



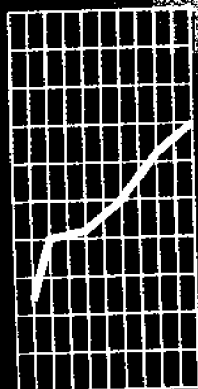
NEW ISSUE

1995

EMBARGO: 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 28 AUG 1997

# Australian Criminal Courts

Statistics



ABS Catalogue No. 4513.0

## NOTES

### ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The statistics in this publication provide indicators of the volume and flow of criminal work through the Supreme and Intermediate Courts across Australia. The collection includes monthly statistics on the number of defendants pending, initiated and finalised in each State and Territory for the period 1 January – 31 December 1995. Only information on defendants whose cases were heard in the original jurisdiction of the courts is presented — appeal cases are excluded.

### DATA CONSISTENCY

The statistics have been compiled according to national standards in order to ensure consistency between the States and Territories. The Explanatory Notes, Appendixes and Glossary provide detailed information on the collection, counting rules, terminology, classifications and other technical aspects.

### STATE DIFFERENCES

Differences in court structure, jurisdiction and procedure are marked across the States and Territories and these may account for some of the variation in case input and processing rates. Appendix C highlights some of the State differences that users should be aware of when comparing Australian criminal courts statistics.

### SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
n.a.	not available
NCCSU	National Criminal Courts Statistics Unit
n.e.c.	not elsewhere classified
n.f.d.	not further defined
..	not applicable
—	nil

### INQUIRIES

For information about other ABS statistics and services, please refer to the back of this publication.

For further information about statistics in this publication, contact Antonella Caruso on Melbourne (03) 9615 7370 or any ABS office.

## PREFACE

This is the first publication of the Australian Criminal Courts collection. The aim of this collection is to provide nationally comparable statistics on the volume and flow of criminal matters through the courts. These statistics are intended to assist those involved in courts and judicial administration, policy development or research, as well as those with a general interest in criminal justice issues.

The first stage of the collection is presented in this publication and covers criminal caseloads, based on counts of defendants, in the Supreme and Intermediate Courts of Australia. The scope of the publication includes all defendants who had active criminal cases in the period 1 January to 31 December 1995.

The collection will be expanded over time to provide information on offences, penalties for proven charges, defendant characteristics and additional case processing details. The collection will also expand in scope to include the appellate jurisdiction of the courts and other levels of the criminal court system.

The Australian Criminal Courts collection is based on unit record data provided to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) by the State and Territory agencies responsible for courts administration. The statistics have been compiled according to national standards, definitions and counting rules prepared by the National Criminal Courts Statistics Unit (NCCSU).

The NCCSU was established in 1994 following an initiative of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General. The Unit is jointly funded by State and Territory courts agencies, the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and the ABS. The Unit reports to a Board of Management made up of representatives of these funding parties, and receives technical advice from an Advisory Group made up of expert users of criminal justice statistics.

Many individuals and groups contributed to the development of the national criminal courts collection. In particular, the ABS acknowledges the valuable contributions of the Board of Management of the NCCSU, the NCCSU Advisory Group and the State and Territory agencies responsible for courts administration.

T. J. Skinner  
Acting Australian Statistician



## CONTENTS

	Page
Notes	2
Preface	3
Summary of findings	6

## LIST OF TABLES

1	Defendants pending, initiated and finalised: status by month	15
2	Defendants initiated: method of initiation	18
3	Defendants finalised: method of finalisation	19
4	Defendants finalised: summary statistics relating to duration (weeks)	21
5	Defendants finalised: method of finalisation by duration from initiation to finalisation	24
6	Defendants finalised by a guilty verdict: duration from initiation to verdict	30
7	Defendants finalised by a guilty verdict: duration from verdict to finalisation	32

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Explanatory notes	34
Appendixes	
A: Method of initiation classification	42
B: Method of finalisation classification	43
C: Information paper: Some procedural and structural sources of variability in Australian Criminal Courts statistics	44
Glossary	52

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### INTRODUCTION

This publication presents statistics on the criminal work of the higher (Supreme and Intermediate) courts of Australia for the period 1 January to 31 December 1995. The higher courts deal with the more serious matters heard by Australia's criminal courts.

The measure of criminal work presented is the count of defendants processed by the higher courts. A defendant is either an individual or a corporation against whom criminal charges have been laid. Information is provided on the flow of work through the higher courts. The workflow measures presented include statistics on:

- initiated defendants (i.e. new defendants whose cases entered the higher courts), and the way that their cases were initiated;
- finalised defendants (i.e. defendants whose cases had a final outcome for all charges before the higher courts), and the way that their cases were finalised;
- pending defendants (i.e. defendants whose cases were initiated but not yet finalised); and
- the duration of cases for finalised defendants (e.g. elapsed time from initiation to finalisation).

Statistics are presented separately for the Supreme and Intermediate court levels. A Supreme Court operates in each State and Territory. There is no Intermediate Court in Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. In the States with both Supreme and Intermediate Courts the majority of defendants are dealt with in the Intermediate Court.

The statistics in this publication relate to defendants with criminal cases active before the Supreme and Intermediate Courts in Australia during 1995. They do not cover cases relating to appeals and breaches of bonds. Initiation details for defendants are currently not available for Queensland and pending, initiated and duration data cannot be provided for this State.

### TOTAL WORKLOAD

Table 1 summarises the flow of defendants through the higher courts during 1995 by showing statistics on the number of pending, initiated and finalised defendants each month. For any given month, the number of defendants pending at the start, together with the defendants initiated, less the defendants finalised, gives the count of defendants pending at the start of the next month.

Excluding Queensland, there were 6,424 defendants with criminal cases that had been initiated in the higher courts prior to 1995 and were still being processed, while a further 10,635 defendants had new cases initiated during 1995. The 6,424 defendants pending at the start of 1995 together with the 10,635 defendants initiated during 1995 gives a total workload of

## TOTAL WORKLOAD *continued*

17,059 defendants who had criminal cases active at some time during 1995. Of this total workload, 10,740 (63%) defendants were finalised in the higher courts during 1995 resulting in 6,319 defendants pending at the end of 1995.

## INITIATED WORKLOAD

The initiated workload is the number of defendants with cases starting in the higher courts in 1995. A defendant may be initiated as a result of:

- the committal process in the lower courts;
- the direct laying of charges in a higher court (i.e. *ex-officio*);
- the execution of a bench warrant against an absconded defendant; or
- the transfer of court proceedings from another level of court.

### Volume initiated

During 1995 there were 10,635 defendants initiated in the higher courts in Australia (excluding Queensland). There was considerable monthly variation in the number of defendants initiated in 1995. The lowest number of initiations occurred in December and January (680 and 738 respectively), and the highest number of initiations occurred in May and August (1,023 and 1,008 respectively).

### Method of initiation

The majority of defendants initiated in the higher courts (9,788 or 92%) were committed from a court of summary jurisdiction (i.e. a lower court). In comparison to other States and Territories, South Australia had a much lower percentage of defendants initiated by being committed from a court of summary jurisdiction (77.8%). This was due to a relatively higher proportion of defendants initiated by transfer from another court level. This was particularly evident in South Australia's Supreme Court where two-thirds of defendants initiated (66.7%) were transferred from the Intermediate Court or court of appeal. (See Table 2.)

At the time of their committal hearing in the lower court, defendants can plead guilty or not guilty to the charges against them. If a defendant pleads guilty to all charges against them, they are committed to a higher court for a sentence hearing. A not guilty plea to any charge will result in the defendant being committed for trial. In each State and Territory where information is available about defendants' plea/s at committal, the majority of defendants were committed for trial. The proportion of defendants committed for trial ranged from 54.8% in Western Australia to 78.5% in Tasmania.

Almost 4% of defendants initiated were absconders who re-entered the court system to continue facing criminal proceedings. South Australia and the Northern Territory reported the highest percentages of defendants initiated by a bench warrant executed (6.6% and 5.9% respectively). *Ex-officio* or direct presentment of defendants accounted for a further 1.2% of initiations. (See Table 2.)

## FINALISED WORKLOAD

The finalised workload is the number of defendants with cases completed in the higher courts in 1995. Defendants are not regarded as finalised until all charges laid against them have been concluded in some manner. Where the defendant is proven guilty they are considered finalised on the date of sentencing.

A defendant's method of finalisation describes the key outcome for the case. This includes where the defendant has:

- at least one charge proven guilty (through a guilty verdict or a guilty plea);
- no charge proven guilty and is acquitted;
- been transferred to another level of court;
- all charges withdrawn; or
- absconded and a bench warrant is issued.

For detailed definitions and the method of finalisation counting methodology, refer to the Glossary and Explanatory Notes.

### Volume finalised

A total of 17,295 defendants were finalised in the higher courts in Australia during 1995. Queensland had the highest number of defendants finalised (6,555) which is 38% of the national total, while the Australian Capital Territory had the lowest number of defendants finalised (101) accounting for less than 1% of all defendants finalised in Australia.

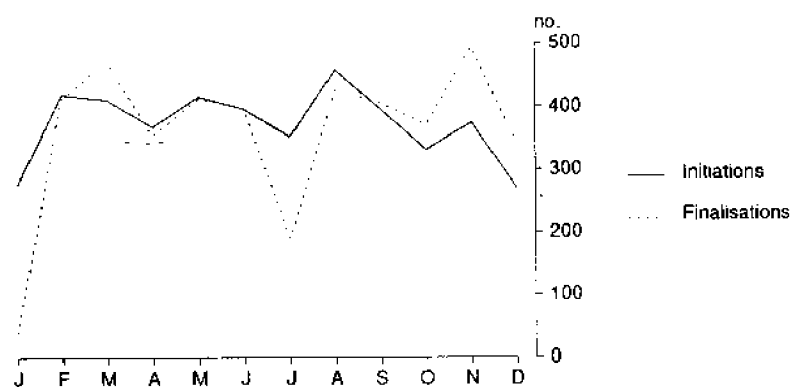
In the Supreme Court there were 2,139 defendants finalised in Australia with the highest proportions being finalised in Queensland (31%) and Western Australia (18%). There were 15,156 defendants finalised in the Intermediate Court with Queensland and New South Wales having the highest proportions of all defendants finalised (39% and 28% respectively).

For those States that have an Intermediate Court, 9% of defendants were finalised in the Supreme Court while the majority of defendants (91%) were finalised in the Intermediate Court. New South Wales had the highest proportion of defendants finalised in the Intermediate Court relative to the Supreme Court (98%) and South Australia had the lowest proportion (83%).

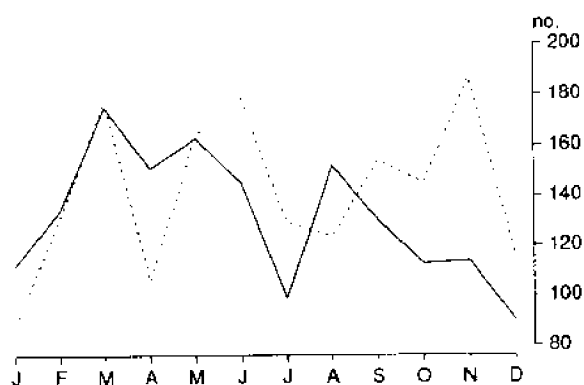
The number of defendants finalised in the higher courts during 1995 was highest in March (1,727) and lowest in January (768). The graphs which follow show the number of defendants initiated and finalised per month for each of the States and Territories and for Australia (excluding Queensland where initiation data was unavailable). For Australia, the number of defendants finalised and the number of defendants initiated within each month was generally consistent. The exception was January which had considerably fewer finalisations than initiations. It should be noted that judicial vacations occur in January in most States and Territories.



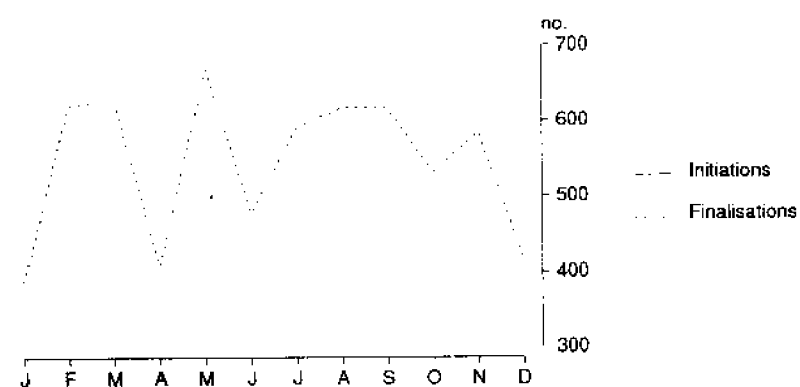
DEFENDANTS INITIATED AND FINALISED, NSW



DEFENDANTS INITIATED AND FINALISED, VIC.



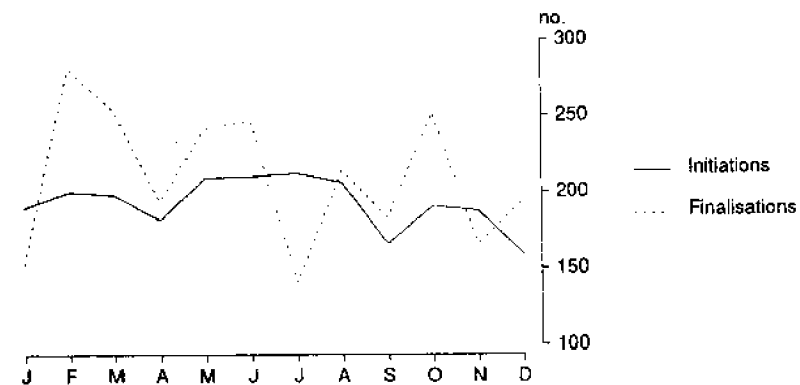
DEFENDANTS FINALISED, QLD(a)



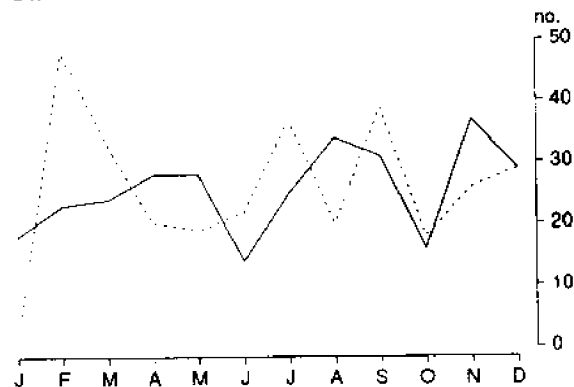
DEFENDANTS INITIATED AND FINALISED, SA



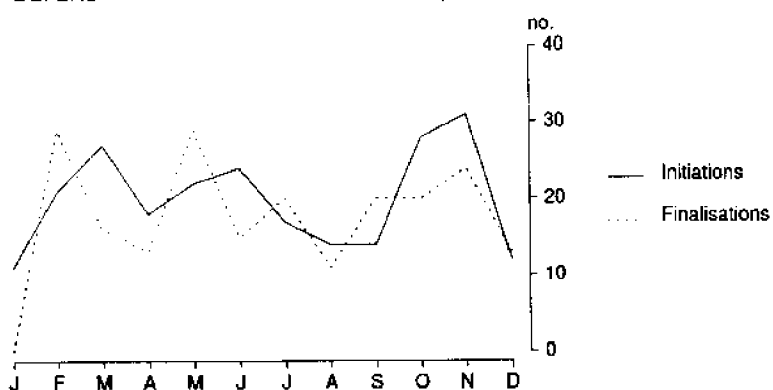
DEFENDANTS INITIATED AND FINALISED, WA



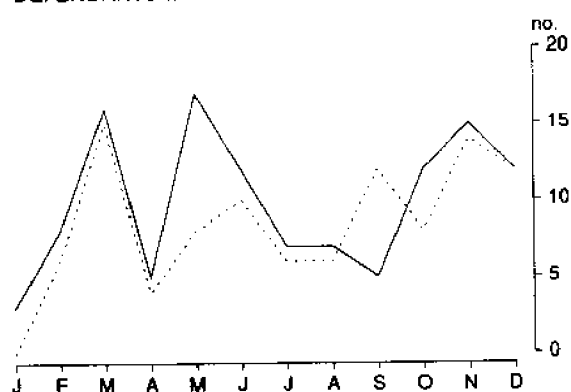
DEFENDANTS INITIATED AND FINALISED, TAS.



DEFENDANTS INITIATED AND FINALISED, NT

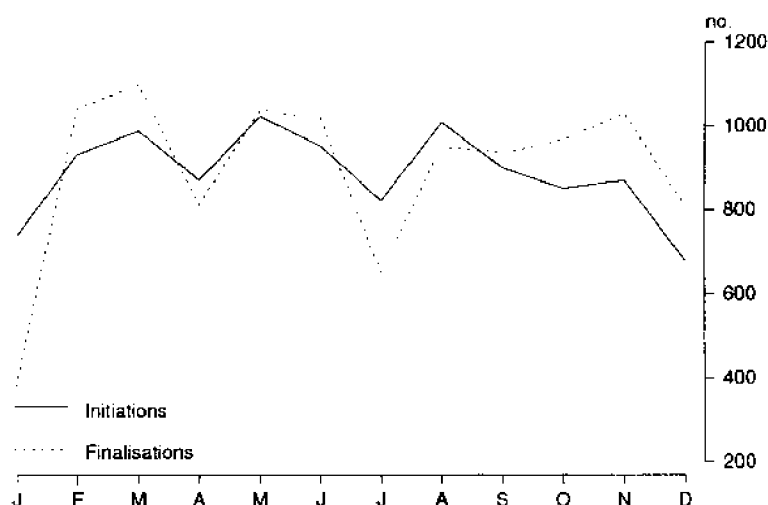


DEFENDANTS INITIATED AND FINALISED, ACT



(a) Numbers of defendants initiated in Queensland are not available.

## DEFENDANTS INITIATED AND FINALISED, AUSTRALIA(a)



(a) Excludes Queensland.

### Rates of finalisation

The rate of defendants finalised per 100,000 persons aged 17 years and over provides an index of the proportions of the State and Territory adult populations dealt with by the higher courts. It should be noted that any comparisons of rates of finalised defendants across States and Territories should take into account the differences in court structures and procedures as discussed in Appendix C.

There was a rate of 126.2 defendants finalised per 100,000 persons aged 17 years and over in Australia during 1995. The rate of finalised defendants in Queensland was twice the Australia rate at 266.3. Western Australia and the Northern Territory with rates of 194.8 and 174.0 respectively were also considerably higher than the national rate.

### Adjudicated finalisations

The majority (14,408 or 83%) of all defendants finalised by the higher courts in Australia were adjudicated through a trial or sentence hearing. The process of adjudication depends on the defendant's final plea/s. Defendants who plead guilty to all charges against them are not subject to a trial and are adjudicated through a sentence hearing to determine the type and severity of any penalty that may be applied. Defendants who plead not guilty to any charge against them are typically subject to a trial by jury which determines whether the charges against them are proven. If there is a guilty verdict for any charge then the defendant proceeds to a sentence hearing.

While the majority of defendants initiated were committed for trial, the number of defendants finalised by trial was considerably less. This reflects a tendency for defendants to change their plea from not guilty to guilty during the course of criminal proceedings. For the States and Territories where information was available about the process of adjudication, 26% of the defendants who were adjudicated went through trial and were either proven guilty or proven not guilty, while 74% pleaded guilty.

#### Adjudicated finalisations *continued*

For New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, where information about the process of adjudication was available for both the Supreme and Intermediate Courts, the proportion of defendants finalised by trial was 52% in the Supreme Court, which was more than twice that of the Intermediate Court (24%).

Of the 14,408 defendants adjudicated in 1995, 11% were acquitted, and 89% had at least one charge with a proven outcome (guilty verdict or guilty plea). All the States and Territories had a higher proportion of defendants with proven outcomes compared to defendants acquitted. However, the relative proportions of these varied across the States and Territories. Tasmania, the Northern Territory, the Australian Capital Territory and Queensland had the highest proportion of defendants with charges proven (94–95%). Western Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia had a lower proportion of defendants with charges proven (85–88%).

There was no systematic difference between the Supreme and Intermediate Courts in terms of the proportion of defendants acquitted or proven guilty. In the Supreme Court, the proportion of defendants proven guilty relative to proven not guilty was highest in Queensland and Tasmania (96% and 95% respectively) and lowest in New South Wales and South Australia (80% and 81% respectively). In the Intermediate Court, the proportion of defendants proven guilty relative to proven not guilty was highest in Queensland (93%) and lowest in Western Australia (85%).

#### Non-adjudicated finalisations

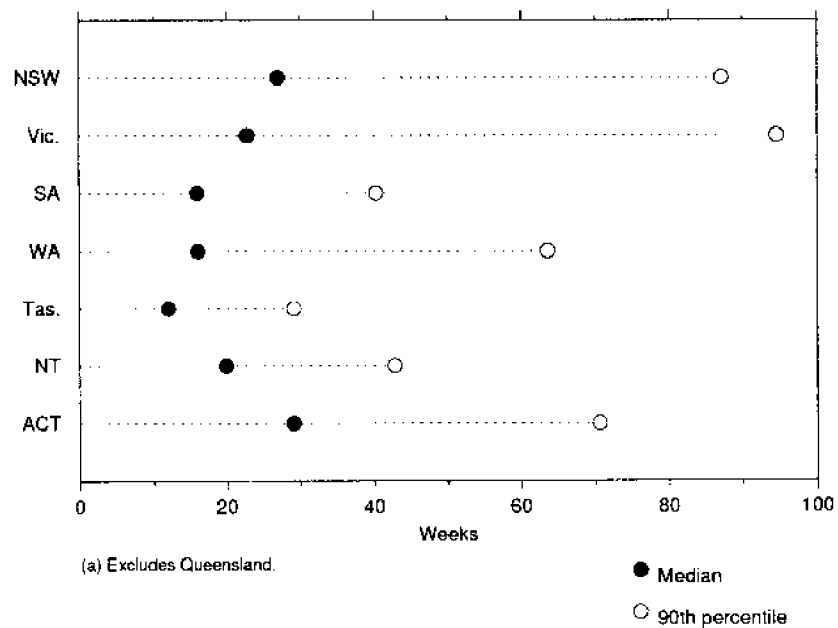
The finalisation of defendants by transfer between court levels (excluding Queensland) was highest in South Australia (13.7%). The Northern Territory recorded the highest percentage of defendants finalised as a result of a bench warrant being issued for the arrest of an absconder (11.4%). Tasmania and Queensland had the highest percentage of defendants finalised through withdrawal of all charges (17.9% and 17.3% respectively). The Northern Territory had the lowest percentage of defendants finalised through withdrawal of all charges (4.3%). (See Table 3.)

#### DURATION OF FINALISED WORKLOAD

For defendants finalised in the higher courts in Australia in 1995 (excluding Queensland), duration figures are presented which measure the time from the date of initiation to the date of finalisation. Duration provides a measure of the speed with which the court systems deal with their criminal workload. These statistics should be interpreted with caution as there are numerous jurisdictional, legislative and procedural differences that impact on the courts' ability to process defendant cases. Appendix C discusses some of the issues related to differences across States and Territories.

The median duration from initiation to finalisation was longest in the Australian Capital Territory (29.0 weeks) and New South Wales (27.0 weeks). Tasmania had the shortest median duration (12.1 weeks) to finalise defendants. In Victoria, 90% of defendants finalised in 1995 had their cases completed within 94.6 weeks of initiation, whereas in Tasmania 90% of defendants finalised had their cases completed within 29.1 weeks.

# DEFENDANTS FINALISED, DURATION FROM INITIATION IN FINALISATION(a)



The median duration from initiation to finalisation varied for different categories of finalisations. In general, defendants finalised with trial outcomes of guilty verdict or proven not guilty had the longest median processing times, whilst those finalised through sentence hearings (guilty plea) had the shortest median elapsed times. For example, the median duration in the Supreme Court of Victoria was 26.0 weeks for acquitted defendants, 35.8 weeks for defendants proven guilty, and 20.3 weeks for defendants who pleaded guilty.

It should be noted that these trial outcome categories (guilty verdict and proven not guilty) do not measure all trials scheduled or commenced. Defendants originally committed for trial may subsequently change their plea from not guilty to guilty (either prior to the commencement of the trial or during the course of the trial) and therefore be counted in the guilty plea category. A trial will also cease if the prosecution withdraws all the charges and in this instance, the defendant will be counted in the withdrawn category.

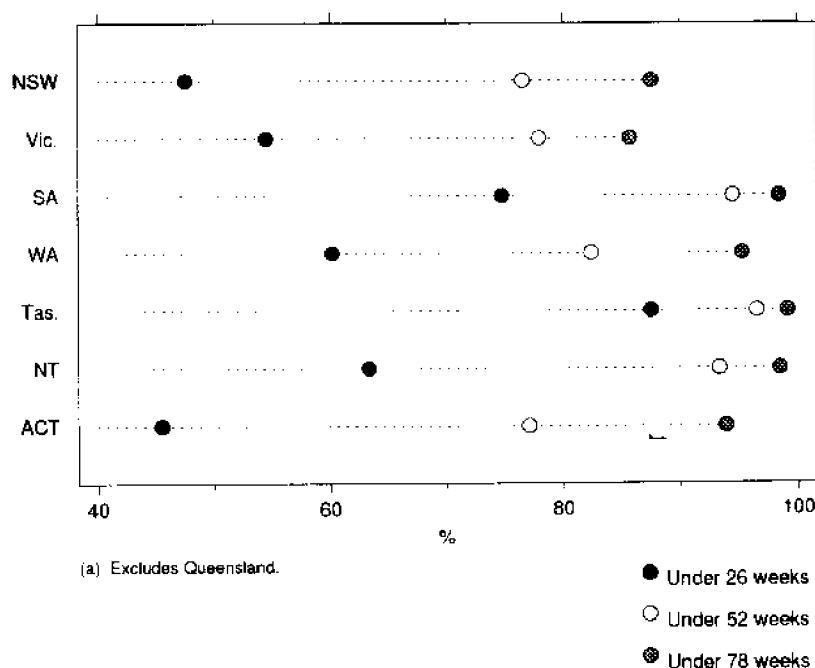
The median duration from initiation to finalisation for defendants proven not guilty was highest in New South Wales (46.3 weeks) and lowest in Tasmania (13.7 weeks). New South Wales had the longest median duration for defendants finalised with a guilty verdict (54.3 weeks) and a guilty plea (22.0 weeks). Tasmania had the shortest median duration for defendants finalised with a guilty verdict (16.1 weeks) and guilty plea (11.2 weeks). This excludes Queensland and Western Australia where this information was not available.

For defendants finalised in the higher courts in Australia during 1995, Tasmania had the highest percentage of defendants finalised within 6 months of initiation (87.5%). Tasmania, South Australia and the Northern Territory

## DURATION OF FINALISED WORKLOAD *continued*

had the highest percentage of defendants finalised within 12 months (96.5%, 94.6% and 93.3% respectively). All States and Territories had over 90% of defendants finalised within 18 months of commencement except Victoria and New South Wales (85.7% and 87.6% respectively). (See Table 5.)

### DEFENDANTS FINALISED WITHIN SPECIFIED TIME PERIODS(a)

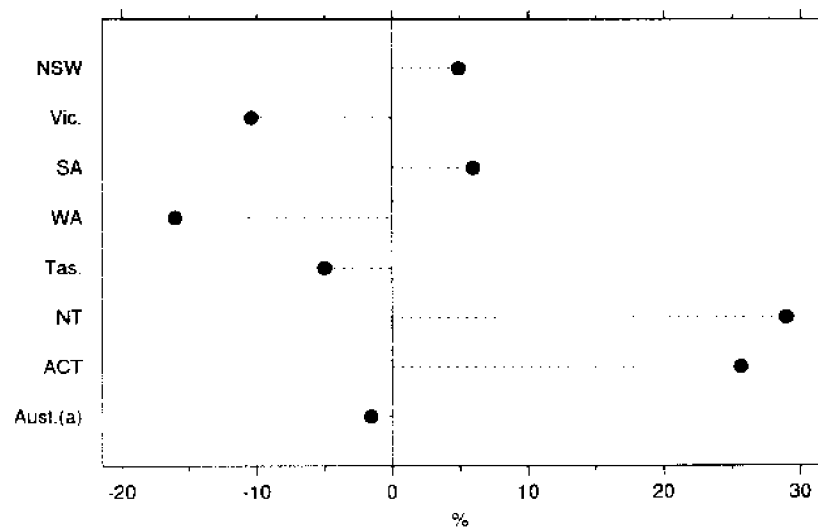


For defendants finalised by a guilty verdict, duration figures are provided measuring the time from initiation to verdict, and from verdict to sentencing. This information is not available for Queensland and only partially available for Western Australia. For all other States and Territories, the median duration from initiation to the handing down of a guilty verdict was less than a year, with the longest duration (49.8 weeks) occurring in New South Wales. The median duration from the date a guilty verdict is delivered to the date of sentencing was less than a month. (See Table 4.)

## PENDING WORKLOAD

The pending workload is the number of defendants not yet finalised at a given point in time. The size of the national pending workload (excluding Queensland) remained stable within the higher courts during 1995. The number of defendants pending on 31 December 1995 (6,319) had decreased by 1.6% from 6,424 defendants pending on 1 January 1995. The States and Territories that showed substantial change in their pending workloads during 1995 were the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory where the pending workloads increased by 29% and 26% respectively, and Western Australia where the pending workload decreased by 16%. (See Table 1.)

# CHANGE IN NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS PENDING FROM START TO END OF YEAR



(a) Excludes Queensland.

There was considerable variation between the Supreme and Intermediate Courts in terms of the percentage change in the pending workloads during 1995 (excluding Queensland). In the Supreme Court the pending workload increased by 16.4% to 808 defendants pending on 31 December 1995, up from 694 defendants pending on 1 January 1995. In the Intermediate Court the pending defendant workload at the end of 1995 (5,511) had decreased by 3.8% from the start of the year (5,730).

# 1 DEFENDANTS PENDING, INITIATED AND FINALISED: STATUS BY MONTH

Month/Status	NSW	Vic.	Qld(a)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
SUPREME COURT									
January									
Pending at start	118	52	n.a.	72	182	100	100	70	n.a.
Initiated	7	5	n.a.	27	34	18	11	3	n.a.
Finalised	1	1	26	18	11	1	—	—	58
February									
Pending at start	124	56	n.a.	81	205	117	111	73	n.a.
Initiated	7	10	n.a.	20	24	23	21	8	n.a.
Finalised	3	6	59	22	52	48	29	6	225
March									
Pending at start	128	60	n.a.	79	177	92	103	75	n.a.
Initiated	11	11	n.a.	20	35	24	27	16	n.a.
Finalised	13	5	83	27	30	33	16	15	222
April									
Pending at start	126	66	n.a.	72	182	83	114	76	n.a.
Initiated	17	11	n.a.	18	36	28	18	5	n.a.
Finalised	10	13	44	25	27	20	13	4	156
May									
Pending at start	133	64	n.a.	65	191	91	119	77	n.a.
Initiated	9	12	n.a.	39	40	28	22	17	n.a.
Finalised	5	7	97	22	37	19	29	8	224
June									
Pending at start	137	69	n.a.	82	194	100	112	86	n.a.
Initiated	7	9	n.a.	29	40	14	24	12	n.a.
Finalised	7	17	47	20	32	22	15	10	170
July									
Pending at start	137	61	n.a.	91	202	92	121	88	n.a.
Initiated	6	5	n.a.	35	43	25	17	7	n.a.
Finalised	12	8	45	21	38	37	20	6	187
August									
Pending at start	131	58	n.a.	105	207	80	118	89	n.a.
Initiated	26	12	n.a.	19	34	34	14	7	n.a.
Finalised	13	8	47	19	35	20	11	6	159
September									
Pending at start	144	62	n.a.	105	206	94	121	90	n.a.
Initiated	10	4	n.a.	20	35	31	14	5	n.a.
Finalised	7	11	68	26	22	39	20	12	205
October									
Pending at start	147	55	n.a.	99	219	86	115	83	n.a.
Initiated	11	6	n.a.	32	28	16	28	12	n.a.
Finalised	10	10	39	29	50	18	20	8	184
November									
Pending at start	148	51	n.a.	102	197	84	123	87	n.a.
Initiated	11	14	n.a.	11	33	37	31	15	n.a.
Finalised	14	6	72	22	31	26	24	14	209
December									
Pending at start	145	59	n.a.	91	199	95	130	88	n.a.
Initiated	13	13	n.a.	15	19	29	12	12	n.a.
Finalised	9	8	28	19	22	29	13	12	140
January to December									
Pending at start	118	52	n.a.	72	182	100	100	70	n.a.
Total initiated	135	112	n.a.	285	401	307	239	119	n.a.
Total finalised	104	100	655	270	387	312	210	101	2,139
Pending at end	149	64	n.a.	87	196	95	129	88	n.a.

For footnotes see end of table.

# 1 DEFENDANTS PENDING, INITIATED AND FINALISED: STATUS BY MONTH — *continued*

<i>Month/Status</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld(a)</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust. (a)</i>
INTERMEDIATE COURT(b)									
January									
Pending at start	2,952	1,117	n.a.	532	1,129	..	..	..	n.a.
Initiated	269	107	n.a.	101	156	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	39	87	362	80	142	..	..	..	710
February									
Pending at start	3,182	1,137	n.a.	553	1,143	..	..	..	n.a.
Initiated	411	124	n.a.	107	176	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	409	125	562	114	229	..	..	..	1,439
March									
Pending at start	3,184	1,136	n.a.	546	1,090	..	..	..	n.a.
Initiated	399	164	n.a.	117	163	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	458	172	546	105	224	..	..	..	1,505
April									
Pending at start	3,125	1,128	n.a.	558	1,029	..	..	..	n.a.
Initiated	351	140	n.a.	100	146	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	343	93	364	97	167	..	..	..	1,064
May									
Pending at start	3,133	1,175	n.a.	561	1,008	..	..	..	n.a.
Initiated	406	151	n.a.	130	169	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	408	157	572	141	205	..	..	..	1,483
June									
Pending at start	3,131	1,169	n.a.	550	972	..	..	..	n.a.
Initiated	388	136	n.a.	123	170	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	388	162	431	129	215	..	..	..	1,325
July									
Pending at start	3,131	1,143	n.a.	544	927	..	..	..	n.a.
Initiated	346	94	n.a.	76	169	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	178	121	547	111	103	..	..	..	1,060
August									
Pending at start	3,299	1,116	n.a.	509	993	..	..	..	n.a.
Initiated	431	140	n.a.	119	172	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	412	116	571	131	179	..	..	..	1,409
September									
Pending at start	3,318	1,140	n.a.	497	986	..	..	..	n.a.
Initiated	385	126	n.a.	139	131	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	398	143	549	97	161	..	..	..	1,348
October									
Pending at start	3,305	1,123	n.a.	539	956	..	..	..	n.a.
Initiated	320	107	n.a.	128	163	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	361	135	493	126	202	..	..	..	1,317
November									
Pending at start	3,264	1,095	n.a.	541	917	..	..	..	n.a.
Initiated	364	100	n.a.	101	155	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	480	181	514	99	135	..	..	..	1,409
December									
Pending at start	3,148	1,014	n.a.	543	937	..	..	..	n.a.
Initiated	258	77	n.a.	92	140	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	335	108	389	82	173	..	..	..	1,087
January to December									
Pending at start	2,952	1,117	n.a.	532	1,129	..	..	..	n.a.
Total initiated	4,328	1,466	n.a.	1,333	1,910	..	..	..	n.a.
Total finalised	4,209	1,600	5,900	1,312	2,135	..	..	..	15,156
Pending at end	3,071	983	n.a.	553	904	..	..	..	n.a.

For footnotes see end of table.



# 1 DEFENDANTS PENDING, INITIATED AND FINALISED: STATUS BY MONTH — *continued*

<i>Month/Status</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld(a)</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.(a)</i>
TOTAL SUPREME AND INTERMEDIATE COURTS(b)									
January									
Pending at start	3,070	1,169	n.a.	604	1,311	100	100	70	n.a.
Initiated	276	112	n.a.	128	190	18	11	3	n.a.
Finalised	40	88	388	98	153	1			768
February									
Pending at start	3,306	1,193	n.a.	634	1,348	117	111	73	n.a.
Initiated	418	134	n.a.	127	200	23	21	8	n.a.
Finalised	412	131	621	136	281	48	29	6	1,664
March									
Pending at start	3,312	1,196	n.a.	625	1,267	92	103	75	n.a.
Initiated	410	175	n.a.	137	198	24	27	16	n.a.
Finalised	471	177	629	132	254	33	16	15	1,727
April									
Pending at start	3,251	1,194	n.a.	630	1,211	83	114	76	n.a.
Initiated	368	151	n.a.	118	182	28	18	5	n.a.
Finalised	353	106	408	122	194	20	13	4	1,220
May									
Pending at start	3,266	1,239	n.a.	626	1,199	91	119	77	n.a.
Initiated	415	163	n.a.	169	209	28	22	17	n.a.
Finalised	413	164	669	163	242	19	29	8	1,707
June									
Pending at start	3,268	1,238	n.a.	632	1,166	100	112	86	n.a.
Initiated	395	145	n.a.	152	210	14	24	12	n.a.
Finalised	395	179	478	149	247	22	15	10	1,495
July									
Pending at start	3,268	1,204	n.a.	635	1,129	92	121	88	n.a.
Initiated	352	99	n.a.	111	212	25	17	7	n.a.
Finalised	190	129	592	132	141	37	20	6	1,247
August									
Pending at start	3,430	1,174	n.a.	614	1,200	80	118	89	n.a.
Initiated	457	152	n.a.	138	206	34	14	7	n.a.
Finalised	425	124	618	150	214	20	11	6	1,568
September									
Pending at start	3,462	1,202	n.a.	602	1,192	94	121	90	n.a.
Initiated	395	130	n.a.	159	166	31	14	5	n.a.
Finalised	405	154	617	123	183	39	20	12	1,553
October									
Pending at start	3,452	1,178	n.a.	638	1,175	86	115	83	n.a.
Initiated	331	113	n.a.	160	191	16	28	12	n.a.
Finalised	371	145	532	155	252	18	20	8	1,501
November									
Pending at start	3,412	1,146	n.a.	643	1,114	84	123	87	n.a.
Initiated	375	114	n.a.	112	188	37	31	15	n.a.
Finalised	494	187	586	121	166	26	24	14	1,618
December									
Pending at start	3,293	1,073	n.a.	634	1,136	95	130	88	n.a.
Initiated	271	90	n.a.	107	159	29	12	12	n.a.
Finalised	344	116	417	101	195	29	13	12	1,227
January to December									
Pending at start,	3,070	1,169	n.a.	604	1,311	100	100	70	n.a.
Total initiated	4,463	1,578	n.a.	1,618	2,311	307	239	119	n.a.
Total finalised	4,313	1,700	6,555	1,582	2,522	312	210	101	17,295
Pending at end	3,220	1,047	n.a.	640	1,100	95	129	88	n.a.
— rate per 100,000 population aged 17 years and over —									
January to December									
Pending at start	66.0	34.0	n.a.	53.2	101.2	28.3	82.8	30.6	n.a.
Total initiated	95.9	45.9	n.a.	142.6	178.5	87.0	198.0	52.0	n.a.
Total finalised	92.7	49.4	266.3	139.4	194.8	88.4	174.0	44.1	126.2
Pending at end	69.2	30.4	n.a.	56.4	84.9	26.9	106.9	38.4	n.a.

(a) Initiation and pending data are not available for Queensland and the finalisation data excludes any transfers between court levels or bench warrants being issued. see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 12. (b) There is no Intermediate Court in Tasmania, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

## 2 DEFENDANTS INITIATED: METHOD OF INITIATION

Method of initiation	NSW	Vic.	Qld(a)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT(b)	ACT	Aust. (a)(b)
SUPREME COURT									
number									
Total committed	120	97	n.a.	74	380	293	214	118	n.a.
Committed for trial	117	89	n.a.	70	285	241	n.a.	69	n.a.
Committed for sentence	3	8	n.a.	4	95	52	n.a.	49	n.a.
Ex-officio	6	8	n.a.	12	—	2	10	—	n.a.
Bench warrant executed	1	—	n.a.	9	5	12	14	—	n.a.
Other transfer(c)	8	7	n.a.	190	16	—	1	1	n.a.
<b>Total defendants initiated</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
percentage									
Total committed	88.9	86.6	n.a.	26.0	94.8	95.4	89.5	99.2	n.a.
Committed for trial	86.7	79.5	n.a.	24.6	71.1	78.5	n.a.	58.0	n.a.
Committed for sentence	2.2	7.1	n.a.	1.4	23.7	16.9	n.a.	41.2	n.a.
Ex-officio	4.4	7.1	n.a.	4.2	—	0.7	4.2	—	n.a.
Bench warrant executed	0.7	—	n.a.	3.2	1.2	3.9	5.9	—	n.a.
Other transfer(c)	5.9	6.3	n.a.	66.7	4.0	—	0.4	0.8	n.a.
<b>Total defendants initiated</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
INTERMEDIATE COURT(d)									
number									
Total committed	4,077	1,404	n.a.	1,185	1,826	—	—	—	n.a.
Committed for trial	3,013	838	n.a.	1,010	981	—	—	—	n.a.
Committed for sentence	1,064	566	n.a.	175	845	—	—	—	n.a.
Ex-officio	35	19	n.a.	17	19	—	—	—	n.a.
Bench warrant executed	179	11	n.a.	97	48	—	—	—	n.a.
Other transfer(c)	37	32	n.a.	34	17	—	—	—	n.a.
<b>Total defendants initiated</b>	<b>4,328</b>	<b>1,466</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>1,333</b>	<b>1,910</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
— percentage —									
Total committed	94.2	95.8	n.a.	88.9	95.6	—	—	—	n.a.
Committed for trial	69.6	57.2	n.a.	75.8	51.4	—	—	—	n.a.
Committed for sentence	24.6	38.6	n.a.	13.1	44.2	—	—	—	n.a.
Ex-officio	0.8	1.3	n.a.	1.3	1.0	—	—	—	n.a.
Bench warrant executed	4.1	0.8	n.a.	7.3	2.5	—	—	—	n.a.
Other transfer(c)	0.9	2.2	n.a.	2.6	0.9	—	—	—	n.a.
<b>Total defendants initiated</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
TOTAL SUPREME AND INTERMEDIATE COURTS(d)									
number									
Total committed	4,197	1,501	n.a.	1,259	2,206	293	214	118	n.a.
Committed for trial	3,130	927	n.a.	1,080	1,266	241	n.a.	69	n.a.
Committed for sentence	1,067	574	n.a.	179	940	52	n.a.	49	n.a.
Ex-officio	41	27	n.a.	29	19	2	10	—	n.a.
Bench warrant executed	180	11	n.a.	106	53	12	14	—	n.a.
Other transfer(c)	45	39	n.a.	224	33	—	1	1	n.a.
<b>Total defendants initiated</b>	<b>4,463</b>	<b>1,578</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>1,618</b>	<b>2,311</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
— percentage —									
Total committed	94.0	95.1	n.a.	77.8	95.5	95.4	89.5	99.2	n.a.
Committed for trial	70.1	58.7	n.a.	66.7	54.8	78.5	n.a.	58.0	n.a.
Committed for sentence	23.9	36.4	n.a.	11.1	40.7	16.9	n.a.	41.2	n.a.
Ex-officio	0.9	1.7	n.a.	1.8	0.8	0.7	4.2	—	n.a.
Bench warrant executed	4.0	0.7	n.a.	6.6	2.3	3.9	5.9	—	n.a.
Other transfer(c)	1.0	2.5	n.a.	13.8	1.4	—	0.4	0.8	n.a.
<b>Total defendants initiated</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>n.a.</b>

(a) Initiation data are currently not available for Queensland, see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 12. (b) Committal details for Northern Territory are currently not available.

(c) Defendants registered in a particular court level as a result of a transfer between court levels other than committals from a court of summary jurisdiction. (d) There is no Intermediate Court in Tasmania, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

<i>Method of finalisation</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA(a)</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.(a)</i>
SUPREME COURT									
— number —									
Proven not guilty	18	17	24	38	38	11	11	5	162
<i>Total proven guilty</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>565</i>	<i>158</i>	<i>290</i>	<i>230</i>	<i>166</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>1,623</i>
Guilty verdict	25	25	64	70	78	32	23	18	335
Guilty plea	48	41	501	88	212	198	143	57	1,288
Transfer between court levels	4	9	n.a.	26	28	5	—	5	(b)77
<i>Non-adjudicated</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>(b)66</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>(b)277</i>
Bench warrant issued	3	—	n.a.	9	6	10	24	1	n.a.
Withdrawn(c)	6	8	66	39	25	56	9	15	224
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>(b)655</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>(b)2,139</b>
— percentage —									
Proven not guilty	17.3	17.0	3.7	14.1	9.8	3.5	5.2	5.0	7.6
<i>Total proven guilty</i>	<i>70.2</i>	<i>66.0</i>	<i>86.3</i>	<i>58.5</i>	<i>74.9</i>	<i>73.7</i>	<i>79.0</i>	<i>74.3</i>	<i>75.9</i>
Guilty verdict	24.0	25.0	9.8	25.9	20.2	10.3	11.0	17.8	15.7
Guilty plea	46.2	41.0	76.5	32.6	54.8	63.5	68.1	56.4	60.2
Transfer between court levels	3.8	9.0	n.a.	9.6	7.2	1.6	—	5.0	(b)3.6
<i>Non-adjudicated</i>	<i>8.7</i>	<i>8.0</i>	<i>(b)10.1</i>	<i>17.8</i>	<i>8.0</i>	<i>21.2</i>	<i>15.7</i>	<i>15.8</i>	<i>(b)12.9</i>
Bench warrant issued	2.9	—	n.a.	3.3	1.6	3.2	11.4	1.0	n.a.
Withdrawn(c)	5.8	8.0	10.1	14.4	6.5	17.9	4.3	14.9	10.5
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(b)100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(b)100.0</b>
INTERMEDIATE COURT(d)									
— number —									
Proven not guilty	500	194	323	85	287	..	..	..	1,389
<i>Total proven guilty</i>	<i>3,150</i>	<i>1,268</i>	<i>4,510</i>	<i>709</i>	<i>1,597</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>11,234</i>
Guilty verdict	387	162	n.a.	108	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
Guilty plea	2,763	1,106	n.a.	601	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
Transfer between court levels	20	6	n.a.	191	39	..	..	..	(b)256
<i>Non-adjudicated</i>	<i>539</i>	<i>132</i>	<i>(b)1,067</i>	<i>327</i>	<i>212</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>(b)2,277</i>
Bench warrant issued	232	19	n.a.	102	71	..	..	..	n.a.
Withdrawn(c)	307	113	1,067	225	141	..	..	..	1,853
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>	<b>4,209</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>(b)5,900</b>	<b>1,312</b>	<b>2,135</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>(b)15,156</b>
— percentage —									
Proven not guilty	11.9	12.1	5.5	6.5	13.4	..	..	..	9.2
<i>Total proven guilty</i>	<i>74.8</i>	<i>79.2</i>	<i>76.4</i>	<i>54.0</i>	<i>74.8</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>74.1</i>
Guilty verdict	9.2	10.1	n.a.	8.2	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
Guilty plea	65.6	69.1	n.a.	45.8	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
Transfer between court levels	0.5	0.4	n.a.	14.6	1.8	..	..	..	(b)1.7
<i>Non-adjudicated</i>	<i>12.8</i>	<i>8.2</i>	<i>(b)18.1</i>	<i>24.9</i>	<i>9.9</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>(b)15.0</i>
Bench warrant issued	5.5	1.2	n.a.	7.8	3.3	..	..	..	n.a.
Withdrawn(c)	7.3	7.1	18.1	17.1	6.6	..	..	..	12.2
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(b)100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>(b)100.0</b>

For footnotes see end of table.

## 3

DEFENDANTS FINALISED: METHOD OF FINALISATION — *continued*

<i>Method of finalisation</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA(a)</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.(a)</i>
TOTAL SUPREME AND INTERMEDIATE COURTS(d)									
— number —									
Proven not guilty	518	211	347	123	325	11	11	5	1,551
Total proven guilty	3,223	1,334	5,075	867	1,887	230	166	75	12,857
Guilty verdict	412	187	n.a.	178	n.a.	32	23	18	n.a.
Guilty plea	2,811	1,147	n.a.	689	n.a.	198	143	57	n.a.
Transfer between court levels	24	15	n.a.	217	67	5	—	5	(b)333
Non-adjudicated	548	140	(b)1,133	375	243	66	33	16	(b)2,554
Bench warrant issued	235	19	n.a.	111	77	10	24	1	n.a.
Withdrawn(c)	313	121	1,133	264	166	56	9	15	2,077
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>	<b>4,313</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>(b)6,555</b>	<b>1,582</b>	<b>2,522</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>(b)17,295</b>
— percentage —									
Proven not guilty	12.0	12.4	5.3	7.8	12.9	2.5	5.2	5.0	9.0
Total proven guilty	74.7	78.5	77.4	54.8	74.8	73.7	79.0	74.3	74.3
Guilty verdict	9.6	11.0	n.a.	11.3	n.a.	10.3	11.0	17.8	n.a.
Guilty plea	65.2	67.5	n.a.	43.6	n.a.	63.5	68.1	56.4	n.a.
Transfer between court levels	0.6	0.9	n.a.	13.7	2.7	1.6	—	5.0	(b)1.9
Non-adjudicated	12.7	8.2	(b)17.3	23.7	9.6	21.2	15.7	15.8	(b)14.8
Bench warrant issued	5.4	1.1	n.a.	7.0	3.1	3.2	11.4	1.0	n.a.
Withdrawn(c)	7.3	7.1	17.3	16.7	6.6	17.9	4.3	14.9	12.0
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(b)100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(b)100.0</b>

(a) The distinction between whether a defendant pleaded guilty or was found guilty by a court cannot currently be determined for the Western Australia Intermediate Court.

(b) These totals exclude Queensland defendants finalised by a transfer between court levels and/or by a bench warrant being issued. (c) Withdrawn includes defendants who were withdrawn by the prosecution, died, were unfit to plead or were finalised by some other non-adjudicated method. (d) There is no Intermediate Court in Tasmania, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

## 4

## DEFENDANTS FINALISED: SUMMARY STATISTICS RELATING TO DURATION (WEEKS)

<i>Method of finalisation/Summary statistics (weeks)</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld(a)</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA(b)</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.(a)(b)</i>
<b>SUPREME COURT</b>									
<b>Initiation to Finalisation —</b>									
Proven not guilty									
Mean	68.3	34.2	n.a.	6.3	41.8	15.3	41.9	42.0	n.a.
10th percentile	30.3	9.6	n.a.	0.9	20.1	9.9	25.0	11.6	n.a.
25th percentile	42.3	21.4	n.a.	1.1	31.7	10.1	26.4	21.1	n.a.
Median	58.4	26.0	n.a.	2.6	41.7	13.7	40.1	36.0	n.a.
75th percentile	74.3	32.4	n.a.	8.6	47.4	21.4	60.1	64.6	n.a.
90th percentile	175.0	85.7	n.a.	20.6	61.7	24.2	64.2	76.6	n.a.
Guilty verdict									
Mean	61.5	48.0	n.a.	22.2	35.8	25.7	36.7	40.2	n.a.
10th percentile	33.7	20.3	n.a.	2.9	16.0	5.1	15.4	7.0	n.a.
25th percentile	39.0	26.4	n.a.	5.0	23.0	10.6	24.3	20.3	n.a.
Median	50.7	35.8	n.a.	15.2	36.6	16.1	31.6	39.1	n.a.
75th percentile	65.2	43.7	n.a.	28.4	47.6	24.6	44.8	46.6	n.a.
90th percentile	109.4	127.7	n.a.	58.3	51.4	54.0	62.2	60.1	n.a.
Guilty plea									
Mean	58.8	20.8	n.a.	13.6	17.1	14.3	20.7	29.0	n.a.
10th percentile	26.3	4.3	n.a.	0.6	7.6	4.4	4.3	3.0	n.a.
25th percentile	34.2	14.1	n.a.	3.3	9.6	7.0	8.4	8.3	n.a.
Median	50.2	20.3	n.a.	9.2	12.6	11.2	17.1	16.4	n.a.
75th percentile	60.7	27.0	n.a.	23.3	19.9	16.3	30.3	48.2	n.a.
90th percentile	82.4	33.4	n.a.	29.3	36.3	26.0	39.2	71.7	n.a.
Other finalisation(c)									
Mean	66.5	45.4	n.a.	10.7	26.2	18.0	16.4	39.8	n.a.
10th percentile	25.9	11.0	n.a.	0.4	7.7	5.1	3.9	13.1	n.a.
25th percentile	29.7	14.3	n.a.	1.3	9.1	7.9	6.6	23.3	n.a.
Median	33.8	17.0	n.a.	6.8	15.3	12.9	9.9	34.2	n.a.
75th percentile	82.2	94.4	n.a.	16.1	38.8	17.7	15.7	54.6	n.a.
90th percentile	174.9	94.5	n.a.	20.1	51.6	34.3	29.7	69.2	n.a.
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>									
Mean	62.1	34.0	n.a.	14.0	24.7	16.3	22.9	33.9	n.a.
10th percentile	27.9	9.4	n.a.	0.7	7.9	4.9	4.3	4.3	n.a.
25th percentile	35.4	16.0	n.a.	2.9	10.6	7.4	9.0	12.4	n.a.
Median	50.7	24.6	n.a.	7.8	17.1	12.1	19.9	29.0	n.a.
75th percentile	68.2	37.6	n.a.	19.6	39.0	17.7	31.6	51.2	n.a.
90th percentile	111.2	93.5	n.a.	29.6	48.3	29.1	42.9	70.6	n.a.
<b>--- Initiation to Verdict ---</b>									
Guilty verdict									
Mean	55.7	44.8	n.a.	13.2	34.2	24.7	32.1	36.8	n.a.
10th percentile	30.0	19.9	n.a.	0.7	15.3	5.1	9.1	6.9	n.a.
25th percentile	33.8	23.1	n.a.	1.1	21.3	9.8	15.4	18.1	n.a.
Median	41.3	31.3	n.a.	2.1	34.8	14.9	28.7	35.4	n.a.
75th percentile	62.4	35.2	n.a.	18.3	44.8	23.9	42.3	42.7	n.a.
90th percentile	102.4	127.7	n.a.	51.3	49.1	52.2	55.2	48.3	n.a.
<b>--- Verdict to Finalisation ---</b>									
Guilty verdict									
Mean	5.9	3.4	n.a.	9.1	1.8	1.1	4.8	3.5	n.a.
10th percentile	0.1	0.1	n.a.	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	n.a.
25th percentile	0.3	0.6	n.a.	2.0	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	n.a.
Median	2.1	2.4	n.a.	5.3	0.3	0.9	1.3	1.0	n.a.
75th percentile	10.0	4.9	n.a.	16.9	3.1	1.6	5.3	2.3	n.a.
90th percentile	16.3	9.7	n.a.	24.0	6.0	2.1	18.3	9.0	n.a.

For footnotes see end of table.

<i>Method of finalisation/Summary statistics (weeks)</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld(a)</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA(b)</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.(a)(b)</i>
<b>INTERMEDIATE COURT(d)</b>									
<b>— Initiation to Finalisation —</b>									
Proven not guilty									
Mean	60.5	48.1	n.a.	26.8	46.4	..	..	..	n.a.
10th percentile	18.8	12.1	n.a.	11.4	17.0	..	..	..	n.a.
25th percentile	28.6	20.6	n.a.	19.0	28.3	..	..	..	n.a.
Median	45.6	36.9	n.a.	26.0	43.2	..	..	..	n.a.
75th percentile	78.3	68.2	n.a.	35.2	60.6	..	..	..	n.a.
90th percentile	121.1	111.7	n.a.	41.4	77.3	..	..	..	n.a.
Guilty verdict									
Mean	66.1	50.0	n.a.	38.6	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
10th percentile	24.2	13.9	n.a.	15.7	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
25th percentile	35.7	22.3	n.a.	21.5	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
Median	54.8	38.9	n.a.	29.4	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
75th percentile	84.5	68.7	n.a.	43.3	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
90th percentile	127.2	106.5	n.a.	67.1	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
Guilty plea									
Mean	31.8	32.4	n.a.	18.8	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
10th percentile	9.1	8.3	n.a.	5.0	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
25th percentile	14.1	11.3	n.a.	8.6	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
Median	21.7	17.1	n.a.	15.1	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
75th percentile	36.6	35.6	n.a.	23.7	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
90th percentile	65.4	84.6	n.a.	38.3	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
Other finalisation(c)									
Mean	42.4	50.0	n.a.	19.5	28.6	..	..	..	n.a.
10th percentile	7.1	11.0	n.a.	4.6	6.1	..	..	..	n.a.
25th percentile	14.3	20.1	n.a.	8.0	9.0	..	..	..	n.a.
Median	28.1	36.3	n.a.	15.9	16.0	..	..	..	n.a.
75th percentile	51.4	71.3	n.a.	25.3	40.8	..	..	..	n.a.
90th percentile	93.3	105.1	n.a.	38.1	63.6	..	..	..	n.a.
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>									
Mean	39.8	37.6	n.a.	21.2	28.0	..	..	..	n.a.
10th percentile	9.9	9.0	n.a.	5.0	4.4	..	..	..	n.a.
25th percentile	15.9	12.4	n.a.	9.3	6.9	..	..	..	n.a.
Median	26.4	22.4	n.a.	17.0	15.9	..	..	..	n.a.
75th percentile	49.0	46.8	n.a.	26.9	45.1	..	..	..	n.a.
90th percentile	86.8	97.3	n.a.	41.1	65.8	..	..	..	n.a.
<b>Initiation to Verdict —</b>									
Guilty verdict									
Mean	61.0	47.9	n.a.	33.7	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
10th percentile	20.4	12.4	n.a.	14.3	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
25th percentile	30.4	19.9	n.a.	19.0	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
Median	50.2	35.9	n.a.	25.3	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
75th percentile	75.3	64.1	n.a.	34.9	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
90th percentile	120.3	104.8	n.a.	58.7	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
<b>— Verdict to Finalisation —</b>									
Guilty verdict									
Mean	5.3	2.3	n.a.	5.1	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
10th percentile	0.1	0.1	n.a.	0.1	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
25th percentile	0.3	0.1	n.a.	1.1	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
Median	3.6	0.3	n.a.	3.6	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
75th percentile	7.6	2.1	n.a.	6.5	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
90th percentile	12.7	7.4	n.a.	10.9	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.

For footnotes see end of table.

# 4 DEFENDANTS FINALISED: SUMMARY STATISTICS RELATING TO DURATION (WEEKS) — continued

Method of finalisation/Summary statistics (weeks)	NSW	Vic.	Qld(a)	SA	WA(b)	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)(b)
TOTAL SUPREME AND INTERMEDIATE COURTS(d)									
Initiation to Finalisation —									
Proven not guilty									
Mean	60.8	47.0	n.a.	20.5	45.9	15.3	41.9	42.0	n.a.
10th percentile	19.3	12.1	n.a.	1.3	17.4	9.9	25.0	11.6	n.a.
25th percentile	29.0	20.6	n.a.	5.7	28.6	10.1	26.4	21.1	n.a.
Median	46.3	35.2	n.a.	21.3	43.1	13.7	40.1	36.0	n.a.
75th percentile	77.7	66.3	n.a.	29.3	58.2	21.4	60.1	64.6	n.a.
90th percentile	121.3	111.2	n.a.	40.2	76.4	24.2	64.2	76.6	n.a.
Guilty verdict									
Mean	65.8	49.7	n.a.	32.1	n.a.	25.7	36.7	40.2	n.a.
10th percentile	24.4	14.0	n.a.	4.9	n.a.	5.1	15.4	7.0	n.a.
25th percentile	35.8	22.4	n.a.	15.4	n.a.	10.6	24.3	20.3	n.a.
Median	54.3	38.0	n.a.	25.6	n.a.	16.1	31.6	39.1	n.a.
75th percentile	83.1	62.1	n.a.	41.0	n.a.	24.6	44.8	46.6	n.a.
90th percentile	126.2	106.6	n.a.	63.4	n.a.	54.0	62.2	60.1	n.a.
Guilty plea									
Mean	32.2	32.0	n.a.	18.1	n.a.	14.3	20.7	29.0	n.a.
10th percentile	9.1	8.3	n.a.	4.6	n.a.	4.4	4.3	3.0	n.a.
25th percentile	14.1	11.4	n.a.	8.0	n.a.	7.0	8.4	8.3	n.a.
Median	22.1	17.3	n.a.	14.0	n.a.	11.2	17.1	16.4	n.a.
75th percentile	37.2	35.1	n.a.	23.6	n.a.	16.3	30.3	48.2	n.a.
90th percentile	65.6	83.8	n.a.	36.9	n.a.	26.0	39.2	71.7	n.a.
Other finalisation(c)									
Mean	43.0	49.5	n.a.	18.4	28.1	18.0	16.4	39.8	n.a.
10th percentile	7.1	11.0	n.a.	4.1	6.7	5.1	3.9	13.1	n.a.
25th percentile	14.5	17.1	n.a.	7.0	9.1	7.9	6.6	23.3	n.a.
Median	28.5	35.7	n.a.	15.1	15.8	12.9	9.9	34.2	n.a.
75th percentile	51.8	76.2	n.a.	23.7	39.7	17.7	15.7	54.6	n.a.
90th percentile	94.8	99.2	n.a.	37.6	63.5	34.3	29.7	69.2	n.a.
Total defendants finalised									
Mean	40.3	37.4	n.a.	20.0	27.5	16.3	22.9	33.9	n.a.
10th percentile	10.0	9.0	n.a.	4.1	4.4	4.9	4.3	4.3	n.a.
25th percentile	16.1	12.6	n.a.	7.9	7.4	7.4	9.0	12.4	n.a.
Median	27.0	22.8	n.a.	16.0	16.1	12.1	19.9	29.0	n.a.
75th percentile	50.1	46.3	n.a.	26.0	43.2	17.7	31.6	51.2	n.a.
90th percentile	87.1	94.6	n.a.	40.4	63.6	29.1	42.9	70.6	n.a.
— Initiation to Verdict —									
Guilty verdict									
Mean	60.6	47.4	n.a.	25.6	n.a.	24.7	32.1	36.8	n.a.
10th percentile	21.0	12.4	n.a.	1.1	n.a.	5.1	9.1	6.9	n.a.
25th percentile	31.1	20.6	n.a.	3.4	n.a.	9.8	15.4	18.1	n.a.
Median	49.8	34.3	n.a.	20.1	n.a.	14.9	28.7	35.4	n.a.
75th percentile	74.3	60.3	n.a.	32.2	n.a.	23.9	42.3	42.7	n.a.
90th percentile	119.6	105.8	n.a.	52.7	n.a.	52.2	55.2	48.3	n.a.
— Verdict to Finalisation —									
Guilty verdict									
Mean	5.4	2.4	n.a.	6.7	n.a.	1.1	4.8	3.5	n.a.
10th percentile	0.1	0.1	n.a.	0.1	n.a.	0.1	0.1	0.1	n.a.
25th percentile	0.3	0.1	n.a.	1.3	n.a.	0.3	0.3	0.1	n.a.
Median	3.6	0.4	n.a.	3.9	n.a.	0.9	1.3	1.0	n.a.
75th percentile	7.6	3.0	n.a.	8.7	n.a.	1.6	5.3	2.3	n.a.
90th percentile	12.9	7.7	n.a.	19.7	n.a.	2.1	18.3	9.0	n.a.

(a) Initiation data required for duration calculations are currently not available for Queensland. (b) The distinction between whether a defendant pleaded guilty or was found guilty by a court cannot currently be determined for the Western Australia Intermediate Court. (c) Defendants who were transferred to another level of court or where the charge/s are unadjudicated (e.g. the charge/s are withdrawn by the prosecution, the defendant dies, a bench warrant is issued, the defendant is deemed unfit to plead). (d) There is no Intermediate Court in Tasmania, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

<i>Method of finalisation/Duration (weeks)</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld(a)</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA(b)</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.(a)(b)</i>
SUPREME COURT									
--- number									
Proven not guilty									
Under 13	—	3	n.a.	32	2	5	—	1	n.a.
13 and under 26	1	5	n.a.	4	5	6	2	1	n.a.
26 and under 39	2	5	n.a.	2	4	—	3	1	n.a.
39 and under 52	4	1	n.a.	—	21	—	3	—	n.a.
52 and under 65	3	1	n.a.	—	3	—	2	1	n.a.
65 and under 78	4	—	n.a.	—	1	—	1	1	n.a.
78 and under 91	2	1	n.a.	—	1	—	—	—	n.a.
91 and under 104	—	—	n.a.	—	1	—	—	—	n.a.
104 or more	2	1	n.a.	—	—	—	—	—	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
Guilty verdict									
Under 13	—	1	n.a.	34	5	10	2	2	n.a.
13 and under 26	1	4	n.a.	16	22	15	5	3	n.a.
26 and under 39	5	10	n.a.	6	15	2	9	3	n.a.
39 and under 52	9	5	n.a.	3	30	1	3	8	n.a.
52 and under 65	3	1	n.a.	6	2	2	2	1	n.a.
65 and under 78	3	1	n.a.	3	2	1	1	—	n.a.
78 and under 91	—	—	n.a.	1	1	—	—	—	n.a.
91 and under 104	1	—	n.a.	1	—	—	—	—	n.a.
104 or more	3	3	n.a.	—	1	1	1	1	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
Guilty plea									
Under 13	1	9	n.a.	53	109	117	56	21	n.a.
13 and under 26	3	20	n.a.	21	66	61	42	12	n.a.
26 and under 39	12	9	n.a.	12	17	15	30	7	n.a.
39 and under 52	12	2	n.a.	—	17	3	10	5	n.a.
52 and under 65	10	1	n.a.	—	1	1	3	3	n.a.
65 and under 78	5	—	n.a.	2	1	—	1	5	n.a.
78 and under 91	1	—	n.a.	—	1	—	—	4	n.a.
91 and under 104	—	—	n.a.	—	—	—	—	—	n.a.
104 or more	4	—	n.a.	—	—	1	1	—	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
Other finalisation(b)									
Under 13	1	3	n.a.	46	26	37	20	2	n.a.
13 and under 26	1	7	n.a.	22	13	22	6	4	n.a.
26 and under 39	5	—	n.a.	4	6	5	4	5	n.a.
39 and under 52	1	—	n.a.	—	9	2	1	3	n.a.
52 and under 65	—	1	n.a.	1	—	2	1	2	n.a.
65 and under 78	1	—	n.a.	—	3	2	—	4	n.a.
78 and under 91	1	—	n.a.	1	—	—	—	1	n.a.
91 and under 104	—	6	n.a.	—	—	1	1	—	n.a.
104 or more	3	—	n.a.	—	2	—	—	—	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>									
Under 13	2	16	n.a.	165	142	169	78	26	n.a.
13 and under 26	6	36	n.a.	63	106	104	55	20	n.a.
26 and under 39	24	24	n.a.	24	42	22	46	16	n.a.
39 and under 52	26	8	n.a.	3	77	6	17	16	n.a.
52 and under 65	16	4	n.a.	7	6	5	8	7	n.a.
65 and under 78	13	1	n.a.	5	7	3	3	10	n.a.
78 and under 91	4	1	n.a.	2	3	—	—	5	n.a.
91 and under 104	1	6	n.a.	1	1	1	1	—	n.a.
104 or more	12	4	n.a.	—	3	2	2	1	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>2,139</b>

For footnotes see end of table.



# 5 DEFENDANTS FINALISED: METHOD OF FINALISATION BY DURATION FROM INITIATION TO FINALISATION — continued

Method of finalisation/Duration (weeks)	NSW	Vic.	Qld(a)	SA	WA(b)	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)(b)
SUPREME COURT									
percentage									
Proven not guilty									
Under 13		17.6	n.a.	84.2	5.3	45.5	—	20.0	n.a.
13 and under 26	5.6	29.4	n.a.	10.5	13.2	54.5	18.2	20.0	n.a.
26 and under 39	11.1	29.4	n.a.	5.3	10.5	—	27.3	20.0	n.a.
39 and under 52	22.2	5.9	n.a.	—	55.3	—	27.3	—	n.a.
52 and under 65	16.7	5.9	n.a.	—	7.9	—	18.2	20.0	n.a.
65 and under 78	22.2	—	n.a.	—	2.6	—	9.1	20.0	n.a.
78 and under 91	11.1	5.9	n.a.	—	2.6	—	—	—	n.a.
91 and under 104	—	—	n.a.	—	2.6	—	—	—	n.a.
104 or more	11.1	5.9	n.a.	—	—	—	—	—	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	n.a.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	n.a.
Guilty verdict									
Under 13	—	4.0	n.a.	48.6	6.4	31.3	8.7	11.1	n.a.
13 and under 26	4.0	16.0	n.a.	22.9	28.2	46.9	21.7	16.7	n.a.
26 and under 39	20.0	40.0	n.a.	8.6	19.2	6.3	39.1	16.7	n.a.
39 and under 52	36.0	20.0	n.a.	4.3	38.5	3.1	13.0	44.4	n.a.
52 and under 65	12.0	4.0	n.a.	8.6	2.6	6.3	8.7	5.6	n.a.
65 and under 78	12.0	4.0	n.a.	4.3	2.6	3.1	4.3	—	n.a.
78 and under 91	—	—	n.a.	1.4	1.3	—	—	—	n.a.
91 and under 104	4.0	—	n.a.	1.4	—	—	—	—	n.a.
104 or more	12.0	12.0	n.a.	—	1.3	3.1	4.3	5.6	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	n.a.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	n.a.
Guilty plea									
Under 13	2.1	22.0	n.a.	60.2	51.4	59.1	39.2	36.8	n.a.
13 and under 26	6.3	48.8	n.a.	23.9	31.1	30.8	29.4	21.1	n.a.
26 and under 39	25.0	22.0	n.a.	13.6	8.0	7.6	21.0	12.3	n.a.
39 and under 52	25.0	4.9	n.a.	—	8.0	1.5	7.0	8.8	n.a.
52 and under 65	20.8	2.4	n.a.	—	0.5	0.5	2.1	5.3	n.a.
65 and under 78	10.4	—	n.a.	2.3	0.5	—	0.7	8.8	n.a.
78 and under 91	2.1	—	n.a.	—	0.5	—	—	7.0	n.a.
91 and under 104	—	—	n.a.	—	—	—	—	—	n.a.
104 or more	8.3	—	n.a.	—	—	0.5	0.7	—	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	n.a.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	n.a.
Other finalisation(c)									
Under 13	7.7	17.6	n.a.	62.2	44.1	52.1	60.6	9.5	n.a.
13 and under 26	7.7	41.2	n.a.	29.7	22.0	31.0	18.2	19.0	n.a.
26 and under 39	38.5	—	n.a.	5.4	10.2	7.0	12.1	23.8	n.a.
39 and under 52	7.7	—	n.a.	—	15.3	2.8	3.0	14.3	n.a.
52 and under 65	—	5.9	n.a.	1.4	—	2.8	3.0	9.5	n.a.
65 and under 78	7.7	—	n.a.	—	5.1	2.8	—	19.0	n.a.
78 and under 91	7.7	—	n.a.	1.4	—	—	—	4.8	n.a.
91 and under 104	—	35.3	n.a.	—	—	1.4	3.0	—	n.a.
104 or more	23.1	—	n.a.	—	3.4	—	—	—	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	n.a.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	n.a.
Total defendants finalised									
Under 13	1.9	16.0	n.a.	61.1	36.7	54.2	37.1	25.7	n.a.
13 and under 26	5.8	36.0	n.a.	23.3	27.4	33.3	26.2	19.8	n.a.
26 and under 39	23.1	24.0	n.a.	8.9	10.9	7.1	21.9	15.8	n.a.
39 and under 52	25.0	8.0	n.a.	1.1	19.9	1.9	8.1	15.8	n.a.
52 and under 65	15.4	4.0	n.a.	2.6	1.6	1.6	3.8	6.9	n.a.
65 and under 78	12.5	1.0	n.a.	1.9	1.8	1.0	1.4	9.9	n.a.
78 and under 91	3.8	1.0	n.a.	0.7	0.8	—	—	5.0	n.a.
91 and under 104	1.0	6.0	n.a.	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.5	—	n.a.
104 or more	11.5	4.0	n.a.	—	0.8	0.6	1.0	1.0	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

For footnotes see end of table.

<i>Method of finalisation/Duration (weeks)</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld(a)</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA(b)</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.(a)(b)</i>
INTERMEDIATE COURT(d)									
— number —									
Proven not guilty									
Under 13	20	22	n.a.	9	15	..	..	..	n.a.
13 and under 26	79	40	n.a.	33	42	..	..	..	n.a.
26 and under 39	118	38	n.a.	27	60	..	..	..	n.a.
39 and under 52	60	33	n.a.	13	61	..	..	..	n.a.
52 and under 65	54	9	n.a.	3	49	..	..	..	n.a.
65 and under 78	44	10	n.a.	—	32	..	..	..	n.a.
78 and under 91	31	12	n.a.	—	15	..	..	..	n.a.
91 and under 104	18	5	n.a.	—	6	..	..	..	n.a.
104 or more	76	25	n.a.	—	7	..	..	..	n.a.
<i>Total</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>194</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>85</i>	<i>287</i>	..	..	..	<i>n.a.</i>
Guilty verdict									
Under 13	2	11	n.a.	7	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
13 and under 26	46	42	n.a.	33	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
26 and under 39	69	28	n.a.	34	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
39 and under 52	61	25	n.a.	16	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
52 and under 65	63	15	n.a.	7	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
65 and under 78	37	6	n.a.	2	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
78 and under 91	26	8	n.a.	3	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
91 and under 104	16	8	n.a.	—	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
104 or more	67	19	n.a.	6	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
<i>Total</i>	<i>387</i>	<i>162</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>108</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	..	..	..	<i>n.a.</i>
Guilty plea									
Under 13	580	377	n.a.	259	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
13 and under 26	1,061	341	n.a.	218	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
26 and under 39	492	140	n.a.	65	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
39 and under 52	229	60	n.a.	34	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
52 and under 65	119	39	n.a.	13	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
65 and under 78	79	24	n.a.	6	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
78 and under 91	64	23	n.a.	2	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
91 and under 104	35	33	n.a.	3	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
104 or more	104	69	n.a.	1	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
<i>Total</i>	<i>2,763</i>	<i>1,106</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>601</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	..	..	..	<i>n.a.</i>
Other finalisation(b)									
Under 13	119	23	n.a.	213	101	..	..	..	n.a.
13 and under 26	130	19	n.a.	184	57	..	..	..	n.a.
26 and under 39	113	30	n.a.	73	25	..	..	..	n.a.
39 and under 52	60	13	n.a.	22	27	..	..	..	n.a.
52 and under 65	35	13	n.a.	13	17	..	..	..	n.a.
65 and under 78	16	10	n.a.	6	10	..	..	..	n.a.
78 and under 91	29	9	n.a.	3	3	..	..	..	n.a.
91 and under 104	15	7	n.a.	—	5	..	..	..	n.a.
104 or more	42	14	n.a.	4	6	..	..	..	n.a.
<i>Total</i>	<i>559</i>	<i>138</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>518</i>	<i>251</i>	..	..	..	<i>n.a.</i>
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>									
Under 13	721	433	n.a.	488	961	..	..	..	n.a.
13 and under 26	1,316	442	n.a.	468	310	..	..	..	n.a.
26 and under 39	792	236	n.a.	199	219	..	..	..	n.a.
39 and under 52	410	131	n.a.	85	223	..	..	..	n.a.
52 and under 65	271	76	n.a.	36	192	..	..	..	n.a.
65 and under 78	176	50	n.a.	14	120	..	..	..	n.a.
78 and under 91	150	52	n.a.	8	50	..	..	..	n.a.
91 and under 104	84	53	n.a.	3	31	..	..	..	n.a.
104 or more	289	127	n.a.	11	29	..	..	..	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,289</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>5,900</b>	<b>1,312</b>	<b>2,135</b>	..	..	..	<b>15,156</b>

For footnotes see end of table.

# 5 DEFENDANTS FINALISED: METHOD OF FINALISATION BY DURATION FROM INITIATION TO FINALISATION — continued

Method of finalisation/Duration (weeks)	NSW	Vic.	Qld(a)	SA	WA(b)	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)(b)
INTERMEDIATE COURT(d)									
percentage									
Proven not guilty									
Under 13	4.0	11.3	n.a.	10.6	5.2	..	..	..	n.a.
13 and under 26	15.8	20.6	n.a.	38.8	14.6	..	..	..	n.a.
26 and under 39	23.6	19.6	n.a.	31.8	20.9	..	..	..	n.a.
39 and under 52	12.0	17.0	n.a.	15.3	21.3	..	..	..	n.a.
52 and under 65	10.8	4.6	n.a.	3.5	17.1	..	..	..	n.a.
65 and under 78	8.8	5.2	n.a.	—	11.1	..	..	..	n.a.
78 and under 91	6.2	6.2	n.a.	—	5.2	..	..	..	n.a.
91 and under 104	3.6	2.6	n.a.	—	2.1	..	..	..	n.a.
104 or more	15.2	12.9	n.a.	—	2.4	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	n.a.	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	n.a.
Guilty verdict									
Under 13	0.5	6.8	n.a.	6.5	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
13 and under 26	11.9	25.9	n.a.	30.6	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
26 and under 39	17.8	17.3	n.a.	31.5	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
39 and under 52	15.8	15.4	n.a.	14.8	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
52 and under 65	16.3	9.3	n.a.	6.5	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
65 and under 78	9.6	3.7	n.a.	1.9	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
78 and under 91	6.7	4.9	n.a.	2.8	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
91 and under 104	4.1	4.9	n.a.	—	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
104 or more	17.3	11.7	n.a.	5.6	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	n.a.	100.0	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
Guilty plea									
Under 13	21.0	34.1	n.a.	43.1	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
13 and under 26	38.4	30.8	n.a.	36.3	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
26 and under 39	17.8	12.7	n.a.	10.8	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
39 and under 52	8.3	5.4	n.a.	5.7	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
52 and under 65	4.3	3.5	n.a.	2.2	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
65 and under 78	2.9	2.2	n.a.	1.0	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
78 and under 91	2.3	2.1	n.a.	0.3	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
91 and under 104	1.3	3.0	n.a.	0.5	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
104 or more	3.8	6.2	n.a.	0.2	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	n.a.	100.0	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
Other finalisation(c)									
Under 13	21.3	16.7	n.a.	41.1	40.2	..	..	..	n.a.
13 and under 26	23.3	13.8	n.a.	35.5	22.7	..	..	..	n.a.
26 and under 39	20.2	21.7	n.a.	14.1	10.0	..	..	..	n.a.
39 and under 52	10.7	9.4	n.a.	4.2	10.8	..	..	..	n.a.
52 and under 65	6.3	9.4	n.a.	2.5	6.8	..	..	..	n.a.
65 and under 78	2.9	7.2	n.a.	1.2	4.0	..	..	..	n.a.
78 and under 91	5.2	6.5	n.a.	0.6	1.2	..	..	..	n.a.
91 and under 104	2.7	5.1	n.a.	—	2.0	..	..	..	n.a.
104 or more	7.5	10.1	n.a.	0.8	2.4	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	n.a.	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	n.a.
Total defendants finalised									
Under 13	17.1	27.1	n.a.	37.2	45.0	..	..	..	n.a.
13 and under 26	31.3	27.6	n.a.	35.7	14.5	..	..	..	n.a.
26 and under 39	18.8	14.7	n.a.	15.2	10.3	..	..	..	n.a.
39 and under 52	9.7	8.2	n.a.	6.5	10.4	..	..	..	n.a.
52 and under 65	6.4	4.7	n.a.	2.7	9.0	..	..	..	n.a.
65 and under 78	4.2	3.1	n.a.	1.1	5.6	..	..	..	n.a.
78 and under 91	3.6	3.2	n.a.	0.6	2.3	..	..	..	n.a.
91 and under 104	2.0	3.3	n.a.	0.2	1.5	..	..	..	n.a.
104 or more	6.9	7.9	n.a.	0.8	1.4	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	100.0

For footnotes see end of table.

<i>Method of finalisation/Duration (weeks)</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld(a)</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA(b)</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.(a)(b)</i>
<b>TOTAL SUPREME AND INTERMEDIATE COURTS(d)</b>									
	<b>number</b>								
<b>Proven not guilty</b>									
Under 13	20	25	n.a.	41	17	5	—	1	n.a.
13 and under 26	80	45	n.a.	37	47	6	2	1	n.a.
26 and under 39	120	43	n.a.	29	64	—	3	1	n.a.
39 and under 52	64	34	n.a.	13	82	—	3	—	n.a.
52 and under 65	57	10	n.a.	3	52	—	2	1	n.a.
65 and under 78	48	10	n.a.	—	33	—	1	1	n.a.
78 and under 91	33	13	n.a.	—	16	—	—	—	n.a.
91 and under 104	18	5	n.a.	—	7	—	—	—	n.a.
104 or more	78	26	n.a.	—	7	—	—	—	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
<b>Guilty verdict</b>									
Under 13	2	12	n.a.	41	n.a.	10	2	2	n.a.
13 and under 26	47	46	n.a.	49	n.a.	15	5	3	n.a.
26 and under 39	74	38	n.a.	40	n.a.	2	9	3	n.a.
39 and under 52	70	30	n.a.	19	n.a.	1	3	8	n.a.
52 and under 65	66	16	n.a.	13	n.a.	2	2	1	n.a.
65 and under 78	40	7	n.a.	5	n.a.	1	1	—	n.a.
78 and under 91	26	8	n.a.	4	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
91 and under 104	17	8	n.a.	1	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
104 or more	70	22	n.a.	6	n.a.	1	1	1	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
<b>Guilty plea</b>									
Under 13	581	386	n.a.	312	n.a.	117	56	21	n.a.
13 and under 26	1,064	361	n.a.	239	n.a.	61	42	12	n.a.
26 and under 39	504	149	n.a.	77	n.a.	15	30	7	n.a.
39 and under 52	241	62	n.a.	34	n.a.	3	10	5	n.a.
52 and under 65	129	40	n.a.	13	n.a.	1	3	3	n.a.
65 and under 78	84	24	n.a.	8	n.a.	—	1	5	n.a.
78 and under 91	65	23	n.a.	2	n.a.	—	—	4	n.a.
91 and under 104	35	33	n.a.	3	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
104 or more	108	69	n.a.	1	n.a.	1	1	—	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,811</b>	<b>1,147</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
<b>Other finalisation(b)</b>									
Under 13	120	26	n.a.	259	127	37	20	2	n.a.
13 and under 26	131	26	n.a.	206	70	22	6	4	n.a.
26 and under 39	118	30	n.a.	77	31	5	4	5	n.a.
39 and under 52	61	13	n.a.	22	36	2	1	3	n.a.
52 and under 65	35	14	n.a.	14	17	2	1	2	n.a.
65 and under 78	17	10	n.a.	6	13	2	—	4	n.a.
78 and under 91	30	9	n.a.	4	3	—	—	1	n.a.
91 and under 104	15	13	n.a.	—	5	1	1	—	n.a.
104 or more	45	14	n.a.	4	8	—	—	—	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>									
Under 13	723	449	n.a.	653	1,103	169	78	26	n.a.
13 and under 26	1,322	478	n.a.	531	416	104	55	20	n.a.
26 and under 39	816	260	n.a.	223	261	22	46	16	n.a.
39 and under 52	436	139	n.a.	88	300	6	17	16	n.a.
52 and under 65	287	80	n.a.	43	198	5	8	7	n.a.
65 and under 78	189	51	n.a.	19	127	3	3	10	n.a.
78 and under 91	154	53	n.a.	10	53	—	—	5	n.a.
91 and under 104	85	59	n.a.	4	32	1	1	—	n.a.
104 or more	301	131	n.a.	11	32	2	2	1	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,313</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>6,555</b>	<b>1,582</b>	<b>2,522</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>17,295</b>

For footnotes see end of table.

# 5 DEFENDANTS FINALISED: METHOD OF FINALISATION BY DURATION FROM INITIATION TO FINALISATION — continued

Method of finalisation/Duration (weeks)	NSW	Vic.	Qld(a)	SA	WA(b)	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)(b)
TOTAL SUPREME AND INTERMEDIATE COURTS(d)									
percentage —									
Proven not guilty									
Under 13	3.9	11.8	n.a.	33.3	5.2	45.5	—	20.0	n.a.
13 and under 26	15.4	21.3	n.a.	30.1	14.5	54.5	18.2	20.0	n.a.
26 and under 39	23.2	20.4	n.a.	23.6	19.7	—	27.3	20.0	n.a.
39 and under 52	12.4	16.1	n.a.	10.6	25.2	—	27.3	—	n.a.
52 and under 65	11.0	4.7	n.a.	2.4	16.0	—	18.2	20.0	n.a.
65 and under 78	9.3	4.7	n.a.	—	10.2	—	9.1	20.0	n.a.
78 and under 91	6.4	6.2	n.a.	—	4.9	—	—	—	n.a.
91 and under 104	3.5	2.4	n.a.	—	2.2	—	—	—	n.a.
104 or more	15.1	12.3	n.a.	—	2.2	—	—	—	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	n.a.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	n.a.
Guilty verdict									
Under 13	0.5	6.4	n.a.	23.0	n.a.	31.3	8.7	11.1	n.a.
13 and under 26	11.4	24.6	n.a.	27.5	n.a.	46.9	21.7	16.7	n.a.
26 and under 39	18.0	20.3	n.a.	22.5	n.a.	6.3	39.1	16.7	n.a.
39 and under 52	17.0	16.0	n.a.	10.7	n.a.	3.1	13.0	44.4	n.a.
52 and under 65	16.0	8.6	n.a.	7.3	n.a.	6.3	8.7	5.6	n.a.
65 and under 78	9.7	3.7	n.a.	2.8	n.a.	3.1	4.3	—	n.a.
78 and under 91	6.3	4.3	n.a.	2.2	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
91 and under 104	4.1	4.3	n.a.	0.6	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
104 or more	17.0	11.8	n.a.	3.4	n.a.	3.1	4.3	5.6	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	n.a.	100.0	n.a.	100.0	100.0	100.0	n.a.
Guilty plea									
Under 13	20.7	33.7	n.a.	45.3	n.a.	59.1	39.2	36.8	n.a.
13 and under 26	37.9	31.5	n.a.	34.7	n.a.	30.8	29.4	21.1	n.a.
26 and under 39	17.9	13.0	n.a.	11.2	n.a.	7.6	21.0	12.3	n.a.
39 and under 52	8.6	5.4	n.a.	4.9	n.a.	1.5	7.0	8.8	n.a.
52 and under 65	4.6	3.5	n.a.	1.9	n.a.	0.5	2.1	5.3	n.a.
65 and under 78	3.0	2.1	n.a.	1.2	n.a.	—	0.7	8.8	n.a.
78 and under 91	2.3	2.0	n.a.	0.3	n.a.	—	—	7.0	n.a.
91 and under 104	1.2	2.9	n.a.	0.4	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
104 or more	3.8	6.0	n.a.	0.1	n.a.	0.5	0.7	—	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	n.a.	100.0	n.a.	100.0	100.0	100.0	n.a.
Other finalisation(c)									
Under 13	21.0	16.8	n.a.	43.8	41.0	52.1	60.6	9.5	n.a.
13 and under 26	22.9	16.8	n.a.	34.8	22.6	31.0	18.2	19.0	n.a.
26 and under 39	20.6	19.4	n.a.	13.0	10.0	7.0	12.1	23.8	n.a.
39 and under 52	10.7	8.4	n.a.	3.7	11.6	2.8	3.0	14.3	n.a.
52 and under 65	6.1	9.0	n.a.	2.4	5.5	2.8	3.0	9.5	n.a.
65 and under 78	3.0	6.5	n.a.	1.0	4.2	2.8	—	19.0	n.a.
78 and under 91	5.2	5.8	n.a.	0.7	1.0	—	—	4.8	n.a.
91 and under 104	2.6	8.4	n.a.	—	1.6	1.4	3.0	—	n.a.
104 or more	7.9	9.0	n.a.	0.7	2.6	—	—	—	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	n.a.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	n.a.
Total defendants finalised									
Under 13	16.8	26.4	n.a.	41.3	43.7	54.2	37.1	25.7	n.a.
13 and under 26	30.7	28.1	n.a.	33.6	16.5	33.3	26.2	19.8	n.a.
26 and under 39	18.9	15.3	n.a.	14.1	10.3	7.1	21.9	15.8	n.a.
39 and under 52	10.1	8.2	n.a.	5.6	11.9	1.9	8.1	15.8	n.a.
52 and under 65	6.7	4.7	n.a.	2.7	7.9	1.6	3.8	6.9	n.a.
65 and under 78	4.4	3.0	n.a.	1.2	5.0	1.0	1.4	9.9	n.a.
78 and under 91	3.6	3.1	n.a.	0.6	2.1	—	—	5.0	n.a.
91 and under 104	2.0	3.5	n.a.	0.3	1.3	0.3	0.5	—	n.a.
104 or more	7.0	7.7	n.a.	0.7	1.3	0.6	1.0	1.0	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Initiation data required for duration calculations are currently not available for Queensland. (b) The distinction between whether a defendant pleaded guilty or was found guilty by a court cannot currently be determined for the Western Australia Intermediate Court. (c) Defendants who were transferred to another level of court or where the charge/s are unadjudicated (e.g. the charge/s are withdrawn by the prosecution, the defendant dies, a bench warrant is issued, the defendant is deemed unfit to plead). (d) There is no Intermediate Court in Tasmania, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

<i>Duration (weeks)</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld(a)</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA(b)</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.(a)(b)</i>
SUPREME COURT									
	number ---								
Under 13		1	n.a.	50	6	10	4	4	n.a.
13 and under 26	1	7	n.a.	6	23	15	6	1	n.a.
26 and under 39	11	11	n.a.	7	19	2	7	5	n.a.
39 and under 52	5	1	n.a.	---	25	1	3	7	n.a.
52 and under 65	2	1	n.a.	2	1	2	2	---	n.a.
65 and under 78	3	1	n.a.	4	2	1	---	---	n.a.
78 and under 91	---	---	n.a.	1	1	---	---	---	n.a.
91 and under 104	1	---	n.a.	---	---	---	---	---	n.a.
104 or more	2	3	n.a.	---	1	1	1	1	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>355</b>
	--- percentage ---								
Under 13		4.0	n.a.	71.4	7.7	31.3	17.4	22.2	n.a.
13 and under 26	4.0	28.0	n.a.	8.6	29.5	46.9	26.1	5.6	n.a.
26 and under 39	44.0	44.0	n.a.	10.0	24.4	6.3	30.4	27.8	n.a.
39 and under 52	20.0	4.0	n.a.	---	32.1	3.1	13.0	38.9	n.a.
52 and under 65	8.0	4.0	n.a.	2.9	1.3	6.3	8.7	---	n.a.
65 and under 78	12.0	4.0	n.a.	5.7	2.6	3.1	---	---	n.a.
78 and under 91	---	---	n.a.	1.4	1.3	---	---	---	n.a.
91 and under 104	4.0	---	n.a.	---	---	---	---	---	n.a.
104 or more	8.0	12.0	n.a.	---	1.3	3.1	4.3	5.6	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
INTERMEDIATE COURT(c)									
	--- number ---								
Under 13	7	21	n.a.	8	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
13 and under 26	62	35	n.a.	50	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
26 and under 39	76	30	n.a.	31	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
39 and under 52	58	29	n.a.	7	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
52 and under 65	55	7	n.a.	3	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
65 and under 78	38	8	n.a.	1	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
78 and under 91	17	5	n.a.	2	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
91 and under 104	16	9	n.a.	---	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
104 or more	58	18	n.a.	6	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
	--- percentage ---								
Under 13	1.8	13.0	n.a.	7.4	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
13 and under 26	16.0	21.6	n.a.	46.3	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
26 and under 39	19.6	18.5	n.a.	28.7	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
39 and under 52	15.0	17.9	n.a.	6.5	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
52 and under 65	14.2	4.3	n.a.	2.8	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
65 and under 78	9.8	4.9	n.a.	0.9	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
78 and under 91	4.4	3.1	n.a.	1.9	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
91 and under 104	4.1	5.6	n.a.	---	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
104 or more	15.0	11.1	n.a.	5.6	n.a.	..	..	..	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>n.a.</b>

For footnotes see end of table.

## 6

DEFENDANTS FINALISED BY A GUILTY VERDICT: DURATION FROM INITIATION TO VERDICT — *continued*

<i>Duration (weeks)</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld(a)</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA(b)</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.(a)(b)</i>
TOTAL SUPREME AND INTERMEDIATE COURTS(c)									
— number —									
Under 13	7	22	n.a.	58	n.a.	10	4	4	n.a.
13 and under 26	63	42	n.a.	56	n.a.	15	6	3	n.a.
26 and under 39	87	41	n.a.	38	n.a.	2	7	5	n.a.
39 and under 52	63	20	n.a.	7	n.a.	1	3	7	n.a.
52 and under 65	57	8	n.a.	5	n.a.	2	2	—	n.a.
65 and under 78	41	9	n.a.	5	n.a.	1	—	—	n.a.
78 and under 91	17	5	n.a.	3	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
91 and under 104	17	9	n.a.	—	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
104 or more	60	21	n.a.	6	n.a.	1	1	1	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
— percentage —									
Under 13	1.7	11.8	n.a.	32.6	n.a.	31.3	17.4	22.2	n.a.
13 and under 26	15.3	22.5	n.a.	31.5	n.a.	46.9	26.1	5.6	n.a.
26 and under 39	21.1	21.9	n.a.	21.3	n.a.	6.3	30.4	27.8	n.a.
39 and under 52	15.3	16.0	n.a.	3.9	n.a.	3.1	13.0	38.9	n.a.
52 and under 65	13.8	4.3	n.a.	2.8	n.a.	6.3	8.7	—	n.a.
65 and under 78	10.0	4.8	n.a.	2.8	n.a.	3.1	—	—	n.a.
78 and under 91	4.1	2.7	n.a.	1.7	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
91 and under 104	4.1	4.8	n.a.	—	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
104 or more	14.6	11.2	n.a.	3.4	n.a.	3.1	4.3	5.6	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>n.a.</b>

(a) Initiation data required for duration calculations are currently not available for Queensland. (b) The distinction between whether a defendant pleaded guilty or was found guilty by a court cannot currently be determined for the Western Australia Intermediate Court. (c) There is no Intermediate Court in Tasmania, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

# 7 DEFENDANTS FINALISED BY A GUILTY VERDICT: DURATION FROM VERDICT TO FINALISATION

<i>Duration (weeks)</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld(a)</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA(b)</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.(a)(b)</i>
SUPREME COURT									
— number —									
Under 1	8	10	n.a.	9	49	18	11	9	n.a.
1 and under 2	4	2	n.a.	7	6	9	4	4	n.a.
2 and under 3	1	2	n.a.	9	3	3	1	1	n.a.
3 and under 4	1	1	n.a.	4	6	1	1	—	n.a.
4 and under 5	—	4	n.a.	2	3	—	—	—	n.a.
5 and under 6	1	—	n.a.	6	3	—	1	—	n.a.
6 and under 7	1	—	n.a.	3	4	—	—	1	n.a.
7 and under 8	1	3	n.a.	4	—	1	—	—	n.a.
8 and under 9	1	—	n.a.	2	2	—	—	1	n.a.
9 and under 10	—	1	n.a.	—	1	—	1	1	n.a.
10 and under 11	3	2	n.a.	1	—	—	—	—	n.a.
11 and under 12	—	—	n.a.	1	—	—	—	—	n.a.
12 or more	4	—	n.a.	22	1	—	4	1	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>335</b>
— percentage —									
Under 1	32.0	40.0	n.a.	12.9	62.8	56.3	47.8	50.0	n.a.
1 and under 2	16.0	8.0	n.a.	10.0	7.7	28.1	17.4	22.2	n.a.
2 and under 3	4.0	8.0	n.a.	12.9	3.8	9.4	4.3	5.6	n.a.
3 and under 4	4.0	4.0	n.a.	5.7	7.7	3.1	4.3	—	n.a.
4 and under 5	—	16.0	n.a.	2.9	3.8	—	—	—	n.a.
5 and under 6	4.0	—	n.a.	8.6	3.8	—	4.3	—	n.a.
6 and under 7	4.0	—	n.a.	4.3	5.1	—	—	5.6	n.a.
7 and under 8	4.0	12.0	n.a.	5.7	—	3.1	—	—	n.a.
8 and under 9	4.0	—	n.a.	2.9	2.6	—	—	5.6	n.a.
9 and under 10	—	4.0	n.a.	—	1.3	—	4.3	5.6	n.a.
10 and under 11	12.0	8.0	n.a.	1.4	—	—	—	—	n.a.
11 and under 12	—	—	n.a.	1.4	—	—	—	—	n.a.
12 or more	16.0	—	n.a.	31.4	1.3	—	17.4	5.6	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
INTERMEDIATE COURT(c)									
— number —									
Under 1	135	101	n.a.	23	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
1 and under 2	26	19	n.a.	15	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
2 and under 3	18	6	n.a.	10	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
3 and under 4	21	2	n.a.	12	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
4 and under 5	19	3	n.a.	7	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
5 and under 6	21	7	n.a.	6	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
6 and under 7	24	4	n.a.	9	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
7 and under 8	36	5	n.a.	4	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
8 and under 9	9	5	n.a.	4	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
9 and under 10	13	—	n.a.	5	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
10 and under 11	10	2	n.a.	3	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
11 and under 12	7	3	n.a.	3	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
12 or more	48	5	n.a.	7	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
— percentage —									
Under 1	34.9	62.3	n.a.	21.3	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
1 and under 2	6.7	11.7	n.a.	13.9	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
2 and under 3	4.7	3.7	n.a.	9.3	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
3 and under 4	5.4	1.2	n.a.	11.1	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
4 and under 5	4.9	1.9	n.a.	6.5	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
5 and under 6	5.4	4.3	n.a.	5.6	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
6 and under 7	6.2	2.5	n.a.	8.3	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
7 and under 8	9.3	3.1	n.a.	3.7	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
8 and under 9	2.3	3.1	n.a.	3.7	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
9 and under 10	3.4	—	n.a.	4.6	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
10 and under 11	2.6	1.2	n.a.	2.8	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
11 and under 12	1.8	1.9	n.a.	2.8	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
12 or more	12.4	3.1	n.a.	6.5	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>n.a.</b>

For footnotes see end of table.



<i>Duration (weeks)</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld(a)</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA(b)</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.(a)(b)</i>
TOTAL SUPREME AND INTERMEDIATE COURTS(c)									
— number —									
Under 1	143	111	n.a.	32	n.a.	18	11	9	n.a.
1 and under 2	30	21	n.a.	22	n.a.	9	4	4	n.a.
2 and under 3	19	8	n.a.	19	n.a.	3	1	1	n.a.
3 and under 4	22	3	n.a.	16	n.a.	1	1	—	n.a.
4 and under 5	19	7	n.a.	9	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
5 and under 6	22	7	n.a.	12	n.a.	—	1	—	n.a.
6 and under 7	25	4	n.a.	12	n.a.	—	—	1	n.a.
7 and under 8	37	8	n.a.	8	n.a.	1	—	—	n.a.
8 and under 9	10	5	n.a.	6	n.a.	—	—	1	n.a.
9 and under 10	13	1	n.a.	5	n.a.	—	1	1	n.a.
10 and under 11	13	4	n.a.	4	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
11 and under 12	7	3	n.a.	4	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
12 or more	52	5	n.a.	29	n.a.	—	4	1	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
— percentage —									
Under 1	34.7	59.4	n.a.	18.0	n.a.	56.3	47.8	50.0	n.a.
1 and under 2	7.3	11.2	n.a.	12.4	n.a.	28.1	17.4	22.2	n.a.
2 and under 3	4.6	4.3	n.a.	10.7	n.a.	9.4	4.3	5.6	n.a.
3 and under 4	5.3	1.6	n.a.	9.0	n.a.	3.1	4.3	—	n.a.
4 and under 5	4.6	3.7	n.a.	5.1	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
5 and under 6	5.3	3.7	n.a.	6.7	n.a.	—	4.3	—	n.a.
6 and under 7	6.1	2.1	n.a.	6.7	n.a.	—	—	5.6	n.a.
7 and under 8	9.0	4.3	n.a.	4.5	n.a.	3.1	—	—	n.a.
8 and under 9	2.4	2.7	n.a.	3.4	n.a.	—	—	5.6	n.a.
9 and under 10	3.2	0.5	n.a.	2.8	n.a.	—	4.3	5.6	n.a.
10 and under 11	3.2	2.1	n.a.	2.2	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
11 and under 12	1.7	1.6	n.a.	2.2	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.
12 or more	12.6	2.7	n.a.	16.3	n.a.	—	17.4	5.6	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>n.a.</b>

(a) Initiation data required for duration calculations are currently not available for Queensland. (b) The distinction between whether a defendant pleaded guilty or was found guilty by a court cannot currently be determined for the Western Australia Intermediate Court. (c) There is no Intermediate Court in Tasmania, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

**1** The Australian Criminal Courts collection presents information relating to the criminal jurisdiction of the courts in each State and Territory of Australia. The criminal jurisdiction of the courts is responsible for the trial and sentencing of persons or corporations charged with criminal offences.

**2** The aim of the collection is to provide criminal court statistics for the States and Territories that have been compiled on a consistent basis. The data presented provide indicators of the volume and flow of criminal matters through the courts and provide a basis for measuring changes over time.

**3** In order to ensure consistency between the States and Territories, the statistics have been compiled according to national standards. These have been developed by the ABS in collaboration with the State and Territory agencies responsible for courts administration, an Advisory Group of expert users and a Board of Management.

**4** The definitions and counting rules used to compile national criminal courts statistics may vary from those used to compile individual State/Territory statistics. Hence, the statistics presented in this publication may be different from those published in individual States and Territories.

**5** Due to the high degree of conceptual complexity in the operation of the court systems in Australia and the variation in the capacity of the States and Territories to supply statistical information, a staged approach has been adopted to the development and production of the Australian Criminal Courts collection.

**6** The first stage of the collection is presented in this publication. This relates to criminal cases heard in the Supreme and Intermediate Courts and encompasses the original jurisdiction only i.e. excluding appeal cases. The collection includes information on the number of defendants pending, initiated and finalised in each State and Territory.

**7** The second stage will expand the dataset to include information on offences, penalties for proven charges, defendant characteristics and additional case processing details.

**8** Later stages in the development of the Australian Criminal Courts collection will involve expanding the scope to include the appellate jurisdiction of the courts. The collection will also be extended to include other court levels.

### DATA SOURCE

**9** National statistics are derived from unit record data provided by the State and Territory agencies responsible for courts administration. The NCCSU receives the data directly from these agencies in all States/Territories except for Queensland where it is supplied via the Government Statistician's Office.

## SCOPE

**10** The scope of this publication consists of all defendants active in the original jurisdiction of the Supreme and Intermediate Courts in Australia during the reference period. Within a given reference period, the total population of cases active in a particular court level consists of those that are pending at the start of the reference period together with those that are initiated during the reference period. (Finalised cases are a subset of the population of active cases.)

**11** The collection excludes cases heard in the criminal jurisdiction of the courts which do not require the adjudication of charges e.g. bail reviews and interlocutory matters. Also excluded are breach of bond cases and transfers (other than committals) from the lower court e.g. summary charges transferred to the higher court to be sentenced with existing offences.

**12** The scope of the data collected in Queensland is restricted to the population of finalised defendants. Figures for the number of defendants pending and initiated are currently not available. Total figures for defendants finalised have been included for Australia and Queensland, however, it should be noted that these exclude Queensland defendants finalised by a transfer to another court level and Queensland defendants finalised by the issue of a bench warrant.

**13** Stage 1 of the Australian Criminal Courts collection primarily focuses on presenting caseload information in terms of monthly figures for the number of defendants pending, initiated and finalised within the Supreme and Intermediate Courts during the reference period. In order to present this information, for all cases which enter each of these higher court levels, a range of details (i.e. date of committal, plea at committal, date of registration, method of initiation) are collected. When a case exits a particular level of court, details of finalisation (i.e. date of verdict, date of finalisation, method of finalisation, final plea) are also obtained.

## REFERENCE PERIOD

**14** This publication relates to criminal cases that were active at any time during the reference period 1 January 1995 to 31 December 1995.

## COUNTING UNITS

**15** Statistics on criminal cases are reported separately for each distinct level of court. The principle counting unit for the collection is the defendant (see Glossary).

## CLASSIFICATIONS

**16** The national classifications used for Stage 1 of the Australian Criminal Courts collection are:

- Method of initiation (see Appendix A); and
- Method of finalisation (see Appendix B).

## CLASSIFICATIONS *continued*

**17** These classifications provide a framework for classifying criminal court information for statistical purposes and ensuring that data are compiled on a consistent basis across the States and Territories of Australia. The classifications are hierarchical and allow for different levels of detail to be captured depending on the level of detail in the source information. For Stage 1 of the collection, information is only available at the broad level of detail for both method of initiation and method of finalisation. Associated with each classification are coding rules (see Counting Methodology) which ensure that the counting of information is consistent across the States and Territories of Australia.

## COUNTING METHODOLOGY

### Method of initiation

**18** Method of initiation describes how a criminal charge was introduced to a court level (see Glossary). For the purposes of the Australian Criminal Courts collection only one method of initiation code is applied to each defendant in a particular court level. The following outlines the rules for counting method of initiation for a defendant:

- Where there is only one charge, the method of initiation code for the defendant is the same as the method of initiation code for that charge.
- Where there are multiple charges and these all have the same method of initiation code, the method of initiation code for the defendant is the same as that shared by the multiple charges.
- Where there are multiple charges which have different method of initiation codes, the method of initiation code for the defendant is determined by applying the following order of precedence:

bench warrant executed  
committed for trial  
transfer from court of summary jurisdiction to Intermediate Court or  
Supreme Court n.f.d.  
committed for sentence  
transfer from court of summary jurisdiction to Intermediate Court or  
Supreme Court n.e.c.  
ex-officio indictment of charges to higher court for trial  
ex-officio indictment of charges to higher court n.f.d.  
ex-officio indictment of charges to higher court for sentence  
other transfer between court levels.

### Date of initiation

**19** For defendants who were committed for trial or sentence from a court of summary jurisdiction, the date of committal is used as the date of initiation. For defendants who have any other method of initiation e.g. ex-officio, bench warrant executed or transfer n.e.c., the date of registration for that court level is used as the date of initiation.

## Plea

**20** Plea describes a defendant's formal response to a specific charge (see Glossary). A defendant's plea for a charge is entered during a court hearing and may change over time during the course of criminal proceedings. If a defendant has multiple charges, they may have different pleas for these charges. The collection presents an aggregated plea for the defendant for the charges laid against him/her. This means that only one plea code may be applied to each defendant in a particular court level in relation to any point in time. The following outlines the rules for counting plea for a defendant:

- Where the plea to all charges is guilty, the plea for the defendant is guilty.
- Where the plea to one or more charges includes not guilty, no plea, plea reserved, or other defended plea, the plea for the defendant is not guilty.

**21** Stage 1 of the Australian Criminal Courts collection uses plea information at two points in time — committal plea (i.e. the plea at the end of committal proceedings in a court of summary jurisdiction) and final plea (i.e. the last plea to be entered in a higher court level). Committal plea is used to determine whether a defendant had been committed for trial or committed for sentence. Final plea is used to determine whether a defendant's charges were proven through a guilty finding by the court or a guilty plea by the defendant.

## Method of finalisation

**22** Method of finalisation describes how a criminal charge exits a court level (see Glossary). For the purposes of the Australian Criminal Courts collection only one method of finalisation code is applied to each defendant in a particular court level. The following outlines the rules for counting method of finalisation for a defendant:

- Where the method of finalisation for the defendant is:  
accused deceased  
bench warrant issued  
unfit to plead, or  
not guilty on grounds of insanity  
  
the method of finalisation code for the defendant is that particular category. Note: it is impossible to have a combination of these categories.
- Where there is only one charge, the method of finalisation code for the defendant is the same as the method of finalisation code for that charge.
- Where there are multiple charges and these all have the same method of finalisation code, the method of finalisation code for the defendant is the same as that shared by the multiple charges.

#### Method of finalisation *continued*

- Where there are multiple charges which have different method of finalisation codes, the method of finalisation code for the defendant is determined by applying the following order of precedence:

guilty finding by court  
charge proven n.f.d.  
guilty plea by defendant  
acquitted by court  
charge unproven n.f.d.  
charge unproven n.e.c.  
transfer from Intermediate Court or Supreme Court to court of summary jurisdiction  
transfer from Intermediate Court to Supreme Court for trial  
transfer from Supreme Court to Intermediate Court for trial  
transfer from Intermediate Court to Supreme Court for sentence  
transfer from Supreme Court to Intermediate Court for sentence  
transfer between court levels n.e.c.  
withdrawn by prosecution  
non-adjudicated finalisation.

#### Date of finalisation

**23** For a defendant, the date of finalisation corresponds to the date when the last charge was finalised.

#### Date of verdict

**24** For a defendant, the date of verdict corresponds to the latest date of verdict for the charges for that defendant.

#### Merging counting units

**25** Where the same person/corporation is a defendant in more than one case and these defendants are finalised on the same date, in the same court level and in the same court location, national counting rules are applied to merge the defendants into a single case. However, merging of defendants will only occur where at least two of the following conditions are also met:

- The defendants have the same date of initiation.
- The defendants have the same method of initiation.
- The defendants have the same method of finalisation.

If one of these three conditions varies, the following coding rules apply:

- Where the date of initiation varies, the earliest date is retained.
- Where the method of initiation varies, the order of precedence rules for coding method of initiation are applied (see paragraph 17).
- Where the method of finalisation varies, the order of precedence rules for coding method of finalisation are applied (see paragraph 21).

**26** The merging of defendants will result in retrospective adjustments to the counts of defendants initiated, pending and finalised. For any given merger, at least one defendant record ceases to exist in each of the defendant populations being counted.

## DATA COMPARABILITY

**27** The merging of defendants (see Counting Methodology) may impact on the comparison of pending figures from one reference period to the next. Where the defendants merged were initiated in one reference period and finalised in the next reference period, the number of pending defendants at the end of the first period (which will include the multiple defendants later merged into one) will be higher than the number of defendants pending at the start of the next period (where only each single 'merged' defendant is counted).

**28** The Australian Criminal Courts collection has been compiled in order to facilitate comparability of statistics across the States and Territories. Although State/Territory differences have been mainly overcome through the introduction of national standards, legislative and processing differences inevitably remain. Therefore, differences in the criminal court statistics do not necessarily imply differences in the efficiency of State/Territory courts (see Appendix C).

**29** In compiling these statistics, the ABS has employed a variety of measures to ensure that the statistics are as reliable as possible. A range of edit checks are applied in order to identify any data that needs to be queried. Erroneous data detected by the NCCSU has been corrected after consultation with the relevant State or Territory contact. The final data has also been checked against other available data sources e.g. State and Territory court statistics and annual reports by the court administration agencies and the Director of Public Prosecutions.

**30** As the Australian Criminal Courts collection continues to evolve, the data quality control checks currently in place and the processing systems of the States and Territories will continue to be reviewed and modified.

## RATES

**31** Defendant rates enable comparisons of criminal court workload across States and Territories. Defendant rates are expressed per 100,000 population aged 17 years and over.

**32** For the purposes of this publication the population figures used in the calculation of rates are for the mean Estimated Resident Population aged 17 years and over.

**33** The Supreme and Intermediate Courts in Australia generally deal with adult defendants aged 17 or 18 years and over (depending on the State or Territory). Defendants under 17–18 years of age are generally dealt with in a Juvenile or Children's Court.

**34** All estimates and projections for Australia exclude the external Territories, Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

## RELATED PUBLICATIONS

### ABS publications

**35** ABS publications which may be of interest include:

*A Guide to Australian Social Statistics* (Cat. no. 4160.0)  
*Australian Demographic Statistics* (Cat. no. 3101.0)  
*Australian National Classification of Offences (ANCO)* (Cat. no. 1234.0)  
*Australian Social Trends* (Cat. no. 4102.0)  
*Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC)* (Cat. no. 1234.0)  
(expected to be released late 1997)  
*Crime and Safety, Australia* (Cat. no. 4509.0)  
*Crime and Safety, New South Wales* (Cat. no. 4509.1)  
*Crime and Safety, South Australia* (Cat. no. 4509.4)  
*Crime and Safety, Victoria* (Cat. no. 4509.2)  
*Crime and Safety, Western Australia* (Cat. no. 4509.5)  
*Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age, States and Territories of Australia* (Cat. no. 3201.0)  
*Information Paper: National Crime Statistics* (Cat. no. 4511.0)  
*National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey: Detailed Findings*  
(Cat. no. 4190.0)  
*Occasional Paper: Review of Social and Labour Statistics — Crime*  
(Cat. no. 4164.0)  
*Occasional Paper: Review of Social and Labour Statistics — Criminal Justice* (Cat. no. 4170.0)  
*Recorded Crime, Australia* (Cat. no. 4510.0)

**36** Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (Cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (Cat. no. 1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office.

**37** The National Correctional Services Statistics Unit within the ABS prepares two reports for the Corrective Services Ministers' Council: *Prisoners In Australia* and *National Correctional Statistics: Prisons*. These publications are available from any ABS office.

### Non-ABS publications

**38** Non-ABS sources which may be of interest include:

Crime Research Centre, University of Western Australia 1992, *Crime and Justice Statistics for Western Australia: 1992*, The University of Western Australia, Nedlands  
Criminal Justice Commission, Queensland 1991, *Crime and Justice in Queensland*, Goprint, Brisbane  
Department of Justice, Tasmania 1994, *Annual Report*, Government Printer, Tasmania  
Department of Justice, Victoria 1994, *Sentencing Statistics for Higher Criminal Courts Victoria 1994*, Department of Justice, Victoria



Non-ABS publications *continued*

- Department of Justice, Victoria 1995, *Elapsed Times for Higher Criminal Courts 1994-1995*, Department of Justice, Melbourne
- NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research 1992, *Aspects of Demand for District Criminal Court Time*, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Sydney
- NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research 1993, *A Computer Simulation Model of the District Criminal Court of New South Wales*, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Sydney
- NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research 1994, *New South Wales Criminal Courts Statistics*, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Sydney
- NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research 1995, *Key Trends in Crime and Justice New South Wales*, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Sydney
- Office of Crime Statistics, South Australia 1995, *Crime and Justice in South Australia 1994*, South Australian Attorney-General's Department, Adelaide
- South Australia Courts Administration Authority 1996, *1995/96 Annual Report*, South Australia Courts Administration Authority, Adelaide
- Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision 1997, *Report on Government Service Provision*, Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision, Melbourne

## **APPENDIX A            METHOD OF INITIATION CLASSIFICATION**

### **1        DIRECT LAYING OF CHARGES**

- 10    Direct laying of charges n.f.d.
- 11    Charges laid before court of summary jurisdiction
- 12    Ex-officio indictment of charges to higher court
  - 121   Ex-officio indictment of charges to higher court for trial
  - 122   Ex-officio indictment of charges to higher court for sentence

### **2        TRANSFER OF CHARGES BETWEEN COURT LEVELS**

- 20    Transfer of charges between court levels n.f.d.
- 21    Transfer from court of summary jurisdiction to Intermediate Court or Supreme Court
  - 211   Committed for trial
  - 212   Committed for sentence
  - 219   Transfer from court of summary jurisdiction to Intermediate Court or Supreme Court n.e.c.
- 29    Other transfer between court levels

### **3        RE-REGISTRATION OF CRIMINAL CHARGES**

- 30    Re-registration of criminal charges n.f.d.
- 31    Bench warrant executed
- 39    Other re-registration of criminal charges

### **9        METHOD OF INITIATION UNKNOWN/NOT STATED**

## **APPENDIX B**

## **METHOD OF FINALISATION CLASSIFICATION**

### **1 ADJUDICATED FINALISATION**

- 10 Adjudicated finalisation n.f.d.
- 11 Charge proven
  - 111 Guilty finding by court
  - 112 Guilty plea by defendant
- 12 Charge unproven
  - 121 Acquitted by court
  - 122 Not guilty on grounds of insanity
  - 123 No case to answer at committal
  - 129 Charge unproven n.e.c.

### **2 FINALISATION BY TRANSFER BETWEEN COURT LEVELS**

- 20 Finalisation by transfer between court levels n.f.d.
- 21 Transfer from court of summary jurisdiction to Intermediate Court or Supreme Court
  - 211 Committed for trial
  - 212 Committed for sentence
  - 219 Transfer from court of summary jurisdiction to Intermediate Court or Supreme Court n.e.c.
- 22 Transfer from Intermediate Court or Supreme Court to a court of summary jurisdiction
- 23 Transfer from Intermediate Court to Supreme Court
  - 231 Transfer from Intermediate Court to Supreme Court for trial
  - 232 Transfer from Intermediate Court to Supreme Court for sentence
  - 239 Transfer from Intermediate Court to Supreme Court n.e.c.
- 24 Transfer from Supreme Court to Intermediate Court
  - 241 Transfer from Supreme Court to Intermediate Court for trial
  - 242 Transfer from Supreme Court to Intermediate Court for sentence
  - 249 Transfer from Supreme Court to Intermediate Court n.e.c.
- 29 Other transfer between court levels

### **3 NON-ADJUDICATED FINALISATION**

- 30 Non-adjudicated finalisation n.f.d.
- 31 Accused deceased
- 32 Bench warrant issued
- 33 Unfit to plead
- 34 Withdrawn by prosecution
- 39 Other non-adjudicated finalisation

### **9 METHOD OF FINALISATION UNKNOWN/NOT STATED**

## APPENDIX C

### INFORMATION PAPER: SOME PROCEDURAL AND STRUCTURAL SOURCES OF VARIABILITY IN AUSTRALIAN CRIMINAL COURTS STATISTICS

#### INTRODUCTION

The Australian Criminal Courts collection provides information on criminal court workloads in each of the States and Territories of Australia.

The first stage of the Australian Criminal Courts collection provides information on defendants initiated and finalised in the higher courts in each State and Territory and the pending caseload of defendants still awaiting to be heard. Information is presented on cases heard in the original jurisdiction of the courts — appeal cases are excluded. Those defendants pleading not guilty at committal and intending to proceed to trial are distinguished from those pleading guilty and whose cases will be resolved by a sentence hearing. Information is provided on processing times for defendants, disaggregated on the basis of the method by which the case was finalised. The components of the Australian Criminal Courts collection are described in detail in the Explanatory Notes and Glossary.

The collection is intended to provide broad indicators of case throughput in different States and Territories. When combined with resource and financial information, the data from the collection can provide useful performance indicators. As the collection is intended to be used for comparative purposes, it is essential that users of the data are aware of differences in court structure and procedures across States and Territories as these may account for some of the variation in the data especially in relation to case input and processing rates. (Note: The term 'States' will be used within this Appendix to refer collectively to the States and Territories of Australia.)

This Appendix outlines State differences in procedure or court structure which may give rise to variability in Australian criminal court statistics. More specifically, it describes those procedural and structural factors that affect the level of demand for court services and the supply of court services.

Discussion of differences in procedure is limited to those which are specified in legislation, Rules of Court or some other written form, and which are intended to influence some aspect of criminal case throughput. Some aspects of court or administrative procedure which may differ between the States are thus not considered. The interested reader should consult the various practice and procedure manuals available for the different States for a more comprehensive treatment of such differences.

## DEMAND FOR COURT SERVICES

The demand for court services is determined by the backlog of cases required to be heard, together with the rate at which new work enters the court system and the time taken to process this work. The number of new or re-presented matters entering the court in a particular period is referred to as the case input rate. The time required to process matters from initiation to finalisation is referred to as the case processing time. The level of demand is influenced by factors both within and outside the control of government and court administrators. Some factors influence the way demand is distributed across different levels of court.

### Factors affecting case input rates to the court system

#### *Crime rates and law enforcement activity*

The fundamental 'natural' determinant of demand is the level of crime in the community. This level of offending is the result of a variety of demographic and social factors and is typically fairly stable over time within any State. Crime prevention strategies, to the extent that they are successful, may reduce particular types of offence, or reduce offending generally. Crime prevention activity manages demand on the criminal justice system by directly influencing the 'natural' rate of offending. There are, however, many mediating influences within the control of the criminal justice system which can alter the level of demand in terms of the rates of case input.

The level of recorded crime, for example, and rates of arrest are only partially determined by the rate of offending in the community. Decisions by police and government to 'target' particular types of crime by increasing the number of personnel assigned to these activities can substantially alter rates of arrest for particular types of offence. For example, a focus by police on 'discovered' offences such as drug trafficking or drink driving rather than on reported offences such as burglary will affect the demand for court services as such offences result in much higher clearance rates for a given number of offences, and hence lead to more court appearances.

Campaigns to increase reporting by, for example, victims of domestic violence or sexual assault may also increase recorded crime rates and possibly arrest rates without any increase in the rate of offending in the community. Demand for court services will thus increase, through criminal justice agencies accessing a greater number of offenders who may otherwise not have been reached.

Whilst the activities of police and other bodies engaged in crime prevention and detection are not the subject of the criminal caseload collection, they are a very important determinant of the courts' work, and cannot be ignored in any detailed comparison of the criminal justice systems of different jurisdictions. The ABS crime and safety surveys and the national crime statistics series provide material relevant to these areas which may assist in comparative research.

#### *Legislation affecting the range of offences under the criminal law*

Legislation influences court input at a fundamental level as it determines the range of behaviours defined as offences under the criminal law. There is some variation across States in the scope of the criminal law. Some behaviours which are subject to criminal sanction in one State may be dealt with through a civil process in other States, or may not be subject to any legal provisions at all. Examples of forms of behaviour that are subject to criminal legislation in some States but not others include public drunkenness, vagrancy and some forms of sexual behaviour. The effect of all such differences is to increase the criminal caseload in those States which treat such behaviour as criminal.

#### *Alternative methods of case disposal*

There are a number of processes employed by States which reduce the demand for court hearings by diverting matters which meet certain criteria to non-court programs and mechanisms. Schemes which allow police officers to issue a formal caution without laying charges before a court are one method of dealing with offences which would otherwise come before the courts. Other programs such as penalty expiation and penalty notice schemes, aid panels and other court diversion programs are all designed to divert cases from the criminal courts to administrative or non-judicial processes.

It should be noted that States may vary in the range of offences which fall within the scope of such programs and this will in turn affect the rate of input into the court system. The scope of such programs is important to any national statistical comparisons as they are increasingly likely to be used by legislators to more efficiently deal with relatively minor offences. The use of such schemes is most effective in terms of reducing demand on court services for minor, relatively frequent offences such as traffic or good order offences.

To understand the influence these types of programs have on the rate of input to the court system it is also necessary to consider the mechanisms used to enforce these programs. Fine expiation schemes, for example, may differ in the method by which offenders who fail to pay their fines are dealt with. Some schemes may allow additional sanctions to be imposed outside of a court hearing. Others may require that fine default matters are heard before a court before additional penalties may be imposed. This type of provision will affect the rate at which offenders in breach of a penalty notice enter the court system and thus affect the demand for court services.

#### *Factors affecting case input rates to a court level*

##### *Legislation: summary and indictable offences*

Any national comparisons of criminal courts statistics must consider the influence of legislation which governs the court level in which particular offences may be heard. The criminal law in each State determines which offences must be heard by the higher courts, and which may be

### *Legislation: summary and indictable offences (continued)*

dealt with summarily by a magistrate. Differences across States in the range of offences which may be dealt with summarily or on indictment have a major influence on the proportion of cases which are heard in each court level. If, for example, all assault charges are heard in the higher courts in one State, whilst minor assaults are heard summarily in another State, this will have a marked impact on the relative rates of case input to the higher courts. These differences will also affect total court workflows as trials with judge and jury before the higher courts will in general take longer to process than the same matter heard summarily. This difference will, however, be mediated by factors such as plea rates, an issue discussed in detail in a following section.

The range of offences dealt with summarily in a State may change over time and this influences the relative workload of the different court levels within that State. Offences heard on indictment generally require more court time, particularly if a trial is involved. If the same charges can be heard before a magistrate, the hearing of the case is expedited. In order to ensure that the accused's right to a jury trial is not compromised, however, many States retain offences as indictable, but allow that the charges may be heard summarily with the consent of the accused person. Differences across States in the range of these 'summary/indictable' or 'triable either way' offences will affect the workload entering each level of court.

### *Committal procedures*

All States have in place a procedure for conducting preliminary committal hearings in lower courts for indictable matters prior to them proceeding to hearing in the higher courts. The purpose of such preliminary hearings is to assess the strength of prosecution evidence against the accused, and to dismiss matters for which there is insufficient evidence. The procedure is designed to avoid using higher court resources in conducting a trial for cases where there is insufficient evidence to convict the accused. The committal is thus explicitly established as a method for improving the efficiency of the trial process in the higher courts.

States may differ in the procedure followed for committal which may in turn affect the input of cases to the higher courts. This may also impact on the relative proportions of committed for trial and committed for sentence cases. For example, States differ in the extent to which Crown prosecutors, rather than police prosecutors, are involved in the committal process. Where Crown prosecutors are involved in cases only after the committal, this may lead to a greater proportion of cases being withdrawn by the prosecution for lack of evidence at the higher court level. The involvement of Crown prosecutors at the committal stage may also lead to indictable charges being reduced to charges which may be heard summarily. This prevents the matter from proceeding to the higher courts.

## Factors affecting case processing times

Another principal determinant of demand for court services is case processing time. Cases which require larger amounts of court hearing time to be adjudicated represent a greater demand on court resources. Differences in case processing times may influence caseload statistics particularly in terms of pending figures.

Case processing times must, however, be separated into the time required to hear and adjudicate the case in the court (i.e. hearing time) and total case processing time (i.e. elapsed time from case initiation to case finalisation). Total case processing time is thus a product of the time taken to actually hear the case, and the time required by the court and the parties to the case to bring the matter up for hearing. (The discussion which follows is based on that provided in a New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research publication.<sup>1</sup>)

Many factors will affect total case processing time, either through their influence on hearing time or through their effect on delaying the point at which the case is able to be heard. A number of these factors are described below.

### *Preparation time*

Preparation or administrative time refers to the time required by court administrators to prepare the paperwork for case registration and listing. In the higher courts it also includes the time required by the prosecution to lay an indictment.

### *Time to first hearing*

Time to first hearing refers to the time from the initiation of a case (e.g. from the laying of charges, or from committal) to the first court hearing. In the lower courts where one hearing is often all that is required to finally determine a matter, this time will usually represent the total processing time less the time required by the court to actually hear the case.

For cases in the higher courts, this time will usually represent the time from committal to the first hearing, at which the 'readiness' of the parties to proceed will be investigated and a plea may be taken from the defendant. It should be noted that in a number of States, the period from committal to the first hearing is the subject of legislative rules which determine the maximum length of time allowed before the case appears for this first hearing.

---

<sup>1</sup> I. Crettenden, J. Packer, & S. Macalpine, 'A Computer Simulation Model of the District Criminal Court of New South Wales', *General Report Series*, New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Sydney, 1993.



#### *Time added by adjournments*

Following the first hearing, one or other party may not be ready to proceed and may therefore seek an adjournment from the court. The length of time which will be added to total processing time by adjournments is itself the product of two factors. There is firstly the time required by the parties to carry out the actions which were the reason for seeking the adjournment. The second component is the speed with which the court is able to re-schedule a hearing following the adjournment. This will depend on both the number of cases already scheduled to be heard by the courts, and on the listing rules in place which determine the priority given to re-listed cases.

#### *Listing rules and waiting time for hearing*

A major factor affecting case processing time for any particular case is the total time required to process those cases which have a higher priority either because of their length of time in the queue for hearing or through some other characteristic which may give the case a high priority. The queue for hearing time is not simply constructed but is mediated by a number of intervening factors which may together be described as listing rules. For example, some jurisdictions may accord a higher priority to sexual assault matters, matters involving children, or cases where the accused is held in custody. There may be special rules for dealing with long trials in higher courts. Other rules may dictate the circumstances under which an adjournment may be granted.

Some States use an 'overlisting' strategy in which more cases are listed for hearing in a particular court venue than can actually be accommodated in the allocated time. The purpose of this type of strategy is to attempt to maximise the use of court time by ensuring that there are 'backup' cases in the event that one or more cases is adjourned or requires less hearing time than that allocated.

Court rules and procedures in other States may dictate that cases are assigned to individual judges, and adjourned cases must be re-listed before that judge. This form of 'judge certain' listing is designed to minimise the likelihood of adjournments. Its effect, however, is to prevent the practice of overlisting, possibly leading to a lower court capacity utilisation.

#### *Plea and change of plea*

A major factor governing the processing time required for a case is whether or not a trial or defended hearing is required. In general, a defended hearing will require significantly greater amounts of court hearing time than will a hearing of a guilty plea. In New South Wales for example, research by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research indicated that in the District Criminal Court, a defended hearing requires an average of 22.2 hours of court time, whilst a hearing of a sentence

#### *Plea and change of plea (continued)*

matter or appeal requires only 0.5 hours of court hearing time.<sup>2</sup> The relative mix of defended and undefended cases in the queue awaiting hearing is therefore a major determinant of demand.

#### *Case complexity*

The relative complexity of a case will affect the time taken to hear it. Case complexity is influenced by factors such as the number of witnesses to be called by each side, and the technical complexity of the evidence to be presented. There is research evidence to indicate that different offence types will, on average, take differing lengths of time to hear. In New South Wales District Courts for example, one study found that robbery, drug importation and fraud offences all require significantly longer hearing times than the average hearing time for the District Court as a whole.<sup>3</sup> The first stage of the Australian Criminal Courts collection does not include offence information, however this will be introduced in future stages.

#### *Method of hearing*

The means by which a case is heard may also influence hearing time. In general, average hearing times in the courts of summary jurisdiction are markedly shorter than hearings before the higher courts, particularly for those cases in which the charges are defended by the accused. Partly this is a function of the relative complexity of cases before the higher courts, but the difference may also be a function of the different methods used to conduct hearings. Summary matters require the magistrate to rule on matters of law, and to determine the guilt or innocence of the accused. In contrast, defended hearings before higher courts generally require a hearing before a judge and jury which constitutes a more complex and lengthy process.

A number of jurisdictions have introduced the option of hearings in higher courts before a judge alone, without a jury. It may be expected that this could influence average hearing times for this type of case through the removal of such requirements as a summing up of the evidence by the trial judge to the jury, and through the removal of the requirement for voir dire hearings, in which the admissibility of evidence to the jury is determined by the trial judge in their absence.

Alterations to the methods of conducting committal hearings in some jurisdictions are directed at achieving similar effects. Allowing Crown evidence to be submitted through written statements rather than through oral evidence is aimed at reducing average hearing times for committals.

---

<sup>2</sup> D. Weatherburn, & M.T. Nguyen da Huong, 'Aspects of Demand for District Criminal Court Time', *Crime and Justice Bulletin No. 15*, New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Sydney, 1992.

<sup>3</sup> *ibid.*

## THE SUPPLY OF COURT SERVICES

Court capacity is influenced by a variety of factors. Differences between the States in the length of court recesses and vacations will affect available court time. The number of hours per day for which a court sits will determine the level of utilisation of existing court rooms and once again affect available court time.

Some of the factors, described in previous sections, which are designed to increase case throughput rates may also have the effect of maximising court capacity. For example, court listing rules are designed to ensure that there are sufficient cases scheduled for any given court sitting so that if one or more hearings cannot proceed (through the granting of an adjournment, a change of plea or some other reason) there are backup cases which can proceed to minimise the possibility of any available court time being wasted.

There are, however, other case management techniques which recommend alternative strategies to 'overlisting'. 'Date certain', or 'judge certain' listing techniques provide the parties to a case with a definite date for hearing before a certain judge. The rationale for these techniques is that under an overlisting strategy, parties in 'backup' cases may perceive that they have only a low probability of their case proceeding, as there are a number of cases ahead of them in the queue on any particular hearing day. These parties may therefore be less likely to have prepared their case, on the assumption that their case will not be heard, and will themselves seek an adjournment if the cases ahead of them are also adjourned. The argument is thus that the overlisting strategy, which is designed to maximise capacity utilisation, will in fact be counterproductive as it will lead to a higher proportion of adjourned cases.

Other listing strategies may include techniques such as dividing available court time into time for trials versus time for sentence matters and appeals, or strategies where cases in which the parties seek an adjournment at their first hearing are dealt with in a different way to matters where no adjournment is sought. All such strategies may have differential effects on the utilisation of court capacity. A State which, for example, gives priority to trials over short hearings, may result in different throughput rates and different capacity utilisation compared with a State which does not give this type of priority. These different strategies, however, may be attempting to meet different objectives.

## CONCLUSION

The Australian Criminal Courts collection provides data that can be used for comparative purposes. However, there are State differences in court procedure and structure which may affect case input and processing rates. This appendix has outlined some of the procedural and structural differences which may account for variations in the data across the States. It is important for users of the data to be aware of these differences and bear them in mind when making comparisons between the States.

## GLOSSARY

<b>Accused deceased</b>	An individual, who has been charged with an offence, dies while their case is still active.
<b>Adjudication</b>	A judgement or decision of the court.
<b>Appellate jurisdiction</b>	The power of a court to hear appeals against decisions made by other court levels or to determine questions of law (see Jurisdiction).
<b>Bench warrant executed</b>	The apprehension of an absconder who is brought back before the court to answer outstanding (and new) criminal charges. For the purposes of the Australian Criminal Courts collection, this process is regarded as a method of initiation and results in a new case being counted for the defendant.
<b>Bench warrant issued</b>	A warrant signed by a judge or magistrate ordering a person to be arrested and brought back before the court. The process takes place when a defendant in an active case has absconded. For the purposes of the Australian Criminal Courts collection, this process is regarded as a method of finalisation.
<b>Case</b>	<p>A case is composed of one or more defendants against whom one or more criminal charges have been laid and which are heard together by a court level as one unit of work. Some features that lead to the formation of a case include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The charge/s relate to the same criminal incident.</li><li>▪ The charge/s relate to the same defendant or group of defendants.</li><li>▪ At registration, one file number may be assigned to a group of charges relating to one or more defendants.</li><li>▪ Where more than one defendant is involved in a case they appear together on one indictment.</li></ul>
<b>Caseflow</b>	Measures of the flow of work through the courts over time. The Australian Criminal Courts collection provides monthly statistics on the defendants initiated, finalised and pending at the various court levels in each State and Territory.
<b>Charge proven</b>	An outcome of criminal proceedings in which a court determines that the criminal charge is proven. This is the result of a defendant entering a guilty plea or the court arriving at a guilty verdict. (See guilty plea and guilty verdict.)

<b>Charge unproven</b>	<p>An outcome of criminal proceedings in which a court determines that the criminal charge is not proven. Charge unproven is regarded as a Method of finalisation and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Acquitted by a jury or member of the judiciary which determines that a defendant is not guilty of the alleged criminal charge.</li> <li>▪ Found not guilty by a jury or member of the judiciary on the grounds of insanity/unsoundness of mind at the time the offence was committed.</li> <li>▪ The charge being struck out or dismissed by a member of the judiciary for delays in procedural steps or due to a lack of evidence by the prosecution.</li> </ul>
<b>Committed for sentence</b>	<p>An outcome of committal proceedings in a court of summary jurisdiction which results in a defendant being transferred to a higher court to be sentenced. The defendant has entered a guilty plea and has indicated to the court their intention not to contest the charge/s. This process is regarded as a method of finalisation for the court of summary jurisdiction and a method of initiation for the court level to which the defendant is transferred.</p>
<b>Committed for trial</b>	<p>An outcome of committal proceedings in a court of summary jurisdiction which results in a defendant being transferred to a higher court to stand trial. The defendant has entered a not guilty plea i.e. the plea to one or more charges includes not guilty, no plea, plea reserved, or other defended plea, and has indicated to the court their intention to contest at least one charge. This process is regarded as a method of finalisation for the court of summary jurisdiction and a method of initiation for the court level to which the defendant is transferred.</p>
<b>County Court</b>	<p>See Intermediate Court.</p>
<b>Court level</b>	<p>A separate tier of the court system each of which is established under legislation and has certain prescribed powers. Court levels can be distinguished from one another on the basis of the extent of their legal powers (see Jurisdiction). Court levels include court of summary jurisdiction, Intermediate Court and Supreme Court. The names assigned to each of these court levels may vary across Australia.</p>
<b>Court of summary jurisdiction</b>	<p>A lower court level (also referred to as Magistrates' Court, Local Court or Court of Petty Sessions) which deals with relatively minor criminal offences. This court level has the most limited legal powers of all the State/Territory court levels. It is presided over by a magistrate and has jurisdiction to hear trial and sentence matters relating to summary offences (i.e. matters which do not require a jury). Under some circumstances, this court may also deal with the less serious indictable offences known as 'minor indictable' or 'triable either way' offences. Courts of summary jurisdiction are also responsible for conducting preliminary (committal) hearings for indictable offences.</p>

<b>Criminal charge</b>	An allegation laid before a court by the police or other prosecuting agency that an individual or corporation has committed a criminal offence.
<b>Date of committal</b>	The date on which a defendant was committed from a court of summary jurisdiction to a District/County Court or Supreme Court for hearing. Depending on the nature of the plea/s entered by the defendant at the conclusion of the committal proceedings, the defendant may have been committed for trial or committed for sentence.
<b>Date of finalisation</b>	The date on which a case is completed within a particular court level and ceases to be an active unit of work to be dealt with by that court. There are a number of different processes by which a case may be finalised (see Explanatory Notes: Counting Methodology).
<b>Date of initiation</b>	The date on which a case is regarded as having commenced within a particular court level. This is derived for the purposes of national statistics and represents either the date of committal or the date of registration depending on the process of entry into that level of court (see Explanatory Notes: Counting Methodology).
<b>Date of registration</b>	The date on which a defendant first enters a particular court level and is acknowledged as being a new item of work to be dealt with by the court. This refers to the date when formal notification for a defendant is first received and a new case or file is created by the registry/listing area of the court.
<b>Date of verdict</b>	The date at the conclusion of a trial when the court (i.e. a jury or judge) announces its finding on the alleged criminal charge/s laid against a defendant. A date of verdict is only collected for defendants who are finalised by trial where a determination is made regarding whether the charge is proven.
<b>Defendant</b>	<p>An individual or corporation against whom one or more criminal charges have been laid and which are heard together by a court level as the one unit of work.</p> <p>It should be noted that the Australian Criminal Courts collection does not enumerate distinct individuals or corporations. If an individual or corporation is involved in a number of criminal cases active within the courts during the reference period, these are counted separately.</p>
<b>District Court</b>	See Intermediate Court.
<b>Ex-officio</b>	The laying of charges against a defendant directly in a higher court, by the Director of Public Prosecutions or the Attorney-General. This process is regarded as a method of initiation.

<b>Guilty plea</b>	The formal statement by a defendant admitting culpability in committing the alleged offence. By pleading guilty, a defendant indicates to the court an intention not to contest the charge. A guilty plea is regarded as a method of finalisation. A guilty plea to committal proceedings in the lower court also determines method of initiation into the higher courts (i.e. committed for sentence).
<b>Guilty verdict</b>	A determination by the court that the criminal charge against the defendant has been proved. This finding is reached at the conclusion of a trial. A guilty verdict is regarded as a method of finalisation.
<b>Indictable offence</b>	A serious offence which can be tried only by a judge and jury. Under some circumstances, an accused person can elect to have certain indictable charges such as theft dealt with in the absence of a jury, in a lower court.
<b>Intermediate Court</b>	A higher court level (known either as the District Court or County Court) which, together with the Supreme Court, deals with the more serious crimes. This court level has legal powers which are intermediate between those of the court of summary jurisdiction and the Supreme Court and hears the majority of cases involving indictable crimes. An Intermediate Court is presided over by a judge, and has original jurisdiction to hear trial and sentence matters relating to most indictable offences. Trials are usually conducted before a judge and jury where the judge rules on questions of law and the jury is responsible for determining whether or not the defendant is guilty. In a number of States, trials may also be heard before a judge alone. In some States, the Intermediate Court may have appellate jurisdiction over decisions made in the court of summary jurisdiction.  Note: Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory do not have an Intermediate Court.
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	The legal powers or authority which may be exercised by a court level and within which the judgements or orders of the court can be enforced or executed. The criminal jurisdiction of a court includes the original and appellate jurisdictions. Each court level has its own defined jurisdictional limits and this varies across States and Territories.
<b>Mean</b>	The average of a set of population values.
<b>Median</b>	The middle value of a population when values are sorted into order of size. Below and above this point lie values with equal total frequencies.
<b>Method of finalisation</b>	The process which leads to the completion of a criminal matter in the original jurisdiction of a court level. (See Appendix B.)
<b>Method of initiation</b>	The process which leads to the recording of a criminal matter as a new item of work in the original jurisdiction of a court level. (See Appendix A.)

<b>Non-adjudicated finalisation</b>	A method of finalisation whereby a charge is considered concluded and ceases to be active in any level of court even though that charge has not been adjudicated or transferred by a court. (See Accused deceased, Bench warrant issued, Unfit to plead, Withdrawn by prosecution and Other non-adjudicated finalisation.)
<b>Not guilty plea</b>	The formal statement by a defendant denying culpability in committing the alleged offence. By pleading not guilty, a defendant indicates to the court an intention to contest the charge. A not guilty plea to committal proceedings in the lower court determines method of initiation into the higher courts. If the plea remains unchanged within the higher courts this will result in trial proceedings. Where the defendant submits the statement 'no plea' or 'plea reserved' there will also be trial proceedings. The court will then hear evidence and determine whether or not the charge against the defendant is proven.
<b>Not guilty verdict</b>	See Charge unproven.
<b>Original jurisdiction</b>	The power of a court to hear criminal charges and adjudicate as to whether or not a defendant is guilty and/or to sentence defendants where the charge/s are proven. (See Jurisdiction.)
<b>Other non-adjudicated finalisation</b>	This relates to all non-adjudicated finalisations other than bench warrant executed, unfit to plead and withdrawn by prosecution. It includes finalisations such as indefinite Sine Die (where court proceedings are adjourned and do not have a date fixed for their resumption) and Permanent Stay of Proceedings ordered by a judge.
<b>Other transfer between court levels</b>	A method of initiation which occurs when a criminal charge is transferred between any court level other than from a court of summary jurisdiction to the Supreme or Intermediate Court. Examples include: retrials ordered by an appellate court, transfers between the Supreme Court and Intermediate Court, and transfers from the Childrens'/Juvenile Court to a higher court.
<b>Percentile</b>	A measure of location that is linked to the median. The $p$ th percentile is the lowest value which exceeds $p\%$ of the observations. The fiftieth percentile is also the median as one-half of the population lies below it. Two other important percentiles are the twenty-fifth percentile, known as the lower quartile, and the seventy-fifth percentile, known as the upper quartile.
<b>Plea</b>	The formal statement by, or on behalf of, the defendant in response to a criminal charge that has been laid in the court. The nature of this response indicates whether or not the defendant intends to contest the charge.
<b>Summary offence</b>	An offence which is dealt with by a court of summary jurisdiction.



**Supreme Court** A higher court level which deals with the most serious crimes. It is the highest level of court within a State or Territory. A Supreme Court is presided over by a judge, and has original jurisdiction to hear trial and sentence matters relating to all indictable offences. Trials are usually conducted before a judge and jury whereby the judge rules on questions of law and the jury is responsible for determining whether or not the defendant is guilty. Some States also allow for trial before a judge alone. The Supreme Court may also have appellate jurisdiction over decisions made in the court of summary jurisdiction or the Intermediate Court.

**Transfer between court levels** A court outcome ordering that a criminal charge be transferred to another court level to be determined and/or sentenced. This process is regarded as a method of finalisation for the court level ordering the transfer and a method of initiation for the court level to which the charge was transferred.

Note: This does not include the transfer of a charge to another geographical court location within the same court level.

**Trial** The examination of and decision on a matter of law or fact by a court of law.

**Unfit to plead** Where the court determines that a person's mental status is such that he/she is unfit to plead in relation to the charge against him/her.

**Withdrawn by prosecution** Where the prosecution (e.g. Police, Director of Public Prosecutions, Attorney-General) formally withdraws a criminal charge. This includes Nolle Prosequi and No Bill.





## For more information . . .

The ABS publishes a wide range of statistics and other information on Australia's economic and social conditions. Details of what is available in various publications and other products can be found in the ABS Catalogue of Publications and Products available from all ABS Offices.

### ABS Products and Services

Many standard products are available from ABS bookshops located in each State and Territory. In addition to these products, information tailored to the needs of clients can be obtained on a wide range of media by contacting your nearest ABS Office. The ABS also provides a Subscription Service for standard products and some tailored information services.

### National Dial-a-Statistic Line

0055 86 400

*Steadycom P/L: premium rate 25c/20 secs.*

This number gives 24-hour access, 365 days a year, for a range of important economic statistics including the CPI.

### Internet

<http://www.abs.gov.au>

A wide range of ABS information is available via the Internet, with basic statistics available for each State, Territory and Australia. We also have Key National Indicators, ABS product release details and other information of general interest.

### Sales and Inquiries

[client.services@abs.gov.au](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au)

National Mail Order Service  
Subscription Service

(02) 6252 5249  
1800 02 0608

#### Information Inquiries

CANBERRA	(02) 6252 6627
SYDNEY	(02) 9268 4611
MELBOURNE	(03) 9615 7755
BRISBANE	(07) 3222 6351
PERTH	(09) 360 5140
ADELAIDE	(08) 8237 7100
HOBART	(03) 6222 5800
DARWIN	(08) 8943 2111

#### Bookshop Sales

(02) 6252 0326
(02) 9268 4620
(03) 9615 7755
(07) 3222 6350
(09) 360 5307
(08) 8237 7582
(03) 6222 5800
(08) 8943 2111



Client Services, ABS, PO Box 10, Belconnen ACT 2616

