians hope and in many cases healing, simply by being a sympathetic listener," she said.

Australian Defence Lawyers Association spokesman Craig Caldicott said Justice Mullighan would be greatly missed.