

# Media Statement

WEDNESDAY, 20 JUNE 2007

## Auditor-General's Report: Administration of Non-judicial Functions of the Magistrates' Court of Victoria

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A report by **Auditor-General, Des Pearson**, titled *Administration of Non-judicial Functions of the Magistrates' Court of Victoria*, was tabled in the Victorian Parliament today.

This audit examined whether key administrative functions of the Magistrates' Court efficiently and effectively support the operations of the Court. The audit included a follow-up of our 2005 special review of the Geelong Magistrates' Court which examined whistleblower allegations regarding the misuse of court funds.

In this regard Mr Pearson found that:

- the key administrative functions reviewed were operating efficiently and effectively
- improvements have been made across the board to financial and administrative controls, including those relating to the Court Fund
- professional court users are very satisfied with the performance and service provided by Court administration staff
- the Court has implemented measures to improve staff recruitment and retention.

However, the Auditor-General also found that there was a need to address a number of workforce and management challenges, and to:

- review the adequacy of security infrastructure arrangements across court locations
- place more emphasis on the needs of non-professional court users.

Mr Pearson stated that the Court has been through a period of transition and has been endeavouring to address increasing demands and pressures on its services and operations through various means, including improvements to workforce planning and recruitment.

Mr Pearson concluded that the future also holds significant challenges for the Court as it develops strategies for the implementation of new technologies and new models for the delivery of court services. These challenges will impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of Court operations and community expectations of service delivery.

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Direct link to report: [http://www.audit.vic.gov.au/reports\\_par/agp122cv.html](http://www.audit.vic.gov.au/reports_par/agp122cv.html)

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