



## *Children's Court of New South Wales*

### **PUBLIC NOTICE OF RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC No. 7**

**2 August 2020**

**Amended 27 August 2020**

The Children's Court recognises that there is an increased risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus within custodial settings. It is also noted that with only six Youth Detention Centres across NSW the transport of young people to and from a large number of Children's Courts across the state increases the risk of the virus entering a custodial setting.

In light of the increase in the number of locally acquired COVID-19 cases within NSW the Children's Court has again reviewed practices in response to the advice of health authorities and Youth Justice. As a result, the following changes to practice will apply until further notice.

1. Any young person who is in custody in a Youth Detention Centre is to appear before the Children's Court by audio visual link (AVL) unless;
  - a) the case is listed for hearing **and**
  - b) the hearing cannot proceed without the young person's attendance in person **and**
  - c) the hearing can be heard at one of the following locations;
    - i) Parramatta Children's Court
    - ii) Surry Hills Children's Court
    - iii) Campbelltown Children's Court
    - iv) Woy Woy Children's Court or
    - v) Broadmeadow Children Court
2. Hearings at other locations where the young person is in custody may be adjourned to one of the five courts specified in paragraph 1(c) to enable the hearing to proceed if it is appropriate to do so having regard to the interests of any other person involved in the hearing.
3. Where a case is listed for hearing and the young person is in custody the case is to be re-listed for a further readiness hearing as soon as possible unless a readiness hearing date is already listed in the future.
4. If, at the readiness hearing it is determined that the hearing cannot proceed with the young person appearing by AVL or by listing the

hearing at a court specified in 1(c), the hearing is to be vacated and adjourned for further hearing in approximately three months. A further readiness hearing is to be listed approximately two to four weeks prior to the hearing.

5. All other arrangements specified in earlier Public Notices issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to operate.
6. Please note that these arrangements are subject to change at short notice.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Johnstone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping underline.

Judge Peter Johnstone

President of the Children's Court of NSW