

Judicial Council on Diversity & Inclusion | Meeting Communiqué | 20 October 2023

The Judicial Council on Diversity and Inclusion met at the Centre for Multicultural Youth, in Melbourne, on 20 October 2023.

The Chair welcomed new members Ms Vai Leavaiseeta and Mr Graeme Innes as Youth and Disability Community Representatives respectively.

The Council heard three guest presentations. Lived-experience advocate Ms Dorothy Armstrong and Dr Stan Winford (RMIT) spoke on the experiences of people with disabilities and acquired brain injury in the justice system, and the Council discussed the role of intermediaries for defendants, and strategies to identify people with disabilities. Professor Jill Hunter spoke on barriers to Indigenous representation on juries, leading to a discussion on approaches to reduce these barriers. Professors Julia Quilter and Luke McNamara presented on the experiences of adult complainants of sexual assault in NSW.

The Council discussed strategies for resourcing JCDI projects. It was agreed that the Secretariat would seek select project-based funding and establish partnerships to progress initiatives supporting responsiveness to diverse needs.

The Council heard updates on several ongoing projects. It was noted that the Pronunciation Protocol has been implemented in several jurisdictions, and members will continue advocating for its adoption. The group discussed improvements to Legal Literate app, including additional features, while noting the cost of updating the app. It was noted that the QR Code Poster working group had collated language data to guide the project, and that a 'best practice' QR code project will cost around \$100,000, with funding discussions ongoing.

The Working Group for Diversity in the Judiciary presented a draft letter regarding the gathering of statistics on judicial diversity, and implementation of processes for judicial appointments, and it was resolved that the Chair would raise the letter with the CCJ. The Council agreed to continue identifying and implementing measures to promote diversity in the judiciary.

The Recommended National Standards Subcommittee reported that the second iteration of the RNS has been completed and published. It was agreed that the Terms of Reference for the subcommittee would be revisited, ahead of a review of the *Standards* in 2025. The Council also discussed the distribution of a letter from the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators (AUSIT) to the judiciary.

The Council discussed numerous other projects, including the uptake and promotion of JCDI Training Courses. The Youth Justice Working Group resolved to develop a proposal and conduct a literature review on current issues in youth justice. It was also noted that the Cognitive Impairment Working Group had met and revised its project proposal, and the Council recommended the group build on the JCDI National Framework for Access to Justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women and Migrant and Refugee Women.

The JCDI will hold its next meeting in the first half of 2024 in Canberra, which will also mark the tenth anniversary of the Council.