

Oral Decisions

Thursday 23 & Friday 24 April 2020, Sydney

Program and speakers are subject to change without notice.

Day 1 – Thursday, 23 April

2.00pm	Registration	Tea and coffee on arrival
2.15pm		Welcome & Ice-breaker
	Presenter	Justice James Stevenson, <i>Supreme Court of New South Wales</i>
2.30pm	Session 1	Oral Decisions: The Why, When and How
	Presenter	Justice James Stevenson, <i>Supreme Court of New South Wales</i>
	Session Description	The program begins with a discussion of the considerations involved in the delivery of an oral decision. Participants are encouraged to contribute to the discussion.
3.00pm		Break
3.15pm	Session 2	Effective Listening and Note-taking
	Presenter	Judge Susanne Cole, <i>Deputy President NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal</i>
	Session Description	Active listening and effective note-taking during the hearing assist in preparing the oral decision.
4.00pm	Session 3	Presentations (group work)
	Facilitators	Judge Susanne Cole, <i>Deputy President NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal</i> Magistrate Roslyn Porter, <i>Victorian Children's Court</i> Judge Warwick Hunt, <i>District Court of New South Wales</i> Justice James Stevenson, <i>Supreme Court of New South Wales</i> His Honour Dr John Lowndes, <i>former Chief Judge, Local Court of the NT</i> Principal Member Jane Anderson, <i>Veterans' Review Board</i>
	Session Description	Participants will be presented with a scenario; during which they are to take notes and form their decision. In groups, each participant will take turns to present their decision (participants may wish to record their own presentation on their mobile device – we will have small tripod stands available for use). Feedback on each performance will be conducted in private with one of the facilitators.
5.15pm	Session 4	Feedback / Discussion / Wrap up Day One
	Facilitators	Ms Lucy Cornell, <i>The Voice Advisory</i>
5.30pm		Close

Day 2 – Friday, 24 April

8.45am Arrival Tea/coffee

9.00am Session 5 Oral Decisions in the Real World

Presenter His Honour Dr John Lowndes, *former Chief Judge, Local Court of the Northern Territory*

Session Description This session will cover strategies and skills to equip participants to make speedy but proper decisions in the context of a busy court, including fact finding, application of the law to the found facts, adequacy of reasons etc.

10.00am Break

10.30am Session 6 Creating a Judicial Presence

Presenter Ms Lucy Cornell, *The Voice Advisory*

Session Description Ms Cornell will demonstrate techniques in voice and demeanour to control the courtroom, the protagonists' and the judge's own emotions. Participants will take part in physical and vocal exercises.

11.30am Session 7 Presentations (group work)

Facilitators Judge Susanne Cole, *Deputy President NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal*
Magistrate Roslyn Porter, *Victorian Children's Court*
Judge Warwick Hunt, *District Court of New South Wales*
Justice James Stevenson, *Supreme Court of New South Wales*
His Honour Dr John Lowndes, *former Chief Judge, Local Court of the NT*
Principal Member Jane Anderson, *Veterans' Review Board*

Session Description Participants will be presented with a second scenario; during which they are to take notes and form their decision. In groups, each participant will take turns to present their decision, (participants may wish to record their own presentation on their mobile device – we will have small tripod stands available for use). Feedback on each performance will be conducted in private with one of the facilitators.

1.00pm Lunch

2.00pm Session 8 Group Workshop / Practical session

Facilitator Ms Lucy Cornell, *The Voice Advisory*

Panel Judge Susanne Cole, *Deputy President NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal*
Magistrate Roslyn Porter, *Victorian Children's Court*
Judge Warwick Hunt, *District Court of New South Wales*
Justice James Stevenson, *Supreme Court of New South Wales*
His Honour Dr John Lowndes, *former Chief Judge, Local Court of the Northern Territory*

Session Description Four willing volunteers will be asked to present their decision in front of the whole group for feedback and group discussion.

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3.30pm	Session 9	Feedback / Wrap up
	Presenters	Judge Susanne Cole, <i>Deputy President NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal</i> Magistrate Roslyn Porter, <i>Victorian Children's Court</i> Judge Warwick Hunt, <i>District Court of New South Wales</i> Justice James Stevenson, <i>Supreme Court of New South Wales</i> His Honour Dr John Lowndes, <i>former Chief Judge, Local Court of the NT</i>
	Session Description	The program closes with a review of the skills, techniques and pitfalls of giving oral decisions.
4.00pm		Close

A short survey will be emailed to each participant. We hope that you will complete this survey and provide feedback on the program to help inform future program improvement.