

CHAMBERS OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

MEDIA RELEASE

Return of Acting Justice Walker to the ACT Magistrates Court

Operation of the Drug and Alcohol Sentencing List

3 April 2020

On 9 April 2020, Acting Justice Lorraine Walker will leave the Supreme Court, where she has established and run the Drug and Alcohol Sentencing List (DASL). On 20 April 2020, she will resume her duties as Chief Magistrate of the ACT Magistrates Court.

Currently, there are eight DASL participants. These participants will continue on their drug and alcohol treatment orders, supervised by Justice Chrissa Loukas-Karlsson and the DASL team.

Because of the health emergency, services supporting the DASL have been wound back, there will be no new referrals to the DASL, and DASL operations will be very limited.

Acting Justice Walker has decided to return to the Magistrates Court to ensure the efficient use of ACT judicial resources in these difficult times.

The Supreme Court acknowledges the innovative work undertaken by Acting Justice Walker and looks forward to resuming full DASL operations once the health emergency has passed.

The Magistrates Court recognises the valuable contribution made by Acting Chief Magistrate Glenn Theakston, who has led the Court confidently and effectively since August last year, including the recent challenges presented by the impacts of COVID-19.

Helen Murrell

Chief Justice

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