

## FACT SHEET

### *Criminal Code Amendment (Criminal Jurisdiction of the Associate Judge) Bill 2023*

The purpose of this Bill is to increase the jurisdiction of the Associate Judge, by permitting the Chief Justice to empower the Associate Judge to exercise all of the powers of the Supreme Court in criminal proceedings, subject to three exceptions. The power will not extend to conducting criminal trials, imposing a sentence in respect of a crime, or hearing appeals from magistrates relating to bail.

In practice, this will allow the Chief Justice to arrange for the Associate Judge to exercise powers such as conducting case management of criminal matters, including dealing with directions hearings and mentions, as well as hearing bail applications by accused who have been committed to the Supreme Court. This will increase the time available to the other judges to hear criminal trials.

The Bill achieves this by inserting a new provision into the *Criminal Code Act 1924*.