



## Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal

Chief Magistrate's Chambers  
Melbourne Magistrates' Court

### Practice Direction

No. 2 of 2009

## KOORI VOCAT LIST

### PRACTICE DIRECTION ISSUED PURSUANT TO SECTION 58 OF THE VICTIMS OF CRIME ASSISTANCE ACT 1996

#### Background

The Koori VOCAT List was established by practice direction of the Chief Magistrate on 1 July 2006 as a pilot to develop procedures to ensure that the purposes and objectives of the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996* can be achieved in relation to Koori victims of crime. Due to the success of the pilot, the Koori VOCAT List will continue as an ongoing part of the Tribunal's operations.

#### Administration of applications

The Koori VOCAT List is administered from the Tribunal's Principal Registry at Melbourne. The List will facilitate the identification of common trends amongst applications within the List, and will continue to introduce appropriate procedural innovations to meet the particular circumstances of Koori victims of crime.

Any applications for assistance made by a person identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander that are lodged at a venue other than Melbourne must be transferred to Melbourne for inclusion in the Koori VOCAT List.

The exceptions to this are applications that fall within the jurisdiction of the Family Violence Court Division of the Magistrates' Court of Victoria at Ballarat and Heidelberg, or the jurisdiction of the Neighbourhood Justice Centre Division of the Magistrates' Court of Victoria at Collingwood.

#### Koori VOCAT List Registrar

All applications in the Koori VOCAT List are managed by the Koori VOCAT List Registrar, who is located at the Tribunal's Principal Registry. The Koori VOCAT List Registrar is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Koori VOCAT List and file management of all applications within the List.

## **Hearing procedure and venue**

The Tribunal will promote flexible practices in relation to applications which are required to be listed for a hearing, including listing applications at a Tribunal venue more convenient to the applicant where appropriate. This applies to directions hearings, applications which are ready to be listed for final determination, and applications for interim or variation awards.

Where appropriate, the use of technology and a flexible approach will be used to facilitate the hearing of applications, including the use of video conferencing from remote locations.

In listing an application for hearing, the Tribunal will ask the applicant to indicate:

- a) Their preference for the venue of the hearing; and
- b) Whether any alternative arrangements are sought; including alternative arrangements for attending the hearing by video link to another venue or for the giving of evidence by remote witness facility.

Hearings will be listed in accordance with the applicant's wishes if the Tribunal considers that such listing is practicable in all the circumstances.

## **Revocation of previous Practice Directions**

This Practice Direction revokes Practice Direction 10 of 2008 – *Koori VOCAT List* and Practice Direction 2 of 2007 – *Koori VOCAT List*.

## **Commencement**

This Practice Direction has effect from 1 July 2009.

**IAN L GRAY**  
Chief Magistrate  
30 June 2009