



## **Magistrates' Court Victoria**

### **Practice Direction 4 of 2018**

#### **Sitting Times of the Magistrates' Court of Victoria (the Court)**

##### **Introduction**

Over time, the times during which magistrates and judicial registrars sit in a courtroom has lengthened. This has happened because of the increasing number of proceedings issued in the Court. The workload of the judiciary and administrative staff of the Court now poses an issue for health and well-being. It is now time to return the Court to conventional sitting times. This Practice Direction will do that<sup>1</sup>.

##### **Direction**

1. As and from 4 June 2018, the sitting hours of the Court will be 10.00 am to 4.00pm. No list in the Court should start earlier than 10.00 am or finish later than 4.00pm.
2. There are three exceptions to (1):
  - (a) where a particular magistrate or judicial registrar decides in relation to a particular case or list on a particular day to start sitting earlier than 10.00am or sit later than 4.00pm;
  - (b) at the Court at Melbourne, for all courtrooms except the bail and remand courtrooms, the sitting hours will be 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. With the bail and remand courtrooms, the sitting hours will be 10.00 am to 9.00 pm owing to the existence of the evening session in those courtrooms;
  - (a) where there is a duty magistrate in a region sitting between 4.00pm and 5.00pm.

This Practice Direction commences on 4 June 2018.

Peter Lauritsen  
Chief Magistrate  
Date: 8 May 2018

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<sup>1</sup> This Practice Direction should be read in conjunction with Practice Direction No 3 entitled "Remand Hearings and Bail Applications after 2.00 pm"