



NAIDOC week flag raising ceremony
Ceremonial Court, Level 4, Magistrates Court, Brisbane
Tuesday 7 July 2009, 1pm

The Hon Paul de Jersey AC
Chief Justice

Mr Attorney, Chief Magistrate, Director-General, Elders, ladies and gentlemen,

I begin by acknowledging the spiritual and traditional custodians of this land, and thank Aunty Valda for her welcome to country. I also especially welcome the Murri Court Elders into this precinct, and thank them for their continuing, valuable contributions.

This is the second year in succession when we raise the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flag, to fly proudly for the week alongside the Australian flag: we are united in diversity, we are all Queenslanders, we are all Australians.

Yet many of our indigenous fellow citizens endure conspicuous disadvantage. The justice system is deeply conscious of this. The Murri Courts and the community justice groups have been an important part of the response; and we continue to work to develop other relevant responses. The Legal Aid Indigenous Reconciliation Plan recently launched by the Attorney-General is a good example of those further responses.

The ultimate assurance to our indigenous fellow citizens rests in the guarantee enjoyed by all who enter our courts, and that is, the judicial charter to deliver justice according to law. Inherent in that is a guarantee of the quality of treatment before the law. In our system, any form of discrimination would be repugnant.

Today is essentially for celebration. I well recall the exaltation which attended the raising of the Aboriginal and Islander flag for the first time last year in the forecourt of the Supreme and District Courthouse. The feeling of unity and reconciliation was palpable. We judicial officers are most grateful for the opportunity, again this year, to acknowledge



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that we serve all Queenslanders, with unity in diversity, and a commitment for best outcomes allowing for levels of disadvantage which must not be ignored.