

Judicial Council on Cultural Diversity

Welcome teleconference

Thursday 20 March 2014

Time: 5.00 pm EST

Chair: Chief Justice Wayne Martin AC

Participants:

Justice David Berman; Magistrate Bernadette Boss; Ms Maria Dimopoulos;
Justice Emilios Kyrou; Chief Justice Wayne Martin AC; Justice Lucy McCallum;
Justice Melissa Perry; Professor Greg Reinhardt; Judge Nick Samios; Judge Rauf
Soulio; Ms Carla Wilshire; Justice Helen Wood.

Apologies:

Justice Jenny Blokland

Outcomes

1. Chair's welcome

- Chair opened the meeting, confirmed attendance and welcomed members. The Chair noted the MCA would provide secretariat support.

2. Circumstances leading up to the creation of the council

- The Chair noted that papers had been distributed that provided background on the creation of the council.
- The Chair noted that the papers included a submission he had made as Chair to the Productivity Commission enquiry into Access to Justice.

3. Objectives and overview of the Council and key operating procedures

- Members discussed a work-plan for the council and it was agreed that further consideration would be given to this matter at the next face to face meeting.
- Ms Wilshire noted that the intention was that members would provide strategic advice and guidance, but that drafting and the creation of content and documents would be the work of the secretariat.
- The appointment of an Indigenous representative was discussed and it was agreed that Ms Wilshire would canvas prospective candidates.
- Professor Reinhardt agreed to canvas a representative from courts administrators.

ACTION: Ms Wilshire to the role of the Secretariat at the first meeting.

ACTION: Professor Reinhardt to identify options for an administrative representative.

ACTION: Ms Wilshire to meet with possible Indigenous representatives to discuss the work of the council.

4. The first meeting (agenda, preparation and travel)

- The Chair requested that members identify resources and activities in their courts that assisted with the management of culturally and linguistically diverse court users.
- Travel arrangements were discussed, as were dates for the first face-to-face meeting. It was agreed that the Secretariat would distribute possible dates for consideration of members.

ACTION: Members to ascertain existing resources and travel funding.

ACTION: Secretariat to circulate dates for the first face-to-face meeting.

5. Other business

- Professor Reinhardt noted that the AIJA and the MCA were working on a proposal to hold a conference on cultural diversity and the courts, which could support the work of the JCCD and could be guided by members.
- Members expressed strong support for the initiative agreed that it should be discussed at the next meeting.

ACTION: Professor Reinhardt and Ms Wilshire to circulate a paper on the conference and timing, to be discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting closed