

APPENDICES



Witness room 4.14

APPENDIX 1 COURT COMMITTEES AND PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

CHIEF JUSTICE'S POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) meets quarterly to support the Chief Justice in the administration of the Court and to provide her with strategic advice and policy direction, particularly in relation to legislative, procedural and administrative changes likely to affect the Family Court and its users. Membership of the Policy Advisory Committee during 2005-06 comprised:

The Hon. Chief Justice Bryant

The Hon. Deputy Chief Justice Faulks

The Hon. Justice Finn

The Hon. Justice May (until March 2006)

The Hon. Justice Mullane

The Hon. Justice Mushin

The Hon. Justice Dawe

The Hon. Justice Rose

The Hon. Justice Strickland

The Hon. Justice Carmody (from March 2006)

Mr Richard Foster, Chief Executive Officer

Ms Angela Filippello, Principal Registrar

RULES COMMITTEE

The Rules Committee is established under section 123 of the *Family Law Act 1975*, which provides that a majority of judges may make rules of Court in relation to practices and procedures to be followed in the Family Court of Australia.

The Rules Committee meets monthly to consider proposed changes to the *Family Law Rules 2004* with a view to improving the efficiency, accessibility and cost effectiveness of the Family Court for its clients. The Rules Committee also undertakes detailed consideration of discrete issues as required, such as the rules governing single expert witnesses.

The Chair of the Rules Committee is Justice Strickland.

OTHER COMMITTEES

The Court has a number of other permanent Committees that meet by telephone on a regular basis or as required, after court hours. They are:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee (Chair: Justice Moore)
- Access to Justice Committee (Chair: Deputy Chief Justice Faulks)
- Communications Committee (Chair: Chief Justice Bryant)
- Electronic Benchbook Committee (Chair: Justice Rose)
- Ethics and Research Committee (Chair: Justice Morgan — until February 2006, Judicial Registrar Smith — from February 2006)
- Family Violence Committee (Chair: Justice Moore)
- Information and Communication Technology Committee (Chair: Deputy Chief Justice Faulks)
- Judgment Publication Committee (Chair: Justice Finn)
- Law Reform Committee (Chair: Justice O’Ryan — until March 2006, Justice Carmody — from March 2006)
- Library Committee (Chair: Justice Finn)
- National Case Management Committee (Chair: Deputy Chief Justice Faulks)
- Professional Development Committee (Chair: Justice Warnick)
- Property Management Committee (Chair: Justice Dawe)

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The **Communications Committee** was established in 2005-06 to develop and implement policies concerning the handling of media issues, the reporting of proceedings and communicating the Court’s function and role to clients, external stakeholders and the media. Committee members participated in a one-day workshop in May 2006 to discuss and decide on key elements of the Court’s communications and external positioning approach, as well as informing the future direction of communications activities.

The **Professional Development Committee** meets regularly to discuss policies and programs designed to support judging and judicial development. The Committee also plays an important role in developing education programs for the Judges’ Annual Conference.

During 2005-06, the **Family Violence Committee** supervised the application of the Court’s Family Violence Strategy. It was also engaged in developing guidelines for the final phase of the Strategy — case management — and for the implementation of section 60K of the Family Law Act, which requires the Court to give prompt consideration to allegations of family violence or child abuse.

In addition to the **Law Reform Committee's** major work in providing responses to requests by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department for comment in relation to proposed legislation, during 2005-06 the Committee considered a wide range of issues associated with the Court's implementation of the *Family Law Amendment (Shared Parental Responsibility) Act 2006*. The Law Reform Committee was instrumental in the preparation of submissions to the House of Representatives and Senate legal and constitutional committees' inquiries into aspects of the Bill (now Act).

The Committee also prepared a submission in response to a discussion paper issued by the Trans-Tasman Working group entitled *Tran-Tasman Court Proceedings and Regulatory Enforcement*; a submission to the Australian Law Reform Commission as part of its Review of the Uniform Evidence Acts; and a submission to the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General Working Party on Reform to Advocates' Immunity. Additionally the Law Reform Committee assisted the Chief Justice in the preparation of her submission to the Family Law Council's relocation inquiry.

The **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee**, in consultation with local Indigenous communities, was closely involved in the development and design of the new Indigenous courtroom (known as 'Wadna Wadna Wodli') in the Adelaide Registry. The Registry was opened in February 2006 and a separate formal opening for Wadna Wadna Wodli was held in May 2006.

The **Judgment Publication Committee**, in partnership with the Court's Communications Office, was involved in an ongoing project to make summaries of key judgments available to members of the public. This is another way in which the Court is furthering its commitment to making proceedings more accessible to the broader community. It is anticipated that judgment summaries will be made available through the Family Court's website in the 2006-07 financial year.

The structure of the Family Violence and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee was changed during 2005-06. Both Committees now report directly to the Chief Justice rather than to the Access to Justice Committee. Accordingly, the Access to Justice Committee has now been disbanded.

PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

During 2005-06, the Family Court made written submissions to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs' Inquiry into the Exposure Draft of the Family Law Amendment (Shared Parental Responsibility) Bill 2005, and the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee's Inquiry into the Provisions of the Family Law Amendment (Shared Parental Responsibility) Bill 2005. Copies of the Court's submissions can be found on the Australian Parliament House website, www.aph.gov.au. The Chief Justice also made a submission in response to the Family Law Council's discussion paper on relocation.

In addition, the Chief Justice, Justice O’Ryan and the Hon. Mr Richard Chisholm gave evidence to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs’ Inquiry into the Exposure Draft of the Family Law Amendment (Shared Parental Responsibility) Bill 2005 in Canberra on 26 July 2005.

A copy of the transcript of evidence can be obtained from the Committee’s website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/laca/familylaw/hearings.htm.

APPENDIX 2 JUDICIAL ACTIVITIES

In addition to hearing and determining cases, the Family Court's judges and judicial registrars actively contribute to the development of the law both in Australia and internationally. This is achieved through attending conferences and seminars, presenting papers, addressing professional associations and community-based organisations, meeting international delegations and liaising with judicial colleagues around the world.

Many judges and judicial registrars also serve as members of organising committees for conferences as well as working in the community with legal and cultural organisations.

A summary of the Chief Justice's engagements for 2005-06 is below.

CHIEF JUSTICE ACTIVITIES

Conferences attended

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| 11-12 November 2005 | Family Court Judges' Conference, Sydney |
| 22 April 2006 | Justice Environment Conference, Court Technology for Complex Spaces and Places, Melbourne |
| 4-6 May 2006 | International Association of Women Judges Conference, Sydney |

Speaking engagements

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 5 August 2005 | <i>The Children's Voice and the Children's Cases Program</i> , Address to the Tasmanian Child Representative Conference, St Helens |
| 6 August 2005 | <i>Family Law Reform: real or illusory?</i> , Keynote address, Family Law Practitioners Association Annual Conference 2005, Hobart |
| 31 August 2005 | <i>Openness and Accountability: the view from the Family Court</i> , Keynote address, NSW Local Courts Annual Conference 2005 |
| 18 October 2005 | <i>Cooperation between the Courts and the Community Sector in light of the New Family Law Reforms</i> , Keynote address, Catholic Welfare Australia Annual Conference 2005, Ballarat |
| 26 November 2005 | <i>State of the Nation</i> , Keynote address, Family Law Practitioners Association of Western Australia Annual Conference 2005, Margaret River |
| 1 December 2005 | <i>The Proposed Reforms and the Family Court of Australia</i> , Address to Family Relationships in Transition: Legislative and Policy Responses Conference, Australian Institute of Family Studies, Canberra |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 May 2006 | <i>The role of the Family Court in promoting child-centred practice</i> , Keynote address, Family Law Conference, Byron Bay |
| 6 May 2006 | <i>An update on developments in the Family Law Courts</i> , Address to the 10th Annual Family Law Intensive, Melbourne |
| 16 May 2006 | <i>Shutting the Stable Door — Women and Judicial Office</i> , Keynote address, Victorian Women Law Students' Collective breakfast, Melbourne |
| 19 May 2006 | <i>Child Inclusive Approaches and Section 60K</i> , Address to the Tasmanian Child Representative Conference 2006, Hobart |
| 20 May 2006 | <i>Recent Developments in the Family Court of Australia</i> , Address to the Family Law Practitioners Association Annual Conference 2006, Hobart |
| 7 June 2006 | <i>The 'Helping Court' comes full circle: The application and use of therapeutic jurisprudence in the Family Court of Australia</i> , AIJA Third International Conference on Therapeutic Jurisprudence, Perth (paper only - did not attend) |
| Delegations and international assistance | |
| 12-13 July 2005 | Delegation from the Family Court of New Zealand, led by the Hon. Peter Boshier, Principal Family Court Judge |
| 31 October 2005 | Attendance at the opening of the Family Court of the Fiji Islands |
| 14-25 November 2005 | Delegation from the Religious Court Judiciary of Indonesia, led by Widiana Wahyu, Directorate General of the Religious Court Body |

OTHER JUDICIAL ACTIVITIES

Other activities engaged in by the judges and judicial registrars of the Family Court during 2005-06 include:

- presentations at the Court's Living in Harmony and Family Violence forums
- delivery of specialised seminars to students at the Queensland University of Technology, the Leo Cussen Institute and the National College of Law
- reviewing judgment writing sessions delivered by the National Judicial College of Australia
- conducting simulated litigation programs for the Queensland Law Society
- presiding at moot courts at the University of Newcastle law faculty, and
- presenting papers to practitioner associations and at conferences.

Many judges and judicial registrars are also members of organising committees for local, national and international conferences.

Conferences attended by judges and judicial registrars in the reporting year include the *Association of Family and Conciliation Court Judges Annual Conference*, the *Commonwealth Law Conference* and the *Malta Judicial Conference on Cross-Frontier Family Law Issues*.

APPENDIX 3 CONTACT DETAILS

KEY CONTACTS

NATIONAL ENQUIRY CENTRE

GPO Box 9991

Parramatta NSW 2124

Phone: 1300 352 000

Email: <enquiries@familylawcourts.gov.au>

CHIEF JUSTICE'S CHAMBERS

305 William Street, Melbourne VIC

(GPO Box 9991, VIC 3001)

Phone: 03 8600 4333

NATIONAL SUPPORT OFFICE

Chief Executive Officer

15 London Circuit, Canberra ACT

(GPO Box 9991, ACT 2601)

Phone: 02 6243 8600

PRINCIPAL REGISTRAR

Cnr Tank St and North Quay, Brisbane QLD

(GPO Box 9991, QLD 4001)

Phone: 07 3248 2200

FAMILY COURT WEBSITE:

www.familycourt.gov.au

FAMILY LAW COURTS WEBSITE:

www.familylawcourts.gov.au

REGISTRIES

ADELAIDE

3 Angas St, Adelaide SA
(GPO Box 9991, SA 5001)

ALBURY

463 Kiewa Street, Albury NSW
(PO Box 914, NSW 2640)

ALICE SPRINGS

Centrepont Building, Hartley St, Alice Springs NT
(PO Box 9991, NT 0871)

BRISBANE

119 North Quay, Brisbane QLD
(GPO Box 9991, QLD 4001)

CAIRNS

Level 4, 104 Grafton St, Cairns QLD
(PO Box 9991, QLD 4870)

CANBERRA

Cnr University Ave & Childers St, Canberra ACT
(GPO Box 9991, ACT 2601)

DANDENONG

53-55 Robinson St, Dandenong VIC
(PO Box 9991, VIC 3175)

DARWIN

Level 1, 80 Mitchell Street, Darwin NT
(GPO Box 9991, NT 0800)

DUBBO

Cnr Macquarie & Wingewarra Sts, Dubbo NSW
(PO Box 1567, NSW 2830)

HOBART

39-41 Davey St, Hobart TAS
(GPO Box 9991, TAS 7001)

LAUNCESTON

Level 3, Cnr Brisbane and George Sts, Launceston TAS
(GPO Box 9991, TAS 7250)

LISMORE

Level 2, 29-31 Molesworth St, Lismore NSW
(PO Box 9, NSW 2480)

MELBOURNE

305 William St, Melbourne VIC
(GPO Box 9991, VIC 3001)

NEWCASTLE

61 Bolton St, Newcastle NSW
(PO Box 9991, NSW 2300)

PARRAMATTA

1-3 George St, Parramatta NSW
(PMG CC10, NSW 2123)

ROCKHAMPTON

Level 4, Cnr East & Fitzroy Sts, Rockhampton QLD
(PO Box 9991, QLD 4700)

SYDNEY

97-99 Goulburn St, Sydney NSW
(GPO Box 9991, NSW 2001)

TOWNSVILLE

Level 2, 143 Walker Street, Townsville QLD
(PO Box 9991, QLD 4810)

WOLLONGONG

Level 1, 43 Burelli St, Wollongong NSW
(PO Box 825, NSW 2500)

APPENDIX 4 RESOURCES FOR OUTCOMES

OUTCOME 1

Serving the interests of the Australian community by ensuring families and children in need can access effective high quality services.

| | Budget ¹ | Actual expenses | | Budget ² |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 2005-06 \$'000 | 2005-06 \$'000 | Variation \$'000 | 2006-07 \$'000 |
| Administered Expenses | 0 | 21 | (21) | 0 |
| Total Administered Expenses | 0 | 21 | (21) | 0 |
| Price of Departmental Outputs | | | | |
| Output Group 1.1 - Resolution | | | | |
| Output 1.1.1 - Mediated Agreements | 24,360 | 21,069 | 3,291 | 20,168 |
| Output 1.1.2 - Consent Orders | 2,919 | 3,476 | (557) | 3,328 |
| Subtotal Output Group 1.1 | 27,279 | 24,545 | 2,734 | 23,496 |
| Output Group 1.2 - Determination | | | | |
| Output 1.2.1 - Divorces | 5,459 | 11,207 | (5,748) | 10,728 |
| Output 1.2.2 - Interim Orders | 29,567 | 22,992 | 6,575 | 22,009 |
| Output 1.2.3 - Final Orders | 65,838 | 77,719 | (11,881) | 74,397 |
| Output 1.2.4 - Appeals | 9,390 | 6,304 | 3,086 | 6,035 |
| Subtotal Output Group 1.2 | 110,254 | 118,222 | (7,968) | 113,169 |
| Revenue from Government for Departmental Outputs^{3,4} | 137,533 | 136,858 | 675 | 136,665 |
| Revenue from other sources | 850 | 4,618 | (3,768) | 2,750 |
| Total Price of Outputs | 138,383 | 141,476 | (3,093) | 139,415 |
| TOTAL FOR OUTCOME 1 | 138,383 | 141,498 | (3,115) | 139,415 |
| (Total price of Outputs and Administered Expenses) | | | | |
| | | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 |
| Average Staffing Level | | 710 | | 680 |

¹ Full-year budget, including additional estimates.

² Budget prior to additional estimates.

³ Includes liabilities assumed by other Government Agencies for Judicial pensions and services provided free of charge.

⁴ Actual figure includes accrued appropriations associated with Judicial pay increases.

⁵ The 2005/06 Budget figures are based on an earlier version of the Court's ABC model compared to the 2005/06 Actuals and 2006/07 Budget which have been allocated based on the Court's most recent ABC model.

