

20 September 2010

The Honourable Christian Porter MLA
Attorney General, Minister for Corrective Services
29th Floor Allendale Square
77 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Dear ~~Attorney General~~ *Christian*

Children's Court of Western Australia

It has come to the Law Society's attention that there is an acute need for more judicial appointments to the Children's Court jurisdiction.

The current work load of presiding Magistrates and the President of the Children's Court is significant and in recent times there have been instances of juvenile accused waiting in custody on remand for inordinately long periods of time.

The Society is of the view that justice delayed is justice denied and it does not assist victims of crime and their families and nor does it assist the accused with rehabilitation.

The Society also notes that whilst there are the physical facilities available for more court matters to be listed in any of the 6 court rooms available in the Children's Court building in Perth, typically only 2 court rooms are used all day for criminal law matters (court 3 for a Magistrate and court 4 for the President) and court 6 sits for child protection matters – generally the other courts are unused and vacant.

There are also further pressures on the Children's Court judiciary being required on regular intervals to go on circuit to outer metropolitan and regional courts. Those out of Perth courts are often vacant when there is not a judicial member on circuit.

The Society urges the government to give its urgent consideration to working with the Children's court to improve the status of the court lists and reduce the waiting time for juvenile accused and victims of crime and their families seeking speedier resolution of matters currently in that jurisdiction.

Yours sincerely



Hylton Quail
PRESIDENT

cc The Hon Judge Reynolds, President of the Children's Court of WA
cc The Hon Judge Martino, Chief Judge of the District Court

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