



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

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DEDICATED COMMONWEALTH COURT NEEDED IN NEWCASTLE

Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson has this week written to the Attorney-General, the Hon Robert McClelland MP, urging him to fast-track the establishment of a dedicated Commonwealth law court facility in Newcastle.

A recent review of the accommodation needs of the Family Court and Federal Magistrates Court in Newcastle found that the current facilities are inadequate and that the volatile security environment is a serious concern.

The review recommends a full separate Commonwealth law court facility in Newcastle.

“Information from the CEO and National Director of Security of the Family Court of Australia confirms that a new Commonwealth court facility is urgently needed in Newcastle,” Ms Grierson said.

“Comparative figures show that filings in the Family Court registry and Federal Magistrates Court in Newcastle are up to ten times higher than at other facilities that the completion of applicants’ matters can take up to twelve months longer.”

“There are also major security concerns at the current facilities - and these need to be addressed so that we have a safe environment for families, staff and judicial officers.”

“The need for new Commonwealth court facilities in Newcastle has been clearly demonstrated.”

“In the current fiscally constrained environment it is imperative that the Government invest its resources where they are most needed and will provide the most benefit to Australian families.”

“In the case of Commonwealth law courts, this is clearly in Newcastle.”

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