



Her Honour Judge Lawson
County Court of Victoria
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27 March 2019

Mr Matthew Collins QC
President Victorian Bar Association
Level 5, 205 William Street
Melbourne, 3000

Dear Mr Collins,

Expansion of County Koori Court sittings to Warrnambool

I am writing to advise that in 2019 the County Court of Victoria will be expanding the County Koori Court to Warrnambool.

The County Koori Court currently sits in four locations, the Latrobe Valley, Melbourne, Mildura and Shepparton. The Court hears pleas of guilty, appeals from the Magistrates' and Children's Courts, and contraventions of County Court orders. Expanding the County Koori Court to Warrnambool is an important next step in making this beneficial sentencing process available to all Aboriginal offenders.

It is proposed that the County Koori Court will sit at times aligned with County Court criminal circuits at Warrnambool. The County Koori Court will sit on the first two days of each criminal circuit if matters are scheduled.

The County Koori Court will operate in accordance with the Court's Practice Note: *Operation and Management of the County Koori Court* PNCR 1-2015.

Consultations with local practitioners, community groups and service providers will commence in April 2019.

Should you have any questions regarding this initiative please contact Terrie Stewart, County Court Koori Court Coordinator via email terrie.stewart@countycourt.vic.gov.au or on 8636 6083.

Yours sincerely,

Her Honour Judge Irene Lawson
Head of the Koori Court Division
County Court