



## **SENATOR THE HON JOE LUDWIG**

Cabinet Secretary  
Special Minister of State

### **Media Release**

**40/2010**  
**22 July 2010**

#### **Appointment of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security**

Cabinet Secretary, Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig, today announced the appointment of Dr Vivienne Thom as the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security for a period of five years.

The role of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security is to provide independent assurance to the Prime Minister and the Parliament as to whether Australia's intelligence and security agencies act legally and with propriety by inspecting, inquiring into and reporting on their activities.

“Dr Thom is highly qualified with a broad range of experience in oversight of Government activities.” Senator Ludwig said.

Her career in the Australian Public Service has included roles as Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Australian Mint, as well as Commissioner of Patents at IP Australia.

She was most recently the Deputy Commonwealth Ombudsman, from March 2006, where her responsibilities included advising on Commonwealth oversight activities in a wide range of matters of policy and public administration to Ministers, Parliamentary committees, business, community interest groups and other stakeholders.

Dr Thom has been acting as the Inspector General of Intelligence and Security following the retirement of the previous Inspector-General, Mr Ian Carnell, in April this year.

Dr Thom was appointed following an open merit based selection process, in accordance with the Guidelines introduced by the Government in 2008.

---

**Media Contact:**

Israel Machuca — 0408 134 851

**Website:**

[www.cabinetsecretary.gov.au](http://www.cabinetsecretary.gov.au)  
[www.smos.gov.au](http://www.smos.gov.au)