



**Launch of Family Court Registry co-location
with State Courts in Rockhampton
Friday, 11 May 2007, 1pm
Rockhampton**

**The Hon Paul de Jersey AC
Chief Justice of Queensland**

I am very pleased to be present today to acknowledge an initiative which should be of considerable benefit to the people of Central Queensland. It is no more than common sense that all relevant court facilities should, if practicable, reside at the same location. In Brisbane, where that is not practicable, members of the public are not infrequently confused as to the particular courthouse they need attend. But here it is practicable, and the Capricornia community is the beneficiary.

The initiative is a very good illustration, also, of cooperation between the bureaucracies of the State and the Commonwealth, and between the courts of the State and the Commonwealth. That is another feature of this achievement to be welcomed, and not just by us all as taxpayers. It is I understand the first instance, around the nation, of cooperation in this particular way.

I am privileged to visit this important region at least two or three times a year. Indeed I make it my business to. I greatly value the opportunity for interchange with the profession, commendably led by my colleague the Central Judge, Justice Dutney, and to meet with members of the community. And I particularly acknowledge today the presence of our representatives of the indigenous community.

Acknowledging the spirit of the Central Queensland community, I am pleased today to note the presence of many others adopting a similar approach. I especially acknowledge our nation's first law officer, the Attorney-General, in that regard, and as well Justice Carmody of the Family Court, the Chief Federal Magistrate, the other heads of State courts, the Chief Judge, the Chief Magistrate, and the local member.



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The presence today of so many high level public officers is both an acknowledgement of the significance of this particular initiative, and beyond that, a tribute to the significance of this fine region.