



Magistrates' Court of Victoria

Practice Direction

No. 7 of 2013

Committal Case Conference

Background

The Court is concerned to reduce the number of committal proceedings which resolve at the door of the court, with the consequent non-utilisation of court time. It will therefore commence a pilot programme in court 12 at the Court at Melbourne, with the purpose of exploring the resolution of the charges against an accused without the need of a committal hearing. The court will use its powers under section 127 of the Criminal Procedure Act 2009 to conduct committal case conferences.

Direction

1. The Court will commence a pilot programme at the Court at Melbourne. On every committal mention hearing date, the Court will list four cases at 2.00pm for a committal case conference. These cases will have as their principal offence:
 - (a) An offence under Sub-Division 4 of Part 1 of the Crimes Act 1958; or
 - (b) The offences of robbery, armed robbery and aggravated burglary.
2. Both the informant and the accused will be represented by a legal practitioner who will be entirely conversant with the case and has authority to deal with it.
3. This pilot programme will apply to all cases listed for a filing hearing on or after 4 November 2013. The pilot programme will operate for nine months and will be evaluated after six months.

Peter Lauritsen
Chief Magistrate
Date: 10 October 2013