



JUDICIAL COUNCIL ON CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Judicial Council on Cultural Diversity Meeting Communiqué 11 June 2021

The Judicial Council on Cultural Diversity (JCCD) met in Canberra on 11 June 2021, with some Members joining via videoconference.

The Council was addressed by two speakers. Professor Kim Rubenstein spoke to the Council about the constitutional framework and history of citizenship in Australia, and the current citizenship challenges faced by Australia. Professor Marie Segrave spoke to the Members about the results from the recent Migrant and Refugee Women in Australia National Survey.

The Council was updated on the progress of several ongoing projects, including the revision of the JCCD's factsheets by the CDJN and the proposal to the Legal Admissions Consultative Committee for the inclusion of standards relating to working with interpreters in the Competency Standards for Entry Level Lawyers.

Justices Bowskill and Wood provided an update on the *Interpreters in Criminal Proceedings: Benchbook for Judicial Officers*, a resource they have produced to assist judicial officers in criminal proceedings involving interpreters, based on the *Recommended National Standards*. The Council was informed that a draft was circulated with the CDJN for feedback. The Members agreed that this would be a very useful resource.

The finalisation of the Modern Slavery Guidance Note is ongoing. The Working Group and the Judicial College of Victoria have been working to settle its content and structure. It was agreed that the draft would be circulated with the Council for feedback and observations.

The Council was joined by Mr Iain Anderson, Acting Secretary of the Attorney-General's Department. The Chair briefed Mr Anderson on the background and major publications of the JCCD and introduced the Members. Members provided information about various completed and ongoing projects the Council has engaged in. The Council and Mr Anderson discussed the key challenges for culturally and linguistically diverse people in Australia's legal system, and the best methods for developing useful resources to alleviate those challenges.

The Council was informed that the review and update of the *Recommended National Standards* is ongoing, with the intention being to publish the second edition by the end of the year.

The development of courses for the legal profession and judicial officers on the *Standards* and working with interpreters are also ongoing. It was noted that once the content of the courses is completed, Migration Council Australia (MCA) will be responsible for their design and publication, and the finalised courses will be placed on MCA's existing eLearning platform.

In other business, Ms Carla Wilshire proposed that the Council develop posters for placement in courts with QR codes allowing court users to access information in various languages about the courts.

The JCCD will hold its next meeting on 15 October 2021 in Adelaide, border restrictions permitting.