



14 September 2021

MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

In my discussions with the Presidents of the NSW Bar Association and the Law Society of NSW I have been kept abreast of the difficulties being encountered by practitioners during the current lockdown conditions.

These difficulties include, of course, the technical difficulties involved in working from home, difficulties particularly with young lawyers in working in isolation from their colleagues and the consequent lack of guidance and assistance and particular difficulties for those who have to contend with juggling their work commitments and conflicting responsibilities as carers or parents particularly in the current home school environment. All judges of the Court sympathise with those working under these difficulties and understand the pressure they are placing on practitioners.

In these circumstances, practitioners should not feel concerned in seeking from the Court extensions of time where appropriate and flexibility in arranging timetables. Such requests will be accommodated wherever possible at least to the extent they do not operate unfairly to any party in the litigation.

I have raised these issues with judges of the Court at a Judges' meeting and they are supportive of what I have outlined above.

I have also requested the Presidents of the Bar Association and the Law Society to contact me if they have any particular concerns.

T F Bathurst AC
Chief Justice of NSW