



JP Journal

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Cover image

York Town Hall is a heritage listed town hall located in Avon Terrace. Constructed in 1911, it is an example of Edwardian opulence. The Town Hall was opened on 30 November 1911 by the newly elected Labor Premier John Scaddan. According to Wikipedia, the cost of construction was £9,027 for which the Council borrowed £7,000, and for many years, the Council struggled to pay the debt on the loans.

Photo courtesy of Kevin Trent JP

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From the Registrar - Gillian Colclough JP

Welcome to our second journal for 2025. Our membership continues to grow closer to pre-COVID levels, with a proactive and committed Council behind the scenes. We will profile recent new members in the August newsletter. Our thanks as always go to Helen Tuck for her work behind the scenes in initiating contact with newly qualified JPs and referring them to us.

Our publications for you

The next publication will be a newsletter in August, to coincide with preparations for our AGM.

2025-26 invoices

Kiri has these ready to go and you will start receiving them in the next few days.

Certificates of Membership

See this great Council initiative on page [5](#).

Social function

We will be visiting the Tractor Museum at Whiteman Park in August. Details on page [8](#).

Looking back at COVID

Thank you to those of you who helped by sharing your experiences of the recent pandemic. This was as challenging a time as its predecessor a century earlier. We do not seem to have a record of Justice of the Peace experiences in the 1919-20 pandemic: but we do have some useful records in relation to COVID-19. Because it is such an important part of our history, this edition of the Journal has a lengthy summary and comparison with personalised details that may be valuable to JPs fifty or a hundred years in the future. An important part of that is provided by your responses to our survey on this topic, both as multiple choice selections and in your additional comments. These were in fact so detailed that we have not been able to cite every one, but are deeply grateful for your contribution.

While on the topic of surveys, we note that when we invite you to participate in one, it is an invitation: it is not a compulsory part of your membership. They are our business alone. If you begin one and don't wish to complete it, or don't see the point of some questions, just exit the survey. That said, our survey last year on JP experiences overall provided valuable insights into our situation and roles and was very useful in our meeting with the Attorney General last year. The voices of nearly a thousand JPs have weight.

Annual General Meeting

RAJWA's 2025 AGM will be held on September 13. Invitations and forms for members without email will start going out from July 25 by Australia Post. Notices to other members (including proxy forms and Council nomination forms) will be emailed by August 2.

Training videos

Some of us have had some fun entering the AI world to create narrations for several videos we created. Trust us, the narrators have a much more professional tone than anyone in our training area! These eagerly awaited videos are essentially animated PowerPoint presentations, which we have placed on YouTube. The links for them have been sent to you and are also available for scanning in this publication. Our YouTube site is not publicly available at this time, so please use the links. The topics selected are the ones we are asked most about. We look forward to your feedback and whether you would like us to create more of these presentations. We have the option using an avatar in them but decided not to. Let us know if you would like to see a person in them, even if it is one generated from photos of RAJWA identities.

Witnessing queries

We have had several contacts from banks, insurance and superannuation providers, mostly from interstate, this month, as we seem to do every month lately. The businesses concerned have approached us for help in locating JPs who have witnessed documents because the documents do not show the JP's address or other contact details. We have mostly referred such queries to the 'Find a JP' site, but contacted the JP concerned in other cases. We will not give out details of any of our members. Western Australian JPs do not need to provide their postal or email address on a document they have witnessed unless it is a Landgate matter, as detailed on the Landgate website. Affidavits of course need a location, but this is simply put as the suburb where the affidavit was witnessed. Our stamp and JP number provide enough identification and serve to legitimate our witness function. Nonetheless, some non-affidavit forms and some interstate Statutory Declaration forms have spaces for addresses and more. The Queensland Statutory Declaration form, for example, requires this under section 13E of their *Oaths Act* 1867. You can witness a Queensland Stat Dec if it is going to be used in Queensland or witness one for another state under the same belief that it will only be used there, as the declaration cannot be used for a Western Australian matter. Victoria also requires the witness address to be shown, and again, you can witness a form that will be used in that state. In these cases, you are free to use the RAJWA postal address. Your phone number is publicly listed already.

President's report

President Brian Dodds JP



Central Wheatbelt Branch AGM, Cunderdin, Saturday, 17 May 2025

I attended this meeting once again and was pleased to catch up with the members (from various towns) who also attended. Concerns were raised about the declining number of younger JPs in the branch area, as well as the number of JPs who don't seem to be fulfilling their obligations or being readily available as a JP. I advised the branch that we have identified these issues across the State and hope to raise it with the Attorney General. It obviously impacts country towns quite substantially because of the distance a JP or the Police might have to travel to provide or obtain a JP's service. Some concern was also raised about JPs not becoming involved with branch activities (particularly the AGM) and it was stated that if the decline continues over the next twelve months, it might be necessary for the Branch to close down. We were able to discuss the process involved on closing (or opening) a RAJWA Branch, so the Branch Executive are aware of the requirements of the RAJWA Constitution about this. The Branch President explained to a new JP that a JP could not join a Branch unless and until the JP had joined RAJWA.

In general, with the lack of interaction and willingness from JPs to become a member of a branch it is probably time for us to review how we could make this work better. Most JPs seem to be non-compliant because they must join the association and pay the fee (currently \$60 pa), as well as any branch membership fee.

WA JP Forum, Saturday 7 June 2025

Merv Wright and I attended the recent meeting and I'm pleased to say that the four associations are working well together. During the meeting, we were advised that a meeting with the Attorney General had been arranged for August 2025. Neither the Secretary nor I (as the Chairperson for the Forum) had been made aware of the meeting with the AG beforehand, but that aside, it would be a very good opportunity for the four associations to demonstrate to the AG (and subsequently, the Department of Justice) that we are all working together for the benefit of all JPs and have some common concerns (most of which we have already identified). In addition to this, it is also a good opportunity for the four associations to agree on all the points, so on that basis, I agreed to provide them with a copy of the documents we have produced. Further work will occur over the next couple of weeks, but in completed in time for the documents to be submitted to the AG's Chief of Staff before we meet with Dr Buti. One representative of each association will attend the meeting.

Long Service Medals

Merv Wright raised the idea of the State Government producing a Long Service Medal for JPs. It would possibly acknowledge the first fifteen years of service, followed by a clasp for every five years thereafter. This would be similar to what the Australian Defence Force issues members who qualify. The medal could be worn with other medals awarded to a person (such as military service medals, the Australian Police Medal, or an Australian Honours award) and would be worn at formal functions with any other medals the JP might also have. Our Council and the WA JP Forum will pursue this with the Attorney General.

Proposed Meeting Procedures

RAJWA Council is developing a set of meeting procedure guidelines to provide the Council (and the chairperson of each meeting) with an agreed format of meeting procedure. This would help Councillors in general to know how things should work, particularly if they are new to the Council or Executive.

Procedural Guidelines

I started revising this document some time ago but have not yet finalised the draft. The document is being refocused on the operation of a Branch as well as the Council. While certain sections of the Constitution might be referenced by the section number for various sections of our Constitution, the full details won't be included in the guidelines because it would make it too large and difficult to read. The Constitution would need to be read wherever or whenever necessary.

Health & safety for JPs

Deputy-President Rob Green JP



Supporting Our JPs: Good Ergonomics at Signing Centres

As Justices of the Peace, we take on vital responsibilities in our communities. From verifying documents to witnessing signatures, our role is steady, constant, and often seated for long periods. While these tasks may appear low risk on the surface, the nature of our work brings with it subtle but significant physical challenges. With many of us volunteering multiple hours each week at signing centres across Perth, it's time we shine a spotlight on ergonomics and how it can help us stay comfortable, healthy, and injury-free.



The Hazardous Manual Tasks – Code of Practice (WA) identifies several workplace activities that can lead to musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs), even in administrative environments. These include repetitive movements like signing and stamping, sustained or awkward postures from reading documents, and the application of force when using manual tools such as self-inking stamps. Over time, these small repetitive actions can cause strain to the hands, neck, shoulders, and lower back, particularly when good workstation design and posture are not in place.

To address these risks, signing centres and individual JPs alike should adopt proactive ergonomic strategies. First, workstation design plays a critical role. Adjustable chairs with good lumbar support, desks set to elbow height, and adequate leg clearance can make a dramatic difference. Monitors and document holders should be positioned at eye level to avoid hunching or twisting. Desk lighting should be adjustable, reducing glare while ensuring documents are easy to read without leaning forward



Equally important is our posture during service. When seated, the spine should be upright and supported, shoulders relaxed, and feet flat on the floor or supported by a footrest. Frequently used items such as stamps, pens, and reference guides should be kept within easy reach to minimise unnecessary stretching or awkward arm positions. If standing, it's advisable to alternate posture and use cushioned floor mats where possible to ease strain on the legs and lower back.

Repetitive motions such as stamping, signing, or verifying documents should be managed with care. Using ergonomically designed writing tools and self-inking stamps can help reduce fatigue. JPs should also incorporate micro-pauses, brief breaks every 30 to 60 minutes to stretch or walk, to improve circulation and reduce stiffness. For centres with multiple volunteers, rotating duties can prevent overuse injuries by diversifying muscle engagement throughout a shift.

Environmental factors must not be overlooked. Cold temperatures can increase the force needed to grip tools, while poor lighting can lead to awkward postures. Signing centres should maintain a comfortable ambient temperature, provide adequate lighting without harsh glare, and keep work areas free of clutter to support good body mechanics.



In line with the Code of Practice, we also encourage centres to conduct regular ergonomic risk assessments, consult with volunteers on discomfort or fatigue, and adjust setups accordingly. Even small changes, such as repositioning a chair or changing the angle of a light, can make a significant difference. JPs should feel empowered to report early signs of discomfort. A copy of the discomfort survey found in [Appendix 5 of the Code](#) is a valuable tool that centres can adopt for early intervention. For a quick assessment, complete the short questionnaire on the next page:

JP Ergonomics Self-Check Questionnaire

“How safe and comfortable is your current workstation?”

Tick **Yes** or **No** for each question below:

Workstation Setup	
Is your chair adjustable and does it provide lower back (lumbar) support?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are your feet flat on the floor or supported by a footrest?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is your desk height suitable so your forearms rest comfortably at 90°?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are documents and tools (e.g. stamp, pen) within easy reach?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is your lighting adequate, adjustable, and glare-free?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Posture and Repetitive Movements	
Do you sit upright with your back supported and shoulders relaxed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you avoid leaning forward or twisting to engage with clients?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you regularly change position (e.g., stand briefly or shift posture)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you avoid repetitive signing or stamping for long periods without a break?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you use ergonomically friendly tools (e.g. thick-handled pen, self-inking stamp)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Breaks and Task Rotation	
Do you take short breaks (2–5 mins) every 30–60 minutes to move or stretch?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Comfort and Early Warning Signs	
Have you experienced any discomfort (e.g. in neck, back, wrists) while volunteering?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If discomfort arises, do you adjust your setup accordingly?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Awareness and Training	
Have you received guidance or training on safe workstation setup or manual task safety?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Scoring and Guidance	
<p>12-14 Yes: Excellent - your setup and habits are ergonomically sound. Keep up the good work.</p> <p>9-12 Yes: Good - minor adjustments may improve comfort and reduce long-term strain.</p> <p>5-8 Yes: Caution: several risk factors are present. Review your setup and habits soon.</p> <p>0-4 Yes: At risk - prioritise changes and seek ergonomic support.</p>	

Ultimately, good ergonomic practice is about respecting the long hours our members dedicate to the public and ensuring that volunteering remains a safe, comfortable and sustainable endeavour. By implementing these recommendations, we not only meet our work health and safety obligations, but demonstrate care for the well-being of each JP who gives their time and service in support of the community.

Let's continue to raise awareness, support each other and lead by example in creating safe and respectful working environments for all.

Certificates of Membership



We will soon begin the process of confirming your RAJWA membership by issuing Certificates of Membership, as shown here. We will print certificates onto A4 size buff-coloured certificate paper, pre-signed by the Council Executive and individually signed, stamped and dated by the Registrar.

Each will show the date when your original membership was granted.

It is going to take some time and expense to dispatch them all. Council has decided to start with a monthly blend of the longest-serving and newest members, a number of which will be sent each week until all are done.

Please let the Registrar know if you are not interested in having a certificate. Some Associations in other states issue certificates, but charge for them. We will not be passing on any cost to our members.

Members will be responsible for framing due to the logistical challenges and costs of our sending large fragile packages.

This Council initiative begins in July.

Celebrating rural JPs - visit to Tractor Museum, Whiteman Park

Country JPs hold a special place in West Australian history. Often isolated from their metropolitan and city peers, they might be herding sheep one moment and signing warrants the next; working at their small business or as a public servant, they might be called to attend court, or be witnessing documents for other rural people at any time, from work, from home or even while at the footy. We would like to recognise the unique nature of being a JP in a place where just about everyone knows you or went to school with your kids.

To emphasise the rural connection and also to provide a venue that's easier to get to than the city, we invite you to set aside **Saturday, August 16** for an outing to the Tractor Museum, gathering from 10.30am. We will send out pamphlets in mid July, at which time we will need members to let us know that they'll be attending the function. This will be at no cost, with admission and a light lunch covered by RAJWA and served in the Museum's lunch room.

We will have some special guests: several long-serving country JPs are going to share a few anecdotes, and we will also enjoy the company of (Ret'd) First Class Sergeant Dave Lampard, President of the Police Historical Society, who may just have a story or two to tell. Those of us who have lived in the bush valued the relationships with local police, which again could be different to those of their metropolitan peers. (We might repay Dave for his time by organising a group trip to the Police Historical Society Museum later this year.)

The Tractor Museum collection includes nearly forty tractors, as well as stationary engines, vintage trucks, a display of country life artefacts and old photographs, along with a reconstructed Settler's Cottage, all inside. Outside, there will be tram rides and much more. Save the date!



Tractors, tram and a cottage with some familiar artefacts.



Cameos from the Wheatbelt

The Justices profiled today are from the Wheatbelt region that stretches to the north, mid-west, east and south of the Perth area and encompasses many long-established towns and settlements within 42 local government authorities. Our Central Wheatbelt branch is long established, and has an impressive history, with some very interesting characters in the past and present. Three of those have agreed to tell us more about themselves in this issue: a number of others were too busy at this time. We thank all of them for their continued commitment to regional well-being and community service.



Alison Harris JP

Alison was appointed in November 2022. She had always thought about becoming a JP and was 'tapped on the shoulder by our local police as JP numbers in our area were rapidly dwindling. This gave me the impetus to apply and complete my training. My training was done online – a process I found to be a little clunky and unsatisfactory. I am wondering if I would have felt better equipped to perform my role had I done face to face training.' As current President of The Shire of Cunderdin, being a JP allows her to further contribute to the community and particularly assist 'our local constabulary in effectively carrying out their duties.'

Alison adds that 'most of our local JPs are now over 70. I have been considering ways in which we can recruit others to become a JP.'

I believe our local Community Resource Centres could play a significant role in providing access to training and encouraging people to volunteer. Life is busy with my Shire role, farming, working in the health industry, recently becoming a grandmother, supporting our local football, hockey and netball teams and when time allows, a spot of Nana crafting.'

The woolly lady on the right with Alison is Lambie, who Alison helped deliver and who she describes as now being a thoroughly spoilt old lady.



Kevin Trent OAM RFD JP



Kevin was appointed a Justice of the Peace on 21 August 2012 when he was 64 years of age. He is an Ex Serviceman who completed National Service, which included 12 months in Vietnam. He retired from Main Roads WA at the age of 60, but had been involved in the South Perth Community for many years and wanted to continue offering his services to the community. Well-known JP Ross O'Neil suggested he become a JP. Kevin's application was accepted and he completed the 10 week training course at the Central College of TAFE. Kevin continues that 'as I had been briefed by Ross it came as no surprise when Police cars turned up in my driveway with Officers wanting Warrants etc signed. I am not sure what the neighbours thought. I joined the roster of JPs at the Citizens Advice Bureau and also the roster at the City of South Perth and Manning Libraries. This was interesting work and I was able to help many people.

Continued...

Another event of which I am proud was to receive a Paul Harris Fellowship for my services to Rotary. My role, among others, was to select young students who were showing talent in the area of the STEM subjects and then arrange for them to attend the National Youth Science Forum either at the student accommodation at the Australian National University or while the Forums were in Perth at the University of WA and serving as a Rotary Dad while they were at the Forum.

My service to the community of the City of South Perth was as Councillor on the City and on my retirement from that role I was granted the title Honorary Freeman of the City. Kevin now lives in York 'after having a "tree change" in 2016'. 'On arriving', he continues, 'I was elected President of the York Sub Branch of the RSL, and at the next Council elections in 2017 was elected a Councillor.' He was elected as President of the Shire in 2023.

Kevin lives with his wife, Maureen in an old fettler's cottage, built in 1880, in a Heritage Precinct. Their son lives in Melbourne with the couple's two grandchildren.



Besides the activities already mentioned, Kevin is Secretary of the York Men's Shed and delivers Meals on Wheels on two days of the month. On moving to York, Ross O'Neil approached Kevin to become involved in the Central Wheatbelt Branch of RAJWA and on attending the next AGM he was elected as Secretary of the Branch, a task he enjoys. Kevin is shown here with Maureen and their grand-children, Carmena and Nic.

Romolo Patroni OAM JP



Romolo has been a farmer all of his life. He was elected as Yilgarn Shire President in May 1987 and soon appointed as an Honorary Justice. JPs were few at that time, and 'it was customary', he explains, 'for Shire Presidents to also become an Honorary JP'. It soon became mandatory for JPs to complete the induction course.

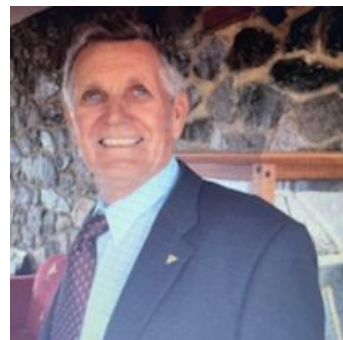
'We at that time had a visiting SM in Graham Calder who set up fortnightly meeting in the Court in Merredin and a group of nine of us met for tuition and completed the written format which he approved'. Romolo fully complied as a JP in early 1989. Training was firstly by mentor John Williamson JP, who was very active in this capacity. A Magistrate visited the Southern Cross Local Court once a month, in between which two JPs constituted a court. He carried out many Police support duties like applications to enter properties, arrests, bail applications and witnessing disposals of substances. Southern Cross was booming with gold, nickel and iron ore and regular courts were

in the order of about once a week. All formal training was with SM Calder followed by written answers for assignment to ensure full understanding and correction the following meet.' Romolo also attended lectures held at JP conferences by Justices at Regional centres at least once a year. He sat in court at least fortnightly.

Romolo's first experiences were witnessing and swearing in within the Local Government cycle. He recalls having to accompany the Kalgoorlie Police Commander and two carloads of police some 100 klms south of Southern Cross to witness the burning of a marijuana crop.

In the broader community, Romolo served in Local Government for over 45 years, represented growers on Industry Committee and Boards at both a state and Federal level for over 30 years, including twenty years as a Director of Cooperative Bulk Handling WA, has been involved with many sports and been a bush fire brigade volunteer. These activities have brought him numerous Local Government awards of Certificate Achievement, Merit for Eminent service, Honorary Freeman, Life Membership and the Centenary and OAM medals and others, so he thinks 'he must have done something right.' It would certainly seem so.

After spending many years on a farm at Marvel Loch, Romolo and wife Jane (a school teacher) retired to Merredin, where he enjoys being Secretary/Treasurer of the Merredin Men's Shed and playing bowls.



Family Court of WA - volunteer morning tea

On 26th March, a group of roster volunteers enjoyed a morning tea at FCWA hosted by the Honourable Justice Gail Sutherland and attended by several Judges, Magistrates, Associates and Registrars. It goes without saying that we don't contribute to any court with an expectation of reward, but it was lovely to have the opportunity to meet some of the people behind the edicts as well as enjoy the rare chance to spend time with other volunteers and enjoy delightful nibbles, which Scooby (below right) tested. Thank you Judge Sutherland.



Top left, from left: Janet Gobetz JP, Amanda Bracewell JP, May Barber JP

Top right: Mark Blowers JP and Scooby

Centre left: Steve Luke JP, Vince Costantino JP

Bottom left: Kiri Campbell JP, Jenny Green JP, Terry Burchell JP

Training presentations

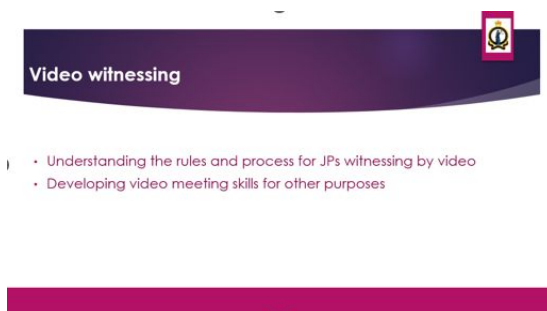
We have created some videos of PowerPoint presentations that provide step by step guides to some of the areas we spend a lot of our time in. These have been loaded onto our own YouTube channel. They are not publicly available at this time and can only be accessed by using the links provided while we wait on your feedback to decide if we should create more of them and make them public. The videos range from 5-12 minutes playing time. To use the QR code on your phone, just open your phone camera and hold it up to the code. It should be automatically detected. We look forward to your feedback.



This video gives witnessing insights into many of the Family Court documents we see. <https://youtu.be/caGiy4X8K6M>



This video gives step-by-step advice on certifying documents printed from a webpage. <https://youtu.be/sR-KejOjN0k>



This video explores the process of witnessing Commonwealth Statutory Declarations by video. It also gives some advice on how to set up for video meetings. https://youtu.be/TLyAd_S6yNc

One century, two pandemics

TROUBLE AT ARMADALE.

Trouble arose last night at Armadale upon the attempted enforcement of the quarantine regulations. These came into force at midnight. The train from Perth to Bunbury was due to leave Armadale at 12.38 a.m., and the officials accordingly insisted on the production of certificates. Apparently some of the passengers, of whom there were a considerable number, were not furnished with these, and they declined to leave the train. Arguments were of no avail, and at the time of going to press the deadlock continued, the train being held up.

June 11th, 1919. You're on a train from Perth to Bunbury and you've been stopped at Armadale because someone has decided there might be a deadly disease on board. Apparently, some passengers had not produced certificates to say that they were free of disease and able to travel under quarantine regulations. So, the train sat there, and we don't know the outcome, when it left, or if the people finally got to Bunbury that day, and if any of them were sick. [West Australian, 1919]

This happened amid the onset of the 1919-20 pandemic, often known as the Great Flu. It was caused by a H1N1 influenza virus with an avian gene. Pandemics tend to scare people. They particularly scared Western Australians.

It might be argued that this was part of being isolated from the rest of the country and part of our having a long-standing concern about being submerged within eastern states politics. [Blackwell, p.56] In the East, quarantine had been in place for almost a year. Some ships were held at sea, but there were also regulations and precautions planned for if the virus escaped, as it would do. [Alahakoon et al, 2023] Viruses were known of by this time, but not well understood, and unable to be seen by microscope until the 1930s. The first cases in 1918 had not seemed too bad, and many people saw them as not being too concerning. Later mutations however were more lethal and more likely to kill young adults than old. The *Kalgoorlie Miner* printed this report:

Dr. Cumpston advises that it is the clear and obvious duty of the person affected to go to bed immediately the first symptoms of the disease, which are similar to those of ordinary influenza, manifest themselves. Having gone to bed, the next duty is to maintain strict isolation, which should be scrupulously observed in the home, even at the risk of considerable discomfort to the patient. The boiling of all utensils used by the patient is recommended as another precaution. It is important to observe this. Isolation should be carried out, not only during the period of attack, but for two days afterwards. The form of influenza which has proved so fatal in other countries is producing its fatal results by the occurrence of pneumonia as a complication, and a definite weakness of the heart muscles, which may remain for weeks or even months. [Kalgoorlie Miner, 1918]

Bear in mind that people were just coming out of a World War with a phenomenal loss of young people and suddenly were facing the possibility of losing more of them to a disease on their home ground. It was a frightening time, and as the fears of 1918 moved into 1919 with worsening risks, the value of the forward planning in 1918 became apparent. Ultimately, WA with its very strict quarantine requirements only lost about 650 people against a national toll of about 15,000. As would happen a century later, the Premier at the time (Hal Colebatch) was accused of implementing draconian methods of controlling people and often had to face a hostile press, but Western Australians fared better than their eastern counterparts.

If we look back at photos from the time, we see sights that would become very familiar to us a century later: people wearing masks, closed schools, theatres and bars, with churches and sporting events affected, social distancing and pressure to introduce home and public hygiene measures. A report soon after the 1919-20 pandemic drew attention to these in New South Wales, showing the almost identical situation and precautions in other states. It said:

When the State was first known to be invaded, every precaution possible was taken to limit the spread of infection, but without avail. All the precautionary measures previously agreed upon were put into operation. These included restriction upon travelling between Victoria and this State, and, later on, between Sydney and the country districts; the provision of hospital accommodation; medical and nursing assistance in the homes of the sick; the distribution of relief to afflicted households in the shape of food, drugs, and, where necessary, monetary assistance; the notification of all cases of influenza; the isolation of patients and contacts; the restriction of public assemblies, including the closure of schools and churches; and the wearing of masks under certain circumstances. Although they did not achieve all that had been hoped, the general result of all of these measures was undoubtedly to the good; this unquestionably checked the development of the epidemic for a considerable period and prevented the explosive action which characterised the disease in many other parts of the world and thus gave time for further preparation. [NSW Health, 2007]

The Western Australian government initially called the virus 'influenza', as did other states: later, as its deadly potential began to be realised through its common complication of pneumonia, the states matched the Commonwealth in describing it as pneumonic influenza and updating relevant legislation. Australia had a Commonwealth Health Department, which some were uncomfortable with, but in practice, there was a shared desire to control the pandemic, and the states and Commonwealth worked together despite any lingering discomfort. In the final analysis, it seems that WA had enough autonomy to add its own twists to the regulations in practice whilst following Federal guidance and measuring progress against the statistics that came with that alliance. Holbrook comments that 'It seems that WA emerged from the Spanish influenza crisis feeling more suspicious and resentful of the eastern states and the Commonwealth, and more confident of its distinctiveness and its capacity to handle a crisis'. [Holbrook, 2020]

While the 1919-20 pandemic affected all people, its effects upon medical practitioners, nurses and others involved in daily care were pronounced because of their exposure. Pandemic management also may have involved Justices of the Peace but the extent to which they might have been exposed to the sick on a regular basis is difficult to determine. At that time, Justices of the Peace were involved at multiple levels of the judiciary, in the public service, within the operations of various authorities, within local government and had other roles such as conducting coronial enquiries, all of which happened alongside their everyday part in certifying documents and witnessing affidavits and more. Justices of the Peace were essentially the 'go-to' people for most bureaucratic and legal processes. This was shown in Government Gazettes in templates for various forms and processes, but apparently not measured as such: it was assumed. Certificates of health were necessary for travel away from one's home or locality and it seems these had to be obtained from hospitals or places such as Shire offices. Extensive searches of online archives however found only one reference to suggest that Justices of the Peace played a specific role. The Avon Gazette and York Times reported on a meeting of the York Board of Health at which the Board discussed the logistical difficulties of managing the costs of disease amelioration and management, amid the frustrations of having members of the public forming long queues to get travel permits. One councillor thought that was not enough and contended that 'every town Councillor, every member of the Road Board and every Justice of the Peace should be members of the Committee'. [Avon Gazette and York Times, 1919] It is highly likely that JPs played a much larger role in management of the 1919-20 outbreak than is recognised.

The situation for Justices of the Peace in 2020 was much different due to their increasingly reduced public role since the 1920s. Rumours about an imminent pandemic began circulating globally among health professionals in early 2020 after reports of a coronavirus in China in 2019, which the World Health Organisation began to pursue. [WHO, 2020] On January 21, 2020, after a decision by Australia's Chief Medical Officer Professor Brendan Murphy, 'human coronavirus with pandemic potential' was added to the Biosecurity (Listed Human Diseases) Determination 2016. On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and on February 25, 2020, the Australian Government activated the Emergency Response Plan for Communicable Disease Incidents of National Significance: National Arrangements. [Dept of Health, Disability and Aging, 2023] On March 11, 2020, WHO declared a worldwide pandemic.

The first case of COVID-19 in WA was recorded on February 21, 2020, and the first Australian death from COVID 19 occurred in WA on March 1. The WHO declared a global pandemic on March 15, 2020, and a public health state of emergency was declared in WA under the PHA on March 16. That day, the National Cabinet introduced physical distancing measures, limits on gatherings of more than 500 people and bans on cruise ships entering Australia from foreign ports. The international border closed for arrivals except for Australian citizens and residents on March 20. WA's state border closed on April 6, 2020, and schools closed a week early.

In December 2020, RAJWA President Craig Watson JP reported to the December AGM that:

This past year has been one to remember with significant impacts of COVID 19 on all West Australians. It has been particularly relevant to safety concerns for our more senior JP's that regularly volunteer for JP duties in their communities. Heath advice to seniors recommended many discontinue their availability and I acknowledge and say thank you to those JP's, at less risk, who filled the gaps ... During March 2020, the Pandemic was gaining momentum resulting in RAJWA communicating with all members advising health and safety information. At this time, the RAJWA Office in Central Law Courts was closed and employees were supported to work from home. This proved very successful in keeping the Association functioning during this period. [Watson, RAJWA, 2020]

On December 5, 2020, a contact registration requirement came into effect and the SafeWA application was launched. Just when it seemed that it might all be getting better, community transmission was detected in late January 2021, and led to a five-day lockdown for Perth, Peel and the South West, followed by phased measures. The school term start was delayed by one week. There was another incident of community transmission on April 23, followed by a further three-day lockdown, and then a four-day lockdown from June 29, 2021. A mandatory vaccination policy was implemented for a majority of occupations and work forces in WA from October 20, 2021. [WA Govt, Review]

It wasn't all crystal clear to many JPs who were volunteers on various signing centre rosters. This was evident on the Family Court roster, where Mark Wilson JP and the late Graham Furey JP were trying to determine the best course of action for roster members. At that time, even FCWA staff were unsure of the protocols for volunteers. A roster member wrote to FCWA on November 22, 2021, asking them to comment on this notice that he had received:

...Please read carefully the attached letter on WA Government Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination Policy. We are writing to you regarding the Western Australian Government announcement of 20th October 2021 on the introduction of mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations for a significant portion of the Western Australian workforce (which includes volunteers). The Government policy will be made under a Public Health Declaration.

As a volunteer, you have been identified as belonging to Group 1. Group 1 – Occupations determined to have high transmission risk or are a vulnerability risk or are necessary or critical to the safety of the community — would need to receive a first dose by December 1, 2021, and be fully vaccinated by December 31, 2021. For a full breakdown of each group, see the State Government's Mandatory COVID-19 vaccination information ...

Volunteers are required to reply by Friday, November 26, 2021, to advise if they have been vaccinated OR are planning to get their first dose by 1 December and second dose by December 31, 2021, OR are not planning to get vaccinated. Volunteers are required to provide proof of vaccination (first dose or full vaccination certificate) by 1 December 1, 2021. Volunteers are required to provide proof of full vaccination by December 31, 2021.

The communicant received a reply that the FCWA officer was not 'aware this had been mandated for volunteers' and would follow up. [Simmons JP, 2021]

Several roster members wrote to the co-coordinators to say that they were vaccinated and happy to mask up for roster. Mark Wilson wrote on November 25 that:

Further to the email declarations made by a number of members, I advise that yesterday, in consultation with the JP Branch of D of J, it was decided that we would follow the lead of the Family Court in respect of vaccination status. At this stage, the FCWA has not announced its position- this will hopefully happen soon.

Otherwise, it was business as usual, or as best as could be in the circumstances, as they planned the 2022 roster. [Wilson, 2021]

In December 2021, JP Branch sent their newsletter, in which Lilian Sequeira remarked that:

The vaccination policy by the Department of Justice does not affect JPs who perform their functions as independent volunteers unless they are involved as Visiting Justices and providing services in correctional institutions ... JPs providing services at document witnessing centres must adhere to vaccination requirements applicable to the agency/authority managing the signing centre location. [Sequeira, DoJ, 2021]

Once again, community transmission was detected and restrictions (mask wearing, restrictions on events and high-risk venues) were put in place from December 22, 2021. The situation escalated gradually over the next few months and the possibility of infection – and concerns - had increased enough by early 2022 that Watson issued an updated communique titled 'An important message to all Justices of the Peace in Western Australia regarding the State Government's current rules regarding COVID 19', as follows:

The State Government has recently announced additional rules about mandatory contact registers that record the movements and locations visited for all West Australians. These are relevant to JPs in the course of their signing duties. The JP Branch of the Department of Justice has recommended that JPs do not invite clients to their home, nor should they attend a client's home for document signing. It is a matter of personal safety and health risk with COVID 19.

It is recommended that clients be advised to attend Signing Centres with appropriate facilities, registers or QR Code entry. The Department also advised that JPs may make decisions based on their experience, preferences and individual circumstances.

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RAJWA has information that some JPs have applied for a QR Code so that clients can register when attending their house or business. We are advised that this is not a requirement for all working JPs. It is an individual choice.

JPs who work at "Signing Centres" in established premises, need to ask clients if they have registered either by QR Code or manual recording and ensuring they have. For other requests, it is recommended that JPs sign documents at local business premises (e.g. Coffee Shops, Shopping Centres) that has a QR Code or manual register. For other signing duties, RAJWA advises that JPs record in their JP diaries the time and date, the client's name, contact number, and any additional information necessary when assisting clients. These steps will meet the Government rules. [Watson, email, 29/01/2022]

More information was provided in the RAJWA newsletter in January 2022:

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Hello members,
New year Greetings from your Council, with summer well and truly upon us we hope you have been able to enjoy some relaxing and quality time those close to you over the holiday period.

As we enter the uncertainty of our borders opening, we ask that you all ensure you maintain your own safety and that of those around you. All directions in relation to COVID and how we are to operate are taken from the WA Health website. [COVID-19 \(coronavirus\) \(health.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.health.wa.gov.au/COVID-19/coronavirus/) Our Registrar has been in touch with some signing centres to ensure consistency of practice. Please if you are uncomfortable or unsure, inform the coordinator of the centre and take the appropriate action as required. Looking forward to bringing you new and exciting developments within your Association in 2022

Craig A. Watson JP

REMINDER: 6-MONTH STATS ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2021

A very big THANK YOU to many JPs who sent their stats. It was so pleasing. We are seeking all our members to send us their stats of the work they have done for the period ending 31 December 2021. For some personal reason, if you did not undertake JP duties or only worked a signing centre, we would want to know that an NIL or number of days you attended a Signing centre.

FYI :JUSTICES USING SERVICES WA App as of 31 Jan 2022

Several JPs have contacted the office as how are we to monitor if someone has been double vaccinated and had the booster shot etc at Signing Centres. DoJ's Emergency Response Group provided this response:

"It's ultimately up to the relevant building (community centre/library) in terms of what their rules are and whether they are willing to put signage up advising the conditions of entry and requirement of double vaccination status. The JP working within would then be aware of what the status is. If there was no requirement for entry, it's a matter for them as to whether they were to ask a member of the public or not re their status. Given any future mandate won't include those types of buildings, we don't have anything we can send that would likely be of assistance from a government perspective."

Whilst it may seem abrupt, please note that the under the current climate, change is the only constant. RAJWA is contacting the signing centre co-ordinators to ensure consistency of approach for the safety of JPs.

REMOTE WITNESSING EXTENDED

As most of you are aware, there are remote witnessing provisions since COVID.

The original end date of 31 December 2021 has been extended until 31 December 2022. Relevant Act is here: [COVID-19 Response and Economic Recovery Omnibus Act 2020 - \[00-b0-011\].pdf \(legislation.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/act/2020/00-b0-011.pdf). Sections dealing with the exact rules on witnessing remotely are in ss 22-24. It is self-explanatory and so should not hinder our JPs from doing remote witnessing of documents.

On January 17, 2022, JPs at one RAJWA branch JPs decided not to attend a particular Courthouse 'whilst the current restrictions are in place', adding that 'this decision will be reviewed regularly and hopefully, we will be able to resume our duties soon', which they did after a few weeks. [Branch roster coordinator, email, 17/1/22] Other signing centres faced similar challenges and some made similar decisions, which could be difficult. Some members objected to mask-wearing, others were concerned about cross-infection from members of the public, and some were worried about the adequacy of the cleaning processes and protections in place. Roster coordinators and branch committees had to balance the many needs of members and Justices of the Peace while still wanting to provide a service. At this time, some JPs began to offer digital witnessing services, with instructions on the process being somewhat belated.

It was not only signing centres that were affected by the restrictions: branch meetings also had to adjust. Mandurah/Murray, for example, were using Lotteries House in Mandurah for meetings at that time, which they were able to do provided that they met requirements such as these:

They now require all staff/permanent lessees to be double vaxxed and to be able to demonstrate that. They have not extended that rule to visitors at this point, although that may change. Lotteries House has several government agencies who support clients from there. We will be treated essentially as visitors at this point, although it's a grey area because of our ongoing booking and regular attendance. ---- will double check on this as it wasn't specifically addressed at their management meeting last week. However, we have to add an extra 30 minutes to our booking, which I have done. This time is to allow for us to clean the room when we have finished. Antiseptic and wipes will be available. We must do tables, chairs, benches (in the kitchen) and door handles. This is compulsory. [Colclough JP, email, 31/1/22]

Nonetheless, the outlook was becoming more optimistic: there were high vaccination rates, and the controls were proving effective. Masks were no longer mandatory except in specific settings from April 26, 2022, the two square meter rule and proof of vaccination requirements were removed for venues, and asymptomatic close contacts were no longer subject to isolation requirements. From June 15, mask wearing was no longer required in airport terminals, although masks were still required on planes, in health care and high-risk settings, and on public transport. There was less demand for public testing clinics, and four were closed. Mask wearing requirements on public transport were removed. Visitor limits for hospitals, aged and disability care facilities were eased on September 9, 2022, and WA's state of emergency ended on November 4, 2022. [WA Government, Review]

This didn't mean it was over. In December 2022, there were '9,916 COVID-19 cases reported, with 7,510 COVID PCR tests conducted, 136 new hospital admissions and 4 new admissions directly into an intensive care unit, along with 33 deaths reported, aged between 45 and 100 years old'. However, by July 2024, infection numbers were starting to fall. Deaths in the previous fortnight were down to six per day, from eight the prior fortnight. COVID-19 notifications had 'decreased with 632 notifications this fortnight compared to 816 last fortnight', and the 'Currently hospitalised cases decreased with an average of 170 per day this fortnight compared to an average of 187 per day last fortnight.' Less SARS-CoV-2 was being detected in wastewater. [Health WA, COVID-19 report, 2022] The government stopped producing separate COVID-19 surveillance reports from August 5, 2024. [Health WA, surveillance reports]

In December 2023, the Western Australian government commented that:

Although WA was a world leader in low case numbers and maintained a strong economy ... Western Australians experienced difficult times during the pandemic. People were separated from loved ones when international, interstate and intrastate borders were closed. Businesses experienced the financial impact of public health measures. There is no doubt it was a challenging time for many across the State. [WA Government, Review]

What did JPs think? RAJWA asked them in a survey covering the period from 11 March 2020 to the end of the state of emergency on 4 November 2022 and found that few had issues with the way that the pandemic was managed. Incidentally, this survey was offered to Justices of the Peace in other states, and 25% of the overall respondents were from New South Wales or Queensland. There was however little difference between responses.

Seventy-eight percent of respondents were rostered at signing centres on 11 March 2020. Almost eighty percent of respondents were actively available for police or other authorities for warrants, orders or affidavits. The survey asked if any signing centres that members were part of closed down at some time: 33.3% said yes, and 8% no. (The remaining 51.9% of participants said the question was not applicable to them.) For those who were on rosters (at centres or from home) the survey invited comment on the signing centre (or otherwise) experience and received comments such as that 'Extreme

caution was taken, spacing between people, hand wash, bring your own pen, face masks had to be worn. I had no problems being rostered on the signing table' and 'I had no problem with closing our signing Centre', as well as 'Our Signing Centre closed down for a while then resumed with strict health controls', all of which indicated that most preferred to be cautious but resume as soon as possible. [RAJWA, survey, 2025]

Surveyors next asked if respondents supported signing centres being closed: 40.8% did, while another 4.1% chose 'yes, but only because other JPs wanted to close them'. However, 32.7% of respondents were against closure, saying 'no, but it was a government or venue choice, not ours'. Another 22.4% also chose no, because they thought they should have had an option. Overall, it appears that 59.2% of JPs would have carried on as usual despite the risks if they had the choice.

The survey also sought to establish the level of police and other authority engagement during lockdown and showed that 41% of respondents withdrew in some way during such times. However, 54.1% continued to work with police in person, with another 4.9% moving to doing so remotely, by phone or video.

Discussions during the survey design raised the question of whether it could show the effect of concerns about infection on the levels of public engagement. To frame further questions in that regard, the next question asked whether any respondents or family members contracted COVID-19 during this time. It showed that 27% of respondents contacted the virus, with another 25.7% of live-in family contracting it, in addition to 24.3% of close family and 16.2% of close friends. Those figures indicate that 92.3% of respondents either contracted the virus or were close to others who did so. (A small 6.8% of respondents declined to answer that question.) Such high levels led easily into the next question, which asked whether the respondents were concerned that they might have been exposed to the virus as a JP or other official witness. Only 5.4% of respondents showed such concern. Another 39.3% indicated that the source of their infection was irrelevant, while 21.4% were mildly concerned about exposure from their JP work but felt that they should be available. Interestingly, 33.9% indicated that they felt the question was not applicable.

Regular email, phone and face-to-face conversations with RAJWA members as well as non-RAJWA roster volunteers during the intensive periods of the pandemic that included lock-downs and various restrictions indicated that while most supported mask-wearing for safety reasons, a small number of those were either uncomfortable with mask-wearing for comfort reasons or because they felt them to be ineffective barriers or even that they viewed them as a form of social control. These opinions were not noted as future historical records at that time and clearly cannot be quantified on a hearsay basis. The next survey question sought to show if such concerns could be measured by asking whether, if mask wearing was optional at any time, the respondent wore one when working with members of the public. In response 65.5% showed that they always wore a mask in public interactions, and 25.9% mostly did so. However, 5.2% responded that they rarely wore a mask and 3.4% answered that they never wore one. The latter results correspond with recall of expressions of discomfort made to RAJWA front-line personnel and to some branch members. This topic also received some media attention at the time. [See Guerrero, SMH, 2020] It is another matter that is difficult to quantify, but as a media post by Rosalind Croucher (President of the Australian Human Rights Commission) implies, may have been seen as an infringement of Human Rights. [Croucher, Human Rights, 2020]

There may have been other factors linked to such perceptions: the actual lock-downs were few, and even during restricted travel between established zones, most people could travel within their immediate area. Where this meant doing so by public transport, masks were compulsory for some time. It could be that Australian and other predominantly European-centric cultures before this time tended to see mask-wearing as an odd, if not alien, practice, influenced by racist ideas, despite the reality that most were aware that unwell people in confined spaces on public transport and aircraft posed a health risk with or without, and prior to, a pandemic or times of seasonal infection. [Azimi et al, Hospital Practices & Research, 2020] This raises the question of whether potential exposure on public transport affected willingness to attend signing centres. For 14% of people, that risk affected them the whole time of the pandemic, while 78% contended that they were not concerned and a small number only became concerned later on when infections were happening more.

The extent to which JPs changed their behaviour during the pandemic was measured by the question 'if you used to see people at your or their homes before the pandemic, did you keep doing so during it when travel was possible'. The response to that question was that 50.9% indicated that they continued their previous practices, while 22.8% however discontinued and 5.3% replied that they only continued to see the public if urgent and did so indoors for privacy. However, a significant 21.1% of respondents said that they would only see members of the public if urgent and did so outdoors during that time.

For some, it was not a matter of choice when it came to roster participation or working with the public: they felt compelled to carry on. Others found themselves in situations they disliked and struggled with selfish members of the public or felt that controls in place cost them some personal choice and they felt dis-empowered during the experience. It is to be expected that experiences and attitudes varied, as shown by the following valuable insights. These comments in response to the question on overall feelings about experiences during the pandemic period are particularly insightful if viewed against the earlier content of this editorial. They certainly show the diversity of opinions that JPs as individuals will be expected to have but they also showed the very high feelings of responsibility and duty that the general public might not recognise as both typical and laudable of Justices of the Peace.

§ I think some people over reacted, and then we had others that didn't take the situation seriously. Even now we have people that have COVID but not staying home or wearing a mask. I think we need to continue to be very careful with our hand hygiene and personal cleanliness

§ So glad to be back home!

§ The WHO organisation should be held responsible for failing to prevent COVID

§ I think as a coordinator the situation was handled well.

§ It was mostly handled well.

§ Interesting situation that was handled well by out state government with appropriate levels of isolation exercised. We were well protected until a vaccine was available. Appropriate online witnessing procedures were introduced, and the public understood the need to shut down witnessing centres.

§ I operated what was deemed an essential business. I felt that every other JP in the town-site bailed from being available, some due to their own work places not allowing visitors, some due to the signing centre closing and others for personal reasons. This put a huge strain on my workload. People have no concept the JP role is voluntary and their demands at times were unreasonable.

§ 50/50

§ I live in a remote area and as usual was forgotten about by the authorities. To quote an elderly lady I had interactions with "we are rural, they don't care".

§ I do not think the pandemic affected JPs any differently to the rest of the community.

§ Not a great deal was different for me as I was an essential worker and had to go to work every day.

§ Caused disruptions but manageable.

§ Given what happened within WA with certain locations being isolated was the pandemic played little on my feelings and for most of the time we continued as normal while we could and isolated when required.

§ Over reaction generally.

§ Initially people were concerned and compliant. However, it did not take long for people to be complacent and even hostile if requested to undertake precautions at signing venues.

§ We heard a lot of unqualified people spreading misinformation about the cause and virus. Two problems occurred: 1. Some people ignored the need for PPE and distance; 2. Others went into complete isolation.

§ I was happy to continue in my role as a JP as a lot of older JPs had stop working and I was happy to pick up the slack.

§ I continued in my role, as normal.

§ Life went on as normal.

§ Should have been more support for JPs and better recognition of the important role JPs provide.

§ WA gov overreacted.

§ Most handled it well, sadly there were a few that didn't.

§ I used a mask and signed documents outdoors.

§ It could be annoying sometimes.

§ I never stopped seeing anyone during the period. I worked in healthcare, so I provided a service within the hospital to very ill patients and had people gifting my home. I observed standard precautions and we both had masks on during the high-risk times and completed hand hygiene practices with individual pens used. I was very comfortable keeping it business as usual.

§ It was relatively easy to manage JP doc witnessing during the pandemic as WA was only inconvenienced in a minor way by comparison with other Australian states and elsewhere.

§ Was one of the worst mishandling of human rights ever recorded in Australia and is an embarrassment to the world on how we do business or operate as a country. JPs did not do sufficient advocacy in denouncing government overreach.

§ Being retired and someone who enjoys being at home, I did not struggle much during COVID. I was able to set up a space on my verandah with disinfectant, extra masks, multiple pens etc and felt confident to continue providing the service. I believed it was important that younger JPs in good health provided our necessary service.

§ It was a very difficult time where many were fearful and rightly so. I was pleased to see the WA community largely coming together to fend off this disease until vaccinations were available.

§ I had a newborn baby (and toddler) and very much supported anyone who felt they needed to put aside their volunteering for a while to protect their health. I made it a point to be more available (as a younger JP) to help support and protect other JPs in the community.

§ It was what it was, I sure something like this will happen again.

§ Although I believe I never contracted COVID, I exercised caution during the pandemic in dealing with everyone. The pandemic showed how little we were prepared to deal with it, but also how everyone pulled together to reduce the effect on everyone. The state government locking the state of WA down was a brave move, and that was a major contributing factor that kept the most people alive.

§ Sometimes quite confusing and frustrating. However, I was still able to attend a signing centre and provide the service. [RAJWA, Survey, 2025]

With all of the experiences and situations encountered, survey designers were curious as to how respondents felt that the state government at least handled the pandemic. In response to that question, 45.3% of people felt that the government handled it well, while 19.8% were concerned that some people overreacted to the pandemic. Only 8.1% felt that the government handled the pandemic badly. Another matter of interest to designers was whether respondents perceived that government, health authorities and agencies appreciated that many JPs were elderly and may have had reduced immunity. Only 8.3% indicated that they felt government health authorities and agencies at that time appreciated the situation for many elderly JPs. A notable 28.3% of respondents felt that JP needs and responses were underappreciated by government, but 63.3% felt that JPs weren't treated any differently and shouldn't have to be.

The COVID-19 pandemic was a challenging time for Justices of the Peace, committed as they were and are to providing the best possible service to the public, while sometimes being elderly, always being in demand, pandemic or not: but as that last question suggests, most would shrug and say that they still did what needed to be done, because that's what they took an Oath to do.

Thank you to all Justices of the Peace in those times, and to the RAJWA President and Council, the everyday members, roster participants, roster organisers, branch officials as well as administration staff such as Murray Lampard JP and Jeya Ramanathan JP who oversaw the start and end of the pandemic. You did well.



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JP training from JP Branch, DoJ (61) 8 94252534			
Date & time	Location	Topic	Contact
Friday 18 July 10.00am-12.00pm	North Metropolitan TAFE, Northbridge	Surety/Bail	JP Branch
Saturday 11 October 9.00am-12.30pm	Mercure, Perth	Search Warrants, Witnessing Documents	JP Branch
Friday 24 October To be confirmed	South West	TBA	WARAJ
Tuesday 18 November 9.30am-12.15pm	Mercure, Perth	An Introduction to Enduring Powers of Attorney, Enduring Powers of Guardianship and Advance Health Directives.	JP Branch

JP Branch training documents

In case you haven't checked the training page lately, JP Branch added a PDF on **Witnessing Queensland Land Titles Forms** in February this year. Information Fact Sheet 10 is available [here](#).

An updated sheet on **Form 8 - Surety Undertakings** was added in March as Fact Sheet 6, which is available [here](#).

Several other documents were updated in April. Go to the main training page [here](#) to make sure you're up to date too.

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The Perth office is not attended every week day, but the phone is forwarded when we are out of the office.
Call (08) 9425 2824 Monday-Friday between 9am-1pm

For general email enquiries including information about accounts, protocols or merchandise, please email rajwa@rajwa.org.au.

If you are aware of a JP who has passed away or is very unwell, please advise the Registrar so that we can send any relevant message.

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