

Civil procedures (continued)

teleconference or video conference.

Category A matters will not go before a duty judge for trial in Alice. However, they will be able to be used as back-ups for Category B and C matters.

Callover of the Alice Springs list could take place by a judge in Alice Springs or before a judge in Darwin using video conferencing.

(5) Provision will be made for self-executing orders in default by a party in complying with an order of the court even if the fault is that of a party's solicitor. The Rules will further be amended to provide for an action which is struck out to be reinstated if, in the interests of justice, it is appropriate to do so. Where a matter is ordered to be reinstated, the defaulting party will be required to give security for, or to pay costs thrown away, within a time fixed by the judge. The court may also order the defaulting party to give security for the future costs of the action. The order for reinstatement may be

conditional upon the giving of security of payment of the costs within the time limited.

(6) It is proposed that all matters in the civil list to be heard by a single judge including Justices' Appeals, Work Health Appeals, Motor Accidents (Compensation) Tribunal hearings, applications and appeals under other special Acts, and matters commenced by Origination Motion be treated in the same manner as matters commenced by Writ.

It may be appropriate to also include applications to a single judge for leave to appeal to the Court of Criminal Appeal in the same system, ie so that all matters, except criminal trials, which are to be heard by a single judge are dealt with in the same manner.

It is not proposed to include in the review any change to the present system for listing criminal trials, although criminal trials may be dealt with in a separate review at some stage in the future.

DPP & Meyers v Four Corners

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Justice Eames said he thought it was not too much to ask that the ABC contact the offices of DPPs around the country to determine whether any trials with similar facts would be running on the scheduled date of broadcast.

"...having seen the programme...it seemed to me to have a potential to create unfairness which would seriously trouble me were I the trial judge [in *R v Meyers*]...or were I counsel acting for an accused person in such circumstances.

"It would deeply trouble me if I were the accused person."

Meyers was found guilty of murder on 30 April and received a head sentence of 14 years with a non parole period of 10 years.

The matter is now the subject of an appeal.

Four Corners could have put *Excuse for Murder* to air on 3 May but a programming decision resulted in its national broadcast on 10 May.

New guide

A Northern Territory guide for small business and the law will soon be available.

The guide, a joint project of the Department of Industries and Development and the Law Society, has been modelled on similar guides available in other states.

It has been written by the Society's Commercial Law Sub-committee and covers, among others, these topics:

- * incorporation
- * use of a trust
- * contracts
- * leases
- * franchising
- * trade practices
- * sale of goods
- * debt recovery
- * insolvency and bankruptcy
- * guarantees
- * insurance and
- * employment.

Membership renewal is now due

How will you cope without your issue of Balance?