

Murri Court – Cherbourg

Video transcript

Uncle Bevan Costello: Hi, my name is Bevan Costello. I'm an elder here on the Cherbourg Community. I'm also the chair of the local justice group. I believe that Murri Courts are really important courts to have in our community it gives our people the opportunity to work through their problems.

It's not a quick fix court, it's a court that you give it the opportunity to go away and do some programs and sort out some of your issues and then come back in a month's time. Magistrates get a report on how you're going.

It also keeps our families together, they don't get sentenced in a normal Magistrates Court in town where there's the possibility of them being sent to prison.

Magistrate Hackett: Murri Court is about building bridges and it's about building bridges between the court and the community. Community is so important - that's what you feel when you're in the Murri Court. It is a real genuine pleasure to be able to work with Elders on country, on the lives of their people and it gives the court the opportunity to make a difference.

Bringing together so many different service providers is the key part of the Murri Court, together with the wisdom, the genuine wisdom of the elders and their knowledge of the lives of their people. I can say as magistrate, when you have that bank of wisdom on your left and right, you're much better as a magistrate.