



Magistrates' Court of Victoria

Practice Direction

No. 7 of 2020

COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

KOORI COURT PROCEEDINGS IN THE MAGISTRATES' COURT OF VICTORIA

The Magistrates' Court of Victoria is committed to serving our community as we face COVID-19. Our courts across the State remain open, with some modifications to the mode of contact at various locations and times. After hearing from health experts, it remains necessary that we limit the number of people in our court buildings and this has required us to change some aspects of our practice to ensure the health and safety of our Judiciary, Elders and Respected Persons, staff and all court users. It is important for this Court to identify Koori Court matters awaiting determination and create a relisting procedure for Koori Court which enables the Court to resume hearings as soon as possible, having regard to health advice. This Practice Directions applies to matters identified as proceeding in the Koori Court commencing **27 April 2020**.

KOORI COURT MATTERS

Bail and Summons matters

1. Initiations must proceed via the courts Electronic Management Diary (EMD) at the proper venue unless otherwise directed by the Court.
2. All matters identified as proceeding in the Koori Court, where the accused is on summons or on bail will be adjourned to 14 August 2020. No appearance is required for this purpose and bail will be extended in the accused's absence to 14 August 2020.
3. All matters currently listed on 15 June 2020 will be adjourned to 14 August 2020. No appearance is required for this purpose and bail will be extended in the accused's absence to 14 August 2020.

Custody matters

4. Where a Koori Court accused is in custody, the Court will continue to hear the following criminal proceedings via audio visual link (AVL):
 - Plea hearings (where the accused has elected to transfer out of Koori Court to mainstream);
 - Applications for Bail which will be heard in mainstream

- Bail variations which will be heard in mainstream
 - Bail revocations which will be heard in mainstream
5. The Koori Court Officers at each Koori Court remain a critical resource available to our Koori Community. Whilst many are working remotely, they continue to actively assist Koori accused. The Court encourages all parties to make contact with the Koori Court Officers as required.



Judge Lisa Hannan
Chief Magistrate