



National Judicial College of Australia

Autumn  
Newsletter



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# Setting the standard in judicial excellence

Welcome to our newsletter for Autumn 2023. It has been a busy couple of months with programs in Hobart, Canberra and Brisbane.

Our inaugural *Children in the Court* program was held in Hobart in February and the participant feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Our thanks to the phenomenal line up of presenters and judicial officers who joined us. A standout session featured the work being done in *Marram-Ngala Ganbu* in Victoria, an Aboriginal designed and delivered Court-based program that seeks to provide culturally appropriate responses for Aboriginal families using therapeutic jurisprudence principles. You can read more about the work of this court in this edition of the newsletter.

After a few year's absence due to Covid-19, the annual NJCA/ANU Joint Conference returned last February. The focus this year was on *Therapeutic Jurisprudence*. A link to a video showcasing the highlights from the Joint Conference is on page 5. You will see many familiar faces! The full recording of all sessions is also available on the NJCA website.

In response to recent *ALRC Report: Without Fear or Favour*, which highlighted that "there is currently no publicly available curriculum or professional development pathway for Commonwealth judges", the NJCA is pleased to announce that we have begun work on a National Curriculum - watch this space. Also included in this edition is more information on the NJCA judgment writing pathway for judicial officers, an exciting initiative.

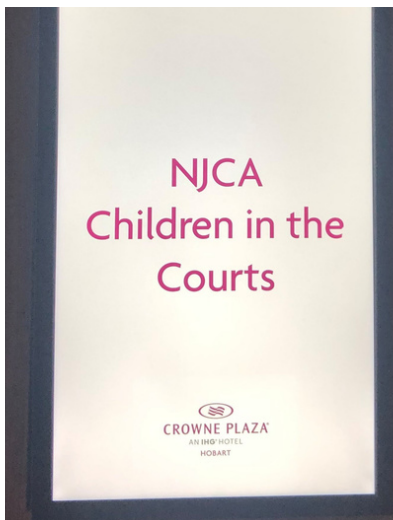
Finally, we have been pleased with the take-up by judicial officers of the new online training on the nature, drivers and impacts of workplace sexual harassment via the NJCA portal. Thank you to all the heads of jurisdiction who have supported this important online learning opportunity.



Chief Executive Officer, NJCA

# NJCA's Inaugural *Children in the Court* Program

A new two-day program was held on 20-21 February 2023 in Hobart. Designed for judicial officers who regularly deal with matters involving children, participants from across all Australian jurisdictions worked with experienced judges, magistrates, social workers, and psychologists to enhance their knowledge and develop practical skills in working with children and their families in the courtroom. Throughout each session, participants were given the opportunity to explore how developments in law, theory and practice can inform and re-invigorate the judiciary to reimagine the legal protection of children's rights. Leveraging off the success of this year, early next year the NJCA intends to develop a program designed specifically for family court judges.



Above: Participants and presenters enjoy the views of Mt Wellington



Members of the Children in the Court Committee, Judge Penny Eldridge, Judge Nell Skinner, Judge Jack Vandersteen and Magistrate Andrée Horrigan (Chair)

# Writing Better Judgments I 2023

*"By far, the most beneficial and productive program in which I have been a participant. Would have loved to have had the considerable assistance and knowledge which was imparted at a much earlier stage in my career."*

-Participant from WBJ I, March 2023



The NJCA welcomed participants to Hobart in March to work with experienced judges and popular Australian authors to extend and enhance their judgment writing skills. Although Hobart turned it on with clear blue skies and a sprinkling of early snow, the intellectual gravitas of the program facilitators, presenters and participants were the main attraction.

The College considers this program to be critical for all judicial officers. It is judicial officer-centric, who get to work on samples of their own judgments. Importantly, the program provides a collegiate environment which supports participants as they trial new judgment writing techniques.



## Exploring Therapeutic Jurisprudence Principles at the ANU/NJCA Joint Conference

The growth of therapeutic jurisprudence is indisputable. It has become mainstream in criminal law and its influence and underlying principles are being felt across all courts. Therapeutic jurisprudence has become an accepted and desired framework for the asking questions and for raising certain questions that might otherwise go unaddressed. Moreover, judicial officers in courtrooms across Australia are required each and every day to exercise these skills or to engage with others who can appropriately assist them to do so.

This two-day conference attracted a variety of participants from the wider legal community. And there were extraordinary sessions: a highlight reel is available on the NJCA website. A recording of each session will also be available shortly so keep an eye on our resources page. We were humbled by the excess of judicial and academic expertise at the conference. Thank you to all who made the journey to Canberra.

**Did you miss TJ? Watch the highlight reel at <https://www.njca.com.au/news-and-updates/>**



[https://www.justicereforminitiative.org.au/robert\\_tickner\\_ao\\_speech\\_at\\_the\\_national\\_judicial\\_college\\_and\\_australian\\_national\\_university\\_conference](https://www.justicereforminitiative.org.au/robert_tickner_ao_speech_at_the_national_judicial_college_and_australian_national_university_conference)

# Marram-Ngala Ganbu – Koori Family Hearing Day *alternative pathways*

Feature Interview with Magistrate Annabel Hawkins and  
Regional Co-ordinating Magistrate Kay Macpherson  
by *Children in the Court* Committee Chair, Magistrate Andrée Horrigan



Magistrate Annabel Hawkins

*Marram-Ngala Ganbu* is a Koori Family Hearing day which seeks to provide more effective, culturally appropriate and just responses to Koori families.

At *Marram-Ngala Ganbu*, therapeutic jurisprudence has become an accepted framework that promotes practice that is less adversarial and Koori-centred, enabling children and families to engage with the court process.

NJCA *Children on the Court* program chair, Magistrate Andrée Horrigan, caught up with two magistrates leading this community-changing initiative in Melbourne, Magistrate Annabel Hawkins and Magistrate Macpherson.

Over the page is an extract from that recorded interview, with the full version available on the NJCA website.

## **Magistrate Horrigan: What successes have been achieved by Marram-Ngala Ganbu?**

**Magistrate Hawkins:** In the short term, young people and parents have been reporting positive experiences about when they come to court - they have felt heard and culturally safe - and this has spread to the medium term because parents and children come back to court and continue to work well with the court and those in child protection.

In the longer term, the fact that Marram-Ngala Ganbu exists; the parents have participated, they have been included in the conversation, aboriginal placement principles have been adhered to. The whole process has changed the cultural awareness of the dynamics of aboriginal families and their way of problem solving. Importantly, this leads to the positive evidence; where the development of these better relationships have not been diminished or destroyed by the court processes.

**Magistrate Macpherson:** The parents feel so much a part of the process; physically sharing a table. We have never had any safety issues as the environment is culturally safe, respectful and all involved are able to engage in the process.

**Magistrate Horrigan: *The possum fur and other culturally appropriate artefacts feature prominently in your courtrooms as does the strong, sturdy table. How does this change the dynamic in your courtroom as opposed to a traditional courtroom.***

**Magistrate Hawkins:** The possum fur instantly warms up the courtroom. It was made as a community project; it is symbolic and culturally significant, physically highlighting a more caring environment and a more caring approach. These culturally appropriate principles align entirely with therapeutic jurisprudence principles.

**Magistrate Macpherson:** All the artefacts in the courtrooms are made by local artists and have something to do with this area. Aboriginal people do put their hands in the possum fur for comfort. We have had babies placed on the possum fur; it humanises the courtroom. We have had extraordinary feedback from Aboriginal people about their experience with court, such as "*You walk through that door and your spirits lift, everyone welcomes you.*" and "*I was treated as family.*"

**Magistrate Hawkins:** Often there are tears as people enter the court as it is such a relief for them to be able enter a cultural appropriate space.

**Magistrate Horrigan:** *What therapeutic jurisprudence principles for responding to children in legal situations can be transferred across the courts more broadly?*

**Magistrate Hawkins:** In child protection matters, a less adversarial approach has better outcomes for everyone. A therapeutic model simply requires a change of headspace for the judicial officer. There is never any doubt about who is in charge of the courtroom and everyone benefits - the lawyers, the child protection workers, the families and our staff.

**Magistrate Horrigan:** *Participants' feedback has been positive, especially from the *Children in the Court* program. For some judicial officers, there is a renewed confidence to be more "experimental" in care and criminal matters involving children and adolescents. For others, it is not being afraid to try more tools in a court session. What do you say to these judicial officers?*

**Magistrate Macpherson:** It is important to talk to other people because there is a reluctance from some of our colleagues to "step outside the square." I saw for many years that the system was not working and wanted to try a different approach. That said, if the shoe does not fit you, don't try it.

**Magistrate Hawkins:** I invite all magistrates to come and have a look at what we do and how we do it. You cannot deny the positive outcomes, even in a mention. It makes a big difference to your day.

**Magistrate Horrigan:** *What do consider to be the key judicial learning outcomes from your presentations at TJ and *Children in the Court* programs?*

**Magistrate Hawkins:** Our profession is after good news stories and this is a good news story. I think there is a yearning for an alternative pathway, like Marram-Ngala Ganbu, in all Australian jurisdictions. The support given by Ashley Morris and Tina King (the Koori Family Support Unit) should not be underestimated. They do a lot of the hard yards making families feel comfortable. What they do and the impact that they have is essential.

**Magistrate Macpherson:** If you treat people with kindness and respect, it comes back to you in spades and I think at the end of the day, that is what we do and it has had an amazing effect.

Thank you both for the interview.



# Check out the NJCA's new website

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with the NJCA logo, a search icon, and a 'Learning Portal' button. A large banner for 'Therapeutic Jurisprudence' is displayed, with the text 'Did you miss the TJ Conference 2023?' and a 'Learn More' button. The background features a blue gradient with white and yellow arrows pointing in various directions.

This section is titled 'Judicial Education Programs'. It includes a sub-header and a paragraph: 'The NJCA is a leader in the design and delivery of relevant, interactive and dynamic judicial education, designed to support the continuing professional development of Australian judicial officers at every stage of their career.' Below this are three program cards: 'Writing Better Judgments - Federal Circuit & Family Court of Australia', 'Oral Decisions, June 2023', and 'Jury Management, July 2023'. Each card has a small image and a 'Learn More' button.

Easier access to information about our judicial education programs

This screenshot shows the details for the 'Jury Management, July 2023' program. It includes a 'Register Now' button, a map of Australia, and key details: 'Days: 27-28 Jul 2023', 'Where: Canberra', 'Cost: \$2000', and 'Participants: Judicial Officers'. Below the details is a paragraph describing the program's purpose and a 'Meet your Program Planning Committee' button. At the bottom, there are 'Print Page' and 'FAQs' buttons.

This section is titled 'Committees'. It features a navigation bar with links for 'GOVERNANCE', 'PROGRAM COMMITTEES', 'LIFE MEMBERS', and 'NJCA TEAM'. Below the navigation bar is a heading for 'Program Committees' and a paragraph: 'The NJCA is supported by dedicated volunteer judicial officers who drive the program development and ensure NJCA curricula are relevant, interactive and dynamic; supporting the continuing professional development of Australian judicial officers at every stage of their career.'

This screenshot shows a banner for the 'NJCA Summer Newsletter 2023'. It features the NJCA logo, the text 'Summer Newsletter', and a large group photo of people in front of a building. A 'Learn More' button is positioned over the photo. The background is a blue gradient with a white and yellow arrow pointing right.

<https://www.njca.com.au/>

# What is the Commonwealth Sentencing Database?

The Commonwealth Sentencing Database is a joint project of the NJCA and the Judicial Commission of New South Wales (the **Database**).

The Database was originally established in 2005 under a grant from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department which funded the creation of the NJCA website and an electronic library and a Memorandum of Understanding between the NJCA, the Judicial Commission of New South Wales and the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions.

Faculty from the ANU College of Law were involved in creating the Principles & Practice and Case Summaries sections of the Database and updates to the content in the Database are now done by the NJCA's CSD team on advice from the Academic Panel.

The Database aims to promote consistency and quality in the sentencing of federal offenders. A sentencing bench book, summaries of recent sentencing decisions, and comparative sentencing tables are available through the Database at [csd.njca.com.au](http://csd.njca.com.au).

In 2021, additional Commonwealth funding was approved for the creation of Comparative Sentencing Tables, which launched in 2022.

## Comparative Sentencing Tables Update — Summer/Autumn 2023

Two sets of comparative sentencing tables covering Commonwealth terrorism/security offences and drug offences from 2011 to mid 2022 are now available on the CSD website.

The aim of these comparative tables is to capture and present a considerable amount of data on each case so that better comparisons can be made between cases, and sentencing statistics are more useful overall. For example, in addition to the 'usual' statistical data such as offence(s) and sentence length and type, the tables also summarise the facts and the offenders' subjective circumstances (including factors like rehabilitation prospects, character, remorse and hardship in custody). Offence-specific data is also captured; for example, the drug offences tables note the type and quantity of the drugs involved and by how many times the quantity exceeded the offence minimum. The sets of tables contain hundreds of cases: in total, the drug offences tables, which cover trafficking, manufacturing, importation and possession offences, contain 589 cases.

Work is continuing on the other two sets of comparative tables covering financial crimes and child exploitation offences. It is anticipated that the financial crimes tables will be completed and made available in the coming months.

The comparative tables will be undergoing an upgrade to improve its user functionality, particularly when it comes to searching and filtering the data captured in the table.

## Changes to Principles and Practice Commentary (December 2022)

Family and Dependents — updated page incorporates discussion of the NSW Court of Criminal Appeal decision in *Totaan v The Queen [2022] NSWCCA 75* which overturned the common law requirement that hardship to an offender's family and dependents must be 'exceptional' to be taken into account under s 16A(2)(p) of the Crimes Act 1914 (Cth).

Hardship to the Offender – updated page incorporates discussion of the changes to hardship to the offender’s family and dependants, cases concerning the impact of COVID-19 and related restrictions on custodial sentences, and Indigenous traditional punishment.

Cumulative and Concurrent Sentences – updated page reflects the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Sexual Crimes Against Children and Community Protection Measures) Act 2020 (Cth) which introduced a presumption that sentences for Commonwealth child exploitation offences be served cumulatively.

Breach of Conditional Release Bonds After Conviction – updated to ensure overall accuracy.

Upcoming Updates to Principles and Practice Commentary (April 2023)

The CSD is in the final stages of updating principles and practice commentary of Corporate Offenders, Commencement of Sentences, and Release on Parole or Licence. New pages are being created for Parity and White Collar Offending. These updated and new pages are expected to be available in early May.

### Recent Cases to Note

*Woods v The King* [2023] NSWCCA 37 – Offender appealed against sentence on the ground that inter alia the sentencing judge erred in finding that no alternative to a custodial sentence was available as required by s 17A of the Crimes Act 1914 (Cth). Per Wright J at [61]: section 17A proceeds on the basis that a number of sentencing options, some involving imprisonment and some not, may be available or open to the sentencing judge. The fact that one sentencing option is available or open does not have the consequence that other options are not available or open. The question posed for the sentencing judge by s 17A(1) is whether they are satisfied that, out of all the sentencing options which are available or open, only a sentence of imprisonment is ‘appropriate’ having regard to ‘all the circumstances of the case’, including those referred to in s 16A.

*R v Stiller* [2023] QCA 51 – Offender appealed against sentence on the ground that inter alia the sentencing judge misapplied the minimum sentence provisions in the Crimes Act. Offender submitted that the sentencing judge was required to undertake sentencing by reference to s 16A factors other than those relating to guilty plea and assistance to authorities, only dealing with those considerations at a later stage under s 16AAC. Per Mullins P at [31]–[32]: section 16AAC does not require a particular approach as submitted by the offender as long as the reductions to sentence applied do not exceed the maximum of 25% each.

*Adam v The King* [2023] NSWCCA 62 – Offender appealed on the ground that the sentencing judge erred in imposing a non-parole period amounting to 71% of the head sentence in conflict with apparent convention. Per Wilson J at [31]: there is no such convention, and the sentencing judge cannot be in error for failing to apply a rule of practice that does not exist.

*Mason (a pseudonym) v The King* [2023] VSCA 75 – Offender appealed against sentence on grounds of manifest excess based on s 16AC indicative sentence and failure to provide s 16AC indicative non-parole period. Per Niall JA at [49]: the s 16AC figure, which is hypothetical, does not represent a ‘head sentence’ nor does it convert the sentence imposed; there is no occasion to ask whether the figure under s 16AC is manifestly excessive. At [59]: if there has been an impact on both the head sentence and the non-parole period through s 16AC, the judge must specify what the head sentence would have been and what the non-parole period would have been.

# National Judicial Orientation Program

*"I am a firm believer in the principle that justice delayed is justice denied. There is little point in issuing a purportedly perfect judicial decision well after the match is over, the lights in the stadium have gone off, and the everyone has gone home."*

## **Justice Jayne Jagot, Keynote Address**

The first of two National Judicial Orientation Programs (NJOP) for 2023 was held in Brisbane in March. Participants engaged in lecture style sessions, practical activities, such as working with interpreters and dealing with ethical dilemmas in and out of court, as well as a myriad of court craft skills supported by the receipt of real-time advice and feedback from experienced judges.

Registrations for NJOP in November in Sydney are now open.

*"Thanks for a brilliant program. One of the great strengths was that in all the sessions where examples were used (ie the trials from hell) they were extremely useful. I loved the intense practicality of the entire program. I also loved the morning walks and the yoga sessions. Thank you - it was all so invigorating."*

Participant, NJOP March 2023



Chief Justice Helen Bowskill and Chief Justice Chris Kourakis



Justice Jayne Jagot | NJOP - Key note address



# Workplace Sexual Harassment Training Materials for Judicial Officers

New training and education materials for judicial officers on the nature, drivers and impacts of workplace sexual harassment are now available via our learning portal on the NJCA's website [www.njca.com.au](http://www.njca.com.au).

These materials have been developed by the Australian Human Rights Commission in response to Recommendation 40 of the Respect@Work: National Inquiry into Sexual Harassment in Australian Workplaces (2020) (the **Report**). The Report emphasised the judiciary's integral role in ensuring that persons harassed are appropriately supported and have access to appropriate legal remedies and are not re-traumatised by engaging in judicial processes.

In response, the recommendation encourages judicial officers to undertake training and education to enhance their understanding of best practice regarding the adoption of sensitive, trauma-informed and gender-responsive approaches to handling matters involving sexual harassment, as well as in relation to sexual harassment within their workplace.

The materials have been developed in collaboration with experts and are informed by the Australian Human Rights Commission's work in sexual harassment and gender equality led by the Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Ms Kate Jenkins.

Please contact the NJCA for further information about these resources and how to access the materials through the NJCA portal.



Ms Kate Jenkins, Sex Discrimination Commissioner

# International Collaboration in Judgment Writing

Earlier this year, the Courts of the Dubai International Financial Centre invited the NJCA to run a bespoke judgment writing program. So in mid-March 2023, Justice Glenn Martin (Supreme Court, Queensland), The Hon Ann Ainslie Wallace (formerly FCFCoA), President Fleur Kingham (Land Court of Queensland) and the College CEO, Kate Latimer, travelled to the United Arab Emirates to deliver a two and a half day intensive course for them. Thirteen judges from the DIFC Small Claims Tribunal and the Courts of First Instance participated in this initiative.

As the College was unfamiliar with the scope of their work, the Dubai judges were first sent a survey in order to better understand their writing challenges. Their answers in turn informed the design of the program.

Interestingly, while the Dubai judges work exclusively with claims and disputes arising from the DIFC, their responses revealed concerns shared by Australian judges, and a similar desire to produce judgments that are clear, convincing and concise, and delivered in a timely manner.



The program therefore focused on issues-based judgments – on identifying, framing and ordering the issues – and on style, tone and the 5Cs. Participants worked on writing tasks in each session, then afternoons were spent analysing and rewriting their own judgments, using their new knowledge.

The sessions were well-received, the presenters were very positive about the experience, and the DIFC and the NJCA have had discussions since on potential joint projects in the future.



From L-R: AlAnood Al Riyami, Maitha Al Shehhi, Mariam Al Mashedadani, Amna Al Owais, Kate Latimer, President Fleur Kingham, H.E Judge Ali Al Shamsi, The Hon Ann Ainslie-Wallace, Justice Glenn Martin, Delvin Sumo, Hayley Norton, Ayman Saey, Hamad Sulaiman

# Further Notes

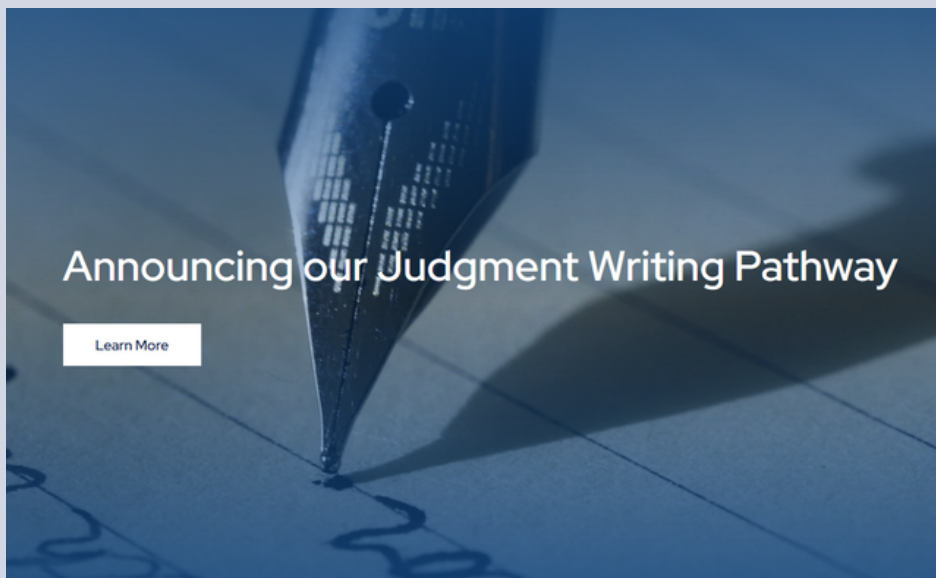
## Erratum



**L-R: Program Advisory Council Members:** Justice Julie McIntyre, Professor Heather Roberts, Magistrate Andree Horrigan, Judge Liz Boyle, Magistrate Alison Adair, Acting Justice Monika Schmidt, Justice Glenn Martin, Chief Justice Christopher Kourakis, Ms Kate Latimer, Justice Brigitte Markovic, Justice James Stevenson (Judge Martine Marich, Professor Anthony Connolly, Acting Judge Ann Ainslie Wallace (not pictured))

In the NJCS Summer newsletter we erroneously identified Justice Julie McIntyre as Justice Julie Ward in this photo.

We apologise for this error.



It was noted in the recent ALRC Report: *Without Fear or Favour* that “although significant progress has been made in relation to judicial education in Australia, coverage is still described as ‘patchy’, and judicial education is not transparently tracked or reported across jurisdictions.” And, it was further stated that “there is currently no publicly available curriculum or professional development pathway for Commonwealth judges. This means that, although a significant number of judicial education courses may be available, covering issues important for supporting judicial impartiality, there is no clear or transparent expectation that judges will attend those courses specifically throughout their judicial career.”

We are excited to announce our pathway for judicial excellence in judgment writing, designed to give a structured and transparent approach to the training and ongoing professional development of judicial officers in the art and craft of judgment writing throughout their judicial career. The visual representation of the judgment writing pathway shown on the following page outlines the rationale for four distinct programs, a high level description of the judicial learning outcomes and the recommended experience of participants pertinent to each program.

Registrations for WBJ I to be held in Canberra from the 11-13th October 2023 are now open. WBJ II will be held in Sydney from 13-14 June 2024.

# PATHWAY TO EXCELLENCE IN JUDGMENT WRITING



	Writing Better Judgments I	Writing Better Judgments II	Writing Better Judgments III	Appellate Judgment Writing
<b>PROGRAM RATIONALE</b>	A judicial officer-centric program to promote participants' ability to write issues based, well structured judgments in a timely fashion	A small group, individualised feedback driven judgment writing program to promote and enhance the production of judgment writing excellence	A writing program designed to bring greater context to judicial reasoning and the production of strong and effective judicial writing	An intensive program to develop specialist judgment writing skills for judges who hear and determine appeals
<b>WHAT WILL I LEARN?</b>	Identify and practise the skills to achieve clear, concise, comprehensive, coherent and convincing judgment writing which is delivered expeditiously	Develop high level skills in writing a convincing narrative, ensuring readability and navigating sensitivities in judgment writing	Master judgment writing using point first writing. Learn to edit judgments to promote timeliness. Deal with media summaries, lengthy trials and sensitive topics	Collaborate in a small group dynamic, the intricacies of collaborative decision making, opinion writing and judgment management
<b>RECOMMENDED EXPERIENCE</b>	Judges Magistrates Tribunal Members	0 to 3 Years Prerequisite:  None	3 to 5 Years Prerequisite:  Recommended for those who have attended WBJ I	5 years Prerequisite:  Recommended for those who have attended WBJ I & WBJ II or who have extensive experience
				Members of appellate court and judges who hear appeals at other levels



# Forthcoming Programs



Oral Decisions: 29 – 30 June 2023, Sydney

This program contains both the theoretical underpinnings associated with decision making as well as a larger, practical component in which participants practise delivering oral decisions. The program is designed to be highly interactive whereby experienced judicial officers and facilitators give individualised feedback designed to directly enhance participant skills.

At the heart of this program is the opportunity to engage in experiential learning. The program will significantly assist judicial officers in determining when it is appropriate to deliver oral decisions, prepare for and deliver oral decisions, use and apply a structured approach for oral decisions, and practice the efficient use of hearing or trial time.



Jury Management: 27 - 28 July 2023, Canberra

Jury Management is an in-person judicial education and training program aimed at jury trial judges with fewer than five years' experience on the bench.

One of the primary judicial learning outcomes of this program is for judicial officers to look at the many practical issues connected with managing a jury so as to enhance their courtcraft skills.

Sessions include the juror's journey, managing the jury room, achieving excellence in jury directions, the jury trial from Hell, and better oral communications with the jury. Few places remaining! Register online.



We, The Gatekeepers: 10-11 August 2023, Sydney

In recent decades, the treatment of expert forensic evidence, particularly in criminal jury trials, has attracted unprecedented attention. Much of the attention, especially from scientists, has been critical of the ways in which the courts permit the use (and misuse) of forensic science.

This intensive program is designed to raise the awareness of trial judges to modern scientific perspectives bearing on the admission and use of expert evidence and, importantly, focus on the critical role of trial judges as gatekeepers to prevent inadmissible and/or unreliable forensic evidence being placed before juries.



# Forthcoming Programs



## National Magistrates Orientation Program : 03-08 September 2023, Brisbane

The National Magistrate Orientation Program (NMOP) primary goal of assisting newly appointed magistrates with their transition to the bench by facilitating the development and refinement of the skills, knowledge, and attributes necessary for effective judging and the management of judicial proceedings.

The program provides new appointees the opportunity to benefit from the knowledge and experience of senior magistrates who attend the program as speakers and facilitators, as well as allowing an exchange of idea and experiences among participants.



## Writing Better Judgments I: 11 – 13 October 2023, Sydney

The popular Writing Better Judgments I program is designed to enhance participants' judgment writing skills through analysis, discussion and rewriting of judgments in small groups.

This program provides judicial officers with practical tools and tips; a high level of interactivity including group workshops; and individual feedback.

Topics include preparation and planning for judgments; issue identification and resolution; writing judgments that are clear, comprehensive, concise, coherent and convincing; and managing procrastination and competing priorities.



## Writing Better Judgments II: 13-14 June 2024, Sydney

Judicial officers surveyed by the NJCA in our Judicial Education Needs Survey in 2022 unequivocally identified a judgment refresher program as their most demanding unmet need.

Accordingly, this new NJCA 2-day program is the next step now being offered to those who have undertaken the Writing Better Judgments I program. This program provides an opportunity not only for participants to revisit the principles of issues based judgment writing, but to enhance production of timely, well-crafted legal writing and reasoning.

**Register now at**

<https://www.njca.com.au/judicial-education-programs/>

