

MEDIA STATEMENT to ABC Radio National Law Report

23 October 2013

The Chief Magistrate, Her Honour Judge Elizabeth Bolton, has today responded to your queries about circuits by the Magistrates Court to the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands (APY Lands) in South Australia:

"The Magistrates Court will not circuit to the APY Lands for the rest of the calendar year.

This follows a decision to reduce circuits by 25% in the Supreme Court, District Court and Magistrates Court in South Australia.

The decision was taken by the State Courts Administration Council, in response to the budget allocation to the Courts Administration Authority earlier this year.

The Court will circuit six times to the APY Lands in 2014, two circuits fewer than in previous years. The circuit involves six communities: Pipalyatjara, Amata, Ernabella (Pukatja), Fregon (Kaltjiti), Mimili and Indulkana.

The total number of days on circuit will be 24 days, with each circuit lasting four days.

To the extent possible within CAA resources, we will also use more audiovisual linking (video conferencing) between the Court and custodial institutions, thereby saving parties some time and expense usually incurred by having to travel long distances for (often) short court appearances."

From: Sylvia Kriven, Media and Communications Manager, CAA