



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

Media Release
4 August 2006

CALL FOR UNITED EFFORT ON NEW COMMONWEALTH COURT BUILDING

Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson, today called for a united effort from the region to support a proposal for a Commonwealth Court building in Newcastle.

"Yesterday we offered our congratulations to Justice Mullane on 20 years of service to the Family Court, and welcomed Justice Ryan as Newcastle's second Family Court Judge," Ms Grierson said. "Today we must step up the fight to secure the long-overdue upgrade of the Court facilities themselves."

"The Chief Justice of the Family Court has announced she will recommend to the Attorney-General that a new dedicated Commonwealth Court be built in Newcastle."

"This presents a significant economic and social opportunity for the Hunter, but one which needs a strategic approach and support from all stakeholders to bring to fruition."

"I have written to key representatives and groups today, inviting them to a roundtable to discuss a collective approach to turning this opportunity into a reality."

"A Commonwealth Court building would be a significant investment in the infrastructure of our region, and would be a boost to the construction industry, the legal and financial sectors, and those involved in the training and professional development of lawyers."

"Most importantly, it would greatly expand the range of legal services and facilities available to people locally."

"A Commonwealth Court would house Newcastle's existing Family Court and Federal Magistrates Service, and could incorporate all courts and tribunals under federal jurisdiction."

"I will be having preliminary discussions with the Attorney-General when Parliament resumes next week, before hosting the regional roundtable in Newcastle to develop our collective approach to this opportunity."

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