



31 January 2014

MEDIA STATEMENT

LIVE TWEETING FROM WA COURTS ALLOWED

Journalists will be able to tweet live from Western Australian courtrooms under a new policy announced today by the WA Chief Justice, the Hon Wayne Martin AC, on behalf of all Western Australian courts.

The policy allows both media and lawyers to use electronic devices connected to the Internet, such as laptops, tablets and smart phones, from inside WA courts for the first time.

“This new practice direction allows reporters to tweet verdicts, judgments and sentences as soon as they are announced in court, as well as report on evidence in trials as it unfolds,” Chief Justice Martin said.

“A fundamental principle of our justice system is that it is open and accountable, and journalists play an important role in ensuring the public learns what happens inside our courts.

“Tweeting results from inside the courtroom assists journalists to provide an immediate, fair and accurate account of court cases.”

The new policy does not extend to members of the public, and it is subject to any direction of the presiding judicial officer. The ban on any recording in a courtroom, either photographic or audio, remains in place.

The policy will allow the use of electronic devices in the Supreme, Family, District, Magistrates and Children’s Courts, as well as the State Administrative Tribunal.

It takes effect from 4 February 2014.

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