



# DUNCAN KERR SC MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR DENISON

## MEDIA RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Kerr to meet Pacific challenge**

Federal Labor leader Kevin Rudd has appointed Denison MP Duncan Kerr as Parliamentary Secretary for the Pacific.

Mr Kerr will officially take up the post when the Labor Government is officially sworn in next week.

“I am delighted to be a member of the Rudd Labor team,” Mr Kerr said. “It is a wonderful honour to be asked to serve the people of Australia.

“I want to repay the faith in me by getting on with the job ahead and deliver on Labor’s plans for Australia’s future.

“But first things first, I have not been sworn into office yet.”

Mr Kerr will receive formal briefings next week.

“Providing stability to the Pacific region will be a key focus of the new Government and I look forward to playing my part improving regional security and our neighbours’ economies,” he said.

“Australia has a vital role to play in improving the Pacific region and Labor has made commitments about climate change initiatives, health, education and humanitarian aid that I look forward to helping implement.”

Mr Kerr has long history with the Pacific region. His late mother led a medical reconstruction team in Japan following WWII and he was Dean of Law at the University of Papua New Guinea before his election to parliament in 1987.

He was co-author of *The Annotated Constitution of Papua New Guinea* (1985) and a co-editor and contributing author of *Essays on the Constitution of Papua New Guinea* (1985).

Mr Kerr has maintained his interest in foreign affairs and the Pacific region throughout his parliamentary career. He is the vice-president of the United Nations Association of Australia (Tas. Division) and was a member of the International Commission of Jurists’ election monitoring mission to PNG in 2003.

**Media enquiries:**      **Brian Mitchell**      **03 6234 5255 (Hobart)**  
                                 **Duncan Kerr**      **02 6277 2178 (Canberra)**