

NOTICEBOARD

From the Magistrates Court

Retention of transcript recordings

Practitioners will be aware that transcript recordings are only kept for 12 months from the date of the hearing. A problem is created when matters are heard and then adjourned for submissions. If the filing and consideration of submissions and preparation of the final decision takes some months, then the 12 months may have expired before any appeal is lodged.

Without an order of the court directing that the discs be kept for a longer period than 12 months, the transcript will not be available for any appeal.

If practitioners consider that there is a real danger of a lengthy delay between the conclusion of the hearing and the handing down of the final decision, then they may at the conclusion of the hearing, seek an order that the transcript discs be retained for a period in excess of 12 months. If the likelihood of the problem occurring only becomes evident after the hearing is concluded, practitioners may apply to the court in writing for the appropriate order.

Common courtesy

Practitioners are reminded that common courtesy at all times between themselves and registry staff is to be promoted. Registry staff are constantly reminded that they are to be courteous at all times to the clients of the court but that can become difficult if they are not being afforded the same courtesy.

Please note that the workload of the registry staff is at times extremely heavy and although they will try to assist you as much as they can, they may not be able to immediately respond to your requests. Further, the registry staff are not legally trained and are not in a position to assist practitioners with interpretation of legislation or the rules. If practitioners have a query about the application of a particular rule in a civil matter, then they should refer to the Judicial Registrars.

Opening of the Legal Year dates

The Council of the Law Society Northern Territory resolved at its meeting on 29 March 2001 to set the dates for the Opening of the Legal Year as follows:

In Darwin the Opening of the Legal Year will be held on the first Monday of February 2001.

In Alice Springs the Opening of the Legal Year will be held on the following Wednesday.

The dates for the Opening of the Legal Year 2002 will thus be Monday 4 February 2002 in Darwin and Wednesday 6 February 2002 in Alice Springs.

BALI CONFERENCE 23 - 29 June 2001

The Criminal Lawyers Association of the Northern Territory, in conjunction with the Criminal Law Section of the Law Institute of Victoria, has organised:

"The Criminal Justice System: Serving the Community or Giving it a Serve".

8th Biennial Conference
Bali Hyatt at Sanur Beach,
Bali
23 - 29 June 2001

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