



FAMILY COURT OF AUSTRALIA

CHAMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE DIANA BRYANT
CHIEF JUSTICE

GPO Box 9991
Melbourne VIC 3001
Telephone: (03) 8600 4355
Facsimile: (03) 8600 4350
e-mail: chief.justice.chambers@familycourt.gov.au

Commonwealth Law Courts
305 William Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Our ref. CJC-F3
Your ref.

12 May 2009

Chief Federal Magistrate Pascoe
Federal Magistrates Court of Australia
Level 11
167 Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear John


I understand that there are concerns that if the courts are restructured that I will wish to significantly change the way in which the Federal Magistrates Court conducts its case management practices (the docket in particular).

This has never been my intention and in fact I have proceeded at all times on the understanding that if the courts are restructured there would be no change to the way in which the Federal Magistrates conduct their work. Indeed, I think this is borne out by the recent discussion around Family Consultant and Registrar resources which is all consistent with a continuation of the manner in which the work is currently carried out.

My views on this are clearly supported by almost all the submissions to the Semple Review and by the Attorney-General. The case management processes of the Court and its "culture" are features that I believe should remain unchanged.

You are well aware of my position on this as is the Attorney but as I understand there is concern amongst the Federal Magistrates I would appreciate you forwarding this letter onto all Federal Magistrates for their information.

Kind regards



Diana Bryant
Chief Justice