

Family Law

(Priority Property Pools under \$500,000)

Financial Cases Pilot

From 1 March 2020, the Federal Circuit Court will commence a pilot for family law applications filed in Brisbane, Parramatta, Adelaide and Melbourne that meet the definition of a Priority Property Pool under \$500,000 (PPP500) case. The pilot will run for two years.

The aim of the pilot is to trial an improved response to achieving just, efficient and timely resolution of PPP500 cases at a cost that is reasonable and proportionate to the circumstances of the case. For more information, see the following documents:

- Practice Direction 2 of 2020 – sets out the guiding principles for case management of PPP500 cases.
- Guide for Practitioners and Parties in PPP500 cases – sets out the procedural arrangements for case management of PPP500 cases.
- PPP500 Financial Summary form – to be used once the Court makes a declaration or notation that the case is designated as a PPP500 case.

Contact for further enquiries is Lisa O’Neil, Family Law Registrar Practice and Procedure.

New monetary value of revenue unit

The new value of a revenue unit, to take effect on 1 July 2020, will be \$1.24.

Balance magazine

Do you have anything you want to publish in *Balance*? Send your submissions to balance@lawsocietynt.asn.au.

Alice Springs Local Court has a new weekly schedule

The new schedule, commencing 16 March 2020, was developed with feedback from stakeholders about several issues and takes into consideration recommendations of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children. Most notably, it facilitates the separation of youth and their families attending court for youth justice and care and protection matters, from other court users by separating the main list days for domestic and family violence matters from youth justice and care and protection matters. In addition, it achieves a working day between youth justice lists, requested by several stakeholders in the youth justice field.

The new schedule will support the specialist approach to domestic violence, which will have a staged commencement this year and takes into account Alice Springs Local Court now has a 5th local Court judge. Judge Meredith Huntingford was sworn in as a Local Court Judge on 7 October 2019 and commenced in Alice Springs on 2 March 2020.

The Alice Springs Local Court’s weekly schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the Managing Judge.

Aboriginal Justice Agreement

Time is running out for you to provide your feedback to the Department of Attorney-General and Justice on the draft Aboriginal Justice Agreement.

Details of how you can provide feedback on the draft Agreement, make a submission, or tell them about your own experiences can be done by emailing the Aboriginal Justice Unit aju.agd@nt.gov.au or calling 08 8935 7655. Submissions close 31 March 2020.