



NAIDOC week flag raising ceremony
Supreme and District Courthouse Forecourt
Tuesday 6 July 2010, 1pm

The Hon Paul de Jersey AC
Chief Justice

Your Honours, Director-General, Elders, ladies and gentlemen,

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

This is the third year in succession when we raise the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flag on these poles, to fly proudly for the week alongside the Australian and Queensland flags: we are united in diversity, we are all Queenslanders, and 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 their relevant responses. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General Reconciliation Action Plan and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Action Plan, released by the department in February 2010, are good examples of further responses to bridge the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians.

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.



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Today is about celebration, as we respect the culture, heritage and knowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people bring to our communities. It is about acknowledging the contributions of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders, particularly the quiet achievers in the community whose work often goes unacknowledged.

I pay tribute today particularly to the Murri Court Elders who generously give their time to serve their community.

We Judges are most grateful for the opportunity, again this year, to acknowledge that we serve all Queenslanders, with unity in diversity and a commitment for best outcomes for all those who come in contact with the justice system.