

AIJA Indigenous Youth Justice Conference

Panellist

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

Wendy Hughes

Perth Children's Court

Magistrate Hughes completed a Bachelor of Economics and Bachelor of Laws at the University of Western Australia and was admitted into practice in 2007 after doing her articles with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions for Western Australia.

After 4 years at the DPP Magistrate Hughes wanted to experience the other side of the bar table and went to work at the Aboriginal Legal Service for 7 years including 2 years as the solicitor in charge of the criminal law unit. Magistrate Hughes then went into private practice as a sole practitioner including a short time sitting on the Liquor Commission and as an Arbitrator for Work cover.

In 2020 Her Honour was appointed as a Magistrate in the Children's Court. Her Honour is currently operating a specialised Court, Dandjoo Bidi-Ak, at the Perth Children's court in the protection and care jurisdiction. Dandjoo Bidi-Ak in noongar language means "together on a path". Dandjoo Bidi-Ak aims to help young parents aged between 14-25 years of age to address the protection issues and achieve reunification with their children.

Magistrate Hughes has a 10 year old daughter and a rescue greyhound.