

## When a judge in Sydney needs to hear bail from a prisoner held in remand, you call it video conferencing, we call it Meeting Solutions.

Conferencing technology is becoming increasingly popular in delivering essential legal services. By facilitating 'virtual courtroom' scenarios, judges, lawyers, third parties and witnesses can come together regardless of location. The cost, time and hassle associated with lengthy court proceedings are thereby significantly reduced.

Legal institutions are also taking advantage of the benefits that virtual conferencing can bring to general business communications. By utilising audio, video and web technologies they are able to facilitate cross-border legal cases, case reviews, general meetings and collaboration on important legal documents.

At Vantage we have already developed virtual conferencing solutions for legal institutions and organisations throughout Australia. Here are some of the ways that a Vantage Meeting Solution can assist you throughout the legal process.

### Maximise your Time

- Login into a hearing from your office and save valuable waiting time that can be converted into productive billable time.
- Collaborate on legal dispositions with colleagues based remotely or internationally.
- Reduce the need for costly and time-consuming travel. Undertake face-to-face meetings with colleagues, third parties, and business associates from the convenience of your office.

### Make Faster Resolutions

- Conduct bail hearings and other minor hearings via virtual conferencing to expedite the legal process. You can resolve minor matters quickly in order to bring more urgent cases forward.

### Minimise Security Concerns

- Undertake parole interviews, and other post-conviction hearings from within correctional facilities. This will significantly reduce the costs and risks associated with transporting and supervising prisoners.



### Cut the Red Tape

- Reduce the time required for processing the necessary paperwork for prisoner transportation by conducting video conferences from within the prison.

### Deliver Essential Services to Remote Areas

- Provide legal access to people living in remote areas saving the need for travel.

### Gather Expert Opinion

- Enable witnesses based remotely or internationally to give evidence at a hearing via video conference.

### Protect Vulnerable Witnesses

- Take evidence from vulnerable witnesses such as children or those being held in custody. Private video conferencing rooms can be set up to protect the identity of witnesses and reduce the stress associated with giving evidence.

### Reduce Stress on Relatives

- Enable family members, including children under the age of 18 to "see" their parents via video visitation. This will reduce the stress and rigmarole associated with having to physically visit the prison.

# Case Study Scenarios

## **Business Problem:**

**“We need to be able to take testimonies from witnesses in remote locations , as well as transport defendants and legal professionals between facilities without blowing the budget.”**

A state government legal institution, with a network of 48 facilities located across the state, was concerned over the lengthy delay and high costs associated with transporting personnel and defendants between facilities. There was also a significant backlog of cases due to the inefficiency of bringing witnesses from remote locations to the courtroom in a timely fashion.

## **Meeting Solution:**

Vantage implemented a multipoint conferencing solution over ISDN to link all 48 facilities. During a multipoint conference the defendant is able to view the magistrate, their lawyer, the prosecutor and family and friends simultaneously. Each courtroom is fitted with a touchscreen control panel so the judge or magistrate is able to record the court case, select and move a document camera for showing evidence, and control camera views and audio levels. ‘Remote Witness Rooms’ were setup within the courthouses for isolation of vulnerable witnesses who can then give evidence via a private video conferencing session.

## **Business Benefit:**

Since the implementation of video conferencing technology, the client has witnessed a significant increase in the efficiency and speed of the judicial process. More cases are able to be processed quicker. Defendants and legal personnel do not have to attend court for extended periods of time. Witnesses can be brought in without the need for travel. Prisoners are not required to be transported to the courthouse thereby minimising security risks. To date, more than 4, 200 cases have been resolved via video conferencing. Vantage continues to provide regular maintenance support with monthly reviews and constant access to our 24-hour Global Assist Help Desk.

## **Business Problem:**

**“We need a solution that will enable our lawyers to meet on a regular basis to collaborate on important dispositions.”**

A well-known internationally-based law firm required a solution that would enable staff between it’s 20 offices based nationally and internationally to meet regularly with colleagues, clients and other legal professionals based remotely.

## **Meeting Solution:**

Vantage developed an audio/web conferencing solution using vMEETING.NET. No upfront capital investment was required, as the solution made use of the client’s existing infrastructure. By simply using a phone, PC and Internet connection, personnel can easily meet with colleagues based remotely, saving time and money associated with travel. With vMEETING.NET the customer is able to schedule, notify and attend audio and/or web conferences through a customised web portal. Important documentation can be uploaded for review and collaboration, conferences can be recorded and accessed for future playback, and participants can attend separate ‘breakout’ sessions from the main meeting when dealing with matters of a confidential nature.

## **Business Benefit:**

As a result of using vMEETING.NET, the client has noted a significant increase in overall productivity and efficiency. Travel costs have been reduced, and there has been a steady increase in the number of cases being resolved on a month-to-month basis. Staff have been quick to uptake the new technology and regard it as a valuable method of communicating and collaborating with their colleagues and clients.