

Trial of technical solution for in-court interpreters

Purpose

Queensland Courts is currently trialing a technical solution to enable an in-court interpreter to be located outside the dock, away from a party requiring interpreting services, to address security or cultural concerns identified by a Court and to facilitate ease of hearing for the interpreter. The results of this trial will be evaluated after 30 June 2023.

Trial dates

Stage 1 – Commenced December 2022

- QEII Courts of Law

Stage 2 – Commenced February 2023

- Brisbane (Magistrates Court (MC), Supreme and District Courts (SDC) and Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal)
- Cairns (MC and SDC)
- Ipswich (MC and SDC)
- Mt Isa (MC and SDC)
- Southport (MC and SDC)
- Townsville (MC and SDC)
- Toowoomba (MC and SDC) (available from 20 March 2023)

Description

The technology used in this trial is a hand-held, stand-alone, portable Digi-Wave 400 transceiver set. One device is provided to the interpreter and a second device to the party requiring interpreting services. These devices are paired and synced securely to each other. They are not integrated within the Court technology systems, only between each other.

Digi-wave transceivers enable two-way discussion between the interpreter and the party via a simple push-button system. The interpreter hears the party in their language in a headset and translates to the Court. All persons in the Court can hear both the party requiring interpreting and the interpreter.

There are only a limited number of systems available for the pilot and the interpreter may wish to familiarize themselves with the technology in advance. It is therefore ideal, where a Judicial Officer approves the use of a transceiver set, to give the registry as much notice as possible of that decision. The Bailiff/Court Services Officer or other registry staff member can then discuss the use of the transceiver set with the interpreter and the party requiring interpreting services before Court commences.

If a Judicial Officer approves the use of the transceiver set at short notice for use in the Court, they should inform the Bailiff/Court Services Officer that the equipment is required. The Bailiff/Court Services Officer will ensure the devices are charged and ready for use.

A two-page [instruction sheet](#) guides Court staff through the set up and use of the transceiver set in any court environment. The equipment is stored in a special black box for ease of use across courtrooms within a Court complex or on circuit.

For more information

For more information or technical support the Registrar should contact Paul Ramage and Matthew Ryan in Court Technology Services via the DJAG Service Portal.