

Judicial Council on Diversity and Inclusion | Meeting Communiqué | 12 May 2023

The Judicial Council on Diversity and Inclusion met in Sydney on 12 May 2023.

The Council acknowledged the retirement of Justice Melissa Perry, Magistrate Anne Goldsborough, and Ms Maria Dimopolous, and welcomed Judge Arushan Pillay, Deputy Chief Magistrate Anthony Gett, Judge Nell Skinner, and Justice Elizabeth Raper as new members of the Council.

The Council heard from two speakers. Dr Aileen Kennedy discussed issues affecting transgender and intersex individuals, and broader topics affecting access to justice for LGBTQIA+ communities. The second speaker, Jamila Padhee, addressed trauma, trauma-informed practice, and its application in judicial work.

The Council heard updates on ongoing projects. The Pronunciation Protocol had been implemented in several jurisdictions – the AAT, the Supreme Court of Queensland, and the Supreme Court of Victoria. The Council also discussed the progress of the Legal Literate app, and proposed an annual review based on user surveys, and promotion through NAATI's newsletters. It was noted that the QR Code Posters would be pilot tested in the Queensland Magistrates Court, with content drafted and approved by the Council, and the Working Group agreed to meet to discuss poster development and languages for translation. Finally, the Council heard an update on the JCDI Training Courses, and flyers were shared with members for circulation to the judiciary.

The Chair noted that she had been consulted by the Attorney-General's Department concerning the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) report *Without Fear or Favour: Judicial Impartiality and the Law on Bias*. It was resolved that the Chair would write a letter in support of the ALRC's recommendations. The Council also discussed the JCDI's role in advancing these recommendations at Federal and State levels, through initiatives such as mentoring programs.

Judge Rauf Soulio volunteered as interim Chair of the RNS Subcommittee, following Justice Perry's departure from the Council. It was noted that further work regarding the implementation of the Standards would depend largely on the advocacy of Council members within their own jurisdictions. It was noted that implementation had been minimal in tribunals so far, and the Council discussed the ongoing challenges of advocating for implementation. The Chair resolved to write to the Chief Justice of Western Australia regarding a new member for the Council, to aid advocacy in the jurisdiction.

The Council heard a presentation on the Youth Justice project from the JCDI Secretariat. Members discussed the project's direction and noted that children's involvement in the justice system often extended beyond criminal instances (for example, family law proceedings). The Working Group agreed to meet and discuss the commencement and direction of the project.

The Council discussed the project design for the Cognitive Impairment project, suggesting that the scope could be too broad. It was agreed that the project should be guided by the final report from the Disability Royal Commission, and the Council resolved to form a working group to develop the project further.

The JCDI will hold its next meeting on Friday 20 October in Melbourne.