



CHIEF JUSTICE'S CHAMBERS  
FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA  
Law Courts Building  
Queens Square, Sydney NSW 2000  
Telephone: +6129230 8438

7 April 2020

Dear Presidents

**Federal Court of Australia – Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Update 16**

The Court will shortly issue a Special Measures Information and Practice Note concerning appeals. A copy is **attached** to this memorandum. The document will be placed on the Court's website either this evening or tomorrow morning. It applies to the May Full Court sittings.

The Court is continuing to expand the number of courtrooms which are suitable for supporting Microsoft Teams hearings with satisfactory transcript. There are now significant number of courts around the country that will support this form of hearing. Courtrooms so enabled can support a hearing taking place remotely from the courtroom whether at the judge's home or elsewhere.

The daily court lists will soon contain not only the following day's hearings, but also the listed hearings for a period of time in the future, it is hoped one to two weeks. This will give the public a better snapshot of the work of the Court in the coming days so as to enable people to choose which hearings to join by participating electronically. I will also have published a Special Measures Information Note that deals with how matters are being listed and any necessary orders under s 17(4) of the *Federal Court of Australia Act* which are necessary when the judge sits away from a courtroom at a place, such as his or her home, where the public is necessarily excluded.

Once again if any President has an inquiry or a comment either of his or her own or passed on from members please do not hesitate to contact me. You are free to distribute this memorandum to your members.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Allsop'.

**The Hon James Allsop**  
Chief Justice

