

Magistrates Courts

Practice Direction No. 15 of 2013

Interest Rates

1. This practice direction applies to civil proceedings in the Magistrates Courts and varies the rates of interest to be applied:
 - (a) by the Registrar when entering default judgment under Rule 283 of the Uniform Civil Procedure Rules, and is in that regard made for the purposes of s 58 of the *Civil Proceedings Act* 2001; and
 - (b) to a money order debt (unless the court otherwise orders) and is in that regard made for the purposes of s 59(3) of that Act.
2. The direction is made to implement, for this jurisdiction, an agreement reached, by representatives of all Australian jurisdictions, to establish nationally uniform rates and applies in the Magistrates Courts on and from 19 April 2013, the date of Supreme Court Practice Direction No 7 of 2013, the rates of interest adopted in that practice direction.
3. The following is the rate to be applied by the Registrar when entering default judgment:
 - (a) In respect of the period from 1 January to 30 June in any year, a rate four percent above the cash rate last published by the Reserve Bank of Australia before that period commenced; and
 - (b) In respect of the period from 1 July to 31 December in any year, a rate four percent above the cash rate last published by the Reserve Bank of Australia before that period commenced.
4. The following is the rate applicable to a money order debt:
 - (a) In respect of the period from 1 January to 30 June in any year, a rate six percent above the cash rate last published by the Reserve Bank of Australia before that period commenced; and
 - (b) In respect of the period from 1 July to 31 December in any year, a rate six percent above the cash rate last published by the Reserve Bank of Australia before that period commenced.

Judge Brendan Butler AM SC
Chief Magistrate
31 May 2013
