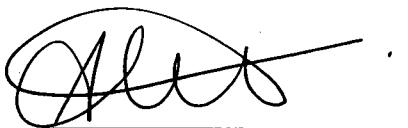


ACT Magistrates Court
Notice to Practitioners

Construction of Dock in Court Room 2 of the Magistrates Court

1. The ACT Magistrates Court will soon commence work on the construction of a dock in Courtroom 2. The construction of the dock is being undertaken to increase the safety of defendants, victims, members of the legal profession and the public.
2. It is anticipated that the dock will be available for use in cases where there is some threat to the defendant or where the prisoner has been assessed as posing a high risk to court users.
3. This move is in line with the recommendations of the DSW Consulting and ORS reports into Courts Security, and consistent with the Attorney General's 2010 announcement regarding moves to address court security measures. The Courts do not have plans to construct docks in other courtrooms.
4. In most instances, the dock will be used in bail matters. A decision as to its use will generally be made by Corrections in consultation with the sitting magistrate, any legal representatives involved in the case, and, if relevant, the Forensic Mental Health liaison person at the time the defendant is to be produced to court. Any concerned party should raise the matter with the relevant magistrate's associate prior to the defendant being called.
5. If you have reason to believe in advance that a listed matter in which you act is one which may require use of the dock, please contact Listings by email to MCListings@act.gov.au with a summary of your concerns. The matter will then be brought to the attention of the relevant magistrate.



Amanda Nuttall
Registrar
ACT Magistrates Court
22 May 2013