



NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

CHIEF MAGISTRATE'S CHAMBERS

Ref: JLJW - 025

12 August 2014

Dr Warren Mundy
Commissioner of the Productivity Commission
Level 2, 15 Moore Street
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2600

Dear Dr Mundy,

RE: Productivity Commission's Inquiry into the Australia's Civil Dispute Resolution System

Thank you for your letter dated 23 June 2014 in relation to the above inquiry and allowing the Magistrates Court of the Northern Territory the opportunity to provide feedback in relation to particular aspects of the inquiry.

In my opinion the most appropriate national body for co-ordinating analysis and evaluation of the different case management approaches and techniques available to Australian courts would be the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration (AIJA), as it is a peak research and educational institute, which has as one of its principal objectives research into judicial administration and judicial systems. Whether the AIJA would be prepared to undertake the research project would, of course, be a matter for the Association.

The Magistrates Court is in the process of developing tools for evaluating the effectiveness of case management processes within the Court, drawing heavily upon the concepts and tools and quality management systems referred to in the International Framework for Court Excellence. It is hoped that these will be operational by the end of the year.

The Court is also in the process of collating data in relation to self-represented litigants and developing appropriate information systems (via the Court website) to assist such litigants in the conduct of court cases, both criminal and civil. Again, it is hoped this project will be completed by the end of the year.

Apart from merely informing you of these initiatives, I do not believe the Court can be of any further assistance at this stage.

Yours sincerely,

John Lowndes
Chief Magistrate