



10 November 2005

NV:KS:AB
K. Smith
(03) 9607 9382
E-mail: ksmith@liv.asn.au
Our Ref: FAM 6

Federal Magistrates' Court of Australia
Chief Magistrate J. Pascoe AO
97-99 Goulburn Street
Sydney New South Wales 2001

Dear Chief Federal Magistrate,

RE: DANDENONG FAMILY/FEDERAL MAGISTRATES' COURT OF AUSTRALIA

The Law Institute of Victoria (LIV) was recently informed that the Family Court intends terminating all judicial services, except for some filing and procedural matters, at Dandenong.

Dandenong is a vital centre for the local population and also the Gippsland regions. The LIV considers that the reduction in services at the Dandenong Court have a negative impact on the public using the Court and practitioners who conduct business there.

Given the Family Courts decision to terminate its judicial services at the Dandenong registry, it is imperative that a judicial presence is maintained at Dandenong. I am aware that the Federal Magistrates' Court already situated at Dandenong utilizes the facilities and provides a most important service to the area. I understand however, that this is not on a full time basis.

On behalf of all our members, I urge you to consider the provision of a full time Court service at Dandenong. I appreciate issues of funding and staffing are matters which will impact on such a decision, but, I believe the region requires a fully functioning active and effective Court.

If it would assist you, members of the LIV's Courts practice sub committee of the Family Law Section have indicated a willingness to explore any issues or needs that might arise in implementing this request and would welcome the opportunity of meeting with you or members of the Court to discuss this matter further.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me, the Chair of the Family Law Section, Geoffrey Bonsall or LIV Section solicitor Kathryn Smith on 9607 9386

Yours sincerely,

Victoria Strong
President

Cc. Federal Magistrate N. Hartnett



**Law
Institute
Victoria**