

**Judicial Council on Cultural Diversity Meeting Communiqué  
15 October 2021**

The Judicial Council on Cultural Diversity (JCCD) met via videoconference on 15 October 2021.

The Council was updated on the progress of the Second Edition to the *Recommended National Standards for Working with Interpreters in Courts and Tribunals* (the *Standards*), the draft of which has been completed and endorsed by the Recommended National Standards Subcommittee. The Council thanked Justice Perry, the Chair of the Subcommittee, for her work on the Second Edition. The next steps for the *Standards* were noted: endorsement by the Council, endorsement by the Council of Chief Justices (CCJ), publication, and promotion.

The Council resolved to endorse the revised *Standards*, and the Chair agreed to bring them to the CCJ when next practicable. It was agreed that, pending CCJ endorsement, the *Standards* Second Edition could be published digitally in a ‘draft’ form.

Justice Bowskill briefed the Council on the status of the *Interpreters in Criminal Proceedings: Benchbook for Judicial Officers*. The *Benchbook* is nearing completion and will be ready for publication soon.

Judge Soulio informed the Council that the professional development eLearning projects for legal practitioners and the judiciary have progressed. The legal practitioners course content has been finalised by the Working Group and the Secretariat. Determining course delivery and promotion is now the focus for that course. The content for the judicial officer’s course is still being developed.

The *Modern Slavery Guide* has been completed by the Working Group, in partnership with the Judicial College of Victoria. The Council resolved to approve the *Guide*, subject to further edits. The Council will collaborate with the Judicial College in distributing and promoting the *Guide*.

The Secretariat briefed the Council on several proposed projects for future work. These included expanding the Legal Literate plain English glossary app, conducting an international review of best practice and resources on cultural diversity, and developing QR code posters for display in courts to provide users with information about the courts in plain English and other targeted languages. The Secretariat also proposed the Council become involved in a podcast series on access to justice issues. The Council agreed to consider these projects and form working groups as necessary.

The Chair raised that the Council might also conduct work on the issue of unconscious bias in the judiciary and courts. It was agreed that the Council would consider this further at the next meeting.

The JCCD will hold its next meeting in March 2022 in Adelaide, border restrictions permitting.