

**For immediate release**

**02 January 2019**

### **Referral of Magistrate Pithouse to the Judicial Commission of Victoria**

The Judicial Commission of Victoria (the **Commission**) has received a referral from Attorney-General, Jill Hennessy, about the conduct of Magistrate Richard Pithouse.

The referral was received on Friday 28 December 2018 and will now be carefully considered by the Commission.

There is no set timeframe for when the investigation will reach its conclusion.

While the investigation is ongoing, it is not appropriate for the Commission to make any further comment.

#### **Commission Procedure for any complaint received**

When the Commission receives a complaint or referral, it must either:

- dismiss it (for example those that do not warrant further consideration or the judicial officer's removal from office, are trivial, vexatious, relate to a person who is no longer a judicial officer or VCAT member, or relate solely to the correctness of a decision);
- refer it to an investigating panel if it is a very serious matter, which if true, warrants removal from office on grounds of misbehaviour or incapacity; or
- refer it to the relevant head of jurisdiction with recommendations about the future conduct of the officer if it is a less serious matter.

The Commission has the power to consider a range of complaints including excessive delays in giving judgments, inappropriate courtroom conduct and health issues affecting a judicial officer or VCAT member's ability to perform their official duties.

For further information, contact the Judicial Commission on 03 9604 2420 or email [\*\*enquiries@judicialcommission.vic.gov.au\*\*](mailto:enquiries@judicialcommission.vic.gov.au).