



STUART GRIMLEY MP

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

MEDIA RELEASE



Grimley Asks for Expanded JP Recruitment in Western Victoria

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Member for Western Victoria Stuart Grimley has asked the State Government to plan a campaign to recruit more Justices of the Peace (JP) after a severe shortage has been noted in south-west Victoria.

A branch of the Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices recently wrote to Mr Grimley to seek an expanded recruitment drive for local JPs. Mr Grimley has, today, taken the issue to Parliament.

As a former police officer Mr Grimley knows how often community members need a reliable JP service.

Currently there is a shortage of JPs in Western Victoria, particularly in Warrnambool, Portland and Hamilton.

A small example of the voluntary services community JPs undertake is the Document Signing Service at Warrnambool Police Station. This occurs Monday to Friday from 12pm to 2pm. JP's also provide a valuable service when handling after hours bail hearings, and without them, the justice process becomes even more congested through our courts.

Although this is a wonderful service, there are too few JPs available, which means there is an immense amount pressure on a small number of people.

Question to the Attorney-General:

I ask if there are any plans by the Government to expand the recruitment of Honorary Justices, especially in the South-Western Victoria region to relieve the pressure on current JPs?

Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP

“When working in the police force community members would often come to us needing documents signed by members. JPs take that pressure off local police stations and other services, so they can spend more time on the beat.”

“The daily service in Warrnambool is staffed by just a handful of volunteers. This is a recurrence throughout the JP services in Western Victoria. I've been told that in some cases volunteer JPs are being called on weekends and late at night to sign documents for community members.”

“I want to see an expanded recruitment drive for JPs across all Victoria, in particular my region of Western Victoria. It is unfair that the running of this great service is reliant on just a handful of volunteers.”

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