

**SUPREME COURT OF TASMANIA
PRACTICE DIRECTION**

No 4 of 2020**10 June 2020**

RESUMPTION OF FACE-TO-FACE COURT PROCEEDINGS

This practice direction is published at the direction of the Chief Justice, the Honourable Justice Alan Blow AO.

This Practice Direction is intended to provide information to all Court users about the strategies employed by the Court to manage the impact of the COVID-19 virus during the path towards resumption of ordinary Court business.

In summary:

- Criminal proceedings (other than jury trials) will resume in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie from 15 June 2020. This relates to pleas, directions hearings, legal argument, bail applications, disputed facts hearings, and pre-recorded evidence.
- Criminal jury trials will resume from 21 July 2020 in Hobart and Launceston only.
- No criminal jury trials will be conducted in Burnie until further notice due to the limited size of the courtroom. Some Burnie matters may be transferred to Launceston for jury trials.
- Civil trials will resume in Hobart in the sittings commencing 20 July 2020.
- Civil trials will be able to resume in Launceston during August 2020.
- All of the arrangements for the resumption of ordinary business are subject to any advice that might be received about the COVID-19 pandemic. Decisions as to the implementation of these arrangements or alternative arrangements may be made on a case by case basis in the discretion of individual judges.
- Protocols relating to the manner in which court operations will be conducted can be found in Attachment A.

Jim Connolly
REGISTRAR

1. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1.1. Health and wellbeing of court users remains paramount consideration

The health and wellbeing of all court users – litigants, legal profession, judges, judicial and registry staff, and members of the public and media – remains the paramount consideration. The court will continue to follow and observe government health advice and may vary court procedures at short notice to respond to changing conditions. The court will continue to take all reasonable steps and precautions to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19. This document is intended to identify known risks and outline the Court’s mitigation strategies for those risks.

1.2. Limiting court attendance remains necessary

This protocol is intended to provide guidance regarding court attendance. The Court recognises that continuing to limit the number of people within the court precinct inhibits the spread of COVID-19 in the community and reduces the risk to all court users. The Court will gradually return towards face-to-face proceedings.

The Court will continue to monitor and assess matters before the court and some matters may remain in the virtual courtroom environment. Others will be suitable for a hybrid-model, where part of the proceedings may occur face-to-face within the courtroom, and other parts are conducted by virtual courtroom methods. Finally, some matters will be deemed suitable for face-to-face hearings within a courtroom.

1.3. Personal actions to help protect ourselves, and others

Each of us can help slow the spread of COVID-19. To protect ourselves and others we must practise good hygiene and practise physical distancing.

Physical distancing and limits on the size of gatherings within the courtroom, and within the court precinct, are likely to remain in place for some time. As government health advice is updated the number of people permitted within the courtroom and court precincts may vary.

If you are unwell do not come to court. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, coughing, shortness of breath, fatigue, a sore throat. If you are unwell call the Coronavirus helpline or seek medical assistance or get tested.

2. CLEANING AND HYGIENE

2.1. Cleaning

The Court has engaged additional cleaning staff to ensure compliance with the COVID-19 cleaning and disinfecting measures outlined by Safe Work Australia, the Commonwealth and Tasmanian Departments of Health, and general health and safety cleaning requirements. As well as contract cleaners, the Court has instructed its own staff to assist in disinfection of courtroom furniture, registries, and public spaces as required.

The additional cleaning and disinfecting focusses on “high traffic” surfaces, such as: handrails; door handles; bathrooms; bench, bar tables, jury and witness boxes in courtrooms, and meeting rooms in public areas.

The cleaning team operates between approx. 4-9pm, with an additional midday clean. Court staff will be asked to assist with supplementary courtroom cleaning during the day eg. between witnesses, and between matters.

Building management staff control and monitor the work to ensure compliance with the cleaning standards and coverage throughout the building.

Cleaning staff have also received additional training regarding health and hygiene practices, including their own health and safety. Cleaning staff will also respond to any new incidents that arise. If you see something that requires prompt attention please inform a member of staff or a member of the court security team.

2.2. Heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC)

The Court's air conditioning systems are running on outside (fresh) air where possible to minimise the re-circulation of air internally. A combination of air filters are used throughout the building.

2.3. Availability of hand sanitiser, soap and water

Hand sanitiser is available as you enter each of the buildings. There are public bathrooms at each Court registry location providing access to soap and water.

Hand sanitiser is also available on the bar table. Legal practitioners and litigants are encouraged to use the hand sanitiser before and after handling documents. Hand sanitiser is also available in the courtroom for judges and judicial and registry staff.

3. SITE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS AND ACTIONS

3.1 SITE ASSESSMENT

The Court's managers have undertaken a full assessment of the courthouses in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie.

The process comprised an assessment of each building – each room, courtroom etc. – and an assessment of foot traffic, pathways, lifts, seating within the building and within rooms, and information regarding signage and communication.

Following the assessment, Court Operations staff and building management have completed the implementation of appropriate strategies – signs and visual markings, including floor markings, throughout the buildings.

3.2 PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND COURTROOM CAPACITY

For the purposes of calculating courtroom capacity, it is assumed there will be at least 21 regular participants for a typical trial of a single accused person, comprised of:

- 1 Judge,
- 1 Associate,
- 1 Attendant,
- 1 Security Officer,

- 1 Defence counsel,
- 1 Prosecutor,
- 1 Crown Law Clerk,
- 1 accused,
- 1 Prison Officer,
- 12 jurors.

This total of 21 people does not include any witnesses, instructing defence solicitors, reserve jurors, co-accused, journalists or members of the public in the courtroom.

Capacity of courtrooms, and related facilities in the table below have been calculated in accordance with the Director of Public Health's guidelines including the requirement to keep 1.5m between persons, and to allow 4m² per person in an indoor space.

Venue	Capacity
Hobart Court 1 (Trial Court)	30 persons
Hobart Court 1 (Appeal Court)	21 persons
Hobart Court 2	20 persons
Hobart Court 3	9 persons
Hobart Court 7	30 persons
Hobart Court 8	30 persons
Hobart Court 7 & Jury Rooms	7 persons
Launceston Court 1	26 persons
Launceston Court 2	25 persons
Burnie Court	20 persons
Hobart Jury Assembly Room	15 persons
Launceston Jury Assembly Areas (Court 2, Conference Room, foyer + Court 1 jury box)	65 persons
Burnie Jury Assembly Areas (Jury Room, foyer + Conference Rooms)	63 persons
Hobart Conference Room 1	6 persons
Hobart Conference Room 2	4 persons
Hobart Conference Room 3	4 persons
Launceston Conference Room	6 persons
Burnie Conference Room	4 persons

The Court has removed all jugs and glasses in the courtrooms. Bottled water will be provided in each courtroom for Judge, staff, jurors, witnesses and counsel.

3.3 HOBART SUPREME COURT (CRIMINAL BUILDING)

3.3.1 Public entrance

- Floor markings on the forecourt and floor indicating appropriate physical distancing points.
- Floor markings near the scanner to indicate where to wait.
- Seats in waiting areas to be appropriately spaced, removed, or clearly marked if not to be used and cannot be removed.
- Hand sanitiser available.
- Relevant notices / instructions clearly visible.
- People only to proceed through scanners when indicated to do so by security staff.

Security staff to monitor the lobby area to ensure physical distancing can be maintained. If the lobby area is full, scanning will be temporarily halted. During busy periods the queue may extend beyond the building perimeter. Signs will be placed within the building, facing out, with physical distancing reminders.

3.3.2 All public areas / courtrooms

- Hand sanitiser available in waiting area.
- Signs on each courtroom advising maximum occupancy numbers.
- Signs on each meeting room advising maximum occupancy numbers.
- Signs on each bar table indicating the maximum number of people permitted at the bar table(s).
- Hand sanitiser available in each courtroom (judge's bench, associate's bench, bar table).
- Document protocol for documents being handed up / exchanged. Use hand sanitiser before and after touching documents. Refrain from touching your face. Wash hands with soap and water when convenient to do so.
- Bottled water will be provided for Judge, staff, jurors, witnesses and counsel.

3.3.3 Criminal registry

- Hand sanitiser available within the public registry space.
- Screens on the public counter. Queueing barrier in place to keep visitors 1.5m from counter staff.
- Document protocol for documents being handed up / exchanged. Use hand sanitiser before and after touching documents. Refrain from touching your face. Wash hands with soap and water when convenient to do so.
- Discourage physical attendance. Encourage use of e-filing, phone, and email.

3.3.4 Judges' Chambers & Associates' Offices

- Hand sanitiser available.
- Limit visitors to chambers.
- Observe physical distancing within chambers.

3.3.5 Crown Rooms

- Hand sanitiser available.
- Signs on each door advising maximum occupancy numbers.
- Seating to be reduced / appropriately spaced within the office space.

3.3.6 Counsel Robing Rooms

- Hand sanitiser available.
- Signs on each door advising maximum occupancy numbers.
- Seating to be reduced / appropriately spaced within the robing rooms.

3.4 HOBART SUPREME COURT (CIVIL BUILDING)

3.4.1 Public entrance

- Floor markings on the forecourt and floor indicating appropriate physical distancing points.
- Floor markings near the scanner to indicate where to wait.
- Seats in waiting areas to be appropriately spaced, removed, or clearly marked if not to be used and cannot be removed.
- Hand sanitiser available.
- Relevant notices / instructions clearly visible.
- People only to proceed through scanners when indicated to do so by security staff.
- Public lift to lower ground floor (Tasmanian Law Library) contains capacity sign (1 person).

Security staff to monitor the lobby area to ensure physical distancing can be maintained. If the lobby area is full, scanning will be temporarily halted. During busy periods the queue may extend beyond the building perimeter. Signs will be placed within the building, facing out, with physical distancing reminders.

3.4.2 All public areas / courtrooms

- Hand sanitiser available in waiting area.
- Signs on each courtroom advising maximum occupancy numbers.
- Signs on each meeting room advising maximum occupancy numbers.
- Signs on each bar table indicating the maximum number of people permitted at the bar table(s).
- Hand sanitiser available in each courtroom (judge's bench, associate's bench, bar table).

- Document protocol for documents being handed up / exchanged. Use hand sanitiser before and after touching documents. Refrain from touching your face. Wash hands with soap and water when convenient to do so.
- Bottled water will be provided for Judge, staff, jurors, witnesses and counsel.

3.4.3 Civil Registry

- Hand sanitiser available within the public registry space.
- Screens on the public counter. Queueing barrier in place to keep visitors 1.5m from counter staff.
- Document protocol for documents being handed up / exchanged. Use hand sanitiser before and after touching documents. Refrain from touching your face. Wash hands with soap and water when convenient to do so.
- Discourage physical attendance. Encourage use of e-filing, phone, and email.

3.4.4 Judges' Chambers & Associates' Offices

- Hand sanitiser available.
- Limit visitors to chambers.
- Observe physical distancing within chambers.

3.4.5 Counsel Robing Room

- Hand sanitiser available.
- Signs on each door advising maximum occupancy numbers.
- Seating to be reduced / appropriately spaced within the robing rooms.

3.5 LAUNCESTON SUPREME COURT

3.5.1 Public entrance

- Floor markings on the forecourt and floor indicating appropriate physical distancing points.
- Floor markings near the scanner to indicate where to wait.
- Seats in waiting areas to be appropriately spaced, removed, or clearly marked if not to be used and cannot be removed.
- Hand sanitiser available.
- Relevant notices / instructions clearly visible.
- People only to proceed through scanners when indicated to do so by security staff.

Security staff to monitor the lobby area to ensure physical distancing can be maintained. If the lobby area is full, scanning will be temporarily halted. During busy periods the queue may extend beyond the building perimeter. Signs will be placed within the building, facing out, with physical distancing reminders.

3.5.2 All public areas / courtrooms

- Hand sanitiser available in waiting area.

- Signs on each courtroom advising maximum occupancy numbers.
- Signs on each meeting room advising maximum occupancy numbers.
- Signs on each bar table indicating the maximum number of people permitted at the bar table(s).
- Hand sanitiser available in each courtroom (judge's bench, associate's bench, bar table).
- Document protocol for documents being handed up / exchanged. Use hand sanitiser before and after touching documents. Refrain from touching your face. Wash hands with soap and water when convenient to do so.
- Bottled water will be provided for Judge, staff, jurors, witnesses and counsel.

3.5.3 Registry

- Hand sanitiser available within the public registry space.
- Screens on the public counter. Queueing barrier in place to keep visitors 1.5m from counter staff.
- Document protocol for documents being handed up / exchanged. Use hand sanitiser before and after touching documents. Refrain from touching your face. Wash hands with soap and water when convenient to do so.
- Discourage physical attendance. Encourage use of e-filing, phone, and email.

3.5.4 Judges' Chambers & Associates' Offices

- Hand sanitiser available.
- Limit visitors to chambers.
- Observe physical distancing within chambers.

3.5.5 Crown Rooms

- Hand sanitiser available.
- Signs on each door advising maximum occupancy numbers.
- Seating to be reduced / appropriately spaced within the office space.

3.5.6 Counsel Robing Room

- Hand sanitiser available.
- Signs on each door advising maximum occupancy numbers.
- Seating to be reduced / appropriately spaced within the office space.

3.6 BURNIE SUPREME COURT

3.6.1 Public entrance

- Floor markings on the forecourt and floor indicating appropriate physical distancing points.
- Floor markings near the scanner to indicate where to wait.
- Seats in waiting areas to be appropriately spaced, removed, or clearly marked if not to be used and cannot be removed.
- Hand sanitiser available.
- Relevant notices / instructions clearly visible.
- People only to proceed through scanners when indicated to do so by security staff.

Security staff to monitor the lobby area to ensure physical distancing can be maintained. If the lobby area is full, scanning will be temporarily halted. During busy periods the queue may extend beyond the building perimeter. Signs will be placed within the building, facing out, with physical distancing reminders.

3.6.2 All public areas / courtrooms

- Hand sanitiser available in waiting area.
- Signs on each courtroom advising maximum occupancy numbers.
- Signs on each meeting room advising maximum occupancy numbers.
- Signs on each bar table indicating the maximum number of people permitted at the bar table(s).
- Hand sanitiser available in each courtroom (judge's bench, associate's bench, bar table).
- Document protocol for documents being handed up / exchanged. Use hand sanitiser before and after touching documents. Refrain from touching your face. Wash hands with soap and water when convenient to do so.
- Bottled water will be provided for Judge, staff, jurors, witnesses and counsel.

3.6.3 Registry

- Hand sanitiser available within the public registry space.
- Screens on the public counter. Queueing barrier in place to keep visitors 1.5m from counter staff.
- Document protocol for documents being handed up / exchanged. Use hand sanitiser before and after touching documents. Refrain from touching your face. Wash hands with soap and water when convenient to do so.
- Discourage physical attendance. Encourage use of e-filing, phone, and email.

3.6.4 Judges' Chambers & Associate's Office

- Hand sanitiser available.
- Limit visitors to chambers.
- Observe physical distancing within chambers.

3.6.5 Crown Rooms

- Hand sanitiser available.
- Signs on each door advising maximum occupancy numbers.
- Seating to be reduced / appropriately spaced within the office space.

3.6.6 Counsel Robing Rooms

- Hand sanitiser available.
- Signs on each door advising maximum occupancy numbers.
- Seating to be reduced / appropriately spaced within the robing rooms.

4. JURY TRIALS AND JURY MANAGEMENT

4.1. Staged return of criminal proceedings

As government advice on community restrictions changes, the court will permit litigants and their legal representatives to return to the court. This will be a staged return:

Stage 1 (commencing on 15 June 2020)

The following categories of proceedings will recommence as face-to-face hearings as from 15 June, subject to each judge's discretion:

- Pleas
- Directions hearings
- Legal argument
- Bail Applications (with the accused on videolink)
- Disputed facts hearings
- Pre-recorded evidence

Preliminary proceedings will resume before Bench Justices or the Associate Judge sitting in the Supreme Court.

Pre-recording of evidence in special hearings pursuant to the *Evidence (Children and Special Witnesses Act*, s 6, will resume in the Supreme Court.

Stage 2 (commencing on 21 July 2020)

Criminal jury trials will resume in Hobart and Launceston, with new arrangements because of distancing requirements. There will be no criminal trials in Burnie until further notice because the court room is too small for distancing requirements to be complied with.

Because of distancing requirements, the jury rooms in Hobart and Launceston are too small to be used by juries, except as cloakrooms. In Hobart, it will be possible to conduct one trial in either Court 7 or Court 8, using the jury assembly room

as a jury room. It will also be possible for criminal jury trials to proceed in Court 1 in the civil building, using Court 2 as a jury room. In Launceston, trials will proceed in Court 1, using Court 2 as a jury room.

4.2 Juries Generally

Potential jurors will receive summonses from the Office of the Sheriff. Each juror summons will be accompanied by a Fact Sheet that comprises a self-assessment of COVID symptoms and duty to notify the Office of the Sheriff of any issues. The Fact Sheet will also explain the manner in which jurors will be managed while undertaking jury service (including marshalling, empanelment, trial, adjournments, and deliberation) in ways that protects their health and welfare.

The Office of the Sheriff will put in place physical distancing protocols throughout the jury management process.

A reduction in the total size of each jury panel may occur to assist with social distancing when empanelments occur.

The jury panel could be split into two batches and managed during each period of service to meet the court's operational requirements. Jurors could be summoned to arrive in two batches, eg at 9am and 9.30am to minimise too many Jurors queuing up at the entrance to the court building.

Jury assembly areas will provide sufficient space to comply with the 1.5m distancing and 4m² density requirement.

The Jury Information DVD will be shown to jurors in each location in batches prior to empanelment. A request will also be included in the summons documentation to watch the DVD on the Court website in advance. If necessary, Deputy Sheriffs will provide juror induction information in a personal presentation.

It is proposed that jurors aged 65 years and over as at 30 June 2020 will be excused from performing jury service.

4.3 Hobart Juries

The Hobart trial and empanelment courts will be either of Courts 7 or 8, and Court 1. For the empanelment process, the potential jurors will be seated in the Jury Assembly Room and in other spaces. Juror induction sessions will be conducted using DVDs in the Jury Assembly Room and those other spaces.

During each trial, some jurors will be seated in the jury box, with others seated in other places in the court room to comply with distancing requirements.

The Jury in Courts 7 or 8 will use the Jury Room in the respective courtroom as a cloakroom. The Jury in Court 1 will use Court 2 as a cloakroom.

The Juries will be escorted to, and be accommodated under supervision, in the Jury Assembly Room and Court 2 during legal arguments and short adjournments. Otherwise jurors will be sworn out during longer adjournments.

4.4 Launceston Juries

The Launceston trial and empanelment court will be Court 1. The potential jurors will be seated in the public gallery of Court 2 upstairs, the Conference Room, the jury box and miscellaneous seating in Court 1. All locations will observe physical distancing.

Juror induction sessions will be provided by DVD in both Court 1 and Court 2.

Court 1 sound and vision will be displayed on screens visible in Court 2, allowing those potential jurors to see and hear the usual empanelment process.

Potential jurors may also be summoned to Court 1 via a public address system (to be installed) with guidance by Court Security Officers.

Following empanelment, the Jury will be seated in the courtroom during trials as follows to comply with 1.5m distancing:

- 12 in the public gallery

The Jury will use the Jury Room in Court 1 as a cloakroom.

The Jury will be escorted to, and be accommodated under supervision, in Court 2 during legal arguments and short adjournments. Otherwise jurors will be sworn out during longer adjournments.

4.5. Additional requirements

Additional temporary furniture (small tables) etc. will be provided to allow jurors that are seated in areas without tables to write and take notes.

Additional microphones and/or screens may be provided to alleviate any difficulties resulting from the dispersing of jurors to parts of the court rooms beyond the jury boxes.

4.6. Jurors who are unwell

If a juror is unwell, and has symptoms of COVID-19, they should be tested. The court recognises that trials may be delayed by at least two days due to the testing process and the need to self-isolate whilst testing occurs and results are obtained.

Additional days may be required if the juror is still unwell, as seasonal 'flu presents with similar symptoms.

5. CIVIL PROCEEDINGS

5.1. Staged return of civil proceedings

Subject to public health advice and subject to arrangements made on a case by case basis in the discretion of individual judges, the Court will increase face-to-face participation in civil proceedings.

It will be possible for civil trials to resume in Hobart during the sittings that

commences on 20 July 2020. However, at times when two criminal trials are proceeding, it is likely that the only courts available for civil proceedings, including proceedings before the associate judge, are likely to be Court 3 and one of the courts in the criminal building.

Civil trials will be able to resume in Launceston only when criminal trials are not in progress. At this stage, it is expected that some civil trials may be listed in Launceston during the fortnight commencing 17 August 2020.

It is possible that some civil cases will be conducted without face-to-face appearances, using video links or telephone connections, if court rooms are not available.

Directions hearings may continue to be held by telephone or video link, in the discretion of the judges.

5.2. Case management

Matters will be case managed to ensure the minimum number of people in the building and within each courtroom. Hybrid hearings, utilising the court's audio visual links, would allow, for example, submissions via video link and witnesses to give evidence in person. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the judicial officer hearing the matter.

5.3. Start and finish times, and court breaks

In order to reduce congestion within the building, the start and finish times of court matters may vary from the standard court hours. This includes the timing of court breaks during the day. The start and finish time will be communicated three business days ahead of the court hearing by the court registry. Matters may be staggered at 20 minute intervals, commencing from 9am. Matters that commence later in the day may continue to sit until 5pm. A mechanism will be in place with the Tasmanian Bar and Law Society of Tasmania to attempt to minimise disruption to barristers' and solicitors' family and personal commitments.

5.4. Litigants and legal practitioners in court

The capacity of each courtroom has been assessed according to the physical distancing guidelines: see section 3.2 above. The reduced capacity necessitates a reduced number of people in the courtroom and it will be necessary, in some matters, to limit the size of legal teams attending court and the number of clients/litigants in court. Additional members of legal teams, additional clients (other than those in court directly instructing the legal team) can attend via audio visual link where the court is equipped to do so.

5.5. Court annexed mediations

Mediations will continue to be conducted via videolink or telephone links initially. Later face-to-face mediations will be permitted at the discretion of the presiding mediator and will be determined on a case-by-case basis according to the physical distancing requirements.

The audio visual technology will remain available for parties who wish to use it.

Participants in private sessions will be limited to one legal representative, one client and the mediator.

5.6. Virtual Courtrooms – Court Security Act

The *Court Security Act 2017* (Tas) continues to apply to all hearings, including those occurring using the virtual courtroom technology. In particular section 11 prohibits recording sound images or using a device to transmit sound or images, without approval. Everyone participating in a virtual courtroom hearing should observe all normal court protocols and standards.

6. REGISTRY AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS

6.1. Digital first for the registry

The Court encourages the use of the e-filing service for filing documents and use of phone, or email.

6.2. Open justice and the media

The Court continues to review all operations with a view to maintaining open justice, consistent with the current constraints and health advice.

Members of the public are strongly encouraged not to attend court at this time and to continue to avoid all non-essential travel.

Media are an essential service and can attend court to observe and report on matters before the court. Members of the media can contact Court staff for additional information and assistance.

6.3. Victims and support people

Information concerning the prosecution and trial of an accused will be provided by the prosecution.

Victims and support people can still attend court. However, due to physical distancing requirements the availability of public seating in all courtrooms is considerably reduced. If you wish to attend court but have concerns about public seating or other aspects of the hearing please contact the court registry for further assistance.

6.4. Vulnerable groups

Some people are at greater risk of more serious illness with COVID-19:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 50 years and older with one or more chronic medical conditions;
- People 65 years and older with one or more chronic medical conditions;
- People 70 years and older; and
- People with compromised immune systems.

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee advice is that there is limited evidence at this time regarding the risk in pregnant women and so, at

present, pregnant women are not included on the vulnerable list. Anyone within one of these groups that has a matter before the court, or is required to attend court, should inform the court and their legal representative at the earliest opportunity for further assistance.

7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

7.1. Coronavirus specific resources

For further information:

- Ring the national coronavirus Hotline on 1800 020 080
- Download the Coronavirus Australia app to assist with contact tracing:
<https://coronavirus.app>

7.2. Websites

Commonwealth Department of Health www.health.gov.au
Tasmanian Government, COVID-19 information <https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au/>
Safe Work Australia www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces

7.3. Victim Services

Please contact Victims Support Services for access to counselling and financial support. Please phone Victims Access Line: 1300 300 328.

7.4. Mental Health

Lifeline

A confidential service providing support to anyone in Australia who is feeling overwhelmed, having difficulty coping or thinking about suicide. • Telephone: 13 11 14 • Text: 0477 13 11 14 • Website: www.lifeline.org.au

Beyond Blue

A telephone support service providing free, immediate, short-term counselling and advice for those feeling worried or struggling to cope during the coronavirus pandemic. • Telephone: 1800 512 348

LawCare

A professional and confidential referral service for solicitors and their immediate family members. Phone: 1300 687 327 or convergeinternational.com.au.

Jim Connolly
Registrar

10 June 2020