



ATTORNEY-GENERAL  
THE HON DARYL WILLIAMS AM QC MP

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **FOUR NEW FEDERAL MAGISTRATES**

The appointment of four new federal magistrates will help to deliver cheaper, quicker and more efficient access to the Australian legal system.

The magistrates will be appointed to the Federal Magistrates Service (FMS) in Newcastle, south-east Queensland, Adelaide and Melbourne.

The new appointments will increase the number of federal magistrates from 19 to 23 and will enable courts in each of these areas to better handle their caseloads.

New funding of \$4.4 million over four years to the Federal Magistrates Service in the 2003-04 Budget will fund two of the additional appointments.

The other two appointments will be funded from within existing family law resources by appointing new magistrates rather than replacing former Family Court judges in Adelaide and Melbourne. This will involve the transfer of funds from the Family Court to the FMS.

I have agreed that the Family Court will retain the difference in funding to cover the costs of employment for Senior Registrars to help with the judicial workload.

A careful assessment of the workload and resources of the Family Court and Federal Magistrates Service indicates that the availability of an additional federal magistrate and senior registrar will better meet the needs of these communities than a single judge.

The appointment of additional magistrates will also assist the Federal Magistrates Service to conduct additional circuits to rural and regional areas in need.

In addition to these four new magistrates, I have also recently announced the appointment of Mr Tim Carmody SC to the Family Court in Brisbane. He will replace Justice Travis Lindenmayer, who retired late last year.

An extra \$4.1 million over four years has also been allocated in the Budget for the Family Court of Western Australia and its co-located Court of Petty Sessions. This increased resourcing will help those Courts to meet their growing workload and improve access for Western Australians involved in family disputes.

The combination of additional Budget funding and the more effective use of existing judicial funding will increase the access to justice of Australian families, particularly those going through relationship breakdown.

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