



CHIEF JUSTICE'S CHAMBERS
FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA
LAW COURTS, QUEENS SQUARE
SYDNEY NSW 2000

MEMORANDUM

To: All Federal Court Judges
From: Chief Justice
Subject: Court sitting hours
Date: 11 November 2014

I have had a communication from the President of the NSW Bar Association concerning court sitting hours. There have been examples in courts in New South Wales where extended sitting hours, required with little notice, have caused difficulties for practitioners who have family or carer responsibilities. This has been brought to the attention of the courts in New South Wales.

May I suggest that if court hours are to be extended (that is before 9.30 am or beyond 4.30 to 4.45) as much notice as possible is given to the profession and the parties and that they are consulted about any possible difficulty in relation to the matter. In considering whether or not to set extended court hours, it is, of course, relevant to consider the family or other carer responsibilities of practitioners and parties.


Allsop CJ