

## **PRACTICE DIRECTION 1 OF 2020**

Justices of the Peace have a long history of sitting in Courts in Western Australia and in doing so have made a significant contribution to the administration of justice. However with the increasing number of either way offences being dealt with in the Magistrates Court their role has in recent years been confined to Restraining Orders and simple traffic matters. Like many volunteer organisations, the number of Justices of the Peace has declined over time and the average age has increased.

In light of these factors and the availability of audio/visual technology, it is an appropriate time for Magistrates Courts to be constituted only by legally qualified Magistrates. Accordingly a Registrar should no longer request a Justice of the Peace to constitute a Court or direct a Deputy Registrar to request a Justice of the Peace to constitute a Court.

This Practice Direction is effective from 1 August 2020.



Steven Heath  
**Chief Magistrate**

Dated the 30<sup>th</sup> day of June 2020