



# AUSTRALASIAN COUNCIL OF JUSTICES' ASSOCIATIONS

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Cr Rod Nicholas JP

VICE PRESIDENT  
Cr Rachael O'Grady JP

REGISTRAR  
Mr Terry Wardle JP

DEPUTY REGISTRAR  
Cr Christine Cordingley JP

Colleagues

We are in unprecedented times. The COVID-19 pandemic is having an impact on the health of our loved ones, the businesses we rely upon, the health of the global economy, and the way we live our daily lives. Our work, our community, and our personal activities have all been affected. We can expect this disruption to continue for some time.

Unfortunately, this has also extended to our Justice of the Peace activities.

**It is with considerable regret that I advise that the Executive of the ACJA has made the decision to cancel the 2020 General Meeting of the Council to be held in Auckland in October this year.** No doubt this comes as no surprise given the precautions our governments are taking to deal with the pandemic, but it is disappointing, nevertheless. This also relieves the burden on the RFNZJA of booking venues and committing funds to an event that is unlikely to proceed.

The annual meetings of Council have been an important part of Council activities over the past 50 years. They have offered an opportunity to foster fellowship, discussion and debate on a wide range of topics. In part, this has been achieved through Member Associations reporting to Council on developments and initiatives within their jurisdictions, and through the activities of various sub-committees such as the Training and Education Sub-Committee.

Although cancelling our 2020 General Meeting means we will not have the opportunity for the face-to-face interactions of the past, the Executive is keen to see other aspects of Council's business to continue. Indeed, the Constitution permits the conduct of Council business by correspondence.

To this effect, the Executive will:

- prepare and distribute reports from the President, Registrar, Treasurer and any sub-committee as are usually distributed to Members at the General Meeting
- encourage Member Associations to prepare reports for circulation
- receive any written Motions of Notice from Member Associations and circulate them to all Members for review, comment and resolution by correspondence in accordance with the Constitution
- encourage Member Associations to share experiences, developments within their jurisdiction and initiatives to keep their own members engaged during the pandemic 'hibernation', preferably by preparing a short report or article that could be included in Council's Journal.

We will also consider the feasibility of convening a short video meeting later in the year (using readily available—and generally free—desktop/mobile applications such as Zoom). We would appreciate hearing your views regarding this.

We will keep to the usual timeframe for reports to the extent possible, calling for reports, papers or notices of motion in time for distribution in October.

Cancelling the 2020 General Meeting obviously has implications for hosting future meetings. We propose that the hosts agreed at previous meetings be maintained, much as agreed:

<b>Year</b>	<b>ACJA General Meeting Host</b>
2020	Meeting cancelled
2021	New Zealand
2022	Tasmania (to coincide with centenary celebrations)
2023	Queensland
2024	ACT
2025	Western Australia
2026	South Australia
2027	New South Wales

I am sure you appreciate the need for these decisions, and I ask for your patience and understanding. We will do our best to keep a 'business as usual' approach for the Council and will communicate further with you in the months to come. We will also update the Council's website as need be.

In the meantime, please stay safe. Be kind. Have patience.



Rod Nicholas  
**President**