



COURTS ADMINISTRATION AUTHORITY

STATEMENT FROM SA CHIEF MAGISTRATE TO RADIO NATIONAL LAW REPORT

28 October 2013

In response to your queries, the Chief Magistrate, Her Honour Judge Elizabeth Bolton, today said:

“Current violence intervention legislation in South Australia has given victims of domestic violence and police more control over their safety before and during the time these matters proceed through court, compared to previous domestic violence legislation.

Whilst reductions in circuits will lead to delays, commitment by the Court, the legal profession and prosecuting authorities to use telephone conferencing and audiovisual linking, particularly between circuits, will enable victims and defendants to be dealt with more promptly when circuits attend. Many legal practitioners, doctors, government administrators provide routine and extra-ordinary services successfully to remote communities across Australia in this fashion, liaising effectively before onsite visits. With greater use of technology in case preparation, it is likely that more cases can be added to the circuit list.

There is no average cost of court sitting days on the APY Lands. There is an overall budget in the Magistrates Court for all circuits, which is allocated as needs dictate.”

Released by Sylvia Kriven, Media and Communications Manager, CAA