



# STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria  
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

## MEDIA RELEASE



**EMBARGOED**

### **“Geelong Needs Night Court” says Grimley**

Stuart Grimley MP has asked the State Government to implement Night Court in Geelong as a matter of urgency.

Mr Grimley – a former Victoria Police officer at Geelong – asked the Government in Parliament this week to commit to night court “even just a few nights a week” to deal with bail applications and urgent hearings, filtering them out or drastically reducing them from the courts daily business.

The move comes as hundreds of cases have been pushed back significantly as a result of COVID-19 as well as the increased number of prisoners being held on remand.

Mr Grimley, in Parliament today asked the Government why they have been “holding back from expanding Night Court to Geelong, at least a few nights a week?”

Night Court has been operating in Melbourne since January 2017 (NB: it changed to Bail and Remand Court – BaRC – in April 2018). It hears bail and remand applications from 10am until 9pm daily, increasing the number of offenders able to be seen before magistrates rather than bail justices.

Mr Grimley argued that due to Geelong’s growing population and the huge number of cases it hears, Night Court should be implemented by the State Government or a bespoke after-hours court service similar to the Melbourne model, as a matter of urgency.

Mr Grimley tipped that Friday nights would be a particularly popular night to have Night Court to ensure an accused isn’t being held over the weekend without being seen before a magistrate.

### **Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:**

“Geelong desperately needs Night Court. It has worked really well in Melbourne in filtering out bail applications from day-to-day court operations, so other important hearings can be heard.

With population growth like Geelong has seen, comes growth in crime and we need to ensure the legal system flows without unnecessary delay.

There have been over 750 County Court cases pushed back or interrupted alone because of COVID-19, and that doesn’t even look at the Magistrate’s Court, so we need to look at other ways to get our legal system moving.”

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