

# QUEENSLAND LAWYER

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Indigenous Australians are proportionately over-represented in the criminal justice system and particularly the prison system. Murri Court is an initiative of the Magistracy in Queensland to sentence Indigenous offenders in culturally appropriate ways with a view to reducing recidivism and focusing on community based sentencing options. The modified court process involves members of the Indigenous community to which the offender belongs, particularly Elders and the Community Justice Panel. The community representatives provide the court with information about the offender, the impact of the offending and the attitude of the indigenous community to the offending behaviour. The process is proving to be effective in meeting its goals. ....	14
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### **Did it really mean nothing, and can I leave nunc pro tunc? Pre-court procedure and the “nullity”** – *Ashley Jones*

In the recent decision of <i>Berowra Holdings Pty Ltd v Gordon</i> (2006) 80 ALJR 1214 the High Court considered whether it was appropriate to describe as a “nullity” proceedings issued without complying with the <i>Workers Compensation Act 1987</i> (NSW). Although dealing with New South Wales legislation, the decision has real implications for proceedings issued under Queensland “pre-court” procedure. In particular, the description of proceedings issued in contravention of the <i>Workers Compensation Rehabilitation Act 2003</i> (Qld), the <i>Personal Injuries Proceedings Act 2003</i> (Qld) and the <i>Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994</i> (Qld) as a nullity may not survive consideration by the High Court. This in turn renders questionable the line of authority suggesting that leave cannot be given nunc pro tunc, at least where this is on the basis proceedings are void and the court has no jurisdiction. ....	19
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