

AIJA Indigenous Youth Justice Conference

Session Chair

Day 2 - Session 11: 'Cross-over kids': the drift of children from the child protection system into the criminal justice system Raising the age of criminal responsibility



Her Honour Magistrate Jelena Popovic AM Magistrates' Court of Victoria

Jelena retired from the Victorian magistracy in 2020. She was appointed in 1989 and Deputy Chief Magistrate 1997. She served on the Adult Parole Board between 1997-2013.

As a Magistrate, Jelena focussed on the Magistrates' Court's significance in the community, particularly its role in problem-solving as a means of reducing crime and improving the social and justice outcomes vulnerable offenders. She advocated the use of therapeutic approaches in mainstream Magistrates' Courts. Jelena has a continuing interest in indigenous, drug, disability, mental health and homelessness issues and how they impact on persons who appear in court.

In 2013, Jelena completed a Churchill Fellowship report entitled "Meaningful Sentencing of Indigent, Low-level Offenders". In 2019, Jelena was a Co-recipient of the International Society for Therapeutic Jurisprudence Peggy Hora/Michael Jones Award for Distinguished Judicial Service.

Jelena continues to serve the community as a Reserve Magistrate.