



24 July, 2006

COURT WILL PROVIDE PERMANENT SERVICE TO DANDENONG

The Federal Magistrates Court will start sitting full-time in Dandenong's Family Law Court from September.

The new arrangements were in response to the needs of the community, Chief Federal Magistrate John Pascoe said. Judicial services to the Court have been on a part-time basis this year.

Chief Federal Magistrate Pascoe said an increase in resources at the Court had allowed the Court to improve its services to Dandenong.

"The waiting time for clients to have their cases heard will be cut. Clients who were travelling to the Melbourne court registry to get their matter heard more quickly will no longer have that inconvenience," he said.

The increased service will enable the Court to deal expeditiously with applications, which are expected to exceed one thousand over the next year.

The Court expects that duty lists and defended hearings will be held each week, though dates may vary depending on the listings. Dates for cases already listed for final hearing are unchanged.

The Federal Magistrates Court was established in 2000 to handle divorces and less complex family and federal law matters. The Court's rules and procedures are simpler and less formal than the more superior courts, which generally allows cases to be finalised more quickly and less expensively.

The Federal Magistrates Court shares jurisdiction with the Family Court of Australia. It can hear all children's and property matters. Recent legislative changes removed the cap on property values of \$700,000, allowing the Court to hear more cases.

For more information, please call:

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