



Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

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JP's LONGSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Attorney General Greg Smith SC will today present a commemorative certificate to the State's longest serving Justice of the Peace.

Mr John Kay of Darling Point has served as a JP consecutively since 1942 and has witnessed hundreds of signatures and certified countless copies of documents.

"Seventy years of service is a remarkable achievement and Mr Kay's contribution to the community should not be underestimated," Mr Smith said.

Mr Kay, 93, was a chartered accountant in private practice, and is still occasionally serving as a JP in his retirement.

"JPs provide an important free and voluntary service to the community, which most people need at some stage in their lives."

JPs witness signatures for affidavits or statutory declarations, and may also certify copies of documents needed for a variety of purposes such as job or loan applications.

There are more than 87,000 JPs in NSW, and Mr Kay is one of 454 JPs who have been serving continuously for over 50 years and who will receive a commemorative certificate in coming weeks.

"I thank all of them for their many years of service signing and witnessing thousands of signatures over so many decades."

"Thirty-two JPs have between 60 and 70 years of service and 422 individuals have served as JPs for between 50 and 60 years."

"I applaud their significant contribution to the community."

"JPs are trusted to be honest, and to carry out their duties with due care. They have a great responsibility because a falsely witnessed document can potentially harm someone's interests."

Earlier this year the Government introduced a new law requiring authorised witnesses such as JPs to take additional steps to confirm the identity of a person when they witness a statutory declaration or affidavit.

“This helps courts and the wider community be confident that affidavits and statutory declarations have been made by the person whose signature appears on them.”