

# NOTICEBOARD

## Directions relating to the application of efficient processing practices to the conduct of reviews by the Refugee Review Tribunal

Section 420A of the Migration Act provides that the Principal Member may give directions as to the operations of, and the conduct of reviews by, the Tribunal. In particular, the directions may relate to the application of efficient processing practices to the conduct of reviews by the Tribunal. In particular, the directions may relate to the application of efficient processing practices to the conduct of reviews by the Tribunal.

A copy of directions issued by the Principal Members under this section is available on the Tribunal's website at [www.rrt.gov.au](http://www.rrt.gov.au).

The directions cover the following matters:

- Time frames for making of decisions
- Preliminary action
- Information required from an applicant or another person
- Adverse information under s424A
- Method of obtaining information
- Other adverse information
- Oral decisions
- Hearings
- Material submitted without translation
- Further information and submissions
- Reasons for decision
- Finalisation of decision

Other information on the website includes the Tribunal's Practice Directions; Annual Report; Decisions Bulletin; Interpreters' Handbook; how to apply to the Tribunal; how to obtain copies of Tribunal decisions; and addresses of websites related to refugee and country and legal information.

## Proposed Australian Judicial College

The Australian Institute of Judicial Administration (AIJA) and the Judicial Conference of Australia (JCA) have jointly commissioned a Discussion Paper on the topic of a proposed Australian Judicial College.

The paper has been prepared by the Director of the Centre for Legal Education, Mr Christopher Roper. It is available on the AIJA Website at [www.aija.org.au](http://www.aija.org.au) and on the JCA website at [www.law.monash.edu.au/JCA/](http://www.law.monash.edu.au/JCA/)

The AIJA and JCA have established a Working Group to consider the issues identified by Mr Roper in his paper, to consider the choices which need to be made and to carry forward work in relation to the establishment of an Australian Judicial College.

The Working Group is inviting comments in relation to the Discussion Paper. Following consideration of any comments received, it is proposed to produce an actual model for an Australian Judicial College.

For further information contact:

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## Federal Court of Australia Practice Note No.6 Affirmations and Oaths

The Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia issued the following Practice Note on 21 January 2000.

1. In nearly all circumstances, a person giving evidence in a proceeding before the Federal Court of Australia, whether orally or by affidavit, is required by law to make an affirmation or take an oath. The purpose of this requirement is to compel people to tell the truth.
2. It is a criminal offence for a person deliberately to give false evidence after making an affirmation or taking an oath.
3. The text of a card setting out the form of oath or affirmation that witnesses will be requested to read, or have read on their behalf, before giving evidence to the Court is available from the the Law Society or the Federal Court. A copy of the card will be handed to each witness upon entering the witness box.
4. The Court expects practitioners to ensure that witnesses are properly informed, in advance of their giving evidence, of the purpose and procedure for making an affirmation or taking an oath. It also expects practitioners:
  - to ensure that court officers are informed before court commences of any witnesses who would prefer to have the oath or affirmation read on their behalf (e.g., because of poor sight or limited literacy); and
  - to give the Court (via the Judge's associate) at least 24 hours notice of any other special arrangements that may need to be made by the Court to facilitate the taking of an oath or making of an affirmation by a witness. (For example, the Court must be notified if a witness requires a holy book other than the Bible.)