

Dr Robert Cavanagh

**Barrister, Sir Owen Dixon
Chambers**

Day 2 – Government Solicitors

*Mercy Begins Where Legal Rights End –
Kathleen Folbigg and the Royal Prerogative
of Mercy*



About Dr Robert Cavanagh

Dr Robert Cavanagh, BA, BLitt, LLB, LLM (Research), PhD, has practiced as a barrister since 1985, working predominantly in the areas of coronial and criminal law in Australia. From 4 November 1994 to 31 July 2006, Dr Cavanagh was a Barrister and Senior Lecturer in Law at Newcastle University.

Dr Cavanagh was a Legal Adviser to the fourteen Aboriginal families who successfully campaigned for the establishment of a Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

From 12 March 2007 to 31 May 2008, Dr Cavanagh was a Senior Public Defender in the Public Solicitor's Office in Honiara, Solomon Islands. Between August 2009 and February 2012, he was appointed as a Legal Adviser in the Public Solicitor's Office, Solomon Islands.

Between 2016 and 2018, Dr Cavanagh worked with Transparency, Responsiveness, Accountability, and Citizen Engagement and assisted with the establishment of a Diploma in Paralegal Studies at Midlands State University, Zimbabwe.

In 2018, Dr Cavanagh worked as a Judicial Reform Adviser in Papua New Guinea assisting magistrates. Dr Cavanagh is the author of a Civil Law Bench Book.

For the past nine years, Dr Cavanagh has worked on the Kathleen Folbigg case.