



QUEENSLAND
COURTS

Courts

District Court of Queensland
Annual Report 2006-2007



Front cover:

Most children give evidence from the safe environment of the affected child and vulnerable witness suite, where their evidence is recorded, so it can be played later at the trial. There is then no need for a child to be present in court to give evidence before a jury and other strangers.



FROM CHIEF JUDGE P.M. WOLFE

CHAMBERS OF THE CHIEF JUDGE
DISTRICT COURT
BRISBANE
QLD 4000

24 September 2007

The Honourable Kerry Shine MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
and Minister Assisting the Premier in Western Queensland
Level 18
State Law Building
50 Ann Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Attorney

Pursuant to s. 130A(1) of the *District Court Act 1967*, I enclose my Report on the operation of the District Court for the year ended 30 June 2007.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P.M. Wolfe".

Chief Judge PM Wolfe



Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| The Chief Judge’s overview | 5 |
| Performance | 6 |
| Continuing professional development | 11 |
| Chief Judge’s calendar | 12 |
| The Courthouses | 12 |
| The Court and the public | 13 |
| Webpage | 13 |
| International aspects | 13 |
| Judicial retirements | 13 |
| Judicial appointments | 13 |
| Retirement of registrar | 14 |
| Personal | 14 |
| Conclusion | 14 |
| Profile of the District Court | 15 |
| Judges of the District Court | 16 |
| Regional, Planning and Childrens Judges | 18 |
| The Courts administrative staff | 20 |
| The Court | 21 |
| The Work of the District Court | 22 |
| Criminal jurisdiction | 24 |
| Civil jurisdiction | 27 |
| Applications Court | 28 |
| Appellate jurisdiction | 28 |
| The Planning and Environment Court | 29 |
| The Health Practitioners Tribunal | 31 |
| Childrens Court | 33 |



| | |
|--|-----------|
| Regional centres | 35 |
| Maroochydore | 36 |
| Southport | 36 |
| Townsville | 38 |
| Cairns | 39 |
| Rockhampton | 39 |
| Ipswich | 40 |
| Beenleigh | 40 |
| Circuit Centres | 40 |
| Committees | 43 |
| Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee | 45 |
| Civil Procedure Committee | 47 |
| Courts Planning Committee | 47 |
| Professional Development | 48 |
| Registry services and administrative support | 49 |
| Office of the Principal Registrar and Administrator | 50 |
| Planning and Environment (ADR) Registrar | 53 |
| Processes to save court time | 53 |
| Cost assessments | 54 |
| District Court—Learning and development—2006–2007 | 54 |
| Filing by post | 55 |
| Civil Registry | 55 |
| Listings Directorate | 57 |
| Sheriff's Office | 58 |
| Information technology | 59 |
| Related organisations | 63 |
| Supreme Court Library | 64 |
| State Reporting Bureau | 70 |
| Appendices | 71 |
| Appendix 1: Practice Directions | 72 |
| Appendix 2: District Court Associates as at 30 June 2007 | 74 |
| Appendix 3: Vale Judge Bernard McLoughlin | 75 |

Chief Judge's overview



Chief Judge Patricia Wolfe

This is the eleventh annual report of the District Court of Queensland. The report was prepared in consultation with the judges, in particular with the convenors of the judges' committees and the judges with particular responsibility for the court's specialist courts and tribunals: Senior Judge Skoien and Judge Wilson SC on the Planning and Environment Court, Judge Dick SC on the Childrens Court of Queensland and Judge O'Brien on the activities of the Health Practitioners Tribunal.



Performance

This year's report reflects a different approach to reporting the court's performance and workload. The statistical information now accords with the Commonwealth Productivity Commission's Annual Report on Government Services with its analysis of the performance of all Australian courts. The efficient use of resources demands that the court's statistics be gathered and collated on this basis. The court's performance is now analysed using the "counting rules" adopted by that commission.

Accordingly, performance is indicated by the clearance rate and the backlog indicator. The clearance rate indicates whether a court is keeping up with its workload by comparing the number of lodgments with the number of finalisations. A figure above 100% indicates that the court is reducing its pending workload. The backlog indicator compares the age of pending caseload against nominated time standards.

Disposition of Caseload

During the year under report, the court increased from 35 to 36 judges, the first increase in its complement since 1997, and the judges commend the government for its acceptance of their recommendation for increased judicial resources made in earlier annual reports. At the time of writing, the court had increased to 38 judges. The court performed most satisfactorily in terms of the amount of work completed.

The court employs judicial case management as does its adjuncts, the Planning and Environment Court, the Childrens Court of Queensland and the Health Practitioners Tribunal.

Criminal

During the year under report, 6577 new criminal matters were lodged in the court, including 2418 new indictments in Brisbane. The court disposed of 6393 matters, a 97.2% clearance rate. Of these, 2351 were disposed of in Brisbane (also 97.2%).

However, these figures do not reflect the Childrens Court workload or the work done by the court in administering and hearing the evidence of affected child witnesses, usually complainants in matters involving alleged sexual crimes or crimes of violence. Their evidence must be pre-recorded from a remote witness room soon after the indictment is presented, so that the children are not required to come to court for the trial normally held many months later.

The resolution of a significant number of the outstanding cases is also delayed by defendants awaiting psychiatric reports in order to consider an application to the Mental Health Court, or are those cases that are stayed pending determination by that court, or those where a defendant wishing to plead guilty, is unable to be sentenced until pending charges have been committed to this court. Other cases may take a significant period for disposition where there are appeals or rehearings.

Judges of the Criminal Listing Taskforce have primary responsibility for management of the criminal caseload in Brisbane. They rely upon the highly efficient and ongoing support of the District Court Criminal List Manager. The regional judges undertake the management of their lists and the judges also share management of lists in some of the larger circuit centres.

Affected child witnesses

In the year under review, the judges of this court ordered the pre-recording of the evidence of 505 affected child witnesses throughout Queensland, 29 of them in the Childrens Court. In the major cities like Brisbane, the pre-recording of affected children's evidence pursuant to Division 4A of the *Evidence Act 1977*, usually takes place within 6 weeks of the presentation of the indictment. Of those ordered, 343 of these children gave evidence in this way during the year. Most of the balance were not required to come to court to give evidence from a remote witness room because the defendants decided to plead guilty, prior to the pre-recording date.

This aspect of the court's criminal work also places a heavy burden on the court's registry staff in Brisbane. To preserve the integrity of the tapes and, importantly, to prevent them from falling into the wrong hands, all videotapes of the evidence of an affected child, no matter where recorded in Queensland, are kept in safe keeping by the Principal Registry, securely stored in Brisbane. The Brisbane registry is also responsible for the copying, editing and delivery of all videotapes, no matter where in Queensland they were recorded. According the registry requires significant resources for this work as well as for maintaining the pre-recorded child evidence ledger, tracking videotapes and for ensuring that the tapes are available for trial. These trials are held at any one of about 27 Queensland courthouses.

In February, these children lost a great supporter, with the sudden death of QWIC Projects Director John Marsland. Relevantly, his vision and determination ensured that these children did not suffer the distress of adjournments caused by the malfunctioning of video recording equipment in the courthouses. His commitment to the court's work effected, in a short time, the upgrading and proper maintenance of the equipment used to pre-record affected child witnesses' evidence.

Civil

Overall, the court disposed of 6034 civil matters, reflecting a 123.4% clearance rate. Of the 4526 active cases as at the end of the year, 26.4% were older than 12 months (from filing date), and 7.2% older than 24 months. During the year 2771 civil matters were lodged in Brisbane, 3646 were finalised, a 131.6% clearance rate, with 2282 active cases remaining.

These statistics do not include appeals to the District Court or the matters dealt with by judges of the court sitting as judges in the Planning and Environment Court or constituting the Health Practitioners Tribunal.



Appeals

The District Court hears all appeals from the Magistrates Courts and also appeals from a number of tribunals and bodies. This year the court disposed of 294 criminal appeals representing a clearance rate of 75%. As at 30 June 2007, 359 criminal appeals awaited disposition, with 20.3% older than 12 months and 1.4% older than 24 months.

The court also disposed of 84 civil appeals, with a clearance rate of 85.7%, leaving 93 active appeals at the end of the year with 21.5% of them older than 12 months and none older than 24 months.

Planning and Environment Court

The Planning and Environment Court is structured as a de facto division of the District Court. In the year 543 cases were lodged in Brisbane and 507 disposed of with a clearance rate of 93.4%. The statistics for other busy centres, such as Maroochydore, Cairns and Townsville will be available for the next reporting year.

The appointment of the first Planning and Environment Court (ADR) Registrar, Ms Peta Stilgoe, in March 2007 allows the court to offer mediation and other forms of alternate dispute resolution, as well as its judicial case management. The work of the Planning and Environment (ADR) Registrar has resulted in the faster resolution of disputes at lower cost to the community and litigants. The court also provides, through the Planning and Environment (ADR) Registrar, assistance to self-represented litigants and the supervision of court-ordered meetings of experts, thus promoting the resolution of technical issues prior to the hearing.

Childrens Court of Queensland

In January 2007, Judge Dick SC was appointed President of the Childrens Court of Queensland, following Judge O'Brien's five years of distinguished service as President of the Childrens Court.

A separate Annual Report of the Childrens Court of Queensland is prepared under the *Childrens Court Act* and further details of the Childrens Court can be found in that report.

Regional Centres

The lists in regional centres have been well maintained.

Circuits

The number of circuits were slightly increased for the 2007 calendar year to service properly regional, rural and remote Queensland. In the 2007 calendar year the judges were allocated a total of 388 weeks on circuit. The Court is committed to allocating sufficient District Court sittings in circuit centres to ensure that matters can be heard and decided in a timely fashion throughout Queensland.

Indigenous and Remote Circuits

The Judges of the District Court of Queensland have been sitting on circuits in the remote Aboriginal and Islander communities for some years now. A number of the judges have sat in the Gulf (Mornington Island, Doomadgee and Normanton), the Cape (Weipa/Napranum, Aurukun, Pormpuraaw, Lockhart River and Kowanyama) and at Thursday Island, Bamaga, Yarrabah, Murgon and Woorabinda.

The lack of appropriately trained interpreters in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages in court proceedings, and the lack of court based indigenous liaison officers are a significant and concerning barrier to the proper administration of justice in the remote communities.

Report on Government Services

The 2007 Report on Government Services reflected the growing work of this court. It showed that of the District and County Courts in Australia in 2005-2006, this court finalised the second highest number of defendants in the criminal jurisdiction. During this period, the New South Wales was comprised of more than 60 judges, and the Victorian court, more than 50. In the civil jurisdiction in 2005-06, this court finalised more cases than in any other equivalent jurisdiction except New South Wales. The figures do not include the cases disposed of by those of our 36 judges sitting in the Planning and Environment Court, the Health Practitioners Tribunal or the Childrens Court.

Sentencing database

The Queensland Sentencing Information Service (QGIS) was launched by the Chief Justice and the Attorney-General on 27 March 2007. The electronic sentencing database comprises legislation, case law, statistical information and other relevant resources for research of sentencing matters, using software created by the Judicial Commission of New South Wales. The service is available to all judges and magistrates in Queensland, the Director of Public Prosecutions and Legal Aid. It is also available to any other user, free of charge, from computers within the Supreme Court Library.

Registry management

In January 2007, Ms Robyn Hill was appointed as Principal Registrar and Court Administrator, succeeding Mr Ken Toogood who retired from those positions in 2006. The process to streamline registry operations continues well under her supervision.



The Focus Group

The Focus Group, chaired by the Chief Justice and comprising the President of the Court of Appeal, the Senior Judge Administrator, the Chief Judge, the Chief Magistrate, the Deputy Director-General, the Principal Registrar and Administrator, Supreme and District Courts, the Director of the State Reporting Bureau and other senior officers met on 28 March 2007. Its objects are to keep the courts informed about actual and proposed departmental initiatives for the three state courts, to provide an opportunity for the courts to participate in the allocation of resources, and to ensure the regular monitoring of the courts' registry and administrative operations.

Rules Committee

The Rules Committee, chaired by Justice Williams, includes, from the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice, Mr Justice Muir and Justice Wilson, and from the District Court, Judge Robin QC and Judge McGill SC. The Principal Registrar of the Supreme and District Courts is a member and Ms Bronwyn Jerrard, a departmental officer, is secretary of the committee. It met at least fortnightly out of ordinary court hours.

Benchbook

In 1997 this court, adopting the recommendation of the judges' strategic planning and budget committee, began work on a benchbook to provide model directions for the judges conducting criminal trials, specifically designed to apply the *Criminal Code*, which in significant respects differs from the common law applied in some other States. This became a work of collegiate endeavour with the judges of the Supreme Court after they resolved, in April 1999, to compile a contemporary version of the manual prepared in the 1980's with the assistance of former District Court Judge RF Carter.

More recently, Justice Jerrard, Justice Philippides, Judge Shanahan and Judge Dick have worked over extended periods in updating and adding to this essential and important work.

Continuing professional development

The judges gained professionally through their participation and contribution to legal and professionally oriented conferences, meetings and discussions with other jurisdictions during the year.

In September 2006 the Planning and Environment Court hosted the Australasian Conference of Planning and Environment Courts and Tribunals at Kingfisher Bay, Fraser Island. It proved an invaluable forum for the exchange of information about environmental and eco-tourism issues and disputes, methods of case management and alternative models for dispute resolution. Presenters included the Hon Justice Callinan AC (*Prescription, Proscription and Sterilisation: The Price of Heritage Listing*), Mr John Gallagher QC, Mr Andrew Sinclair and Judge Rackemann (*The Battle of Kingfisher*), Mr Ralph Henderson (*The State Dimension-Environmental Protection Agency*), Dr Frank Carrick AM (*Environmental issues in Eco-tourism and Evidence in Environmental Disputes*), Mr Ralph Bailey (*Eco-tourism Architecture*), Associate Professor Dr Jean-Marc Hero (*Global Amphibian Declines*) and Mr AM Daubney SC.

The Judges' 12th annual conference, at Marcoola from 13-15 August 2006, allowed a rare opportunity for the judges, 12 of whom were based outside Brisbane, to meet as a body for professional discussion. Presenters at the conference included Ms Maria Dimopoulous (*Cultural awareness, diversity and cultural challenge*), Dr Karen Gelb (*Public Opinion and Sentencing*), Professor Graham Brawn (*Courtroom Architecture*), Mr Mark Oberhardt (*The Courts and the Media*) and Justice Patrick Keane.

Judge Durward SC attended the national judicial orientation programme conducted by the National Judicial College of Australia with the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration and the Judicial Commission of New South Wales. Judge Newton attended the National Judicial College of Australia's Judgment Writing Workshop and Judges Botting and Kingham attended the NJCA's Phoenix Judges' Program.

During the year under review, many of the judges in presiding over moots, by speaking at or presenting papers, contributed to many important professional meetings and conferences, details of which appear in this report. Senior Judge Skoien, representing the judges of the District and County Courts, served as a member of the Council of the National Judicial College of Australia.



Chief Judge's calendar

Apart from the time allotted to administrative responsibilities, I sat in the various jurisdictions of the court, both in and out of Brisbane: the criminal court (13 weeks), civil, applications and planning and environment (11 weeks) as well as on circuit in Toowoomba, Townsville, Rockhampton, Cairns, Maroochydore, Mackay and Southport.

Aside from monthly judges' meetings, meetings of the judges' committees and the Supreme Court Library Committee, conferences and public events, I met regularly with the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Director-General of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and senior officers of the department, the Principal Registrar and Court Administrator, the Sheriff, listings managers and Higher Courts IT staff.

I also met with the leaders and representatives of the many organisations principally involved in the justice system, such as the Queensland Bar Association, the Queensland Law Society, the Director of Public Prosecutions, Legal Aid Queensland, the Public Defender and Protect All Children Today (PACT) during the year. I attended meetings of the Council of Chief Judges and many other groups, projects and meetings involved in the organisation of the District Court and the Supreme and District Courts registries, such as the IT Steering Committee, the Integrated Justice Information Strategy, Courts Visual Identity Committee and the 2011 Courts Steering Committee, as well as the Supreme Court Library Committee.

The Courthouses

Brisbane's metropolitan courthouse

Architectus Guymer Bailey's winning design for the new metropolitan Supreme and District courthouse was announced by Peter Beattie, MLA, Premier of Queensland on 1 June 2007, following the design competition and recommendation of a selection panel of which the Chief Justice was a member. The selection panel also consulted with Justice Wilson, Justice P McMurdo, Judge Wilson SC, Judge Griffin SC and me. The courthouse, costing \$600 million, will be built at Queensland Place and is expected to open in 2011. The government is to be commended for advancing the courthouse, which will be the most significant public building to be constructed in Queensland for many years.

Ipswich

At the time of writing, construction of the new courthouse for the District and Magistrates Courts at Ipswich was underway. The \$92 million courthouse was designed by ABM Cox Rayner, and will be the first Queensland courthouse to have a separate circulatory system for jurors within the building, so ensuring their security and preserving the integrity of trials. The Attorney-General, the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General are to be commended for their active progression of this project to replace the inadequate, insecure building in which the court has operated for many years.

The court and the public

In celebration of Queensland Day, the Supreme and District Courts again hosted tours for members of the public, with many participating in the tour of the Law Courts Complex in Brisbane. Special Law Week displays were erected in the main regional courthouses across the State and incorporated a new corporate video and fact sheets.

Webpage

www.courts.qld.gov.au

The courts' webpage, hosted by the Supreme Court Library, is undergoing redevelopment so that information on the court's functions is more accessible. This year the site registered 1,246,109 hits.

International aspects

During the year under report, the District Court at Brisbane received a number of international visitors, including:

- On 15 November 2006 a delegation of judges headed by Mr Huang Liege, Vice-President of the People's Higher Court of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China.
- On 30 March 2007 judges from the National Judicial Academy of Kathmandu, Nepal.
- On 18 May 2007 a delegation of judges from the Yunnan Supreme Court, China.

Judicial retirements

Judge Brian Charles Hoath, who was appointed on 4 February 1991, retired on 4 August 2006.

Judge Ian McGregor Wylie QC, who was appointed on 11 November 1985, retired on 10 January 2007.

Judicial appointments

On 17 July 2006, Judge Fleur Kingham was sworn in as a Judge of the District Court, increasing the court's complement to 36 judges.

On 21 August 2006, Judge Stuart Durward SC was sworn in as a Judge of the District Court, filling the vacancy caused by Judge Hoath's retirement.

From 25 September to 17 November 2006, Judge Robin QC served as an acting Judge of the Supreme Court.

From 20 November 2006 to 15 December 2006, Senior Judge Skoien served as an acting Judge of the Supreme Court.

On 15 December 2006, Judge Anthony Rafter SC was sworn in as a Judge of the District Court, in anticipation of the vacancy arising from Judge Wylie's retirement.



Retirement of registrar

In July 2006, Mr Ken Toogood PSM, retired as Principal Registrar and Administrator after more than 41 years of distinguished service to the Supreme and District Courts.

Conclusion

I thank and warmly commend the judges, officers of the registry and the court's administrative staff for their dedicated commitment in achieving the court's overall performance.

Personal

On 25 September 2006, following his promotion to the rank of Air Commodore, Judge Wall RFD QC was sworn in as Deputy Judge Advocate-General, Australian Defence Force by the Northern Judge, Justice Cullinane. The ceremony was held at the Townsville courthouse at a special sittings convened by Justice Cullinane, with Judge Wall, Judge Pack, Judge Durward and me as well as Justice Monteith of the Family Court of Australia attending.

Judge Bernard McLoughlin died on 10 January 2007. He had served on the court from 1967 to 1987.



Profile of the District Court



Judges of the District Court

During the year under report the Judges were:

Chief Judge

Her Honour Chief Judge Patricia Mary Wolfe

Judges

His Honour Senior Judge Nelson Anthony Skoien
His Honour Senior Judge Gilbert Trafford-Walker
His Honour Judge Warren Howell
His Honour Judge Ian MacGregor Wylie QC (retired 10 January 2007)
His Honour Judge Keith Stuart Dodds (Maroochydore)
His Honour Judge Garry Spencer Forno QC
His Honour Judge Hugh Wilfrid Harry Botting
His Honour Judge Michael John Noud
His Honour Judge Kerry John O'Brien
His Honour Judge Neil Ferguson McLauchlan QC
His Honour Judge Philip David Robin QC
His Honour Judge Brian Charles Hoath (retired 4 August 2006)
His Honour Judge John Elwell Newton (Southport)
Her Honour Judge Helen O'Sullivan
His Honour Judge Peter James White (Cairns)
His Honour Judge Philip Grahame Nase
His Honour Judge John Mervyn Robertson (Maroochydore)
His Honour Judge Michael William Forde
His Honour Judge Charles James Lennox Brabazon QC
His Honour Judge Douglas John McGill SC

Judges cont.

His Honour Judge Clive Frederick Wall RFD QC
(Townsville in 2006, Southport in 2007)

His Honour Judge Robert Douglas Pack (Townsville)

His Honour Judge Nicholas Samios

His Honour Judge Grant Thomas Britton SC (Rockhampton)

Her Honour Judge Deborah Richards (Ipswich)

Her Honour Judge Sarah Bradley (Cairns)

His Honour Judge Michael John Shanahan

Her Honour Judge Julie Maree Dick SC

His Honour Judge Alan Muir Wilson SC

His Honour Judge Marshall Philip Irwin*

His Honour Judge Michael Edward Rackemann

His Honour Judge Walter Henry Tutt (Beenleigh in 2006)

His Honour Judge Milton James Griffin SC

Her Honour Judge Julie Ann Rylie

His Honour Judge Ian Francis Macrae Dearden (Southport in 2006,
Beenleigh in 2007)

Her Honour Judge Fleur Yvette Kingham (Southport in 2007)

His Honour Judge Stuart Gordon Durward SC (Townsville)

His Honour Judge Anthony John Rafter SC

*Judge Irwin cannot perform any of the duties or exercise any powers of a District Court Judge while he holds the office of Chief Magistrate: s.11 of the *Magistrates' Act* 1991.



Regional, Planning and Childrens Judges

During the year under report the following judges were allocated to the regional centres as shown:

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| In Maroochydore: | Judge Dodds and Judge Robertson |
| In Cairns: | Judge White and Judge Bradley |
| In Southport: | Judge Newton Judge Wall QC (from January 2007) Judge Dearden (in 2006) Judge Kingham |
| In Townsville: | Judge Wall QC (in 2006) Judge Pack and Judge Durward SC |
| In Rockhampton: | Judge Britton SC |
| In Ipswich: | Judge Richards |
| In Beenleigh: | Judge Tutt (in 2006) Judge Dearden (from January 2007) |

Planning and Environment Court

The Planning and Environment Court Judges for 2006-2007 are listed below:

Chief Judge Wolfe
Senior Judge Skoien
Judge Dodds
Judge McLauchlan QC
Judge Robin QC
Judge White
Judge Nase
Judge Robertson
Judge Brabazon QC
Judge Wall QC
Judge Pack
Judge Britton SC
Judge Wilson SC
Judge Rackemann
Judge Griffin SC
Judge Durward SC

Childrens Court

The Childrens Court Judges for 2006-2007 are listed below:

Judge Dick SC (President, from January 2007)
Judge O'Brien (President, in 2006)
Senior Judge Trafford-Walker
Judge Newton
Judge White
Judge Nase
Judge Robertson
Judge Wall QC
Judge Pack
Judge Samios
Judge Britton SC
Judge Richards
Judge Bradley
Judge Shanahan
Judge Wilson SC
Judge Tutt
Judge Griffin SC
Judge Dearden
Judge Kingham
Judge Durward SC
Judge Rafter SC



The Courts administrative staff

The administrative and registry staff of the District Court is essential to its operation in the performance of its functions. Those exercising supervisory roles or who work more closely with the Judge in Brisbane and major centres are set out below:

Principal Registrar and Court Administrator

Robyn A Hill

Deputy Court Administrator

Cameron Woods

Sheriff of Queensland

Neil Hansen

Registrar (Cairns)

Wendy Baden

Registrar (Townsville)

Robyn Wegner

Registrar (Rockhampton)

Ben Cooke

Information Technology Manager

Ashley Hill

Deputy Registrars

Tracy Dutton (Criminal registry)

Janja Vidic (Appeals and HPT)

Leanne McDonnell (Applications)

Jo Stonebridge (Common Law)

Chief Judge's Executive Assistants

Jan Daniels and Maryanne Nottingham

Chief Bailiff

Mark Slaven

Deputy Chief Bailiff

Michael Hinge

Listings Coordinator

Angela Karageozis

Criminal List Manager

Stephen Till

Assistant Criminal List Manager

Monica Lopez

Childrens Court List Manager

Christina Crimp

Civil and Applications List Manager

Kerri Bellchambers

Planning and Environment List Manager

Alfina Tomarchio

Judges' Secretariat

Carla Lloyd

Nicole Gallant

The staff listed above are assisted by other registry, court administration staff and bailiffs.



The Courts



The Work of the District Court

The work of the District Court is the hearing and determination of appeals and the conduct, trial and determination of matters commenced by indictment (criminal), claim (civil) or originating applications (civil). It also includes the determination of interlocutory applications, that is, applications in pending matters, whether commenced by claim, originating application or on indictment. The Chief Judge is responsible for the administration of the court.

The District Court is the largest trial court in Queensland. It is the principal court in Queensland for the trial of persons charged with serious criminal offences. It deals with almost 80% of all criminal matters which are prosecuted on indictment. The court exercises equitable and other jurisdiction within its civil monetary limit. Criminal trials are heard by a judge with a jury. Civil matters are normally heard by a single judge. The judges have adopted a protocol that, save in exceptional cases, judgments are to be delivered within three months of the conclusion of the hearing.

The District Court hears all appeals from the Magistrates Courts as well as from decisions of a number of tribunals and other statutory bodies. Many of the judges are also appointed to the Planning and Environment Court and to the Childrens Court of Queensland. All judges are members of the Health Practitioners Tribunal. Many of the judges also serve on committees with responsibility for developing and implementing policies and procedures for the continual improvement of the functioning of the court.

These include the Supreme and District Courts' Benchbook Committee, the IT Steering Committee, the Supreme and District Courthouse Building Committee, the Learning and Development Committee and the Rules Committee, as well as on the judges' committees.

Organisation of Work

The work of the District Court Judges is organised in terms of the following categories:

Appellate

This court hears and determines all appeals from the Magistrates Courts as well as from various tribunals and other statutory bodies, such as professional disciplinary bodies. The relevant professions include teachers, nurses and engineers, as well as appeals under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981*, the *Children Services Tribunal Act 2000*, and several other Acts. The District Court hears appeals from the Commercial and Consumer Tribunal which was established on 1 July 2003. This tribunal's jurisdiction includes the hearing or review of decisions concerning liquor licences or permits under the *Liquor Act 1992*, disciplinary action against licensees and building disputes under the *Queensland Building Services Authority Act 1991*, disciplinary matters under the *Property Agents and Motor Dealers Act 2000*, disputes under the *Retirement Villages Act 1999*, architects' registration and disciplinary hearings under the *Architects Act 2002* and decisions of the Building Services Authority under the *Building Act 1975*.

Civil

The court has an extensive general jurisdiction enabling it to deal with all personal claims and any equitable claim or demand up to the monetary limit of \$250,000; any claim (without monetary limit) referred to the court by the Supreme Court for assessment; any claim where the parties consent to increase the monetary jurisdiction of the court; actions to enforce by delivery of possession any mortgage; actions to grant relief from mistake and for rectification; actions seeking declarations and consequential orders arising from partnership disputes; administration of estates where the estate does not exceed in value the monetary limit of the court; family provision pursuant to the *Succession Act* 1981 and construction of deeds and other documents.

Criminal

In practice the court deals with all indictable matters other than homicides and serious drug offences. The court regularly conducts trials involving more than 24 offences attracting a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, as well as offences under the *Corporations Law* and against Federal and State revenue laws. These may involve many millions of dollars.

The Planning and Environment Court

This court is constituted by a District Court Judge appointed to it. It was constituted by the *Integrated Planning Act* 1997, which came into effect in March 1998. The court has unlimited monetary jurisdiction and exercises jurisdiction over all planning and like appeals in the State. Matters are often complex, involving property or investments of many millions of dollars. The court's decisions often have significant economic, health or lifestyle impact on large communities throughout the State.

Health Practitioners Tribunal

All District Court Judges are members of this Tribunal which was established by the *Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Act* 1999. The Health Practitioners Tribunal hears appeals from disciplinary tribunals in respect of most health professional groups, medical practitioners, chiropractors, dentists, dental technicians and prosthetists, occupational therapists, optometrists, pharmacists, physiotherapists, podiatrists, psychologists and speech pathologists.

Childrens Court

The District Court Judges appointed to the Childrens Court of Queensland determine some of the serious criminal charges brought against children. They also provide speedy access for the hearing of bail applications and sentence reviews, especially for young children being held on remand.



Judge Rafter SC

Criminal jurisdiction

The Judges of the Criminal Listing Taskforce, the Chief Judge, Judge O'Brien, Judge Shanahan, Judge Dick, Judge Griffin and Judge Rafter managed the criminal list in Brisbane during the year. In the regions, the lists were managed by the resident judge. For the larger circuit centres, Judge Dodds had special responsibility for Bundaberg and Kingaroy lists, Judge Shanahan for the remote communities, Judge Dick for Mackay lists and Judge Dearden for the Mount Isa region.

Many of the cases are reviewed or managed by the judge before the review date, to ensure that the prosecution has provided the defence with all witness' statements and particulars and that the defence has considered whether a s.590AA hearing is required. Before the trial review date, the parties are expected to raise any foreseeable problems as they arise. In smaller centres the court conducts a "running list". In this way the court in these centres deals with its criminal workload having regard to the effect on the list of "late" pleas and *nolle prosequis*.

The common measurement of workload is by the number of defendants. A "defendant" for statistical purposes is defined as "one defendant; with one or more charges; and with all charges having the same date of registration."¹ Defendants with secondary charges, such as breaches of court orders are excluded.

The table that follows summarises the activity of the District Court criminal lists.

¹ Review of Government Service Provision: 2007 Data Collection Manual – Court Administration Working Group, 08/08/2007 p 7-3.

District Court—Criminal jurisdiction 2006-2007

| | Number of Defendants | | | Clearance Rate * | Backlog Indicator ** | |
|--|----------------------|-----------|--------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| | Lodged | Finalised | Active | | % > 12 mths | % > 24 mths |
| Brisbane and Regional Centres | | | | | | |
| Brisbane | 2418 | 2351 | 1006 | 97.2% | 20.0% | 7.9% |
| Beenleigh | 590 | 489 | 257 | 82.9% | 18.3% | 7.0% |
| Cairns | 589 | 512 | 243 | 86.9% | 19.8% | 5.3% |
| Ipswich | 400 | 418 | 78 | 104.5% | 6.4% | 1.3% |
| Maroochydore | 382 | 296 | 83 | 77.5% | 8.4% | 7.2% |
| Rockhampton | 171 | 218 | 75 | 127.5% | 22.7% | 5.3% |
| Southport | 404 | 431 | 157 | 106.7% | 22.3% | 7.6% |
| Townsville | 430 | 459 | 142 | 106.7% | 21.1% | 7.7% |
| Total for Brisbane and Regional Centres | 5384 | 5174 | 2041 | 96.1% | | |



District Court—Criminal jurisdiction 2006-2007 continued

| | Number of Defendants | | | Clearance Rate * | Backlog Indicator ** | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------|--------|------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| | Lodged | Finalised | Active | | % > 12 mths | % > 24 mths |
| Circuit Centres | | | | | | |
| Bowen | 46 | 43 | 8 | 93.5% | 12.5% | 0.0% |
| Bundaberg | 174 | 184 | 37 | 105.7% | 10.8% | 10.8% |
| Charleville | 24 | 29 | 9 | 120.8% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Charters Towers | 2 | 5 | 5 | 250.0% | 40.0% | 0.0% |
| Clermont | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Cloncurry | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Cunnamulla | 7 | 5 | 1 | 71.4% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Dalby | 22 | 23 | 11 | 104.5% | 27.3% | 9.1% |
| Emerald | 12 | 16 | 6 | 133.3% | 16.7% | 16.7% |
| Gladstone | 61 | 53 | 1 | 86.9% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Goondiwindi | 28 | 29 | 1 | 103.6% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Gympie | 43 | 49 | 5 | 114.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Hervey Bay | 87 | 93 | 27 | 106.9% | 18.5% | 3.7% |
| Hughenden | 1 | 1 | 0 | 100.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Innisfail | 22 | 29 | 15 | 131.8% | 13.3% | 13.3% |
| Kingaroy | 65 | 66 | 7 | 101.5% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Longreach | 7 | 10 | 6 | 142.9% | 50.0% | 16.7% |
| Mackay | 119 | 141 | 22 | 118.5% | 18.2% | 13.6% |
| Maryborough | 74 | 87 | 14 | 117.6% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Mt Isa | 155 | 127 | 40 | 81.9% | 5.0% | 2.5% |
| Roma | 19 | 17 | 7 | 89.5% | 14.3% | 14.3% |
| Stanthorpe | 5 | 6 | 0 | 120.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Toowoomba | 196 | 173 | 30 | 88.3% | 10.0% | 6.7% |
| Warwick | 24 | 33 | 10 | 137.5% | 30.0% | 10.0% |
| Total for Circuit Centres | 1193 | 1219 | 262 | 102.2% | | |
| State Total | 6577 | 6393 | 2303 | 97.2% | 18.5% | 6.9% |

* Clearance Rate Finalizations/Lodgments

** Backlog Indicator The number of active pending defendants with proceedings older than the specified time. Time is measured from date of lodgment (usually the date of the presentation of the indictment) to the end of the reporting period.

Civil jurisdiction

The ambit of the District Court's civil jurisdiction is described in s.68 of the *District Court Act 1967*.

Disposition of civil cases

Some matters are disposed of by judges dealing with interlocutory applications in actions commenced by claims. The more complex matters are case-managed by the judges, leading to their early disposition.

Civil jurisdiction

The ROGS unit of measurement for the civil jurisdiction is a case. Secondary processes, such as interlocutory applications, are excluded. ROGS files include all claims and the majority of originating applications.

A civil case is considered active if it has not been finalised by adjudication, transfer to another court, settlement by mediation, default judgement, notification that parties have discontinued, or else is deemed to be resolved as, for example, where there has been no activity for 12 months.

This table shows the clearance rate in civil cases.

District Court—Civil jurisdiction 2006-2007

| | ROGS non appeal cases | | | Clearance Rate * | Backlog Indicator ** from filing date | |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------|--------|------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| | Lodged | Finalised | Active | | % > 12 mths | % > 24 mths |
| Brisbane | 2771 | 3646 | 2282 | 131.6% | 26.8% | 7.4% |
| State total# | 4890 | 6034 | 4526 | 123.4% | 26.4% | 7.2% |

* Clearance Rate Finalizations/Lodgments

** Backlog Indicator The number of active pending defendants with proceedings older than the specified time. Time is measured from date of lodgment to the end of the reporting period.

State Total State total is extrapolated.

The statewide clearance rate of 123.4% illustrates that the court is keeping up with its workload.



Applications Court

The Uniform Civil Procedure Rules provide for a proceeding to be commenced in some circumstances by an application, and also provide for an application to be made to the court in the course of a proceeding which will ultimately be dealt with fully at a trial or hearing.

Interlocutory and originating applications were dealt with quickly and efficiently by the court. There was no great delay for reasons associated with the court in hearing either type of application, at any centre where there is at least one resident judge.

Appellate jurisdiction

The court hears all criminal and civil appeals from Magistrates Courts, as well as appeals from decisions of various tribunals and other statutory bodies.

Case management of appeals to the District Court continued with regular reviews of outstanding appeals throughout the year. Intervention notices are generated by the Registry for the parties to assist them in adhering to predetermined timeframes in accordance with Practice Direction 5 of 2001.

This table shows the clearance rate in criminal and civil appeals.

District Court—Appellate jurisdiction 2006-2007

| | ROGS appeal | | | Clearance Rate * | Backlog Indicator** from filing date | |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|--------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| | Lodged | Finalised | Active | | % > 12 mths | % > 24 mths |
| Brisbane | 135 | 106 | 89 | 78.5% | 13.3% | 5.6% |
| State Total | 392 | 294 | 359 | 75.0% | 20.3% | 1.4% |
| Civil | | | | | | |
| Brisbane | 61 | 51 | 45 | 83.6% | 13.3% | 11.1% |
| State Total | 98 | 84 | 93 | 85.7% | 21.5% | 0.0% |

* Clearance Rate Finalizations/Lodgments

** Backlog Indicator The number of active pending defendants with proceedings older than the specified time. Time is measured from date of lodgment to the end of the reporting period.

The Planning and Environment Court

The workload of the Planning and Environment Court is consonant with the high levels of development occurring in many areas of Queensland. Judges of the District Court with commissions in the Planning and Environment Court are located throughout Queensland—in Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Maroochydore, Southport and Brisbane. The court in Brisbane has, unsurprisingly, the largest number of continuing and new matters. Its senior member Senior Judge Skoien, with Judge Wilson SC, oversees day to day management of the lists there.

Some changes introduced in the previous reporting period have simplified information about the courts' disposal rates. Further reforms of the system of gathering information about the court's work, and its statistics, are under way as a result of additional work been undertaken by the Planning and Environment (ADR) Registrar. Following procedural reforms introduced by Practice Direction Number 1 of 2006 there has been a continuous and increasing emphasis upon case management. Judges regularly sit on review days and also take an active role in case management.



Senior Judge Skoien



Judge Wilson SC



Reforms flowing from the key strategies for improving the IPA and IDAS review undertaken last year under the auspices of the Minister for Local Government and Planning are in train. It resulted in the creation of a new position—Planning and Environment Court (ADR) Registrar, the pilot scheme which was funded by the that department. That position is now part of the court’s management of disputes to consensual resolution and the early disposition of its caseload. Access to justice, particularly by

self-represented litigants, is integral to the proper administration of the court and it is important that this is managed in a cost-effective way. The Planning and Environment (ADR) Registrar also supervises court-ordered meetings of experts, which promote pre-hearing resolution of technical issues, thereby reducing the time and cost of hearings.

This table shows the clearance rate in Planning and Environment cases.

District Court—Planning and Environment Court 2006-2007

| | Lodged | Finalised | Active | Clearance Rate* | Backlog Indicator** from filing date | |
|----------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| | | | | | % > 12 mths | % > 24 mths |
| Brisbane | 543 | 507 | 510 | 93.4% | 19.4% | 3.3% |

* Clearance Rate Finalizations/Lodgments

** Backlog Indicator The number of active pending defendants with proceedings older than the specified time. Time is measured from date of lodgment to the end of the reporting period.

The Health Practitioners Tribunal

The Health Practitioners Tribunal was established by the *Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Act 1999* which came into force on 11 February 2000. The tribunal is the ultimate disciplinary body for some eleven health professional groups, those being medical practitioners, chiropractors, dentists, dental technicians and prosthetists, occupational therapists, optometrists, pharmacists, physiotherapists, podiatrists, psychologists and speech pathologists. The tribunal also exercises an appellate jurisdiction under the Act hearing appeals against decisions made by the various professional Boards and other disciplinary panels set up under the legislation.

All judges are members of the tribunal and the Chief Judge is its chairperson. The Chief Judge nominates a judge of the court as the constituting member for a particular hearing.

The hearing is conducted before the constituting member who sits with assessors appointed from gazetted lists, two from each list of members from the relevant profession and one from a public list of persons of good standing in the community. All questions of law and fact must be decided by the judge, who may have regard to the views of the assessors on factual issues. Throughout the year the operation of the tribunal was coordinated by Judge O'Brien with the assistance from time to time of Judge Forde, Judge Richards, Judge Dick SC and Judge Griffin SC.

Each year the District Court calendar reflects the number of designated weeks during which the tribunal will sit during the year. After the necessary interlocutory steps have been completed, matters are set down for hearing during those weeks. This system provides greater certainty for the parties, the practitioners and the assessors whose attendance is necessary for particular hearings.

The court listings, however, maintain a degree of flexibility such that, subject to the availability of assessors, any urgent matters can be brought on at relatively short notice. During the year Judge O'Brien met with a group of practitioners who appear regularly before the tribunal and discussed ways by which it can be ensured that the tribunal will continue to dispose efficiently of its workload.

In May 2007 the tribunal sat to hear a referral from the Medical Board of Queensland in Mackay, the first time that the tribunal had sat outside Brisbane. Although many of the tribunal's matters originate in the regional areas of the State, issues of witness availability, legal representation and cost efficiency mean that they are usually dealt with in Brisbane. However, some matters should be dealt with in the regional cities from which they originate. At present most, if not all, eligible assessors reside in Brisbane and the tribunal has identified the need to expand the various panels to include additional members from the larger provincial centres.

The tribunal is a relatively new jurisdiction, but there has been a significant increase in the number of matters being referred to the tribunal during the year. In 2005–2006 there were 21 referrals to the tribunal.



In the year under review, this number has risen to 43. There was also a marked increase in the number of directions hearings conducted and there are again indications that the volume and complexity of work flowing to the tribunal will increase further in the future.

Most of its matters still come from the Medical Board (72% of all referrals) although referrals were also filed by the Podiatrists Board, the Chiropractors Board, the Pharmacists Board and the Psychologists Board.

Due to a lack of sufficient accommodation within the Law Courts Complex the tribunal sits in rooms at 40 Tank Street. This will eventually be remedied with the construction of the proposed metropolitan Supreme and District Court courthouse in Brisbane.

Once again the court acknowledges the invaluable assistance provided by the many assessors who have sat on the tribunal throughout the year and to the registrars of the tribunal.

This table shows the clearance rate in the Health Practitioners Tribunal.



Judge O'Brien

District Court—Health Practitioners Tribunal jurisdiction 2006-2007

| | Lodged | Finalised | Active | Clearance Rate* | Backlog Indicator** from filing date | |
|----------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| | | | | | % > 12 mths | % > 24 mths |
| Brisbane | 43 | 28 | 34 | 65.1% | 11.8% | 0.0% |

* Clearance Rate Finalizations/Lodgments

** Backlog Indicator The number of active pending defendants with proceedings older than the specified time. Time is measured from date of lodgment to the end of the reporting period.

Childrens Court

The Childrens Court of Queensland is a specialist jurisdiction established under the *Childrens Court Act 1992*. On the retirement of Judge O'Brien as President of the court, Judge Dick SC was appointed President on 25 January 2007. Twenty-one judges of the court hold commissions under the Act.

Judge Dick has held meetings with representatives of the Youth Advocacy Centre and has addressed the Conference of the Department of Communities. Judge O'Brien attended the South Pacific Council of Youth Courts in Wellington.

A review of the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992* is being conducted. The closing date for input is October 2007. The purpose of the review is to assess the current legislation, to ensure that it is providing a best practice youth justice system. The Terms of Reference include a requirement for the review to examine the efficiency and effectiveness of the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*, with a focus on the following major areas:

- a) the appropriateness of the existing range of sentencing options;
- b) whether a greater range of accountability options is required;
- c) the causes of, and options to address, high levels of young people on remand;
- d) the appropriateness of existing justice options for young Indigenous offenders;
- e) options to improve the transition of young people from detention into the community; and
- f) legislative refinements to conferencing provisions.

Earlier amendments to the Act have resulted in an increase in the work of the court. It is yet to be seen whether any further amendments have the same result.

A separate Annual Report of the Childrens Court of Queensland is prepared under the *Childrens Court Act* and further details of the Childrens Court can be found in that report.



Judge Dick SC
President, Childrens Court of
Queensland





COURT HOUSE

GYMPIE DISTRICT COURT

REGISTRY NEXT DOOR →

Regional centres



The court sits in Brisbane and the regional centres where some judges are based. The regional centres are located at Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Maroochydore, Southport, Beenleigh and Ipswich. Judges also travel on circuit to other centres throughout the State. At most circuit centres and at some regional centres the judges rely on such registry support as is available from staff of the Magistrates Court's service.

Maroochydore

Judge Dodds

Judge Robertson

In addition to the usual work within the jurisdiction of the District Court, both also deal with proceedings in the Planning and Environment Court with Maroochydore having a significant workload in this busy jurisdiction. Both sit as a Childrens Court judge. During the year under report, 382 new criminal matters were lodged in the court at Maroochydore, and 296 matters were disposed of there, a 77.5% clearance rate, leaving only 8.4% of matters older than 12 months and 7.2% older than 24 months. Of the 222 new civil matters lodged, 217 were finalised, with a 97.8% clearance rate.

Most of the work of the Maroochydore Court is undertaken by the resident judges. Some is undertaken by judges from elsewhere who visit on circuit. The Maroochydore based judges undertake most of the circuit work at Gympie (a 114% clearance rate) and Kingaroy (101.5%). The Kingaroy district includes the largely indigenous community of Cherbourg. Some of the work of the court involves people from Cherbourg. They also undertake some circuit work elsewhere in the State.

Judge Dodds also has responsibility for the Bundaberg circuit lists and has achieved a 105.7% clearance rate in Bundaberg.



Judge Wall RFD QC
at his swearing-in as
Deputy Judge Advocate-General,
Australian Defence Force



Judge Newton



Judge Kingham

Southport

Judge Newton

Judge Wall RFD QC (since January 2007)

Judge Dearden (in 2006)

Judge Kingham (since January 2007)

In addition to the usual District Court work of the resident judges, Childrens Court and Planning and Environment court cases were disposed of in Southport and each of the judges performed circuit work at centres throughout Queensland. During the year under report, 404 new criminal matters were lodged in the court at Southport, and 431 matters were disposed of there, a 106.7% clearance rate, leaving 22.3% older than 12 months and 7.6% older than 24 months. There were 549 new civil matters lodged and 652 were finalised, with a 118.8% clearance rate.

Other judges on circuit also assisted with the Southport lists. The registry of the court is combined with the Magistrates Court registry.

The Southport courthouse has five courtrooms allocated for use by the District Court. The largest courtroom has been closed throughout the year under report, due to works to repair water damage sustained in preceding years. Ongoing problems with the air-conditioning throughout the building are expected to be rectified.

Townsville

Judge Wall RFD QC (in 2006)

Judge Pack

Judge Durward SC (from August 2006)

Until December 2006, Judge Wall (who transferred to Southport in 2007) and Judge Pack were the resident judges in Townsville, with Judge Durward joining them upon his appointment to the court on 21 August 2007. Townsville is also served by the Supreme Court's Northern Judge and the Magistrates Court. During the year under report, 430 new criminal matters were lodged in the court at Townsville, and 459 matters were disposed of there, a 106.7% clearance rate. With 363 new civil matters lodged, 410 were finalised, a 113.0% clearance rate.

Judge Wall, Judge Pack and Judge Durward hold commissions in the Childrens Court and the Planning and Environment Court. Judge Pack and Judge Durward now manage the lists, as well as visiting many other places throughout Queensland on circuit. Some assistance is provided by judges on circuit from other centres.



Judge Pack



Judge Durward SC

Cairns

Judge White

Judge Bradley

Judge White and Judge Bradley are the resident judges in Cairns and this centre is also served by the Supreme Court's Far Northern Judge and the magistrates. Both judges hold commissions in the Childrens Court, and Judge White is a judge of the Planning and Environment Court, with Cairns a busy centre for this jurisdiction. During the year under report, 589 new criminal matters were lodged in the court at Cairns, and 512 matters were disposed of there, a 86.9% clearance rate. With 272 new civil matters lodged, 271 were disposed of, a 99.6% clearance rate.

While most of the judicial work is carried out in Cairns and the Cairns region, including Innisfail and Cape York, each of the Cairns judges travels on circuit work outside the region for a few weeks each year. Some assistance is provided by judges on circuit from other centres.

Rockhampton

Judge Britton SC

The resident judge in Rockhampton, Judge Britton, also holds commissions in the Planning and Environment Court and the Childrens Court of Queensland. He conducted circuits in other centres. Rockhampton is also served by the Supreme Court's Central Judge and the Magistrates Court.

During the year under report, 171 new criminal matters were lodged in the court at Rockhampton, and 218 matters were disposed of there, a 127.5% clearance rate. With 71 new civil matters lodged, 89 were disposed of, a 125.4% clearance rate. Considerable assistance was provided by judges on circuit from other centres.



Ipswich

Judge Richards

Judge Richards is the resident judge and holds a commission in the Childrens Court of Queensland.

During the year under report, 400 new criminal matters were lodged in the court at Ipswich, and 418 matters were disposed of there, a 104.5% clearance rate and of the remaining matters, only 6.4% matters older than 12 months and 1.3% older than 24 months. Some assistance was provided by judges on circuit from other centres However there is an urgent need for a second judge to be based at Ipswich to assist with the burgeoning workload.

Beenleigh

Judge Tutt (in 2006)

Judge Dearden (from January 2007)

Judge Tutt until January 2007, and Judge Dearden, the resident judge since January 2007, hold commissions in the Childrens Court of Queensland. During the year under report, 590 new criminal matters were lodged in the court at Beenleigh, and 489 matters were disposed of there, a 82.9% clearance rate.

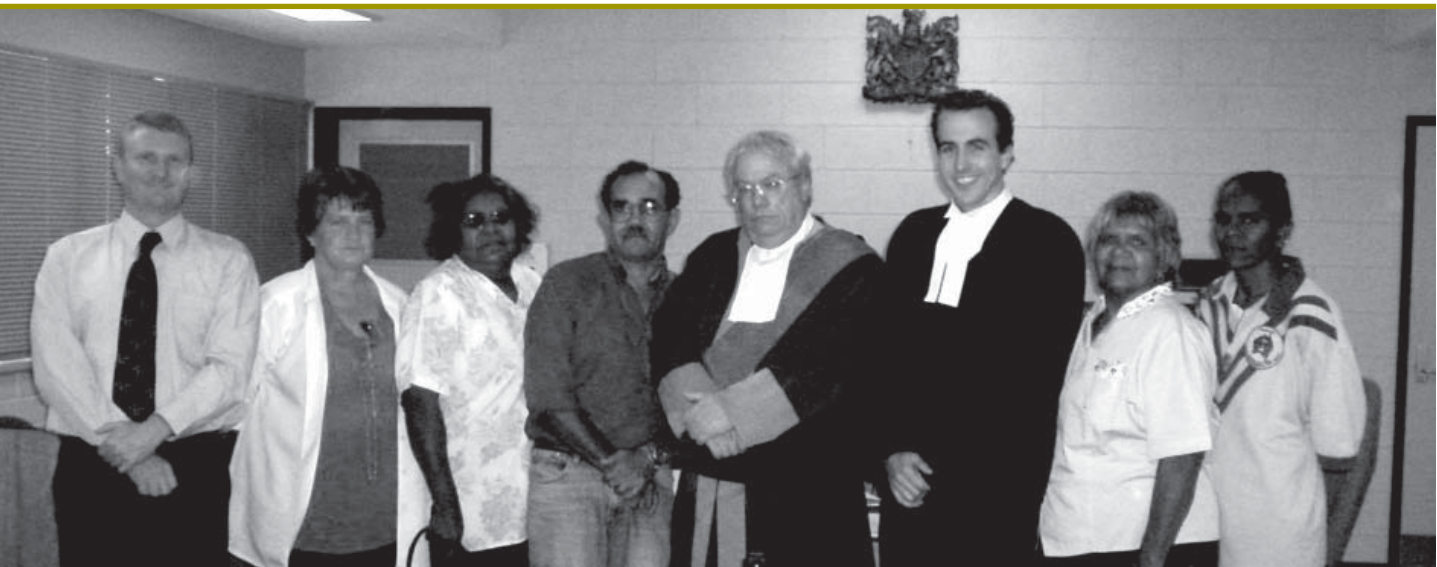
Considerable assistance is provided by judges on circuit from other centres. The registry of the court is combined with the Magistrates Court registry.

Circuit Centres

District Court judges sit in the appellate, criminal, civil and applications jurisdictions, as well as in the Planning and Environment Court and Childrens Court of Queensland while on circuit.

A list of the 37 centres (excluding those with a resident judge) for the 2006-2007 circuit calendar is below:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Aurukun | Kowanyama |
| Bamaga | Lockhart River |
| Bowen | Longreach |
| Bundaberg | Mackay |
| Charleville | Maryborough |
| Charters Towers | Mornington Island |
| Cherbourg | Mount Isa |
| Clermont | Murgon |
| Cloncurry | Normanton |
| Cunnamulla | Pompuraaw |
| Dalby | Roma |
| Doomadgee | Stanthorpe |
| Emerald | Toowoomba |
| Gladstone | Thursday Island |
| Goondiwindi | Warwick |
| Gympie | Weipa/Napranum |
| Hughenden | Woorabinda |
| Innisfail | Yarrabah |
| Kingaroy | |



Judge Shanahan, James Sullivan (Associate), Ben Cooke (Registrar of the District Court, Rockhampton) and members of the Woorabinda Community Justice Group





COURT HOUSE

MARYBOROUGH
COURT HOUSE
BUILT C. 1878

Judges' Committees



The membership of the Judges' Committees, the Chief Judge being an *ex officio* member of each committee, at 30 June 2007 was as follows:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

Convenor: Judge Shanahan

Members: Judge Nase

Judge Forde

Judge Pack

Judge Bradley

Judge Kingham

Civil Procedure

Convenor: Judge Robin QC

Members: Judge McGill SC

Judge Rackemann

Judicial Professional Development

Convenor: Judge Dick SC

Members: Judge Griffin SC

Judge Dearden

Criminal Law

Convenor: Judge Robertson

Members: Judge Shanahan

Judge Dick SC

Judge Griffin SC

Judge Dearden

Court Planning

Convenor: Judge Griffin SC

Members: Judge Wilson SC

Judge Rackemann

Judge Dearden

Salaries and Entitlements

Convenor: Judge Botting

Members: Judge Rackemann

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee's goals are:

- to deal with matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders referred to the Committee;
- to liaise with representatives of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities about matters affecting the court and members of those communities, other than decisions of individual judges;
- to recommend appropriate speakers on these topics at Judges' conferences;
- to develop and improve the relationship and understanding between the court and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; and
- to keep other judges and the community informed of such improvements and developments.

On 26 October 2006 Judge Shanahan held the inaugural sittings of the District Court at Woorabinda. These sittings were organised with the assistance of Ben Cooke, the Registrar of the Supreme and District Court at Rockhampton. Five members of the Woorabinda Community Justice Group were in attendance as were several students from Waja Waja High School in Woorabinda. The members made submissions at the sentencing of four residents of the Woorabinda Community for a variety of offences that had been committed within the Community.

In October 2006, the Committee was consulted by the Manager, Indigenous Justice Programs, Department of Justice and Attorney-General, about the development of material for the training of Community Justice Groups in relation to their role in court proceedings. On 29 May 2007, Mr Peter Kent, Director, Problem Solving Courts, and Mr Nick Seeley, Manager, Indigenous Justice Programs, briefed the judges on current training initiatives, as a mid-budget review had allocated funds for the training of Community Justice Groups. As a result, various regional training was organised on an urgent basis. The judges were invited to attend the final training session in Cairns on 18-22 June. Judge Forde attended.

The judges also requested a line of communication with the Department for the provision of up-to-date information as to the constitution of local community justice groups for judges visiting those communities on circuit. The judges look forward to continuing to support the Department's training initiatives.

On 2 February 2007, the Principal Legal Consultant, Strategic Policy, Department of Justice and Attorney-General discussed with the Chief Judge the judges' concerns about the lack of appropriately trained interpreters in remote communities. Judge Shanahan also spoke to the Legal Consultant of the urgency of this matter as there is a human rights issue involving people's ability to understand court proceedings affecting them. The judges are aware of no further action on this issue. The situation is becoming desperate, particularly in Aurukun, where a large proportion of young people have little English because of non-attendance at school.



On 20 March 2007, the Chief Judge advised the Commonwealth Attorney-General of the judges' concerns about the seeming reduction in legal services provided by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Legal Service (ATSILS), particularly in remote communities. The Attorney-General advised her on 24 April 2007 that the Australian government was committed to ensuring that indigenous Australians have access to high quality and culturally appropriate legal aid services and that his department was closely monitoring the performance of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Legal Service (Townsville-NQ) Ltd (ATSICLS). In May 2007, a new Legal Practice Manager was appointed to ATSICLS (NQ).

During the 2006-2007 financial year circuits were undertaken to the Gulf (Mornington Island, Doomadgee and Normanton) on two occasions, to the Cape (Weipa/Napranum, Kowanyama, Aurukun, Pormpuraaw and Lockhart River) on two occasions, to Thursday Island and Bamaga on two occasions and to Yarrabah. On 26 October 2006, the inaugural sittings of the District Court was held at Woorabinda. The local Community Justice Group supports regular circuits and in the future there will be regular sittings of the court at Woorabinda. Because of continuing difficulties with facilities, the District Court is unable to return to conduct sentence proceedings on Palm Island. During the Kingaroy circuits, the court continues to sit at Murgon to deal with Cherbourg sentence matters.

Judge Shanahan served as a member of the AIJA National Indigenous Cultural Awareness Committee, and since May 2007, Judge Bradley has been a member of the National Judicial College of Australia's Indigenous Justice Committee. On 6 July 2006, Judge Forde spoke to a training group of leaders in the Department of Justice and Attorney-General about Community Justice Groups and their role in crime prevention, counselling and the sentencing process.

In August 2006, Judge Shanahan presented a paper in the session *Black and Blue: The Legal System and Indigenous Offenders* at the National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference in Melbourne. In August 2006, Judge Forde visited Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre to speak to indigenous men on remand on reintegration into their communities. In October 2006, Judge Forde presented certificates of completion to boys attending Champs Camp outside Beaudesert designed to help boys learn skills of leadership, co-operation and management. Most of the participants were indigenous. In January 2007, Judge Bradley presented a paper *Using Indigenous Justice Initiatives in Sentencing* at the Supreme and Federal Courts Judges' Conference in Perth.

Civil Procedure Committee

The committee's function is to advise the Chief Judge (and the judges generally, if required) in respect of issues relevant to the exercise of the court's civil jurisdiction, in particular anything to do with rules of court (currently the Uniform Civil Procedure Rules 1999, as amended) and any legislation governing procedure in non-criminal matters, what practice directions may desirably be promulgated or repealed, and so forth. Activity is typically required if the court is instigating or taking up opportunities to comment on proposals for changes in such rules or pertinent legislation bearing on procedure, evidence, etc. Use of e-mail facilities enables the committee to communicate and advise expeditiously, without any need for formal meetings. Two committee members represent the Chief Judge and the court on the Chief Justice's Rules Committee constituted under s118C of the *Supreme Court of Queensland Act* 1991 to review and advise on Rules of Court generally and any law giving jurisdiction to the Supreme Court, the District Court or Magistrates Courts.

Courts Planning Committee

The committee's work again focussed on discussions around the proposed new metropolitan courthouse for the Supreme and District Courts in Brisbane. The committee has also considered, and assisted the Chief Judge with, circuit arrangements and the management of lists at centres without a resident judge.



Professional development

This committee of the judges oversees the activities of the judges in the court by broadening and advancing the knowledge and understanding of the judges. The court has a budget for this purpose, administered by the Chief Judge with the assistance of the committee.

In August 2006, the Judges' annual conference was held. The speakers included Dr K Gelb, Senior Criminologist, Sentencing Advisory Council of Victoria, Professor Graham Brawn, Professor of Architecture Building and Planning, The University of Melbourne and Mark Oberhardt, a respected *Courier Mail* journalist. The speakers were informative and the topics covered a wide range of interests. The Planning and Environment ACPECT Conference was held in September 2006.

Judges attended workshops or conferences throughout the year:

- Judge Tutt attended the NJCA's Travelling Judicial Professional Development Program in Darwin;
- Judge Newton participated in the NJCA Judgment Writing Program in Adelaide;
- Judge Botting and Judge Kingham attended the NJCA's Phoenix Judges' Program in Canberra;
- Judge Durward attended the NJCA's Judicial Orientation program in Sydney;

Judges also presented papers or participated in seminars or conferences throughout the year:

For example, on 6 July 2006, Judge Forde spoke to a training group of leaders on community justice groups; on 2 November 2006, Judge Dick chaired a session at the NJCA's *Science, experts and the law* symposium in Sydney; on 4 December 2006, Judge Wilson and Judge Rackemann at the QELA seminar on *Meeting of experts—the journey so far*; in February 2007, Judge Wilson delivered the STEP oration in Brisbane; on 9 February 2007, Judge McGill with *Two Issues concerning costs* was the keynote speaker at the Australian Lawyers Alliance 2007 Queensland State Conference, and also presented a paper at the Australian Insurance Law Association conference at Noosa; on 12 February 2007, Senior Judge Skoien's paper, *Discretion in decision making under IPA* was presented at a QELA seminar; on 26 March 2007, Judge Rackemann on *Planning and Environment: preparation and conduct of cases* to the Bar Association in the Banco Court; on 16 May, Judge Dick in the Legal Aid Queensland hypothetical *Do the crime, do the time?* in the Banco Court and on 17 May 2007, Judge Wilson, Judge Rackemann and the Chief Judge spoke to the Queensland Environmental Law Association annual conference on the procedures and operation of the Planning and Environment Court.



Registry services and
administrative support



Office of the Principal Registrar and Administrator

The Office of the Principal Registrar and Administrator co-ordinates the registry and administrative services provided to the District Court of Queensland.

Mr Paul Marschke acted in the role of Principal Registrar and Administrator from July 2006 until early February 2007. During this period, the role was reviewed. This resulted in the function, focus, responsibilities and even terms of employment of the role being substantially altered. The most significant change in the responsibility of the role of the Principal Registrar and Administrator is the integration of the State Reporting Bureau with the Supreme and District Courts.

In February 2007, Ms Robyn Hill was appointed to the role for a period of three years. Ms Hill was admitted as a barrister in 1993 with significant executive administration experience in the justice administration arena. This appointment comes at a time of increasing change in the District Court as part of an ongoing process to improve the service provided by the court to the public and the profession.

As part of her desire to create service improvement opportunities within the District Court, Ms Hill has actively sought engagement with the legal profession since her appointment, and will continue to consult with the profession in relation to registry and administrative changes.



Supreme and District Courts senior management group (l-r) Stephanie Attard, Acting Director, State Reporting Bureau and Courts Corporate Services; Amanda O'Brien, Acting Director, Information Management; Robyn Hill, Director of Courts; Andrew Kennedy, Senior Registrar; and Julie Steel, Deputy Director of Courts.

Ms Hill acknowledged the hard work and effort of all registry and administrative staff, and the extraordinary support and assistance she has received since her appointment, from the judges, senior officers of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, and the registry and administrative staff.

The Office of the Principal Registrar and Administrator is supported by general executive and administrative staff, the office of the Sheriff of Queensland (including the bailiffs) and registry staff across the State.

Business Priorities

In late February of this year, the Chief Judge endorsed a list of business priorities (essentially a business plan) for registry and administrative staff to focus on over the course of the remainder of the financial year and leading into the first part of the next financial year. The priorities included:

- The establishment of a team structure within the Brisbane Registry to better support and develop staff and establish natural workflows by allowing a team of people to manage various files from commencement to closure;
- Continued work to improve information management and communications (including the development of a new website and other communications initiatives) within the court;
- Continued work to improve staff Learning and Development, particularly the development of a performance culture within the courts;

- Continued technology improvements in the courts including the capacity to manage electronic trials.

Benefits which should be drawn from these changes include:

- Improved service delivery to the judiciary and the legal profession;
- Vastly improved support for court staff and the opportunity for staff to develop greater understanding and expertise in the work they do, and how their work impacts on others;
- More effective use of court resources;
- Improved organisational capability and maturity;
- Improved expertise in organisational planning and performance management;
- Improved reporting capacity including statistical reporting and organisational reporting.

Significant effort has been undertaken in relation to progression of each of these priorities over the last four months. It is expected that the registry restructure should be complete within the next few months and associated workflow changes implemented by the end of the 2007. It should be noted that these priorities were aligned with the work of the Court's Continuous Process Improvement Program (CPIP) to ensure that court resources were commonly directed to achieve court objectives.



Continuous Process Improvement Program (CPIP)

In June 2005, the Supreme and District Courts Registry initiated a comprehensive program to review its operations. The program, known as the Continuous Process Improvement Program (CPIP), is the first major change process focussed on business improvement undertaken by the courts. In August 2006, the program was expanded to include Magistrates Court operations. This expansion allows for the alignment of operations and processes across all Queensland courts.

CPIP is part of the court's commitment to improved service delivery based on an organisational culture of performance, management accountability, client service excellence, staff capability and capacity for change. By June 2007, many key initiatives have been progressed, including the following:

- Commenced re-organisation of the Brisbane Registry including workshops, mentoring, training, change management, planning, and project management;
- Implementation of process re-engineering recommendations;
- Commenced development of a strategy and practice notes for electronic litigation;
- Completed review of written communications and statistical reports currently produced by the Registry and recommendations for improvement are now being implemented;

- Implementation of improvements to the Civil Information Management System (CIMS) to better support current registry practice and integration of other IT 'satellite systems';
- Implementation of extensive learning and development opportunities for court staff, including programs on leadership, decision-making, client service, managing change and operational business skills.

In 2007-08 CPIP will evolve into the first phase of the development of an integrated Queensland Courts Case Management System, i.e. a single case management system to be used across all Queensland courts. The initial focus of this project will be to review and align business processes across Queensland courts.

Planning and Environment (ADR) Registrar

The review of the *Integrated Planning Act 1997 (IPA)* and its Integrated Development Approval System (IDAS), announced by the Minister for Local Government and Planning on 22 February 2006 has resulted in an immediate benefit to the administration of the planning and environmental jurisdiction by the creation of the position of Planning and Environment Court (ADR) Registrar.

The Planning and Environment (ADR) Registrar will examine registry practice to consider a more efficient method of dealing with files. In addition, the examination of registry practice will identify and reduce bottlenecks in the registry that adversely affect the timeliness of orders issuing from the registry. The Planning and Environment (ADR) Registrar's services as a mediator, case manager, or chair of experts' conferences will be freely available at no cost to the parties and will include assistance to self represented litigants. The Planning and Environment (ADR) Registrar is an accredited mediator of the District Court and will assist in ensuring that parties comply with their obligations under Practice Direction No. 1 of 2006 by conducting regular reviews of files to check whether they have complied with the judges' orders and directions.

Processes to save court time

Consent Orders

The court encourages the use of Rule 666 of the Uniform Civil Procedure Rules to obtain a consent order from the Registrar with a view to streamlining proceedings and saving costs.

While applications have increased, so too has the rate of refusal for non-compliance with the requisite practice direction; for example:

- where the party did not file an affidavit to support the exercise of the Registrar's discretion;
- a notice of address for service was not filed by the respondent; or
- the consent was not signed by all parties.

Some applications were refused on the basis that it was more appropriate that they be dealt with by a judge.

Default Judgments

The rules of court permit a party to end proceedings early. One of the methods is an application for default judgment. This division applies if a defendant in a proceeding started by claim has not filed a Notice of Intention to defend and the time allowed under the rules to file the notice has ended.

Applications on the Papers

A party may file an application to have an order made by a judge without the need for an oral hearing, that is, the matter can be decided by the judge on the papers. When a decision is made by the court, the Registrar forwards to each party a copy of the order and the reasons for the decision.



Cost assessments

Cost Assessment is the procedure in which parties negotiate the settlement of the legal costs of actions with a cost assessor.

The end of the 2006-2007 year saw a change in the regime of cost assessments. An independent external cost assessor will now determine the issue of why costs are payable rather than the Registrar. Parties can agree on the identity of the cost assessor, or seek an order of the court appointing a particular cost assessor. This change affects assessments of both party and party costs, and solicitor and client costs.

The commencement of the *Legal Profession Act 2007* and the subsequent amendment of the Uniform Civil Procedure Rules 1999 created a new method of dealing with disputed solicitor and client costs. Rule 743A UCPR enables the Chief Justice to give guidance about what directions are appropriate to these assessments.

Practice Direction 5 of 2007 (Costs Assessments: Interim Arrangements) is relevant to the new model of assessments.

Further legislative amendments are expected during the 2007/2008 year that will:

- streamline the process of referrals to external costs assessors;
- set up a scheme for accreditation of cost assessors; and
- confer immunity on cost assessors.

The principal objective of the changes to the cost assessment process is to create a more expeditious and less expensive process for the parties involved.

District Court learning and development—2006–2007

Over the past year there has been an increase in capability development programs being offered to staff as part of the court's commitment to continual improvement.

In 2006-2007, 654 places were provided on various programs including:

- Queensland Courts Induction (52)
- Courts Leadership and Development (27)
- Operational Business Skills Program (17)
- Systems training for the Queensland Wide Interlinked Courts (QWIC) database (119)
- PartnerOne Shared Service Provider programs (88)
- Judges Associates Induction Program (38)
- Change Management Program (110)
- Organisational Development Program (106)
- Service Focus Program (21)
- Legal Research Skills Program (38)
- Externally delivered management training programs (22)

An online learning capability, the Evolve learning platform, was developed to improve staff access to the orientation, induction and business systems training, regardless of where staff are located in Queensland. An Effective Decision Making program has begun to enhance the skills of managers and deputy registrars. These programs develop skills and further enhance the court's ability to deliver quality service to the community.

The Queensland Courts Learning and Development Committee with representatives from the judges, magistrates and officers of the department, was established to oversee improvements in learning and career development opportunities as well as for developing initiatives to promote a sustainable learning culture.

The court will ensure that new staff, on joining a court, will receive learning and development opportunities to meet the needs of the court. A training program will be designed to develop business skills/knowledge and personal development to ensure each person has career opportunities. The induction program will be developed further to ensure it is available to staff throughout the State, with more courses for online enrolment via Evolve and opportunities for providing qualifications recognised nationally.

Filing by post

This service enables practitioners and self-represented litigants to file documents without the need to attend the registry.

The postal dealing fee for documents filed by post was phased out as at 27 November 2006 and this represents an improved service to regional and suburban clients.

Civil registry

In December 2006 a number of initiatives were implemented to provide litigants with a faster, more efficient service without the need to attend elsewhere in the building or queue unnecessarily. A detailed business analysis identified various deficiencies in service delivery. In order to establish improved service delivery, it was necessary to make significant changes to the registry.

Counter relations

Client Relations Staff assess documents for filing and set dates for applications, cost assessments and other court appointments. These staff also assess fees payable and provide procedural information.

From December 2006, Client Relations Officers now receipt fees for initiating proceedings as opposed to sending the client to a cashier once they have had their documents assessed. This initiative allows the client to minimise their waiting time.

The provision of two wireless computers terminals, each with a printer are available for use free of charge, to conduct searches and view document lists on court files by clients. This service allows the registry to devote more resources to assist those clients with more complex needs.



Information kiosk

The Information Kiosk was introduced this year in Brisbane. Between 9am and 12pm daily, a registry officer is allocated to the reception desk located outside the counter's secure area. This area is the first contact point for enquiries and witnessing documents. The officer gives directions to courtrooms within the complex, to other courts and assists people generally. The officer also witnesses documents, can accept for filing those documents which do not require fees to be paid and answers telephone enquiries.

Search and copy counter

The Search and Copy counter allows clients easy access to court files for searching and obtaining copies of documents without the need to attend at the main registry counter. The counter is staffed by one officer between 9am–4pm with assistance during peak periods.

Transcript and enquiry counter

The transcript enquiry counter for the State Reporting Bureau in Brisbane, formerly on the 4th floor, has been re-located to the Supreme Court registry counter. All requests in person, enquiries and collection of transcripts are provided at this counter.

These initiatives aim to provide court users with a faster, more efficient service without the need to attend elsewhere in the building or queue twice for assessment of documents and then payment.

Records management

Records Management is the area which manages the storage, filing, archiving and destruction of all court records in accordance with the disposal schedule administered by Queensland State Archives. Record Management is an integral area of registry operations. The administration of the courts would fail without efficient and accurate file maintenance.

Due to shortage of storage space within the current building, it is expected that the transfer and disposal of Supreme and District Court files to Queensland State Archives will require a greater allocation of resources in the next financial year. This will also achieve a reduction in the costs of transferring large numbers of files to the new court building.

Client survey

The Supreme and District Courts Registry undertook its second court users satisfaction survey of the Brisbane civil registry in relation to changes made to registry counter services and the introduction of the Information Kiosk.

The survey sought feedback about quality of service delivery; and level of business performance; the responsiveness to requests; timeliness of decisions and communication of them; accessibility of service and facility, appropriateness of the way services are delivered, and the efficiency of providing merged counter services. Of the 143 responses received from court users, it appears that there is a high level of satisfaction with court staff services at the registry counter.

Listings directorate

The Listings Directorate is responsible for the scheduling arrangements of trials, hearings and reviews before the District Court, the Planning and Environment Court, the Health Practitioners Tribunal and the Childrens Court of Queensland.

Each of the list managers within the directorate administratively manage the Criminal, Civil and Applications Lists.

The list manager should be the first point of contact and practitioners are actively encouraged to use email to facilitate such contact.

Information regarding electronic set down, court calendar, daily law list and available hearing dates are available electronically on the Courts website <www.courts.qld.gov.au>.

Planning and Environment Court

The workload of the Planning and Environment Court is consonant with the high levels of development in many areas of Queensland. Despite an increasing case load, the court keeps pace with its lists, and continues its tradition of providing speedy resolution of planning and environmental disputes.

Some changes introduced in the previous reporting period have simplified information about the court's disposal rates, partly as a result of work done by the (ADR) Registrar.

All active matters are the subject of constant review so that none may fall away from court supervision. This work adds significantly to the work of the judges. In Brisbane, review hearings have increased from two to three days per week and judges often conduct review hearings (sometimes upwards of 20 matters per day) before embarking upon the hearing of contested appeals and applications.

Registry practice will be examined to consider a more efficient method of dealing with matters so that files are accurate and up-to-date and information can be accessed easily.



Sheriff's Office

The Sheriff's Office is responsible for managing the criminal jurisdiction within the Supreme and District Courts. Currently the office is split into 3 separate offices within the Brisbane Law Courts Complex which are, other than the designated Sheriff's Office, the Criminal Registry and Bailiff's Office.

Those offices each have particular areas of responsibility which include:

- The preparation and forwarding of Notices to Prospective Jurors for all courts in Queensland.
- Management of jurors for the Brisbane courts.

- Payment of witnesses.
- Registering indictments presented to the courts in Brisbane and managing those files through to finalisation of the charges using the QWIC database.
- Assignment of bailiffs to the Brisbane courts.
- Enforcement of civil warrants and warrants issued in Admiralty.
- Safe custody of prisoners to the extent required by the *Corrective Services Act 2006*.

Of the 162 Brisbane trials, 38 extended their deliberations outside of normal court hours and 12 juries needed accommodation overnight. One jury was provided with accommodation for two nights.



Registrars of the Supreme and District Courts (l-r) Robyn Hill, Alex Hams, Neville Greig, Jo Stonebridge, Andrew Kennedy, Lisa Ingram, Leanne McDonnell, Julie Steel, Tracy Dutton, Peta Stilgoe, Ian Mitchell, Maria Samios, Micheal Reeves and Ian Enright.



BETWEEN

-and-

Appellant

Respondent

INDEX TO RECORD

| Document | Date | Page |
|---------------------------|------|------|
| TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS | | -- |
| Witnesses * | | 199 |
| Examination-in-chief | | 214 |
| Cross examination | | 301 |
| Re-examination | | -- |
| Examination-in-Chief | | -- |
| Cross examination | | -- |
| Re-examination | | -- |
| Examination-in-chief | | -- |
| Cross examination | | -- |
| Re-examination | | -- |

Information technology



The Information Technology Team supporting the District Court was renamed the Information Management team to reflect the broader scope of services now provided. In addition to staff who provide technological systems and support, the Information Management Team also includes legal research staff who maintain the Queensland Sentencing Information Service (QSiS) and a staff member who manages the public communication materials used by the court.

Information technology

Additional funding was provided by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General for a number of IT initiatives. Using those funds, the Information Technology team achieving the following:

- Directly assisted the Court of Appeal to, plan, design and implement a cost effective system of producing electronic appeal record books.
- Enhanced the very popular eSearch service <www.ecourts.courts.qld.gov.au/eSearching/eSearching.htm> that allows parties to search civil files lodged with the Supreme and District Court. Over 580,000 searches were conducted in 2006-2007, which is a significant increase on last year. There are now more than 1,580 searches conducted every day.
- Expanded the successful and high profile Courts Wi-Fi Service to Maryborough, Hervey Bay and Toowoomba, as well as installing the service in more courtrooms in existing centres. The Courts Wi-Fi Service now encompasses over 120 courtrooms in 15 centres throughout the state. This innovative service is held in high regard for the benefits that can be realised and the Federal Court plans to introduce a similar service, starting in Brisbane, during 2007-2008.
- Adopted digital dictation devices to replace analogue equipment used by judges and secretarial staff throughout the State. The new systems are simple, efficient and allow regional judges to get their dictation transcribed in Brisbane, with draft documents returned via e-mail, which is much more efficient than the old systems and processes.
- All criminal courtrooms regularly used by District Court judges had a PC installed on the bench and at the associate's desk allowing, for the first time, judges to access resources such as on-line legislation and QSiS while sitting.
- The introduction of PCs to the Bench is a great enabler for future IT initiatives. For example the electronic record books produced by the Court of Appeal registry are now used by judges sitting in that jurisdiction while in court, rather than bulky hard copy documents that can not be quickly searched.

- Configured the Banco Court to support electronic evidence management in an appeal heard by the Land Court.
- A program of equipment replacement saw over 70 PCs replaced. Also, many Multi Function Devices (printer, copier, fax and scanner) were installed throughout the state, providing enhanced printing capacity to the court.
- Though beyond its useful life, the Civil Information Management System (CIMS) was deployed to Mackay and Beenleigh as a replacement system is still some years off.
- Enhance the ageing Civil Information Management System (CIMS) so that it is able to meet the reporting needs of the courts until the system is replaced.
- Develop, and deploy across the State, a web based interface to allow more regional staff to capture, electronically, information critical to court statistics.
- Increase the number of Multi Function Devices accessible from courtrooms so that more judges and associates have ready access to printing and copying facilities.
- Configure, on a permanent basis, the Banco Court, the Court of Appeal and a civil courtroom in Brisbane, to support electronic evidence management. This will allow more electronic trials to be heard.
- Identify and replace equipment that has reached the end of its useful life.
- Participate in planning for the new Law Courts building in Brisbane.

Building on the success of 2006-2007

To build on the successes of 2006-2007 the Information Technology team will undertake the following activities in 2007-2008:

- Facilitate the introduction of Electronic Document and Records Management systems into the courts. This system is a pre-cursor to a future case management system and will support the introduction of electronic filing in the future.
- In-source the support of some important IT systems that are presently supported by third parties.

The Queensland Sentencing Information Service

The Queensland Sentencing Information Service (QIS) is a world class solution developed in 2005-2006 in partnership with the Judicial Commission of New South Wales. QIS provides a comprehensive collection of information relevant to sentencing and assists decision makers, on and before the bench, when considering sentence. QIS was formally launched by the Chief Justice and the Attorney-General on 27 March 2007.

The majority of the QIS team resources are dedicated to the addition and enhancement of legal content.



The QGIS team, however, also worked actively with the Judicial Commission of New South Wales to enhance the functionality of QGIS and engaged with the user base to achieve the following:

- Significant enhancement and modification to the QGIS systems and interface.
- Formulated a policy for extending access to QGIS—free access for practitioners in the area of criminal law.
- Provided one-on-one training to the many judicial officers in Brisbane and the regions.
- Provided group training to staff from Legal Aid Queensland and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in Brisbane and regional Queensland.
- Established access for the Queensland Police and provided training for Queensland Police Prosecutors.

Building on the success of 2006-2007

To build on the successes of 2006-2007 the QGIS team will undertake the following activities in 2007-2008:

- Ensure that legal content of QGIS is maintained at a high standard.
- Continue to provide training to Judicial and Justice Portfolio staff.
- Make QGIS available to other Government agencies, with an emphasis on assisting Queensland Police Prosecutors.
- Make QGIS available to private practitioners and provide group information sessions.

Communications

The Continual Process Improvement Program (CPIP) referred to in the 2005-2006 annual report identified a pressing need for Queensland Courts to adopt more consistent and effective communication strategies. A temporary Communications Officer position was established in December 2006 and that position has been focussed on consolidating and improving the content of the courts' Internet sites.

Anticipated activities 2007-2008

- Settle a new visual identity for all Queensland Courts.
- Launch of the new, consolidated, Queensland Courts website.
- Evolution of a more permanent communications capability within Queensland Courts to improve the communications materials prepared by the court.
- Preparation of a Communications Plan for the 2008-2009 year.

Courtroom technology

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General has established the Court Technology Group (CTG) to provide strategic leadership and operational support for courtroom based technologies such as Audio and Visual (A/V) playback and Digital Recording of proceedings. The Information Management Branch will work closely with the Court Technology Group during 2007-2008 to improve the technology installed in District courtrooms.



Related organisations



Supreme Court Library

Introduction

In 2006-07 SCL began preparations for the publication of its own history, spanning 145 years since the library was established with the purchase of 61 volumes of English law reports in 1862. Although the history is yet to be titled, one possibility may be *From Acorn to Oak: A Story of Transformation*.

Change has been a constant theme for SCL, particularly in recent times when the exponential rate of technological development, and consequential changes in the commercial and legal environments, are creating ever new challenges and opportunities for libraries. As user needs and expectations evolve, SCL continues to demonstrate its willingness to rethink traditional service paradigms. We remain vibrant, competitive and relevant by being an adaptive organisation: by monitoring the environment, exploiting new technologies and anticipating user trends.

Although our methods for managing and delivering information have been radically transformed since our inception in 1862, our core purpose remains the same: to provide the highest quality legal library service to the judiciary and legal profession of Queensland. The following report illustrates the dual role of SCL a gateway to legal information for Queensland, and as a repository of Queensland's legal history.

SCL online

SCL has selectively adopted and adapted, over many years, the latest technologies to enhance the way we connect our users with information. Most recently, SCL has exploited internet solutions and negotiated flexible access arrangements with legal publishers to deliver a series of online information gateways for varied user groups. In 2006-07, 1.5 million information requests were served via these gateways which include: Courts/SCL website; Judicial Virtual Library; online catalogue (INNOPAC); and intranets accessible from public PCs in Brisbane, Townsville, Cairns and Rockhampton.

The joint Courts/SCL website, designed and administered by SCL for nearly a decade, accounts for 1,246,109 of the total, an increase of 12% over the preceding year. Through steady development and improvement, the site has become a critical point of contact for members of the legal and wide community. The most popular services are: full-text judgments (18,408 full text judgments are available including 2,301 District Court judgments); email daily lawlist (2,620 subscribers to date); UCPR bulletin; legislation and forms.

In 2007-08, this model is being changed and, as a result, the court will have a dual online presence. SCL will focus on the provision of legal information services, including judgments, through a new site at www.sclqld.org.au. The existing site at www.courts.qld.gov.au will remain with a focus on court business.

The creation of the new SCL website has been a major project for 2006-07, and will continue to be a central activity in 2008. The scope of this project is not limited to a simple redesign of the current website. The new SCL Online marks a watershed moment in the development of our internet services: it will consolidate current services and establish the necessary infrastructure to create a wholly online legal library for Queensland.

The goal is to make SCL online the central, single and intuitive search platform for all users, bringing together access points for a range of free legal resources and facilitating secure access to web-based subscription services for registered users, including all Queensland judges and admitted legal practitioners. This will deliver a one-stop legal information interface, available 24 hours a day 7 days a week, regardless of location. In addition to improving individual access to legal information, State-wide savings may be realised by the elimination of duplicate services and resources across Queensland law libraries.

Achieving this vision requires the successful completion and integration of several project facets encompassing the primary website, online catalogue, data storage servers, and negotiation of information access with legal publishers. These are underway and SCL Online is on schedule to be launched in several stages throughout 2007 and 2008.

Information services and collections

This year information desk staff answered more than 11,495 enquiries, dispatched 1,311 document delivery requests, undertook 91 research projects, and provided assistance, as required, to 45,278 users who visited the Brisbane library. These figures constitute the highest level of activity in each of these areas in the preceding four years.

The flexible dispatch options for document delivery requests, particularly the introduction of email delivery, continues to be popular with practitioners seeking quick and cost-effective access to the rich SCL collection. A gradual decline in document delivery requests is anticipated as legal information becomes more freely available online. However, SCL is receiving an increasing number of enquiries from clients needing assistance to locate and access this free online information.

SCL also introduced the option of email delivery for its judicial current awareness service (formally print only). The service circularised 3,140 items (15,153 pages) this year on subjects as diverse as law, politics, history, philosophy, science and technology. The value of the service, as a means of keeping abreast of emerging issues across a spectrum of disciplines, is demonstrated by a recent survey in which recipients awarded it a rating of 4½ out of 5 for usefulness and interest.



The SCL information desk also delivered a series of customised training programs for various user groups this year including:

- one-on-one sessions for District Court judges to familiarise them with available library resources;
- annual induction seminar and online resource training for judges' associates;
- legal research program for court registry staff;
- 'Introduction to SCL' session for new law firm clerks;
- legal research seminars for school students.

In addition to these services, a SCL priority has been to expand online tools and resources, enabling users to effectively access research material from their desktops. This encompasses the migration of the current collection to online versions; the enhancement of the collection with new titles relevant to legal practitioners; and the negotiation of broad access licence agreements with legal publishers.

In 2006-07, SCL purchased several major databases with full remote access for all Queensland judges and legal practitioners. Making of Modern Law and Eighteenth Century Collections - Law Online are fully searchable web-based databases of over 25,000 English and American legal titles published in the 18th, 19th and early 20th century whilst Hein Online provides legal material from the US including journals, judgments and textbooks.

The SCL Online project will deliver a virtual library, where users can log-in and access these resources from any internet enabled PC regardless of their location. This is of particular benefit to those users outside of Brisbane, and internet enabled kiosks have also been provided in Townsville, Cairns and Rockhampton courthouse libraries to ensure broad access. In addition to these, collections are held in the remaining four regional centres which have a residing District Court judge. Enhancing resources available to regional users is a major collection development focus and this year SCL invested 38% of its total subscriptions budget in regional development.

Scholarly publishing

In conjunction with its historical programs, SCL undertakes a growing schedule of research and publication projects each year. The purpose is to make available to the wider and legal communities, historical information pertaining to the court and the law in Queensland which is not accessible elsewhere.

Major works launched this year included *Justice According to Law: A Festschrift for the Hon Justice BH McPherson CBE* and *Reception of English Law Abroad* by the Hon BH McPherson CBE. In addition, SCL published its second oral history volume entitled *Lore and the Law* by Mr John O'Keeffe and a unique book on *Curious Connections: Master Musicians and the Law* by the Hon JB Thomas AM QC. In response to demand from the legal profession, SCL expanded the program to encompass legal texts with the publication of *Special Leave to Appeal 2nd* edition by David O'Brien in 2006-07, and several further texts are scheduled for 2007-08.

The second volume of the *Supreme Court History Program Yearbook* was also published following the sell-out success of the inaugural edition. The *Yearbook* is an invaluable reference tool which documents legal appointments, retirements, obituaries and admissions of the past year; reviews significant cases and legislation; and includes scholarly articles on legal and historical topics.

Finally, *Giving Youth A Voice: History of the Youth Advocacy Centre*, one of several works commissioned by external organisations in recent years, was researched and published to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the Youth Advocacy Centre. The book, and accompanying exhibition, was launched on 13 October 2006 by Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor of Queensland.

Legal heritage programs

The most significant legal heritage project to date was initiated in the preceding year with the amendment of the *Supreme Court Library Act 1968* to enable SCL to accept donations of historical, confidential legal documents. The first of these donations, formally presented at a ceremony on 30 August 2006, was the Feez Ruthning collection of Opinion Books donated by Allens Arthur Robinson (AAR). This fascinating collection of 30 opinion books (encompassing 1,544 legal opinions over 13,000 pages) date from 1874 and provide insight into the economic, legal, political and social history of Queensland which will now be available for future researchers and historians. SCL secured funding to purchase a large format preservation scanner, the only one of its kind in Queensland, to digitise these records and this process will continue into 2008.

Since the AAR donation, SCL has also received important historical records from the Queensland Society of Notaries and the Queensland Bar Association.

The collection continued to be expanded this year through the generous donations by individuals from the judiciary, legal profession and wider community. Following the donation of unique and valuable medals and regalia by the family of the late the Rt Hon Sir Harry Gibbs GCMG AC KBE in the previous year, SCL was honoured to receive the Gibbs armorial banner, bearing the family crest, which previously hung in St Paul's Cathedral in London. The banner now hangs in the ceremonial Banco Court alongside a portrait of Sir Harry, whilst the medals are permanently displayed to the public in the adjacent Rare Books Precinct. SCL gratefully received a further 80 significant additions to the legal heritage collection in 2006-07.

SCL also continued its series of ongoing projects which aim to collect, preserve and disseminate Queensland's legal heritage through the Supreme Court History Program (SCHP).

In 2006-07, three prominent legal personalities recorded oral history interviews or memoirs for the program and the growing collection of these works now totals 27 interviews and 11 memoirs. The significance of the SCL contribution to this area of historical preservation was recognized when the Librarian was invited to present a paper titled *The Role of Oral History in Recording and Preserving Queensland's Legal Heritage* at the XIVth International Oral History Conference in Sydney on 12-16 July 2006.



The program was also active in Townsville, Cairns and Rockhampton with touring exhibitions and accompanying lectures. A key event was held at the Townsville courthouse on 10 November 2006 and included:

- An address by The Hon Bill Carter QC, including reminiscences about his practice in North Queensland;
- The donation by the Hon Bill Carter QC of a painting of the former Townsville courthouse; and
- The launch of the North Queensland Legal History Database (1861 – 1964) compiled by Dr Dorothy Gibson-Wilde under the commission of SCL.

Community outreach and exhibitions

The highlight of community and exhibition activities this year was *Shakespeare & the Law*, a series of events hosted to coincide with the VIII World Shakespeare Congress, 17-21 July 2006. The program was officially launched by the Hon Paul de Jersey AC, Chief Justice of Queensland, on 17 July 2006 and included:

- a scholarly exhibition entitled *Shakespeare and the Law: Obligation, Vengeance and the Abuse of Power* featuring Australia's only copy of Shakespeare's 1623 *First Folio: Comedies Histories and Tragedies* (on loan from the State Library of New South Wales);
- a mock trial based on King Lear, with eminent jurists Sir Gerard Brennan AC KBE, Justice Keane and Justice O'Reilly presiding;

- hosted performances by the Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble; and
- guided tours for international Congress delegates, school and community groups, and other visitors.

The events, sponsored by Konica Minolta, were widely promoted in print and on radio, and attracted more than 3,700 visitors from 17 July–11 August 2006.

In addition to displays such as *At Home with the Law: Six Colonial judges and their Homes 1859-1901* held in the Rare Books Precinct in the Brisbane Courts, SCL also toured a number of exhibitions to the Townsville, Cairns and Rockhampton courthouses. These included *Shakespeare & the Law*, *Women & the Law in Queensland* and *The Queensland Criminal Code: From Italy to Zanzibar*.

The *Queensland Criminal Code*, originally curated in 2002, has proved to have enduring interest with SCL being requested to re-exhibit the material to coincide with the 20th International Conference of the International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law in Brisbane, and also commissioned to bring the exhibition to the Loganlea TAFE Library for the benefit of Justice Study students.

As part of the schools program in 2006-07, 8,553 students visited the court to take advantage of the variety of activities offered including: legal research seminars; tours of the rare books precinct and historical displays; and talk to a judge. The schools particularly appreciate the opportunity to speak with a judge, and judges of the District Court generously participated in this program, meeting with 11 groups during the year. SCL also welcomed four work experience students this year: Elizabeth Lavarch and Lucinda Fraser from Brisbane Girls Grammar and Emily Harle and Tegwen Hunter from Sheldon College Sheldon.

Conclusion

SCL success to date is directly attributable to the support of its key stakeholders, who are each represented on its unique governing body, the Supreme Court Library Committee. The Committee comprises a Judge of the Supreme Court; the Chief Judge of the District Court (Her Honour Chief Judge Wolfe); the Chief Magistrate; barristers (including nominees of the Bar Association); solicitors (including nominees of the Queensland Law Society) a representative of the Department of Justice. The District Court is also represented on the SCL Collection Subcommittee, by His Honour Judge Wilson SC and His Honour Judge Robin QC. Through these collaborative structures, the SCL users determine collection and service development, and resource allocation.

This independent and responsive governing structure will be critical to the continuing success of SCL. In the current economic environment, significant savings can be made through the aggregation of purchasing power and SCL is exploring possible synergies with other libraries servicing the Queensland legal profession. SCL is also developing and refining its infrastructure to enable the delivery of online services 24 hours a day 7 days a week to all users regardless of location. In view of these business and technology imperatives, and the stakeholder representation on the Library Committee, SCL is well positioned to become a premier legal library for Queensland.

In the coming year SCL will be formalizing its Strategic Directions statement to articulate key goals supporting this vision, and to provide guidelines to enable SCL to continue to exploit new technologies; monitor and respond quickly to environmental change; and be an adaptive and innovative organisation.

The Strategic Directions statement will also shape our recommendations for the design of the library in the new Courts Complex scheduled to be opened in 2011, the 150th year of SCL operation. This will be an opportunity to recreate the physical library space in view of international best practice; the latest and emerging technology; and the future direction of SCL services and collections. The result will be a modern information centre, continuing to deliver the highest quality legal library service to the judiciary and legal profession of Queensland.



State Reporting Bureau

The State Reporting Bureau provides recording and transcription services for the Supreme, District and Magistrates Courts, Industrial Court and Industrial Relations Commission. The Bureau also provides reporting services for the Medical Assessment Tribunal, Mental Health Court, Industrial Court, Land Appeal Court and Legal Practice Tribunal.

Services are provided in Brisbane and at 35 regional and circuit centres in Queensland. In respect of the District Court, reporting services are provided in Brisbane, Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Innisfail, Hughenden, Charters Towers, Bowen, Mackay, Gladstone, Bundaberg, Maryborough, Maroochydore, Gympie, Kingaroy, Emerald, Clermont, Mount Isa, Cloncurry, Longreach, Dalby, Roma, Toowoomba, Goondiwindi, Stanthorpe, Warwick, Ipswich, Southport, Charleville and Cunnamulla.

In the 2006-2007 financial year, the Bureau, in conjunction with the Courts Technology Group (CTG), implemented a state-of-the-art digital recording system using computer technology instead of analogue/magnetic tape to record proceedings in 263 courtrooms in 111 courthouses. Digital technology is cutting edge technology of the type used in the television and radio industries.

Digital technology is computer based and provides a significant improvement in the quality of the recording. It also allows one person to record proceedings simultaneously in multiple locations (in suitable cases) and allows greater flexibility in providing services across the state. It also allows for the safe and secure storage of recordings electronically avoiding the risks of deterioration presented by 'hard' format recordings.

The introduction of digital technology into the court system allows the State Reporting Bureau to digitally record and view proceedings from places such as Maroochydore and Maryborough and transcribe it from any one of the State Reporting Bureau's offices. The system allows for greater efficiency and flexibility. Once the transcription is complete and the audio stored, judges considering a decision several weeks after a hearing will be able to either read the evidence on their computer screen, print out a hard copy or listen back to oral evidence with the push of a button on their computer.

The Bureau is encouraging the ordering and provision of transcript via e-mail. It is anticipated that this will improve access to justice, particularly for residents of remote or rural areas, and provide convenience for parties.

The Bureau's provision of an accurate and timely recording and transcript of proceedings is critical to the courts' capacity to work efficiently in the administration of justice.



Appendices



Appendix 1: Practice Directions

The following Practice Directions were issued by the Chief Judge during the year and are available on the Court's website <www.courts.qld.gov.au>.

District Court

| Number | Description | Date Issued |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 2006/1 | Recording Devices in Courtrooms | 8 August 2006 |
| 2006/2 | Direct Access Briefing | 9 August 2006 |
| 2006/2 (amended) | Direct Access Briefing | 12 September 2006 |
| 2006/2 (further amended) | Direct Access Briefing | 3 October 2006 |
| 2006/3 | Digitally Recorded Proceedings: Means of identifying proceeding, those appearing, and witnesses | 6 November 2006 |
| 2007/1 | Freezing Orders (also known as 'Mareva Orders' or 'Asset Preservation Orders') | 22 June 2007 |
| 2007/2 | Search Orders (also known as 'Anton Piller Orders') | 22 June 2007 |
| 2007/3 | Agreed or Fixed Costs | 22 June 2007 |
| 2007/4 | Interest on Default Judgments | 22 June 2007 |

Planning and Environment Court

| Number | Description | Date Issued |
|------------------|---|------------------|
| 2006/2 | Digitally Recorded Proceedings: Means of identifying proceeding, those appearing, and witnesses | 15 November 2006 |
| 2007/1 | Direct Access Briefing | 1 May 2007 |
| 2007/2 (amended) | Direct Access Briefing | 14 May 2007 |

Health Practitioners Tribunal

| Number | Description | Date Issued |
|---------------|---|--------------------|
| 2006/1 | Digitally Recorded Proceedings: Means of identifying proceeding, those appearing, and witnesses | 16 November 2006 |

Childrens Court of Queensland

This Practice Direction was issued by the then President of the Childrens Court of Queensland, Judge O'Brien, during the year and is available on the Court's website <www.courts.qld.gov.au>.

| Number | Description | Date Issued |
|---------------|---|--------------------|
| 2006/1 | Digitally Recorded Proceedings: Means of identifying proceeding, those appearing, and witnesses | 14 November 2006 |



Appendix 2: District Court Associates as at 30 June 2007

Olivia Williamson

Associate to Her Honour Chief Judge PM Wolfe

Andrew Bevan

Associate to His Honour Senior Judge NA Skoien

Sharon Tey

Associate to His Honour Senior Judge G Trafford-Walker

Chris Wycherley

Associate to His Honour Judge W Howell

Scott Neaves

Associate to His Honour Judge I McG Wylie QC
retired 10 January 2007

Samantha Watkins

Associate to His Honour Judge KS Dodds
(Maroochydore)

Kristy Shore

Associate to His Honour Judge GS Forno QC

Ben Bertoldi

Associate to His Honour Judge HWH Botting

Liam McMahon

Associate to His Honour Judge MJ Noud

Jennifer O'Grady

Associate to His Honour Judge KJ O'Brien

Susan Downes

Associate to His Honour Judge NF McLauchlan QC
retired 14 July 2006

Tamerlan Von Alphen

Associate to His Honour Judge PD Robin QC

Lily Brisick

Associate to His Honour Judge BC Hoath
retired 4 August 2006

Mark Magner

Associate to His Honour Judge JE Newton (Southport)

Avril Donnelly

Associate to Her Honour Judge H O'Sullivan

Spencer Browne

Associate to His Honour Judge PJ White (Cairns)

Vince Knox

Associate to His Honour Judge PG Nase

Andrew Williams

Associate to His Honour Judge JM Robertson
(Maroochydore)

Tamerlan Van Alphen

Associate to His Honour Judge MW Forde

Leyya Taylor

Associate to His Honour Judge CJL Brabazon QC

Scott Malcolmson

Associate to His Honour Judge DJ McGill SC

Lauren Magasdi

Associate to His Honour Judge CF Wall QC (Southport)

Michael O'Dea

Associate to His Honour Judge RD Pack (Townsville)

Amanda Parke

Associate to His Honour Judge N Samios

Gordon Roberts

Associate to His Honour Judge GT Britton SC
(Rockhampton)

Zoe Craven

Associate to Her Honour Judge D Richards (Ipswich)

Skye Growden

Associate to Her Honour Judge S Bradley (Cairns)

Ravi Chandra

Associate to His Honour Judge MJ Shanahan

Elsbeth Meredith

Associate to Her Honour Judge JM Dick SC

Scott Sellwood

Associate to His Honour Judge AM Wilson SC

Melanie McIntyre

Associate to His Honour Judge ME Rackemann

Saul Cockburn

Associate to His Honour Judge WH Tutt

Nicholas Hanly

Associate to His Honour Judge MJ Griffin SC

Michael Bonasia

Associate to Her Honour Judge JA Ryrie

Amanda Holloway

Associate to His Honour Judge IFM Dearden (Beenleigh)

Emma Hutchinson

Associate to Her Honour Judge FY Kingham (Southport)

Alicia Menzie

Associate to His Honour Judge SG Durward SC
(Townsville)

Scott Neaves

Associate to His Honour Judge AJ Rafter SC

Appendix 3: Vale Judge Bernard McLoughlin

Judge Bernard Michael McLoughlin died on 10 January 2007. He was born in Brisbane on 22 July 1922. He served with distinction with the Royal Australian Air Force, 458th Squadron, from 6 December 1941 until 21 December 1945, and was stationed in England, the Middle East and Italy.

He was called to the Bar in 1950 where he practised after graduating in law from the University of Queensland. Judge McLoughlin was appointed to the District Court in January 1967. In 1972 he was joined by his brother, Cornelius, who was also appointed to the District Court.

Judge Bernard McLoughlin's ongoing commitment to his community, not only through his service on the court but also through such groups as the St Vincent de Paul Society and the Rhyder-Cheshire Foundation, bore testament to his integrity and compassion.

Judge McLoughlin retired from the District Court in September 1987. His family has donated his memorabilia to the Supreme Court of Queensland Library archives.



Judge Bernard McLoughlin



The District Court of Queensland
Law Courts Complex
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Brisbane Queensland 4000

PO Box 15167
City East Queensland 4002

Telephone: 07 324 79261
Facsimile: 07 324 75387

www.courts.qld.gov.au



**QUEENSLAND
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