



# Society Noticeboard

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## Local Court

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Local Court Act and Work Health Court  
Practice Direction  
Case Flow Management

The following Practice Direction is issued pursuant to section 21 of the Local Court Act and section 95 of the Work Health Act to apply from 1 October 1998 to Courts in Darwin and Alice Springs.

### Background

Despite the best efforts of the Court, there are still matters coming to hearing which are adjourned or delayed because counsel involved have decided that pleadings require amendment, discovery is incomplete, witnesses are unavailable, etc. Counsel are often not briefed until shortly before the hearing, or if they are briefed in good time, it is often the case that they do not turn their minds to the case until shortly before the hearing. The following procedure is to address this problem.

### Procedure

When a matter has been set down for a hearing of more than one day, it will then be referred to the List Clerk who will allocate the matter to a Magistrate. That Magistrate may call a confirmatory hearing, to be held in Court or Chambers, at any time before the hearing date. At this hearing parties will be expected to answer any questions that Magistrates may have about all the preparedness of the matter.

Please note that this procedure does not take the place of pre-hearing conferences, at which the parties must also convince the court of preparedness for hearing, prior to the matter being set down.

Hugh Bradley  
Chief Magistrate

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## New President Law Council Aust.

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A partner with the Hobart firm of Murdoch Clarke, Mr Fabian Dixon, has commenced his one year term as President of the Law Council. He succeeded the outgoing President, Mr Bret Walker, SC at the Council's recent Annual General Meeting.

Mr Dixon has played an active role in Tasmanian legal politics. He was president of the Law Society of Tasmania in 1992, and was that Society's representative on the Law Council from 1987 to 1993. He has been a member of the Law Council Executive since 1993, and was recently appointed as a member of the Family Law Council.

In other Law Council developments, Dr Gordon Hughes (previously Treasurer) is now President-elect of the Law Council, Ms Anne Trimmer (previously Member of the Law Council Executive) is now Treasurer, and Mr Tony Abbott has been elected as a Member of the Law Council Executive.

Dr Gordon Hughes is a Melbourne partner with law firm Blake Dawson Waldron, and practises in information technology law. He is a past president of the Law Institute of Victoria, and Chair of the Law Council's committees on privacy law and legal education.

Ms Anne Trimmer is a Canberra partner with Deacons Graham & James, and specialises in corporate and commercial law. She also has an extensive background in intellectual property law. Ms Trimmer is a past President of the ACT Law Society and Chairs the Law Council's Equalising Opportunities in the Law Committee.

Mr Tony Abbott is a partner with the Adelaide law firm Piper Alderman, and specialises in corporate and commercial litigation, including trade practices litigation. He is a past President of the Law Society of South Australia, and is a member of the Law Council's ALRC (Australian Law Reform Commission) Working Group and National Co-operation Working Group.

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## Movement at the Station

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John Toohey Chambers  
Chin Building  
3/18 Knuckey Street  
Darwin City

Patrick McIntyre & Michael O'Donnell wish to advise the legal profession that they have commenced practice at the above address. To contact:

### Patrick McIntyre

PH: 8941 3373  
Fax: 8941 7018  
Mobile: 0417 805 956

### Michael O'Donnell

Ph: 8941 4580  
Fax: 8941 4581  
Mobile 0417 082 720

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### Changed work address:

Edward Jolly  
Campbell Chambers  
22 Grenfell Street  
Adelaide, SA 5000  
PH: 8212 1388  
Fax: 8231 9352

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## Office of Courts Administration

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From the 12 November 1998, the court will be sitting at the Adult Education Centre in Mutitjulu. The court will no longer sit at Yulara Resort.

People attending court at Mutitjulu will not be required to obtain a permit and will not have to pay any fee for going through the national park.

Registrar