



## Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal

Chief Magistrate's Chambers  
Melbourne Magistrates' Court

### Practice Direction

No. 2 of 2007

## KOORI VOCAT LIST

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

**VOCAT Practice Direction No. 1/2006 is revoked**  
**and the following is substituted**

This Practice Direction has been amended and reissued to include exceptions regarding when an application is required to be transferred to Melbourne for inclusion in the Koori VOCAT List.

### 1. Background

A growing body of evidence suggests that members of the Koori community are disproportionately represented as victims of violent crime. This is not reflected in applications for assistance to the Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal ("VOCAT"). As part of a strategy to address the Koori community's difficulties in exercising their rights to assistance, a Koori VOCAT List is to be established.

### 2. Purpose of Koori VOCAT List

A management list, known as the Koori VOCAT List, will be established 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 applicants. This list will operate as a pilot. It is anticipated that the management of this list will facilitate the identification of common trends and the development of appropriate procedural innovations.

### 3. Period of pilot

2 years from **1 July 2006**.

### 4. Relevant applications

Any application in which there is a positive response to the Aboriginal / Torres Strait Islander identifier is a relevant application.

## **5. File Management Procedures**

Relevant applications filed in each Registry from the commencement date are to be transferred to Melbourne for inclusion in the Koori VOCAT List, except in the following circumstances:

- (a) the application is within the jurisdiction of the Family Violence Court Division of the Magistrates' Court of Victoria; or
- (b) the applicant is a Koori person who resides within the City of Yarra, or who resides outside of the City of Yarra and who has a close connection to the City of Yarra, and wishes to lodge their application and have it managed by the Neighbourhood Justice Centre Division of the Magistrates' Court of Victoria at Collingwood.

Relevant applications filed prior to the commencement date are to be transferred subject to a direction from a Tribunal Member at the venue at which the application was filed. All applications will be managed by the Koori VOCAT List Registrar at Melbourne. All interim applications and directions will be dealt with at the Melbourne Registry. The use of technology and a flexible approach will be freely used to expedite all applications; including by the use of video conferencing from remote locations and the faxing of applications for interim awards to Melbourne for urgent consideration.

## **6. Hearing Procedure and Venue**

The Tribunal will promote flexible practices in relation to applications which are required to be listed for a hearing. This applies to applications which are ready to be listed for final determination and applications for interim or variation awards. The applicant is to be asked to indicate:

- (a) their preference for the venue of the hearing;
- (b) whether any alternative arrangements are sought; including alternative arrangements for the sitting of the Court by video link or for the giving of evidence by remote witness facility.

Hearings will be listed in accordance with the applicant's wishes if the Koori VOCAT List Registrar determines that such listing is practical in all the circumstances.

**This Practice Direction has effect from 1 July 2007.**

**IAN L GRAY**  
Chief Magistrate  
28 June 2007