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SUPREME COURT OF QUEENSLAND  
COURT OF APPEAL  
CHAMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT  
415 GEORGE STREET, BRISBANE

## MEDIA RELEASE

23 March 2015

*The Australian* this morning reported:

“Last year, Chief Justice Carmody set up a subcommittee to investigate the possibility of televised proceedings and live-streaming as a way for the public to better understand the justice system.

...

Court of Appeal president judge Margaret McMurdo, who was initially appointed to the sub-committee, has since come out against televising trials...”

This is incorrect.

Chief Justice Carmody publicly announced his support for the televising of court proceedings soon after his appointment was announced last year.

On 15 August 2014 a *Courier Mail* article reported that I had been appointed to the “special sub-committee...set up to investigate the possibility of televised proceedings and live streaming” of Supreme Court hearings. This was also wrong. At that time I had not discussed the issue with Chief Justice Carmody. I was then unaware of any such taskforce or sub-committee. I had been on such a sub-committee but that was more than ten years earlier. My recollection is that the question of broadcasting court proceedings was not pursued as the then Chief Justice was not keen to do so at that time.

In September 2014 at a meeting of all the judges of the Supreme Court, the judges set up a committee to consider broadcasting court proceedings. Chief Justice Carmody stated he would chair the committee which consisted of the Chief Justice, Justices Fraser, Atkinson, Martin and Applegarth, and me. Chief Justice Carmody scheduled the first meeting of the committee for 15 December 2014

but he later cancelled that meeting. On 23 December 2014 he wrote to me stating that time pressures and other demands meant that he could not devote the time necessary to chair the committee and invited me or my nominee to assume that responsibility. I now chair that committee which has met several times this year and is preparing an issues paper which will invite the views of other courts, the legal profession, policymakers and the community, including victim interest groups.

I have never “come out against televising trials” and, pending the thorough investigation of this important issue, I have no concluded view as to the best outcome for the courts and the community.

The Honourable Justice Margaret McMurdo AC

President, Court of Appeal

Supreme Court of Queensland