



HIGHER CRIMINAL COURTS

AUSTRALIA

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CONTENTS

	<i>page</i>
Notes	2
Summary of findings	3
 TABLES	
DEFENDANTS	
1 Initiated and finalised, status by month	12
2 Initiated, method of initiation	15
DEFENDANTS FINALISED	
3 Method of finalisation	17
4 By adjudication, initial and final plea status	20
5 Sex and age group	22
6 Initiation to finalisation—summary duration measures	25
7 Duration from initiation to finalisation	28
DEFENDANTS FINALISED BY A GUILTY VERDICT	
8 Summary duration measures	34
9 Duration from initiation to verdict	35
10 Duration from verdict to finalisation	36
DEFENDANTS PENDING	
11 As at 1 July 1997, elapsed time since initiation	37
12 As at 30 June 1998, elapsed time since initiation	38
 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
Explanatory notes	39
Appendix 1—Method of initiation classification	46
Appendix 2—Method of finalisation classification	47
Glossary	48

- For more information about these and related statistics, contact Rodney Taylor on Melbourne 03 9615 7383 or refer to the back cover of this publication.

NOTES

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The statistics in this publication provide measures of the volume and flow of criminal work through the Higher (Supreme and Intermediate) Courts across Australia. These measures include the number of defendants pending, initiated and finalised in each State and Territory for the period 1 July 1997 – 30 June 1998.



DATA CONSISTENCY

The statistics are sourced from the national Higher Criminal Courts collection and have been compiled according to national standards in order to ensure consistency between the States and Territories. The Explanatory Notes, Appendices and Glossary provide detailed information on the data sources, counting rules, terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with this collection.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many individuals and groups contributed to the national Higher Criminal Courts collection. In particular, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) acknowledges the valuable contributions of the Board of Management of the National Criminal Courts Statistics Unit (NCCSU), the NCCSU Advisory Group and the State and Territory agencies responsible for courts administration.



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
r	revised
..	not applicable
—	nil or rounded to zero

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

INTRODUCTION

This publication presents statistics on the criminal workload of the Higher (Supreme and Intermediate) Courts of Australia for the period 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998. The Higher Criminal Courts deal with criminal cases involving serious charges, that is, those relating to indictable offences. (The Higher Courts also hear appeal and civil cases, but these are not within the scope of this publication.)

Statistics are presented separately for the Supreme and Intermediate (District/County) Court levels. In Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory there is no Intermediate Court, so the Supreme Court hears all charges relating to indictable offences. In the States with both a Supreme and Intermediate Court, the majority of defendants are dealt with in the Intermediate Court and the Supreme Court is reserved to hear the most serious offences.

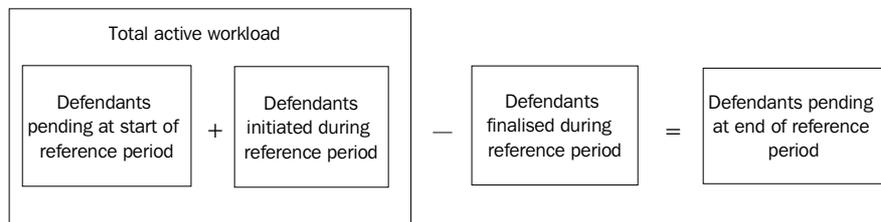
In order to make valid comparisons between all the States and Territories, this commentary focuses on the combined workload of the Supreme and Intermediate Courts. Nevertheless, it should be noted that there are some significant differences in the nature of the work dealt with at each court level.

The measure of criminal workload presented in this publication is the count of defendants processed by the Higher Courts. A defendant is a person or corporation who has been charged before a court with a criminal offence(s) and brought before that court to face the charge(s). Information is provided on the flow of defendants through the Higher Courts in terms of two events:

- defendants initiated (i.e. defendants who entered the Higher Courts) during the reference period; and
- defendants finalised (i.e. defendants who had a final outcome for all charges in the Higher Courts) during the reference period.

Information is also presented on counts of defendants who were pending (i.e. initiated but not yet finalised) at the start and end of the reference period.

FLOW OF DEFENDANTS THROUGH THE HIGHER COURTS



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

OVERVIEW OF COURT WORKLOAD

The Higher Criminal Courts collection, from which the statistics in this publication are compiled, provides a basis for measuring the volume of work before the Higher Courts and the rate at which this work is processed. The workflow measures provided by these statistics include:

- the *total active workload* defined as the number of defendants who had charges active in the Higher Courts during the reference period (i.e. the number of defendants pending at the start of the reference period plus the number of defendants initiated during the reference period);
- the *total finalised workload* defined as the number of defendants who were finalised in the Higher Courts during the reference period and expressed as a proportion of the active workload completed;
- the speed with which the justice system deals with the criminal charges laid against a defendant as measured by the *duration* or the time taken from initiation to finalisation; and
- the size and age of the pending workload as measured by the number of *defendants pending* at the end of the reference period and the *elapsed time since initiation* for those pending defendants.

In 1997–98, there were 17,039 defendants initiated and 16,406 defendants finalised in the Higher Courts. This represented an increase of 8.5% and 4.8% respectively on 1996–97, when 15,706 defendants were initiated and 15,657 defendants were finalised. The median duration since initiation of finalised defendants was 21.3 weeks, an increase from 19.7 weeks in 1996–97. Excluding Queensland, there were 7,956 defendants pending at the end of 1997–98, an 8.1% increase on the 7,075 defendants pending at the start of 1997–98. The median elapsed time since initiation of defendants pending at the end of 1997–98 was 24.1 weeks, an increase from 20.9 weeks at the end of 1996–97.

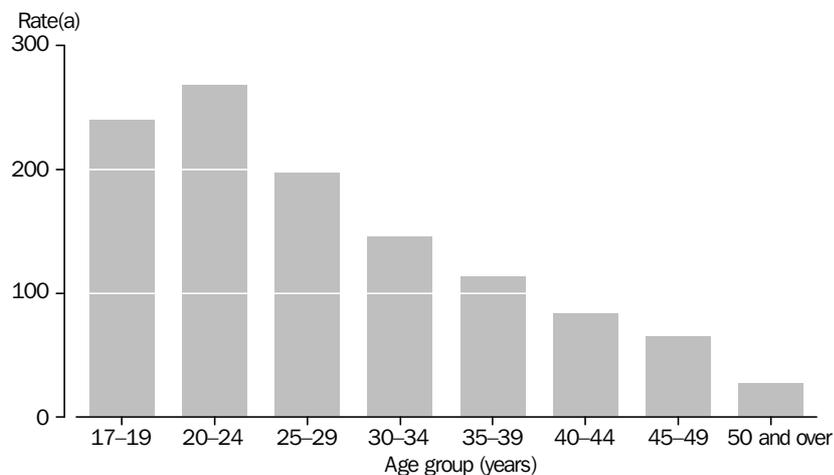
DEFENDANT CHARACTERISTICS

Just over half (51.1%) of the defendants finalised in the Higher Courts during 1997–98 were aged between 17–29 years. More than one in five defendants (22.2%) fell within the 20–24 year age group, which had the highest rate of defendants finalised at 267.9 per 100,000 persons. Defendants aged between 17–19 had the second highest rate, with 239.7 defendants finalised per 100,000 persons in that age group. Both these groups had a rate that was double that of the national rate of 115.8 defendants finalised per 100,000 adult persons. For older age groups, the rate of defendants finalised declined consistently as the age of the group increased.

The majority (88.8%) of finalised defendants were male. The Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of female defendants with 15.4% of all defendants finalised, while New South Wales had the lowest with 8.0%.

Generally, the distribution pattern of the age groups was very similar for male and female defendants, with the highest rate per 100,000 persons recorded in the 20–24 year age group for both males and females. The median age of female defendants was the same as for males, at 28.6 years. Across the States and Territories, the median age of defendants was the lowest in Tasmania at 24.9 years of age and the highest in Victoria at 31.6 years of age. (See table 5.)

DEFENDANTS FINALISED, Rate by Age Group—1997–98



(a) Rate per 100,000 persons in each age group.

TOTAL ACTIVE WORKLOAD

Information on the number of defendants pending at the start of the reference period was not available for Queensland. Excluding Queensland, the total active workload of the Higher Courts during 1997–98 was 17,885 defendants. Of the active workload 7,075 or almost 40.0% of defendants had been initiated before the start of the reference period, and 10,810 defendants were initiated during 1997–98. Nationally, the total active workload for 1997–98 increased by 1,417 (8.6%) from the 16,468 defendants reported in 1996–97. The most significant contributors to this increase were New South Wales, Western Australia and Victoria which rose by 749, 498 and 324 defendants respectively. Queensland and the Northern Territory also rose, the Australian Capital Territory remained relatively stable, and South Australia fell by 307 defendants.

Any comparison of data across States and Territories should take into account the differences that exist in court procedures and legislation, as these affect the relative workload of the Higher Courts in each State and Territory.

Excluding Queensland, there were more defendants initiated (10,810) than the number of defendants finalised (9,929) which contributed to an increase in the pending workload of the Higher Courts during 1997–98. (See table 1.)

Of the 17,885 defendants with charges active in the Higher Courts during 1997–98 (excluding Queensland) there were 9,929 defendants who had their charges finalised, representing a completion rate of 55.5%. In 1996–97 the completion rate of defendants with charges active was slightly higher at 57.0%.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

DEFENDANTS WITH CHARGES ACTIVE IN THE HIGHER COURTS AND PROPORTION FINALISED

States and Territories	r 1996–97(a)			1997–98		
	Total active	Total finalised	Completed	Total active	Total finalised	Completed
	no.	no.	%	no.	no.	%
NSW	7 069	3 449	48.8	7 818	3 905	49.9
Vic.	2 714	1 665	61.3	3 038	1 747	57.5
Qld(b)	n.a.	6 264	n.a.	n.a.	6 477	n.a.
SA	1 780	1 288	72.4	1 473	1 000	67.9
WA	3 756	2 291	61.0	4 254	2 500	58.8
Tas.	446	324	72.6	577	351	60.8
NT	447	226	50.6	471	296	62.8
ACT	256	150	58.6	254	130	51.2
Aust.(b)	n.a.	15 657	n.a.	n.a.	16 406	n.a.

(a) Data for 1996–97 have been revised, see paragraph 27 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Data on defendants with charges active in Qld were not available and the number of defendants finalised for Qld excludes those finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

PENDING WORKLOAD

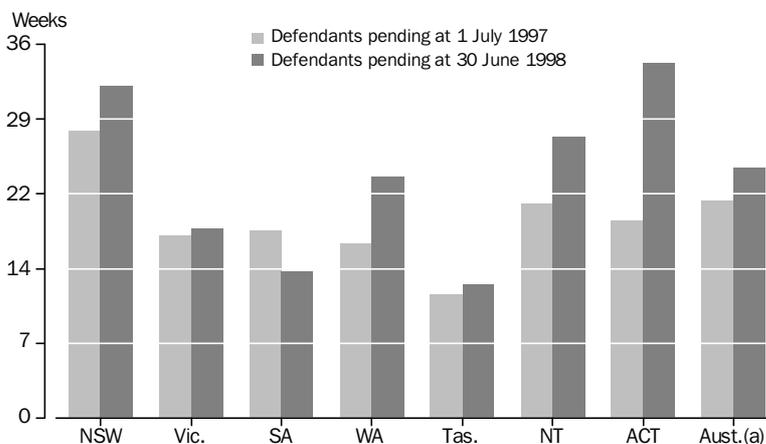
The pending workload of the Higher Courts is represented by the number of defendants unfinalised at a point in time. This publication presents data on the number of defendants pending at the start of the reference period and the number of defendants pending at the end of the reference period. This information was not available for Queensland. For the other States and Territories, there were 7,956 defendants pending at the end of 1997–98, an increase of 881 defendants (12.5%) from the 7,075 defendants pending at the start of 1997–98. The main contributors to the increase in the number of defendants pending were New South Wales, Western Australia, Victoria and Tasmania which rose by 293 (8.1%), 289 (19.7%), 242 (23.0%) and 104 (85.2%) respectively. South Australia and the Northern Territory recorded decreases in the number of defendants pending, falling by 19 (3.9%) and 46 defendants (20.8%) respectively.

Elapsed time since initiation

For defendants pending on 30 June 1998, the national median elapsed time since initiation was 24.1 weeks (excluding Queensland where data were not available) compared with 20.9 weeks at the beginning of 1997–98. The median elapsed time since initiation for defendants pending on 30 June 1998 ranged from 12.8 weeks in Tasmania to 34.2 weeks in the Australian Capital Territory. (See table 12.)

Over the reference period, South Australia had a decrease in the median elapsed time since initiation for pending defendants, from 18.0 weeks at the start of 1997–98 to 14.1 weeks at the end of 1997–98. The remaining States and Territories reported increases in the median elapsed time. The largest rise in the median elapsed time since initiation was recorded in the Australian Capital Territory, increasing from 19.0 weeks at the end of June 1997 to 34.2 weeks at the end of June 1998.

MEDIAN ELAPSED TIME SINCE INITIATION—1997–98



(a) Excludes Qld where data on the number of defendants pending were not available.

FINALISED WORKLOAD

There were 16,406 defendants finalised in the Higher Courts in 1997–98, an increase of 749 (4.8%) from the 15,657 defendants finalised during 1996–97. The largest contributor to the national increase was New South Wales where there was an increase of 456 (13.2%) defendants finalised. Most of the other States and Territories recorded rises in the number of defendants finalised in 1997–98. Of the 16,406 Higher Court finalisations in 1997–98, there were 2,105 defendants (12.8%) finalised in the Supreme Courts and 14,301 (87.2%) defendants finalised in the Intermediate Courts.

Rates of finalisation

To enable comparisons across States and Territories and with other national criminal justice statistics, figures are provided that show finalisation rates calculated as the number of defendants finalised per 100,000 adult persons. In 1997–98, there was a national rate of 115.8 defendants finalised per 100,000 adult persons, a slight increase on the 111.9 rate recorded in 1996–97.

Queensland had the highest rate of defendants finalised in 1997–98 at 251.0 per 100,000 adults, which was more than double the national rate. The Northern Territory and Western Australia, with rates of 223.7 and 183.4 respectively, were also significantly higher than the national rate. Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory had relatively lower rates of defendants finalised at 49.2 and 56.0 respectively. (See table 1.)

Rates of finalisation *continued*

It should be noted that the types of charges dealt with in each court level are determined by legislation and procedures and that these vary across the States and Territories. These differences should be taken into account when comparing rates across Australia as they have an impact on the variations observed. For instance, relative to the other States and Territories, the Higher Courts in Queensland hear a wider range of offences than the Higher Courts in the other States and Territories.

Method of finalisation

Defendants who were finalised by the Higher Courts may have had more than one charge laid against them and these may have had different outcomes. This publication presents statistics on the method of finalisation for a defendant. The method of finalisation for a defendant can be broadly classified into two groups: adjudicated finalisations and non-adjudicated finalisations (see paragraph 23 of the Explanatory Notes for the counting methodology).

Adjudicated finalisations refer to defendants whose charge(s) are resolved through a trial or sentence hearing. The adjudication involves a judgement by the court as to whether the defendant is guilty of the charge(s) against them and/or a determination of the penalty to be applied where a defendant is proven guilty. The total number of defendants finalised by adjudication in 1997–98 was 13,947. This amounted to 85.0% of the total finalisations, a similar proportion to that reported in 1996–97 (86.5%).

Non-adjudicated methods of finalisation include those where charges were withdrawn by the prosecution, the defendant died, a bench warrant was issued for a defendant who absconded or an indefinite stay of proceedings was ordered. Defendants finalised by non-adjudicated methods totalled 2,459. This accounted for 15.0% of the total finalised population in 1997–98, a slight increase on the proportion reported in 1996–97 (13.5%).

Adjudicated finalisations

The process involved in adjudicating criminal charges depends on how a defendant pleads to the charges. Defendants who plead guilty to all charges have a sentence hearing to determine the penalty. Defendants who plead not guilty to at least one charge are typically subject to a trial by jury that determines whether they are acquitted or found guilty. Whether or not a trial is required to adjudicate a defendant's charge(s) is important for assessing Higher Court workload. Trials typically take longer and require greater court resources than sentence hearings.

Adjudicated finalisations are divided on whether or not the defendant was proven guilty. If none of the charges for a defendant are proven, the defendant is acquitted of all charges. If at least one charge is proven guilty then the defendant can be sentenced by the court.

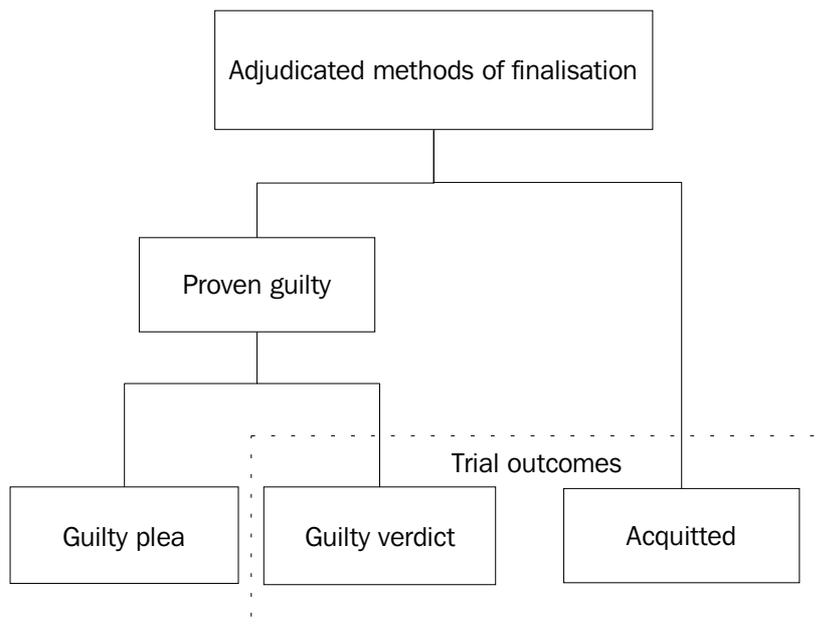
Of the 13,947 defendants with an adjudicated method of finalisation in the Higher Courts across Australia, there were 12,560 (90.1%) defendants who were proven guilty while the remaining 1,387 (9.9%) defendants were acquitted. The same proportion of defendants finalised as proven guilty and as acquitted were reported in 1996–97.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Adjudicated finalisations *continued*

Defendants proven guilty are differentiated according to the process by which the charge(s) were adjudicated: 'guilty verdict' refers to defendants who went through a trial and were found guilty by the court, while 'guilty plea' refers to defendants who admitted guilt.

ADJUDICATED METHODS OF FINALISATION

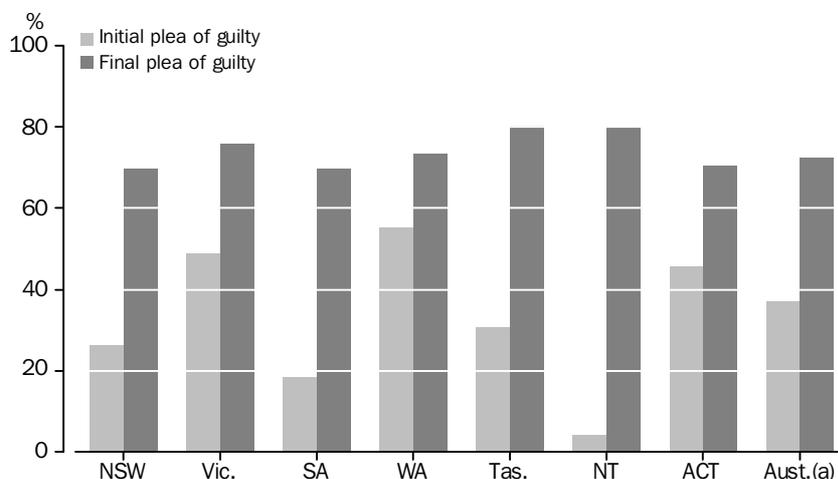


Change in plea

Information on the plea(s) initially entered by defendants gives an indication of the potential demand for trials in the Higher Courts, while information on the final plea(s) entered by defendants provides an indication of the trials that actually took place. Data on both initial and final pleas are not available for Queensland. Of the 8,470 defendants finalised by adjudication in the remaining States and Territories, 5,325 entered the Higher Courts with a not guilty plea and were therefore expected to go to trial. Of these defendants, 2,326 (43.7%) maintained a not guilty plea and went through trial while the remaining 2,999 (56.3%) defendants changed their plea from not guilty to guilty during proceedings in the Higher Courts.

Of the defendants who were finalised by adjudication, the proportion with an initial plea of guilty varied considerably amongst the States and Territories ranging from 4.6% in the Northern Territory to 55.2% in Western Australia. The proportion of defendants changing their plea from not guilty to guilty was the highest in the Northern Territory (75.8%) and the lowest in Western Australia (18.3%). As a result of the change in plea, the proportion with a final plea of guilty was reasonably consistent across all the States and Territories, ranging from 69.6% in New South Wales to 80.3% in Tasmania. (See table 4.) In 1996–97, there were similar proportions of defendants with a final plea of guilty (ranging from 60.7% to 78.2%).

ADJUDICATED DEFENDANTS, Proportion with a Guilty Plea—1997–98



(a) Excludes Qld where data on both initial and final pleas were not available.

Trial outcomes

Of the 2,193 defendants finalised with a trial outcome (excluding Queensland), 1,070 defendants (48.8%) were acquitted of all charges and 1,123 defendants (51.2%) received a guilty verdict. There was variation across the States and Territories in the proportion of defendants who went to trial and were acquitted, ranging from 39.7% in South Australia to 65.9% in the Northern Territory.

DURATION OF DEFENDANTS FINALISED

Duration statistics are presented for all the defendants finalised in the Higher Courts in 1997–98. These figures measure the total time taken to finalise all charges for a defendant from the date the defendant was initiated. The total duration for a finalised defendant includes the time taken by the defence and prosecution to prepare their cases, the time required to list a case and the time taken for any hearings. Actual hearing time typically occupies only a small proportion of the overall case duration.

Initiation to finalisation

For the 16,406 defendants finalised in the Higher Courts during 1997–98, the median duration from initiation to finalisation was 21.3 weeks, an 8.1% increase on the 19.7 weeks recorded in 1996–97. The median duration was the shortest in Western Australia at 12.6 weeks, followed by Tasmania at 14.1 weeks. New South Wales and the Northern Territory had the longest median durations at 32.3 weeks and 31.8 weeks respectively. (See table 6.)

Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia recorded small decreases in the median duration from 1996–97 to 1997–98. The median duration rose in all the other States and Territories with the largest increases recorded in the Northern Territory (rising from 21.1 weeks to 31.8 weeks or 50.7%) and the Australian Capital Territory (increasing from 16.6 weeks in 1996–97 to 21.8 weeks in 1997–98).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

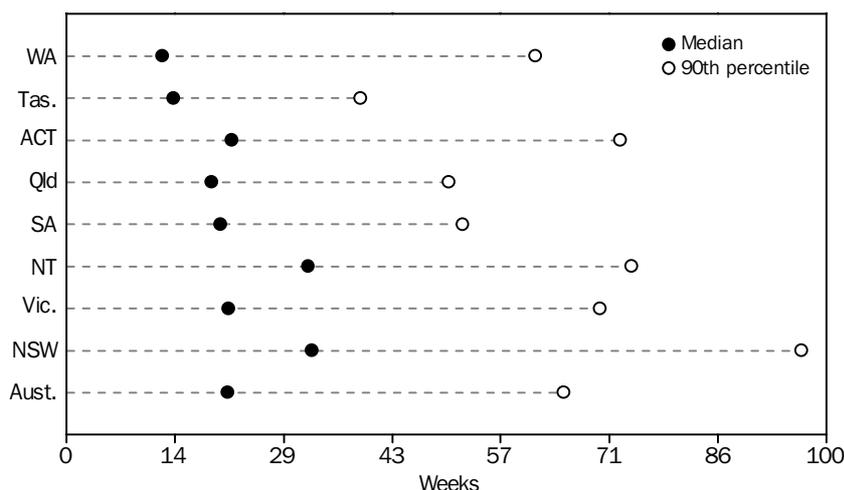
DEFENDANTS FINALISED, MEDIAN DURATION FROM INITIATION TO FINALISATION

States and Territories	1996-97	1997-98	Change
	weeks	weeks	%
NSW	30.7	32.3	5.2
Vic.	22.9	21.4	-6.6
Qld	17.3	19.1	10.4
SA	20.9	20.3	-2.9
WA	13.0	12.6	-3.1
Tas.	13.9	14.1	1.4
NT	21.1	31.8	50.7
ACT	16.6	21.8	31.3
Aust.	19.7	21.3	8.1

There was considerable variation in the time taken to finalise 90.0% of defendants, ranging from 38.7 weeks in Tasmania to 96.8 weeks in New South Wales. Nationally the majority (83.8% or 13,743) of defendants finalised during 1997-98 had all their charges completed within a year of initiation. (See table 7.)

The median duration from initiation to finalisation varied for different methods of finalisation. Generally defendants who went to trial took much longer to finalise than those who were dealt with through a sentence hearing. Defendants finalised in 1997-98 by a trial outcome of guilty verdict or acquitted had the longest median duration times, at 42.3 and 41.1 weeks respectively, while defendants finalised by guilty plea had a shorter median duration of 17.0 weeks. (See table 6.)

DEFENDANTS FINALISED, Duration from Initiation to Finalisation—1997-98



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DEFENDANTS INITIATED AND FINALISED, Status by Month

Month and status	NSW	Vic.	Qld(a)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT									
July 1997									
Initiated	7	8	n.a.	5	13	25	29	19	n.a.
Finalised	4	4	45	13	18	33	26	11	154
August 1997									
Initiated	19	6	n.a.	13	13	28	31	23	n.a.
Finalised	10	5	91	11	25	21	24	14	201
September 1997									
Initiated	7	8	n.a.	2	18	42	26	11	n.a.
Finalised	10	3	82	9	16	30	26	14	190
October 1997									
Initiated	8	8	n.a.	6	19	47	23	15	n.a.
Finalised	11	5	49	14	20	23	22	14	158
November 1997									
Initiated	7	8	n.a.	4	26	49	13	10	n.a.
Finalised	14	3	78	11	24	36	26	16	208
December 1997									
Initiated	11	9	n.a.	6	23	21	12	10	n.a.
Finalised	9	15	71	17	12	39	26	6	195
January 1998									
Initiated	1	3	n.a.	5	10	32	13	1	n.a.
Finalised	—	4	26	1	12	—	1	4	48
February 1998									
Initiated	13	11	n.a.	3	20	33	23	19	n.a.
Finalised	8	6	90	9	33	65	36	19	266
March 1998									
Initiated	16	13	n.a.	6	14	42	19	7	n.a.
Finalised	7	7	74	10	9	17	38	10	172
April 1998									
Initiated	8	3	n.a.	5	21	39	15	12	n.a.
Finalised	2	9	76	3	24	22	21	3	160
May 1998									
Initiated	13	11	n.a.	5	26	60	26	10	n.a.
Finalised	10	11	64	10	17	26	24	10	172
June 1998									
Initiated	15	12	n.a.	4	15	37	20	11	n.a.
Finalised	8	6	67	4	22	39	26	9	181
July to June 1997–98									
Pending at start	175	65	n.a.	65	132	122	221	106	n.a.
Total initiated	125	100	n.a.	64	218	455	250	148	n.a.
Total transferred in	—	3	n.a.	52	15	..	..	..	n.a.
Total transferred out	5	2	n.a.	20	24	..	..	..	n.a.
Total finalised	93	78	813	112	232	351	296	130	2 105
Pending at end	202	88	n.a.	49	109	226	175	124	n.a.

(a) Counts of defendants initiated, pending and transferred are not available for the Qld Supreme Court. Finalisation data for Qld exclude bench warrants being issued, see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 12.

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DEFENDANTS INITIATED AND FINALISED, Status by Month *continued*

Month and status	NSW	Vic.	Qld(a)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT(b)									
July 1997									
Initiated	366	163	n.a.	77	228	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	245	123	441	73	169	..	..	..	1 051
August 1997									
Initiated	371	156	n.a.	82	201	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	314	109	569	75	221	..	..	..	1 288
September 1997									
Initiated	408	153	n.a.	85	201	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	357	155	440	78	162	..	..	..	1 192
October 1997									
Initiated	359	164	n.a.	82	189	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	341	170	517	84	200	..	..	..	1 312
November 1997									
Initiated	324	135	n.a.	58	212	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	360	133	504	62	178	..	..	..	1 237
December 1997									
Initiated	295	136	n.a.	58	192	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	395	135	381	79	173	..	..	..	1 163
January 1998									
Initiated	233	121	n.a.	83	220	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	84	65	290	72	124	..	..	..	635
February 1998									
Initiated	387	177	n.a.	78	207	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	302	161	489	66	216	..	..	..	1 234
March 1998									
Initiated	338	155	n.a.	81	247	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	362	172	553	92	181	..	..	..	1 360
April 1998									
Initiated	366	172	n.a.	82	220	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	298	123	444	59	183	..	..	..	1 107
May 1998									
Initiated	312	198	n.a.	68	212	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	387	159	572	86	217	..	..	..	1 421
June 1998									
Initiated	314	159	n.a.	83	242	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	367	164	464	62	244	..	..	..	1 301
July to June 1997-98									
Pending at start	3 445	984	n.a.	427	1 333	..	..	..	n.a.
Total initiated	4 073	1 889	n.a.	917	2 571	..	..	..	n.a.
Total transferred in	5	2	n.a.	20	24	..	..	..	n.a.
Total transferred out	—	3	n.a.	52	15	..	..	..	n.a.
Total finalised	3 812	1 669	5 664	888	2 268	..	..	..	14 301
Pending at end	3 711	1 203	n.a.	424	1 645	..	..	..	n.a.

(a) Counts of defendants initiated, pending and transferred are not available for the Qld Intermediate Court. Finalisation data for Qld exclude bench warrants being issued, see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 12.

(b) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

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DEFENDANTS INITIATED AND FINALISED, Status by Month *continued*

Month and status	NSW	Vic.	Qld(a)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS(b)									
July 1997									
Initiated	373	171	503	82	241	25	29	19	1 443
Finalised	249	127	486	86	187	33	26	11	1 205
August 1997									
Initiated	390	162	507	95	214	28	31	23	1 450
Finalised	324	114	660	86	246	21	24	14	1 489
September 1997									
Initiated	415	161	506	87	219	42	26	11	1 467
Finalised	367	158	522	87	178	30	26	14	1 382
October 1997									
Initiated	367	172	481	88	208	47	23	15	1 401
Finalised	352	175	566	98	220	23	22	14	1 470
November 1997									
Initiated	331	143	393	62	238	49	13	10	1 239
Finalised	374	136	582	73	202	36	26	16	1 445
December 1997									
Initiated	306	145	391	64	215	21	12	10	1 164
Finalised	404	150	452	96	185	39	26	6	1 358
January 1998									
Initiated	234	124	438	88	230	32	13	1	1 160
Finalised	84	69	316	73	136	—	1	4	683
February 1998									
Initiated	400	188	598	81	227	33	23	19	1 569
Finalised	310	167	579	75	249	65	36	19	1 500
March 1998									
Initiated	354	168	669	87	261	42	19	7	1 607
Finalised	369	179	627	102	190	17	38	10	1 532
April 1998									
Initiated	374	175	540	87	241	39	15	12	1 483
Finalised	300	132	520	62	207	22	21	3	1 267
May 1998									
Initiated	325	209	628	73	238	60	26	10	1 569
Finalised	397	170	636	96	234	26	24	10	1 593
June 1998									
Initiated	329	171	575	87	257	37	20	11	1 487
Finalised	375	170	531	66	266	39	26	9	1 482
July to June 1997–98									
Pending at start	3 620	1 049	n.a.	492	1 465	122	221	106	n.a.
Total initiated	4 198	1 989	6 229	981	2 789	455	250	148	17 039
Total transferred in	5	5	n.a.	72	39	. .	. .	. .	n.a.
Total transferred out	5	5	n.a.	72	39	. .	. .	. .	n.a.
Total finalised	3 905	1 747	6 477	1 000	2 500	351	296	130	16 406
Pending at end	3 913	1 291	n.a.	473	1 754	226	175	124	n.a.
RATE PER 100,000 ADULT PERSONS									
Pending at start	75.3	29.5	n.a.	43.0	107.5	34.3	167.0	45.7	n.a.
Total initiated	87.3	56.0	241.3	85.7	204.6	128.1	188.9	63.8	120.2
Total finalised	81.2	49.2	251.0	87.3	183.4	98.8	223.7	56.0	115.8
Pending at end	81.3	36.3	n.a.	41.3	128.6	63.6	132.3	53.4	n.a.

(a) Initiation data for Qld only include defendants committed, data for other methods of initiation are not currently available, see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 12. The finalised data for Qld exclude bench warrants being issued. Counts of defendants pending and defendants transferred are not currently available for Qld.

(b) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

2

DEFENDANTS INITIATED, Method of Initiation

Method of initiation	NSW	Vic.	Qld(a)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT									
Committed									
Committed for trial	121	88	n.a.	50	112	353	208	89	n.a.
Committed for sentence	2	7	n.a.	1	102	96	8	52	n.a.
Total	123	95	n.a.	51	214	449	216	141	n.a.
Ex-officio	2	3	n.a.	3	—	1	3	3	n.a.
Bench warrant executed	—	—	n.a.	4	4	5	31	4	n.a.
Other initiation(b)	—	2	n.a.	6	—	—	—	—	n.a.
Total	125	100	n.a.	64	218	455	250	148	n.a.
PROPORTION IN SUPREME COURT (%)									
Committed									
Committed for trial	96.8	88.0	n.a.	78.1	51.4	77.6	83.2	60.1	n.a.
Committed for sentence	1.6	7.0	n.a.	1.6	46.8	21.1	3.2	35.1	n.a.
Total	98.4	95.0	n.a.	79.7	98.2	98.7	86.4	95.3	n.a.
Ex-officio	1.6	3.0	n.a.	4.7	—	0.2	1.2	2.0	n.a.
Bench warrant executed	—	—	n.a.	6.3	1.8	1.1	12.4	2.7	n.a.
Other initiation(b)	—	2.0	n.a.	9.4	—	—	—	—	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	n.a.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	n.a.
NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT(c)									
Committed									
Committed for trial	3 079	983	n.a.	700	1 290	..	..	..	n.a.
Committed for sentence	795	855	n.a.	138	1 199	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	3 874	1 838	n.a.	838	2 489	..	..	..	n.a.
Ex-officio	19	12	n.a.	8	3	..	..	..	n.a.
Bench warrant executed	160	22	n.a.	65	75	..	..	..	n.a.
Other initiation(b)	20	17	n.a.	6	4	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	4 073	1 889	n.a.	917	2 571	..	..	..	n.a.
PROPORTION IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (%) (c)									
Committed									
Committed for trial	75.6	52.0	n.a.	76.3	50.2	..	..	..	n.a.
Committed for sentence	19.5	45.3	n.a.	15.0	46.6	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	95.1	97.3	n.a.	91.4	96.8	..	..	..	n.a.
Ex-officio	0.5	0.6	n.a.	0.9	0.1	..	..	..	n.a.
Bench warrant executed	3.9	1.2	n.a.	7.1	2.9	..	..	..	n.a.
Other initiation(b)	0.5	0.9	n.a.	0.7	0.2	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	n.a.	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	n.a.

(a) Data for defendants initiated in Qld are only available for the Supreme and Intermediate Courts combined, see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 12.

(b) Includes defendants initiated as a result of a re-trial being ordered or by a transfer from another court.

(c) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

2

DEFENDANTS INITIATED, Method of Initiation *continued*

<i>Method of initiation</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS (a)									
Committed									
Committed for trial	3 200	1 071	5 519	750	1 402	353	208	89	12 592
Committed for sentence	797	862	710	139	1 301	96	8	52	3 965
<i>Total</i>	3 997	1 933	6 229	889	2 703	449	216	141	16 557
Ex-officio	21	15	n.a.	11	3	1	3	3	(b)57
Bench warrant executed	160	22	n.a.	69	79	5	31	4	(b)370
Other initiation(c)	20	19	n.a.	12	4	—	—	—	(b)55
Total	4 198	1 989	(b)6 229	981	2 789	455	250	148	(b)17 039
PROPORTION IN HIGHER COURTS (%) (a)									
Committed									
Committed for trial	76.2	53.8	88.6	76.5	50.3	77.6	83.2	60.1	73.9
Committed for sentence	19.0	43.3	11.4	14.2	46.6	21.1	3.2	35.1	23.3
<i>Total</i>	95.2	97.2	100.0	90.6	96.9	98.7	86.4	95.3	97.2
Ex-officio	0.5	0.8	n.a.	1.1	0.1	0.2	1.2	2.0	(b)0.3
Bench warrant executed	3.8	1.1	n.a.	7.0	2.8	1.1	12.4	2.7	(b)2.2
Other initiation(c)	0.5	1.0	n.a.	1.2	0.1	—	—	—	(b)0.3
Total	100.0	100.0	(b)100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(b)100.0

(a) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

(b) Data on defendants initiated by ex-officio, bench warrant executed or other initiation methods are currently not available for Qld, see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 12.

(c) Includes defendants initiated as a result of a re-trial being ordered by a transfer from another court.

3

DEFENDANTS FINALISED, Method of Finalisation

Method of finalisation	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT									
Adjudicated									
Acquitted	12	16	23	20	20	25	29	18	163
Proven guilty									
Guilty verdict	31	29	55	27	49	30	15	15	251
Guilty plea	39	29	654	49	142	225	192	79	1 409
Total	70	58	709	76	191	255	207	94	1 660
Total	82	74	732	96	211	280	236	112	1 823
Non-adjudicated									
Bench warrant issued	—	—	n.a.	4	9	20	32	2	(a)67
Withdrawn	7	4	81	9	11	47	28	13	200
Other finalisation(b)	4	—	—	3	1	4	—	3	15
Total	11	4	(a)81	16	21	71	60	18	(a)282
Total	93	78	(a)813	112	232	351	296	130	(a)2 105
PROPORTION IN SUPREME COURT (%)									
Adjudicated									
Acquitted	12.9	20.5	2.8	17.9	8.6	7.1	9.8	13.8	7.7
Proven guilty									
Guilty verdict	33.3	37.2	6.8	24.1	21.1	8.5	5.1	11.5	11.9
Guilty plea	41.9	37.2	80.4	43.8	61.2	64.1	64.9	60.8	66.9
Total	75.3	74.4	87.2	67.9	82.3	72.6	69.9	72.3	78.9
Total	88.2	94.9	90.0	85.7	90.9	79.8	79.7	86.2	86.6
Non-adjudicated									
Bench warrant issued	—	—	n.a.	3.6	3.9	5.7	10.8	1.5	(a)3.2
Withdrawn	7.5	5.1	10.0	8.0	4.7	13.4	9.5	10.0	9.5
Other finalisation(b)	4.3	—	—	2.7	0.4	1.1	—	2.3	0.7
Total	11.8	5.1	(a)10.0	14.3	9.1	20.2	20.3	13.8	(a)13.4
Total	100.0	100.0	(a)100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(a)100.0

(a) These totals exclude Qld defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

(b) Includes defendants who were remitted to the Magistrates Court or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

3

DEFENDANTS FINALISED, Method of Finalisation *continued*

Method of finalisation	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT(a)									
Adjudicated									
Acquitted	476	169	294	65	220	..	..	..	1 224
Proven guilty									
Guilty verdict	394	171	304	102	260	..	..	..	1 231
Guilty plea	2 309	1 220	3 923	520	1 473	..	..	..	9 445
Proven guilty n.f.d.(b)	—	—	224	—	—	..	..	..	224
Total	2 703	1 391	4 451	622	1 733	..	..	..	10 900
Total	3 179	1 560	4 745	687	1 953	..	..	..	12 124
Non-adjudicated									
Bench warrant issued	199	23	n.a.	67	107	..	..	..	(c)396
Withdrawn	380	85	916	123	184	..	..	..	1 688
Other finalisation(d)	54	1	3	11	24	..	..	..	93
Total	633	109	(c)919	201	315	..	..	..	(c)2 177
Total	3 812	1 669	(c)5 664	888	2 268	..	..	..	(c)14 301

PROPORTION IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (%) (a)									
Adjudicated									
Acquitted	12.5	10.1	5.2	7.3	9.7	..	..	..	8.6
Proven guilty									
Guilty verdict	10.3	10.2	5.4	11.5	11.5	..	..	..	8.6
Guilty plea	60.6	73.1	69.3	58.6	64.9	..	..	..	66.0
Proven guilty n.f.d.(b)	—	—	4.0	—	—	..	..	..	1.6
Total	70.9	83.3	78.6	70.0	76.4	..	..	..	76.2
Total	83.4	93.5	83.8	77.4	86.1	..	..	..	84.8
Non-adjudicated									
Bench warrant issued	5.2	1.4	n.a.	7.5	4.7	..	..	..	(c)2.8
Withdrawn	10.0	5.1	16.2	13.9	8.1	..	..	..	11.8
Other finalisation(d)	1.4	0.1	0.1	1.2	1.1	..	..	..	0.7
Total	16.6	6.5	(c)16.2	22.6	13.9	..	..	..	(c)15.2
Total	100.0	100.0	(c)100.0	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	(c)100.0

(a) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

(b) Where the distinction between guilty verdict and guilty plea is unavailable, data are classified to proven guilty n.f.d.

(c) These totals exclude Qld defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

(d) Includes defendants who were remitted to the Magistrates Court or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

3

DEFENDANTS FINALISED, Method of Finalisation *continued*

Method of finalisation	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS(a)									
Adjudicated									
Acquitted	488	185	317	85	240	25	29	18	1 387
Proven guilty									
Guilty verdict	425	200	359	129	309	30	15	15	1 482
Guilty plea	2 348	1 249	4 577	569	1 615	225	192	79	10 854
Proven guilty n.f.d.(b)	—	—	224	—	—	—	—	—	224
Total	2 773	1 449	5 160	698	1 924	255	207	94	12 560
Total	3 261	1 634	5 477	783	2 164	280	236	112	13 947
Non-adjudicated									
Bench warrant issued	199	23	n.a.	71	116	20	32	2	(c)463
Withdrawn	387	89	997	132	195	47	28	13	1 888
Other finalisation(d)	58	1	3	14	25	4	—	3	108
Total	644	113	(c)1 000	217	336	71	60	18	(c)2 459
Total	3 905	1 747	(c)6 477	1 000	2 500	351	296	130	(c)16 406

PROPORTION IN HIGHER COURTS (%) (a)									
Adjudicated									
Acquitted	12.5	10.6	4.9	8.5	9.6	7.1	9.8	13.8	8.5
Proven guilty									
Guilty verdict	10.9	11.4	5.5	12.9	12.4	8.5	5.1	11.5	9.0
Guilty plea	60.1	71.5	70.7	56.9	64.6	64.1	64.9	60.8	66.2
Proven guilty n.f.d.(b)	—	—	3.5	—	—	—	—	—	1.4
Total	71.0	82.9	79.7	69.8	77.0	72.6	69.9	72.3	76.6
Total	83.5	93.5	84.6	78.3	86.6	79.8	79.7	86.2	85.0
Non-adjudicated									
Bench warrant issued	5.1	1.3	n.a.	7.1	4.6	5.7	10.8	1.5	(c)2.8
Withdrawn	9.9	5.1	15.4	13.2	7.8	13.4	9.5	10.0	11.5
Other finalisation(d)	1.5	0.1	—	1.4	1.0	1.1	—	2.3	0.7
Total	16.5	6.5	(c)15.4	21.7	13.4	20.2	20.3	13.8	(c)15.0
Total	100.0	100.0	(c)100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(c)100.0

(a) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

(b) Where the distinction between guilty verdict and guilty plea is unavailable, data are classified to proven guilty n.f.d.

(c) These totals exclude Qld defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

(d) Includes defendants who were remitted to Magistrates Court or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

4

DEFENDANTS FINALISED BY ADJUDICATION(a), Initial and Final Plea Status

Initial and final plea status	NSW	Vic.	Qld(b)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT									
No change in plea									
Not guilty	49	45	n.a.	53	77	54	46	32	n.a.
Guilty	—	8	n.a.	11	99	86	10	51	n.a.
Total	49	53	n.a.	64	176	140	56	83	n.a.
Change in plea									
Not guilty to guilty	33	21	n.a.	32	35	139	179	28	n.a.
Guilty to not guilty	—	—	n.a.	—	—	1	1	1	n.a.
Total	33	21	n.a.	32	35	140	180	29	n.a.
Initial/final plea unknown	—	—	n.a.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	82	74	732	96	211	280	236	112	1 823
PROPORTION IN SUPREME COURT (%)									
No change in plea									
Not guilty	59.8	60.8	n.a.	55.2	36.5	19.3	19.5	28.6	n.a.
Guilty	—	10.8	n.a.	11.5	46.9	30.7	4.2	45.5	n.a.
Total	59.8	71.6	n.a.	66.7	83.4	50.0	23.7	74.1	n.a.
Change in plea									
Not guilty to guilty	40.2	28.4	n.a.	33.3	16.6	49.6	75.8	25.0	n.a.
Guilty to not guilty	—	—	n.a.	—	—	0.4	0.4	0.9	n.a.
Total	40.2	28.4	n.a.	33.3	16.6	50.0	76.3	25.9	n.a.
Initial/final plea unknown	—	—	n.a.	—	—	—	—	—	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT(c)									
No change in plea									
Not guilty	942	348	n.a.	183	497	..	..	..	n.a.
Guilty	853	790	n.a.	135	1 093	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	1 795	1 138	n.a.	318	1 590	..	..	..	n.a.
Change in plea									
Not guilty to guilty	1 381	422	n.a.	369	360	..	..	..	n.a.
Guilty to not guilty	3	—	n.a.	—	3	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	1 384	422	n.a.	369	363	..	..	..	n.a.
Initial/final plea unknown	—	—	n.a.	—	—	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	3 179	1 560	4 745	687	1 953	..	..	..	12 124
PROPORTION IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (%) (c)									
No change in plea									
Not guilty	29.6	22.3	n.a.	26.6	25.4	..	..	..	n.a.
Guilty	26.8	50.6	n.a.	19.7	56.0	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	56.5	72.9	n.a.	46.3	81.4	..	..	..	n.a.
Change in plea									
Not guilty to guilty	43.4	27.1	n.a.	53.7	18.4	..	..	..	n.a.
Guilty to not guilty	0.1	—	n.a.	—	0.2	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	43.5	27.1	n.a.	53.7	18.6	..	..	..	n.a.
Initial/final plea unknown	—	—	n.a.	—	—	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	100.0

(a) Includes defendants who were acquitted, pleaded guilty or received a guilty verdict.

(b) Information on both initial and final pleas was not available in Qld.

(c) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

4

DEFENDANTS FINALISED BY ADJUDICATION(a), Initial and Final Plea Status *continued*

<i>Initial and final plea status</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld(b)</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS(c)									
No change in plea									
Not guilty	991	393	n.a.	236	574	54	46	32	n.a.
Guilty	853	798	n.a.	146	1 192	86	10	51	n.a.
<i>Total</i>	<i>1 844</i>	<i>1 191</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>382</i>	<i>1 766</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
Change in plea									
Not guilty to guilty	1 414	443	n.a.	401	395	139	179	28	n.a.
Guilty to not guilty	3	—	n.a.	—	3	1	1	1	n.a.
<i>Total</i>	<i>1 417</i>	<i>443</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>401</i>	<i>398</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>180</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
Initial/final plea unknown	—	—	n.a.	—	—	—	—	—	n.a.
Total	3 261	1 634	5 477	783	2 164	280	236	112	13 947
PROPORTION IN HIGHER COURTS (%) (c)									
No change in plea									
Not guilty	30.4	24.1	n.a.	30.1	26.5	19.3	19.5	28.6	n.a.
Guilty	26.2	48.8	n.a.	18.6	55.1	30.7	4.2	45.5	n.a.
<i>Total</i>	<i>56.5</i>	<i>72.9</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>48.8</i>	<i>81.6</i>	<i>50.0</i>	<i>23.7</i>	<i>74.1</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
Change in plea									
Not guilty to guilty	43.4	27.1	n.a.	51.2	18.3	49.6	75.8	25.0	n.a.
Guilty to not guilty	0.1	—	n.a.	—	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.9	n.a.
<i>Total</i>	<i>43.5</i>	<i>27.1</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>51.2</i>	<i>18.4</i>	<i>50.0</i>	<i>76.3</i>	<i>25.9</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
Initial/final plea unknown	—	—	n.a.	—	—	—	—	—	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes defendants who were acquitted, pleaded guilty or received a guilty verdict.

(b) Information on both initial and final pleas was not available in Qld.

(c) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

5

DEFENDANTS FINALISED, Sex and Age(a) Group

Sex and age group (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld(b)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(b)
TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS(c)									
Male									
Under 17	27	—	2	3	—	11	6	2	51
17–19	256	121	823	64	302	66	29	14	1 675
20–24	775	316	1 186	204	614	78	57	24	3 254
25–29	677	227	936	166	405	44	51	23	2 529
30–34	466	222	611	149	268	36	36	12	1 800
35–39	410	166	506	105	200	31	35	10	1 463
40–44	301	133	338	85	129	13	18	9	1 026
45–49	233	113	238	65	97	7	12	5	770
50 and over	417	199	371	67	155	24	18	10	1 261
Unknown	29	86	569	2	43	—	10	1	740
Total	3 591	1 583	5 580	910	2 213	310	272	110	14 569
Median age	30.6	31.8	27.4	30.5	26.6	25.0	29.3	27.4	28.6
Mean age	33.6	34.5	30.6	32.9	30.3	28.7	31.0	31.4	31.9
Female									
Under 17	—	—	—	1	—	4	—	—	5
17–19	20	14	98	5	41	5	—	1	184
20–24	66	28	176	20	81	12	1	8	392
25–29	63	31	165	17	62	4	5	3	350
30–34	50	20	127	15	36	5	6	—	259
35–39	46	15	105	17	23	8	4	1	219
40–44	30	24	61	5	17	1	3	2	143
45–49	13	11	32	5	6	2	1	1	71
50 and over	20	11	32	5	9	—	4	2	83
Unknown	6	4	101	—	12	—	—	2	125
Total	314	158	897	90	287	41	24	20	1 831
Median age	30.3	30.5	28.5	30.7	26.2	24.2	34.5	25.1	28.6
Mean age	32.5	33.3	30.5	32.2	28.4	27.6	37.9	31.3	30.9
Persons									
Under 17	27	—	2	4	—	15	6	2	56
17–19	276	135	921	69	343	71	29	15	1 859
20–24	841	344	1 362	224	695	90	58	32	3 646
25–29	740	258	1 101	183	467	48	56	26	2 879
30–34	516	242	738	164	304	41	42	12	2 059
35–39	456	181	611	122	223	39	39	11	1 682
40–44	331	157	399	90	146	14	21	11	1 169
45–49	246	124	270	70	103	9	13	6	841
50 and over	437	210	403	72	164	24	22	12	1 344
Unknown	35	90	670	2	55	—	10	3	865
Total	3 905	1 741	6 477	1 000	2 500	351	296	130	16 400
Median age	30.5	31.6	27.6	30.5	26.5	24.9	29.7	27.3	28.6
Mean age	33.5	34.4	30.6	32.8	30.1	28.6	31.6	31.4	31.8
Organisations	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Total	3 905	1 747	6 477	1 000	2 500	351	296	130	16 406

(a) Age is calculated at the defendant's date of finalisation.

(b) Excludes Qld defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

(c) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

Sex and age group (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld(b)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(b)
PROPORTION IN HIGHER COURTS (%) ^(c)									
Male									
Under 17	0.8	—	—	0.3	—	3.5	2.2	1.8	0.4
17–19	7.1	7.6	14.7	7.0	13.6	21.3	10.7	12.7	11.5
20–24	21.6	20.0	21.3	22.4	27.7	25.2	21.0	21.8	22.3
25–29	18.9	14.3	16.8	18.2	18.3	14.2	18.8	20.9	17.4
30–34	13.0	14.0	10.9	16.4	12.1	11.6	13.2	10.9	12.4
35–39	11.4	10.5	9.1	11.5	9.0	10.0	12.9	9.1	10.0
40–44	8.4	8.4	6.1	9.3	5.8	4.2	6.6	8.2	7.0
45–49	6.5	7.1	4.3	7.1	4.4	2.3	4.4	4.5	5.3
50 and over	11.6	12.6	6.6	7.4	7.0	7.7	6.6	9.1	8.7
Unknown	0.8	5.4	10.2	0.2	1.9	—	3.7	0.9	5.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Female									
Under 17	—	—	—	1.1	—	9.8	—	—	0.3
17–19	6.4	8.9	10.9	5.6	14.3	12.2	—	5.0	10.0
20–24	21.0	17.7	19.6	22.2	28.2	29.3	4.2	40.0	21.4
25–29	20.1	19.6	18.4	18.9	21.6	9.8	20.8	15.0	19.1
30–34	15.9	12.7	14.2	16.7	12.5	12.2	25.0	—	14.1
35–39	14.6	9.5	11.7	18.9	8.0	19.5	16.7	5.0	12.0
40–44	9.6	15.2	6.8	5.6	5.9	2.4	12.5	10.0	7.8
45–49	4.1	7.0	3.6	5.6	2.1	4.9	4.2	5.0	3.9
50 and over	6.4	7.0	3.6	5.6	3.1	—	16.7	10.0	4.5
Unknown	1.9	2.5	11.3	—	4.2	—	—	10.0	6.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Persons									
Under 17	0.7	—	—	0.4	—	4.3	2.0	1.5	0.3
17–19	7.1	7.8	14.2	6.9	13.7	20.2	9.8	11.5	11.3
20–24	21.5	19.8	21.0	22.4	27.8	25.6	19.6	24.6	22.2
25–29	19.0	14.8	17.0	18.3	18.7	13.7	18.9	20.0	17.6
30–34	13.2	13.9	11.4	16.4	12.2	11.7	14.2	9.2	12.6
35–39	11.7	10.4	9.4	12.2	8.9	11.1	13.2	8.5	10.3
40–44	8.5	9.0	6.2	9.0	5.8	4.0	7.1	8.5	7.1
45–49	6.3	7.1	4.2	7.0	4.1	2.6	4.4	4.6	5.1
50 and over	11.2	12.1	6.2	7.2	6.6	6.8	7.4	9.2	8.2
Unknown	0.9	5.2	10.3	0.2	2.2	—	3.4	2.3	5.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Defendants									
Male	92.0	90.6	86.2	91.0	88.5	88.3	91.9	84.6	88.8
Female	8.0	9.0	13.8	9.0	11.5	11.7	8.1	15.4	11.2
Organisations	—	0.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Age is calculated at the defendant's date of finalisation.

(b) Excludes Qld defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

(c) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

Sex and age group (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld(b)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(b)
RATE OF HIGHER COURTS DEFENDANTS PER 100,000 ADULT PERSONS									
Male									
Under 17	3.5	—	0.5	1.7	—	18.3	20.8	5.2	2.2
17–19	194.8	123.3	1 089.2	214.1	751.1	648.8	652.7	176.2	421.1
20–24	341.2	183.3	907.4	391.7	869.1	496.7	627.1	170.8	470.3
25–29	278.2	123.1	686.2	300.3	549.9	270.6	500.1	176.0	345.2
30–34	194.4	125.7	477.2	272.1	380.0	225.3	391.3	100.2	254.7
35–39	162.5	91.0	374.7	180.6	270.3	168.8	400.1	80.9	197.4
40–44	128.7	78.1	266.5	155.0	182.9	73.8	239.3	76.8	148.0
45–49	106.8	71.5	194.7	124.5	146.4	42.4	178.7	42.9	118.1
50 and over	50.9	33.5	86.9	33.0	72.0	38.3	124.1	31.7	53.3
Total	151.8	91.2	435.4	162.5	325.0	179.0	386.3	96.2	208.7
Female									
Under 17	—	—	—	0.6	—	7.0	—	—	0.2
17–19	16.0	15.0	136.2	17.6	107.1	51.5	—	13.6	48.7
20–24	29.8	16.7	138.4	40.3	121.3	78.4	12.5	59.8	58.6
25–29	25.7	16.7	122.2	31.7	87.8	24.1	52.7	22.7	48.0
30–34	20.9	11.1	98.5	27.6	51.6	29.5	71.1	—	36.4
35–39	18.3	8.1	77.1	28.9	31.3	42.1	50.9	7.8	29.4
40–44	12.8	13.8	48.1	9.0	24.2	5.6	43.4	16.1	20.5
45–49	6.0	6.9	27.0	9.5	9.4	12.2	17.4	8.2	11.0
50 and over	2.2	1.6	7.0	2.2	3.9	—	34.8	5.9	3.2
Total	12.8	8.7	69.0	15.4	42.1	22.5	38.8	17.0	25.5
Persons									
Under 17	1.8	—	0.2	1.2	—	12.8	10.7	2.7	1.3
17–19	107.6	70.6	624.4	118.3	437.0	357.0	346.3	97.9	239.7
20–24	187.5	101.2	528.2	220.4	505.7	290.2	338.9	116.7	267.9
25–29	151.5	69.6	405.7	167.9	323.7	146.1	284.5	98.8	196.9
30–34	107.6	67.8	287.3	150.3	216.8	124.6	238.1	49.3	145.3
35–39	90.5	49.3	225.2	104.4	151.2	104.4	234.8	43.6	113.2
40–44	70.8	45.6	157.3	81.6	103.7	39.5	145.4	45.6	84.1
45–49	56.8	38.9	112.2	66.7	79.3	27.3	104.3	25.2	64.9
50 and over	25.2	16.6	45.7	16.5	36.9	18.1	84.6	18.3	27.0
Total	81.2	49.0	251.0	87.3	183.4	98.8	223.7	56.0	115.7

(a) Age is calculated at the defendant's date of finalisation.

(b) Excludes Qld defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

6

DEFENDANTS FINALISED, Initiation to Finalisation—Summary Duration Measures

<i>Method of finalisation and summary duration measures (weeks)</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
SUPREME COURT									
Acquitted									
Mean	78.1	49.6	44.3	40.5	46.1	28.7	53.0	57.6	47.7
10th percentile	43.2	16.3	19.6	18.5	22.0	16.0	31.7	19.3	18.7
25th percentile	43.5	24.6	31.4	27.4	24.4	19.7	37.3	32.6	28.5
Median	71.4	47.6	37.9	33.0	41.1	28.3	48.7	52.6	42.3
75th percentile	105.9	50.5	51.8	49.7	64.0	34.4	60.1	72.7	56.4
90th percentile	110.5	94.9	59.6	80.7	65.9	43.0	89.6	96.0	85.1
Guilty verdict									
Mean	113.2	50.8	37.4	55.4	40.8	30.9	65.5	46.8	52.4
10th percentile	65.0	25.9	15.1	26.9	21.8	8.3	25.2	18.4	18.6
25th percentile	85.9	38.4	23.4	35.5	28.1	17.7	59.0	33.8	28.0
Median	104.6	45.1	32.4	44.1	38.3	25.6	74.4	48.6	42.0
75th percentile	131.3	59.9	41.6	71.1	53.0	38.9	79.9	63.6	67.5
90th percentile	151.7	78.3	67.5	94.4	63.7	55.2	87.7	72.3	94.4
Guilty plea									
Mean	67.9	32.5	32.4	34.1	16.2	15.1	31.5	22.3	28.4
10th percentile	26.9	12.6	0.1	2.4	7.9	3.9	6.3	7.1	3.1
25th percentile	53.4	16.1	8.9	19.3	9.4	6.6	12.7	9.0	9.1
Median	67.1	31.6	18.9	36.6	11.6	12.0	25.7	14.1	17.3
75th percentile	77.8	42.3	28.8	47.1	15.7	18.7	41.2	34.8	31.4
90th percentile	109.1	51.4	45.1	51.0	30.4	28.0	63.5	52.3	50.7
Other finalisation(a)									
Mean	62.1	66.9	41.1	25.1	26.4	22.0	45.6	49.0	36.9
10th percentile	18.6	9.5	16.3	3.0	7.9	4.1	7.3	10.0	6.9
25th percentile	32.4	11.3	22.7	14.7	9.1	8.1	21.0	19.4	15.5
Median	79.9	25.8	34.4	23.1	15.1	17.7	36.9	35.9	29.1
75th percentile	96.1	81.4	48.4	37.7	34.1	29.4	62.1	84.1	46.8
90th percentile	98.6	157.1	75.3	46.1	57.1	44.1	97.7	97.9	81.8
Total defendants finalised									
Mean	83.6	44.6	33.9	39.1	24.9	18.8	38.2	33.7	33.9
10th percentile	32.4	14.6	0.1	7.2	8.1	4.1	6.8	7.6	5.0
25th percentile	55.9	23.4	11.6	21.9	10.4	7.4	16.3	10.9	11.4
Median	76.4	41.8	21.6	36.5	15.1	14.1	31.8	21.8	22.9
75th percentile	105.3	51.5	34.4	49.2	35.4	23.6	54.5	52.0	41.0
90th percentile	132.2	73.7	50.1	71.8	56.9	38.7	74.4	72.9	66.1

(a) Includes defendants who were withdrawn by the prosecution, remitted to the Magistrates Court or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

<i>Method of finalisation and summary duration measures (weeks)</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
INTERMEDIATE COURT(a)									
Acquitted									
Mean	61.3	49.0	34.2	32.8	51.2	..	..	..	49.8
10th percentile	19.7	13.3	7.3	13.7	21.8	..	..	..	15.1
25th percentile	29.1	20.4	16.7	22.6	38.0	..	..	..	25.1
Median	47.5	37.6	28.7	28.3	53.9	..	..	..	41.0
75th percentile	78.0	64.1	40.1	39.1	62.7	..	..	..	62.6
90th percentile	119.1	94.7	54.2	57.8	75.5	..	..	..	92.0
Guilty verdict									
Mean	69.6	54.5	32.1	38.8	53.9	..	..	..	52.4
10th percentile	26.7	15.0	9.1	13.0	22.1	..	..	..	15.4
25th percentile	35.3	26.0	17.2	17.6	37.9	..	..	..	27.1
Median	53.4	44.1	28.6	29.2	54.7	..	..	..	42.4
75th percentile	91.1	71.8	40.2	40.5	66.7	..	..	..	64.5
90th percentile	134.2	99.1	54.3	73.1	80.6	..	..	..	97.6
Guilty plea									
Mean	35.5	25.6	23.1	22.8	19.4	..	..	..	25.8
10th percentile	9.6	9.1	0.1	6.1	5.7	..	..	..	4.6
25th percentile	16.0	12.4	7.0	11.2	6.9	..	..	..	9.1
Median	26.4	16.4	16.6	18.1	9.1	..	..	..	17.0
75th percentile	43.1	30.7	26.4	30.0	14.1	..	..	..	30.3
90th percentile	74.3	54.1	43.3	41.2	33.3	..	..	..	52.0
Proven guilty n.f.d(b)									
Mean	—	—	37.8	—	—	..	..	..	37.8
10th percentile	—	—	8.1	—	—	..	..	..	8.1
25th percentile	—	—	15.6	—	—	..	..	..	15.6
Median	—	—	25.9	—	—	..	..	..	25.9
75th percentile	—	—	42.9	—	—	..	..	..	42.9
90th percentile	—	—	75.2	—	—	..	..	..	75.2
Other finalisation(c)									
Mean	45.1	44.3	35.8	22.2	28.4	..	..	..	36.6
10th percentile	10.0	11.4	9.3	4.7	7.3	..	..	..	8.3
25th percentile	18.6	14.4	15.1	8.0	9.5	..	..	..	13.7
Median	33.3	25.3	26.3	16.1	17.3	..	..	..	25.6
75th percentile	57.3	55.0	41.3	28.9	39.4	..	..	..	44.4
90th percentile	94.9	91.7	62.3	49.6	66.6	..	..	..	70.6
Total defendants finalised									
Mean	43.8	32.1	26.8	25.3	27.7	..	..	..	32.0
10th percentile	11.1	10.1	0.3	5.9	6.1	..	..	..	5.9
25th percentile	18.4	13.1	9.4	11.3	7.7	..	..	..	11.3
Median	31.7	20.4	18.9	19.4	12.1	..	..	..	21.1
75th percentile	54.4	39.7	32.0	32.4	38.4	..	..	..	39.4
90th percentile	93.4	69.7	50.3	49.7	61.8	..	..	..	65.4

(a) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

(b) Where the distinction between Guilty Verdict and Guilty Plea is unavailable, data are classified to Proven Guilty n.f.d.

(c) Includes defendants who were withdrawn by the prosecution, remitted to the Magistrates Court or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

<i>Method of finalisation and summary duration measures (weeks)</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
TOTAL HIGHER COURTS(a)									
Acquitted									
Mean	61.7	49.1	34.9	34.6	50.8	28.7	53.0	57.6	49.5
10th percentile	20.0	13.3	8.0	15.0	21.8	16.0	31.7	19.3	15.6
25th percentile	29.7	21.6	17.9	22.7	36.8	19.7	37.3	32.6	25.4
Median	47.8	40.0	30.0	29.7	53.6	28.3	48.7	52.6	41.1
75th percentile	78.5	62.3	40.9	45.0	62.8	34.4	60.1	72.7	61.9
90th percentile	119.0	95.2	55.2	60.1	75.5	43.0	89.6	96.0	91.0
Guilty verdict									
Mean	72.8	54.0	32.9	42.3	51.8	30.9	65.5	46.8	52.4
10th percentile	27.3	15.6	9.3	13.8	22.1	8.3	25.2	18.4	15.9
25th percentile	37.1	27.3	18.5	20.3	34.3	17.7	59.0	33.8	27.3
Median	57.1	44.7	29.6	32.1	51.9	25.6	74.4	48.6	42.3
75th percentile	95.0	70.6	40.3	47.1	64.4	38.9	79.9	63.6	64.7
90th percentile	136.4	96.7	57.3	82.9	79.9	55.2	87.7	72.3	97.1
Guilty plea									
Mean	36.0	25.7	24.4	23.8	19.1	15.1	31.5	22.3	26.2
10th percentile	9.7	9.1	0.1	6.0	5.7	3.9	6.3	7.1	4.3
25th percentile	16.1	12.6	7.1	11.3	7.1	6.6	12.7	9.0	9.1
Median	26.7	16.6	16.9	18.9	9.4	12.0	25.7	14.1	17.0
75th percentile	44.1	31.1	26.7	31.0	14.3	18.7	41.2	34.8	30.4
90th percentile	75.2	54.1	43.8	44.5	33.2	28.0	63.5	52.3	51.9
Proven guilty n.f.d(b)									
Mean	—	—	37.8	—	—	—	—	—	37.8
10th percentile	—	—	8.1	—	—	—	—	—	8.1
25th percentile	—	—	15.6	—	—	—	—	—	15.6
Median	—	—	25.9	—	—	—	—	—	25.9
75th percentile	—	—	42.9	—	—	—	—	—	42.9
90th percentile	—	—	75.2	—	—	—	—	—	75.2
Other finalisation(c)									
Mean	45.4	45.1	36.2	22.5	28.3	22.0	45.6	49.0	36.6
10th percentile	10.0	10.9	9.6	4.7	7.4	4.1	7.3	10.0	8.1
25th percentile	18.6	14.4	15.7	8.1	9.4	8.1	21.0	19.4	13.9
Median	33.3	25.3	26.6	16.9	17.2	17.7	36.9	35.9	26.0
75th percentile	58.0	55.0	41.9	29.7	39.2	29.4	62.1	84.1	44.8
90th percentile	96.5	95.6	62.4	49.6	66.6	44.1	97.7	97.9	72.3
Total defendants finalised									
Mean	44.8	32.7	27.7	26.8	27.4	18.8	38.2	33.7	32.2
10th percentile	11.1	10.1	0.3	5.9	6.1	4.1	6.8	7.6	5.7
25th percentile	18.7	13.3	9.6	11.6	8.0	7.4	16.3	10.9	11.3
Median	32.3	21.4	19.1	20.3	12.6	14.1	31.8	21.8	21.3
75th percentile	57.1	41.6	32.1	35.1	37.7	23.6	54.5	52.0	39.7
90th percentile	96.8	70.2	50.3	52.1	61.7	38.7	74.4	72.9	65.4

(a) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

(b) Where the distinction between Guilty Verdict and Guilty Plea is unavailable, data are classified to Proven Guilty n.f.d.

(c) Includes defendants who were withdrawn by the prosecution, remitted to the Magistrates Court or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

7

DEFENDANTS FINALISED, Duration from Initiation to Finalisation

Method of finalisation/duration (weeks)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT									
Acquitted									
Under 13	—	1	1	1	1	2	1	—	7
13 and under 26	1	4	3	3	5	9	—	3	28
26 and under 39	—	—	8	7	4	9	9	2	39
39 and under 52	4	8	5	5	2	3	6	3	36
52 and under 65	—	1	5	1	6	2	7	4	26
65 and under 78	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	6
78 and over	5	2	1	3	2	—	4	4	21
Total	12	16	23	20	20	25	29	18	163
Guilty verdict									
Under 13	—	—	5	—	1	6	—	1	13
13 and under 26	—	3	12	2	7	9	3	2	38
26 and under 39	1	5	19	9	18	7	—	2	61
39 and under 52	—	9	10	7	10	3	—	3	42
52 and under 65	2	6	3	1	9	4	3	4	32
65 and under 78	4	3	2	3	3	—	4	3	22
78 and over	24	3	4	5	1	1	5	—	43
Total	31	29	55	27	49	30	15	15	251
Guilty plea									
Under 13	2	3	209	9	84	123	51	37	518
13 and under 26	2	10	251	7	39	76	45	18	448
26 and under 39	2	4	100	9	11	16	38	8	188
39 and under 52	4	9	54	19	2	2	23	7	120
52 and under 65	8	2	12	3	1	3	16	8	53
65 and under 78	11	—	14	1	5	3	13	—	47
78 and over	10	1	14	1	—	2	6	1	35
Total	39	29	654	49	142	225	192	79	1 409
Other finalisation(a)									
Under 13	1	2	6	4	8	25	8	3	57
13 and under 26	1	—	23	5	5	24	11	5	74
26 and under 39	3	—	19	5	3	10	13	2	55
39 and under 52	—	1	16	—	2	8	9	1	37
52 and under 65	—	—	5	2	1	3	6	1	18
65 and under 78	—	—	5	—	1	—	4	—	10
78 and over	6	1	7	—	1	1	9	6	31
Total	11	4	(b)81	16	21	71	60	18	(b)282
Total defendants finalised									
Under 13	3	6	221	14	94	156	60	41	595
13 and under 26	4	17	289	17	56	118	59	28	588
26 and under 39	6	9	146	30	36	42	60	14	343
39 and under 52	8	27	85	31	16	16	38	14	235
52 and under 65	10	9	25	7	17	12	32	17	129
65 and under 78	17	3	21	4	9	3	23	5	85
78 and over	45	7	26	9	4	4	24	11	130
Total	93	78	(b)813	112	232	351	296	130	(b)2 105

(a) Includes defendants who were withdrawn by the prosecution, remitted to the Magistrates Court or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

(b) Excludes Qld defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

7

DEFENDANTS FINALISED, Duration from Initiation to Finalisation *continued*

Method of finalisation/duration (weeks)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
PROPORTION IN SUPREME COURT (%)									
Acquitted									
Under 13	—	6.3	4.3	5.0	5.0	8.0	3.4	—	4.3
13 and under 26	8.3	25.0	13.0	15.0	25.0	36.0	—	16.7	17.2
26 and under 39	—	—	34.8	35.0	20.0	36.0	31.0	11.1	23.9
39 and under 52	33.3	50.0	21.7	25.0	10.0	12.0	20.7	16.7	22.1
52 and under 65	—	6.3	21.7	5.0	30.0	8.0	24.1	22.2	16.0
65 and under 78	16.7	—	—	—	—	—	6.9	11.1	3.7
78 and over	41.7	12.5	4.3	15.0	10.0	—	13.8	22.2	12.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Guilty verdict									
Under 13	—	—	9.1	—	2.0	20.0	—	6.7	5.2
13 and under 26	—	10.3	21.8	7.4	14.3	30.0	20.0	13.3	15.1
26 and under 39	3.2	17.2	34.5	33.3	36.7	23.3	—	13.3	24.3
39 and under 52	—	31.0	18.2	25.9	20.4	10.0	—	20.0	16.7
52 and under 65	6.5	20.7	5.5	3.7	18.4	13.3	20.0	26.7	12.7
65 and under 78	12.9	10.3	3.6	11.1	6.1	—	26.7	20.0	8.8
78 and over	77.4	10.3	7.3	18.5	2.0	3.3	33.3	—	17.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Guilty plea									
Under 13	5.1	10.3	32.0	18.4	59.2	54.7	26.6	46.8	36.8
13 and under 26	5.1	34.5	38.4	14.3	27.5	33.8	23.4	22.8	31.8
26 and under 39	5.1	13.8	15.3	18.4	7.7	7.1	19.8	10.1	13.3
39 and under 52	10.3	31.0	8.3	38.8	1.4	0.9	12.0	8.9	8.5
52 and under 65	20.5	6.9	1.8	6.1	0.7	1.3	8.3	10.1	3.8
65 and under 78	28.2	—	2.1	2.0	3.5	1.3	6.8	—	3.3
78 and over	25.6	3.4	2.1	2.0	—	0.9	3.1	1.3	2.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Other finalisation(a)									
Under 13	9.1	50.0	7.4	25.0	38.1	35.2	13.3	16.7	20.2
13 and under 26	9.1	—	28.4	31.3	23.8	33.8	18.3	27.8	26.2
26 and under 39	27.3	—	23.5	31.3	14.3	14.1	21.7	11.1	19.5
39 and under 52	—	25.0	19.8	—	9.5	11.3	15.0	5.6	13.1
52 and under 65	—	—	6.2	12.5	4.8	4.2	10.0	5.6	6.4
65 and under 78	—	—	6.2	—	4.8	—	6.7	—	3.5
78 and over	54.5	25.0	8.6	—	4.8	1.4	15.0	33.3	11.0
Total	100.0	100.0	(b)100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(b)100.0
Total defendants finalised									
Under 13	3.2	7.7	27.2	12.5	40.5	44.4	20.3	31.5	28.3
13 and under 26	4.3	21.8	35.5	15.2	24.1	33.6	19.9	21.5	27.9
26 and under 39	6.5	11.5	18.0	26.8	15.5	12.0	20.3	10.8	16.3
39 and under 52	8.6	34.6	10.5	27.7	6.9	4.6	12.8	10.8	11.2
52 and under 65	10.8	11.5	3.1	6.3	7.3	3.4	10.8	13.1	6.1
65 and under 78	18.3	3.8	2.6	3.6	3.9	0.9	7.8	3.8	4.0
78 and over	48.4	9.0	3.2	8.0	1.7	1.1	8.1	8.5	6.2
Total	100.0	100.0	(b)100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(b)100.0

(a) Includes defendants who were withdrawn by the prosecution, remitted to the Magistrates Court or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

(b) Excludes Qld defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

<i>Method of finalisation/duration (weeks)</i>	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT(a)									
Acquitted									
Under 13	9	11	56	4	4	..	..	..	84
13 and under 26	79	44	72	22	24	..	..	..	241
26 and under 39	90	31	84	21	29	..	..	..	255
39 and under 52	76	25	46	7	41	..	..	..	195
52 and under 65	55	16	19	8	79	..	..	..	177
65 and under 78	46	13	8	3	22	..	..	..	92
78 and over	121	29	9	—	21	..	..	..	180
Total	476	169	294	65	220	..	..	..	1 224
Guilty verdict									
Under 13	2	5	55	10	9	..	..	..	81
13 and under 26	31	37	76	32	26	..	..	..	202
26 and under 39	84	30	89	32	33	..	..	..	268
39 and under 52	73	29	49	9	51	..	..	..	211
52 and under 65	51	20	17	8	69	..	..	..	165
65 and under 78	32	16	6	1	39	..	..	..	94
78 and over	121	34	12	10	33	..	..	..	210
Total	394	171	304	102	260	..	..	..	1 231
Guilty plea									
Under 13	402	339	1 565	169	1 040	..	..	..	3 515
13 and under 26	728	479	1 342	193	251	..	..	..	2 993
26 and under 39	485	194	515	97	57	..	..	..	1 348
39 and under 52	271	74	220	26	51	..	..	..	642
52 and under 65	127	61	104	17	45	..	..	..	354
65 and under 78	88	28	52	6	18	..	..	..	192
78 and over	208	45	125	12	11	..	..	..	401
Total	2 309	1 220	3 923	520	1 473	..	..	..	9 445
Proven guilty n.f.d.(b)									
Under 13	—	—	44	—	—	..	..	..	44
13 and under 26	—	—	68	—	—	..	..	..	68
26 and under 39	—	—	47	—	—	..	..	..	47
39 and under 52	—	—	28	—	—	..	..	..	28
52 and under 65	—	—	9	—	—	..	..	..	9
65 and under 78	—	—	8	—	—	..	..	..	8
78 and over	—	—	20	—	—	..	..	..	20
Total	—	—	224	—	—	..	..	..	224
Other finalisation(c)									
Under 13	90	21	190	85	123	..	..	..	509
13 and under 26	150	34	263	58	83	..	..	..	588
26 and under 39	129	15	204	27	29	..	..	..	404
39 and under 52	87	9	125	14	24	..	..	..	259
52 and under 65	56	11	66	6	21	..	..	..	160
65 and under 78	29	5	25	5	18	..	..	..	82
78 and over	92	14	46	6	17	..	..	..	175
Total	633	109	(d)919	201	315	..	..	..	(d)2 177
Total defendants finalised									
Under 13	503	376	1 910	268	1 176	..	..	..	4 233
13 and under 26	988	594	1 821	305	384	..	..	..	4 092
26 and under 39	788	270	939	177	148	..	..	..	2 322
39 and under 52	507	137	468	56	167	..	..	..	1 335
52 and under 65	289	108	215	39	214	..	..	..	865
65 and under 78	195	62	99	15	97	..	..	..	468
78 and over	542	122	212	28	82	..	..	..	986
Total	3 812	1 669	(d)5 664	888	2 268	..	..	..	(d)14 301

(a) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

(b) Where the distinction between Guilty Verdict and Guilty Plea is unavailable, data are classified to Proven Guilty n.f.d.

(c) Includes defendants who were withdrawn by the prosecution, remitted to the Magistrates Court or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

(d) Excludes Qld defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

<i>Method of finalisation/duration (weeks)</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
PROPORTION IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (%) (a)									
Acquitted									
Under 13	1.9	6.5	19.0	6.2	1.8	..	..	..	6.9
13 and under 26	16.6	26.0	24.5	33.8	10.9	..	..	..	19.7
26 and under 39	18.9	18.3	28.6	32.3	13.2	..	..	..	20.8
39 and under 52	16.0	14.8	15.6	10.8	18.6	..	..	..	15.9
52 and under 65	11.6	9.5	6.5	12.3	35.9	..	..	..	14.5
65 and under 78	9.7	7.7	2.7	4.6	10.0	..	..	..	7.5
78 and over	25.4	17.2	3.1	—	9.5	..	..	..	14.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	100.0
Guilty verdict									
Under 13	0.5	2.9	18.1	9.8	3.5	..	..	..	6.6
13 and under 26	7.9	21.6	25.0	31.4	10.0	..	..	..	16.4
26 and under 39	21.3	17.5	29.3	31.4	12.7	..	..	..	21.8
39 and under 52	18.5	17.0	16.1	8.8	19.6	..	..	..	17.1
52 and under 65	12.9	11.7	5.6	7.8	26.5	..	..	..	13.4
65 and under 78	8.1	9.4	2.0	1.0	15.0	..	..	..	7.6
78 and over	30.7	19.9	3.9	9.8	12.7	..	..	..	17.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	100.0
Guilty plea									
Under 13	17.4	27.8	39.9	32.5	70.6	..	..	..	37.2
13 and under 26	31.5	39.3	34.2	37.1	17.0	..	..	..	31.7
26 and under 39	21.0	15.9	13.1	18.7	3.9	..	..	..	14.3
39 and under 52	11.7	6.1	5.6	5.0	3.5	..	..	..	6.8
52 and under 65	5.5	5.0	2.7	3.3	3.1	..	..	..	3.7
65 and under 78	3.8	2.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	..	..	..	2.0
78 and over	9.0	3.7	3.2	2.3	0.7	..	..	..	4.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	100.0
Proven guilty n.f.d.(b)									
Under 13	—	—	19.6	—	—	..	..	..	19.6
13 and under 26	—	—	30.4	—	—	..	..	..	30.4
26 and under 39	—	—	21.0	—	—	..	..	..	21.0
39 and under 52	—	—	12.5	—	—	..	..	..	12.5
52 and under 65	—	—	4.0	—	—	..	..	..	4.0
65 and under 78	—	—	3.6	—	—	..	..	..	3.6
78 and over	—	—	8.9	—	—	..	..	..	8.9
Total	—	—	100.0	—	—	..	..	..	100.0
Other finalisation(c)									
Under 13	14.2	19.3	20.7	42.3	39.0	..	..	..	23.4
13 and under 26	23.7	31.2	28.6	28.9	26.3	..	..	..	27.0
26 and under 39	20.4	13.8	22.2	13.4	9.2	..	..	..	18.6
39 and under 52	13.7	8.3	13.6	7.0	7.6	..	..	..	11.9
52 and under 65	8.8	10.1	7.2	3.0	6.7	..	..	..	7.3
65 and under 78	4.6	4.6	2.7	2.5	5.7	..	..	..	3.8
78 and over	14.5	12.8	5.0	3.0	5.4	..	..	..	8.0
Total	100.0	100.0	(d)100.0	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	(d)100.0
Total defendants finalised									
Under 13	13.2	22.5	33.7	30.2	51.9	..	..	..	29.6
13 and under 26	25.9	35.6	32.2	34.3	16.9	..	..	..	28.6
26 and under 39	20.7	16.2	16.6	19.9	6.5	..	..	..	16.2
39 and under 52	13.3	8.2	8.3	6.3	7.4	..	..	..	9.3
52 and under 65	7.6	6.5	3.8	4.4	9.4	..	..	..	6.0
65 and under 78	5.1	3.7	1.7	1.7	4.3	..	..	..	3.3
78 and over	14.2	7.3	3.7	3.2	3.6	..	..	..	6.9
Total	100.0	100.0	(d)100.0	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	(d)100.0

(a) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

(b) Where the distinction between Guilty Verdict and Guilty Plea is unavailable, data are classified to Proven Guilty n.f.d.

(c) Includes defendants who were withdrawn by the prosecution, remitted to the Magistrates Court or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

(d) Excludes Qld defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

<i>Method of finalisation/duration (weeks)</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS(a)									
Acquitted									
Under 13	9	12	57	5	5	2	1	—	91
13 and under 26	80	48	75	25	29	9	—	3	269
26 and under 39	90	31	92	28	33	9	9	2	294
39 and under 52	80	33	51	12	43	3	6	3	231
52 and under 65	55	17	24	9	85	2	7	4	203
65 and under 78	48	13	8	3	22	—	2	2	98
78 and over	126	31	10	3	23	—	4	4	201
<i>Total</i>	488	185	317	85	240	25	29	18	1 387
Guilty verdict									
Under 13	2	5	60	10	10	6	—	1	94
13 and under 26	31	40	88	34	33	9	3	2	240
26 and under 39	85	35	108	41	51	7	—	2	329
39 and under 52	73	38	59	16	61	3	—	3	253
52 and under 65	53	26	20	9	78	4	3	4	197
65 and under 78	36	19	8	4	42	—	4	3	116
78 and over	145	37	16	15	34	1	5	—	253
<i>Total</i>	425	200	359	129	309	30	15	15	1 482
Guilty plea									
Under 13	404	342	1 774	178	1 124	123	51	37	4 033
13 and under 26	730	489	1 593	200	290	76	45	18	3 441
26 and under 39	487	198	615	106	68	16	38	8	1 536
39 and under 52	275	83	274	45	53	2	23	7	762
52 and under 65	135	63	116	20	46	3	16	8	407
65 and under 78	99	28	66	7	23	3	13	—	239
78 and over	218	46	139	13	11	2	6	1	436
<i>Total</i>	2 348	1 249	4 577	569	1 615	225	192	79	10 854
Proven guilty n.f.d.(b)									
Under 13	—	—	44	—	—	—	—	—	44
13 and under 26	—	—	68	—	—	—	—	—	68
26 and under 39	—	—	47	—	—	—	—	—	47
39 and under 52	—	—	28	—	—	—	—	—	28
52 and under 65	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
65 and under 78	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
78 and over	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	20
<i>Total</i>	—	—	224	—	—	—	—	—	224
Other finalisation(c)									
Under 13	91	23	196	89	131	25	8	3	566
13 and under 26	151	34	286	63	88	24	11	5	662
26 and under 39	132	15	223	32	32	10	13	2	459
39 and under 52	87	10	141	14	26	8	9	1	296
52 and under 65	56	11	71	8	22	3	6	1	178
65 and under 78	29	5	30	5	19	—	4	—	92
78 and over	98	15	53	6	18	1	9	6	206
<i>Total</i>	644	113	(d)1 000	217	336	71	60	18	(d)2 459
Total defendants finalised									
Under 13	506	382	2 131	282	1 270	156	60	41	4 828
13 and under 26	992	611	2 110	322	440	118	59	28	4 680
26 and under 39	794	279	1 085	207	184	42	60	14	2 665
39 and under 52	515	164	553	87	183	16	38	14	1 570
52 and under 65	299	117	240	46	231	12	32	17	994
65 and under 78	212	65	120	19	106	3	23	5	553
78 and over	587	129	238	37	86	4	24	11	1 116
Total	3 905	1 747	(d)6 477	1 000	2 500	351	296	130	(d)16 406

(a) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

(b) Where the distinction between Guilty Verdict and Guilty Plea is unavailable, data are classified to Proven Guilty n.f.d.

(c) Includes defendants who were withdrawn by the prosecution, remitted to the Magistrates Court or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

(d) Excludes Qld defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

Method of finalisation/duration (weeks)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
PROPORTION IN HIGHER COURT (%) ^(a)									
Acquitted									
Under 13	1.8	6.5	18.0	5.9	2.1	8.0	3.4	—	6.6
13 and under 26	16.4	25.9	23.7	29.4	12.1	36.0	—	16.7	19.4
26 and under 39	18.4	16.8	29.0	32.9	13.8	36.0	31.0	11.1	21.2
39 and under 52	16.4	17.8	16.1	14.1	17.9	12.0	20.7	16.7	16.7
52 and under 65	11.3	9.2	7.6	10.6	35.4	8.0	24.1	22.2	14.6
65 and under 78	9.8	7.0	2.5	3.5	9.2	—	6.9	11.1	7.1
78 and over	25.8	16.8	3.2	3.5	9.6	—	13.8	22.2	14.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Guilty verdict									
Under 13	0.5	2.5	16.7	7.8	3.2	20.0	—	6.7	6.3
13 and under 26	7.3	20.0	24.5	26.4	10.7	30.0	20.0	13.3	16.2
26 and under 39	20.0	17.5	30.1	31.8	16.5	23.3	—	13.3	22.2
39 and under 52	17.2	19.0	16.4	12.4	19.7	10.0	—	20.0	17.1
52 and under 65	12.5	13.0	5.6	7.0	25.2	13.3	20.0	26.7	13.3
65 and under 78	8.5	9.5	2.2	3.1	13.6	—	26.7	20.0	7.8
78 and over	34.1	18.5	4.5	11.6	11.0	3.3	33.3	—	17.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Guilty plea									
Under 13	17.2	27.4	38.8	31.3	69.6	54.7	26.6	46.8	37.2
13 and under 26	31.1	39.2	34.8	35.1	18.0	33.8	23.4	22.8	31.7
26 and under 39	20.7	15.9	13.4	18.6	4.2	7.1	19.8	10.1	14.2
39 and under 52	11.7	6.6	6.0	7.9	3.3	0.9	12.0	8.9	7.0
52 and under 65	5.7	5.0	2.5	3.5	2.8	1.3	8.3	10.1	3.7
65 and under 78	4.2	2.2	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.3	6.8	—	2.2
78 and over	9.3	3.7	3.0	2.3	0.7	0.9	3.1	1.3	4.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Proven guilty n.f.d.^(b)									
Under 13	—	—	19.6	—	—	—	—	—	19.6
26 and under 39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
39 and under 52	—	—	12.5	—	—	—	—	—	12.5
52 and under 65	—	—	4.0	—	—	—	—	—	4.0
65 and under 78	—	—	3.6	—	—	—	—	—	3.6
78 and over	—	—	8.9	—	—	—	—	—	8.9
Total	—	—	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	100.0
Other finalisation^(c)									
Under 13	14.1	20.4	19.6	41.0	39.0	35.2	13.3	16.7	23.0
13 and under 26	23.4	30.1	28.6	29.0	26.2	33.8	18.3	27.8	26.9
26 and under 39	20.5	13.3	22.3	14.7	9.5	14.1	21.7	11.1	18.7
39 and under 52	13.5	8.8	14.1	6.5	7.7	11.3	15.0	5.6	12.0
52 and under 65	8.7	9.7	7.1	3.7	6.5	4.2	10.0	5.6	7.2
65 and under 78	4.5	4.4	3.0	2.3	5.7	—	6.7	—	3.7
78 and over	15.2	13.3	5.3	2.8	5.4	1.4	15.0	33.3	8.4
Total	100.0	100.0	(d)100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(d)100.0
Total defendants finalised									
Under 13	13.0	21.9	32.9	28.2	50.8	44.4	20.3	31.5	29.4
13 and under 26	25.4	35.0	32.6	32.2	17.6	33.6	19.9	21.5	28.5
26 and under 39	20.3	16.0	16.8	20.7	7.4	12.0	20.3	10.8	16.2
39 and under 52	13.2	9.4	8.5	8.7	7.3	4.6	12.8	10.8	9.6
52 and under 65	7.7	6.7	3.7	4.6	9.2	3.4	10.8	13.1	6.1
65 and under 78	5.4	3.7	1.9	1.9	4.2	0.9	7.8	3.8	3.4
78 and over	15.0	7.4	3.7	3.7	3.4	1.1	8.1	8.5	6.8
Total	100.0	100.0	(d)100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(d)100.0

(a) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

(b) Where the distinction between Guilty Verdict and Guilty Plea is unavailable, data are classified to Proven Guilty n.f.d.

(c) Includes defendants who were withdrawn by the prosecution, remitted to the Magistrates Court or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

(d) Excludes Qld defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

<i>Duration period and summary duration measures (weeks)</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>
SUPREME COURT									
Initiation to verdict									
Mean	106.9	47.7	n.a.	48.6	38.5	30.1	61.0	38.1	n.a.
10th percentile	60.9	24.9	n.a.	24.5	19.9	7.9	25.0	14.0	n.a.
25th percentile	80.5	37.1	n.a.	29.9	28.0	16.0	52.8	23.1	n.a.
Median	96.7	42.9	n.a.	35.9	36.9	24.6	70.3	37.6	n.a.
75th percentile	124.2	54.6	n.a.	56.4	47.7	38.1	75.6	54.4	n.a.
90th percentile	147.6	75.9	n.a.	92.1	62.4	53.9	81.9	57.1	n.a.
Verdict to finalisation									
Mean									
10th percentile	6.5	3.2	n.a.	6.9	2.5	0.9	4.6	8.9	n.a.
25th percentile	0.3	0.1	n.a.	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.3	1.7	n.a.
Median	1.3	0.9	n.a.	1.5	0.1	0.1	0.3	4.9	n.a.
75th percentile	3.0	1.7	n.a.	2.9	0.1	0.3	1.9	7.3	n.a.
90th percentile	10.4	5.1	n.a.	7.2	3.9	1.5	5.5	12.2	n.a.
INTERMEDIATE COURT(b)									
Initiation to verdict									
Mean	61.1	52.1	n.a.	29.5	52.9	..	..	..	n.a.
10th percentile	20.8	13.3	n.a.	10.4	22.0	..	..	..	n.a.
25th percentile	27.9	23.5	n.a.	15.2	37.9	..	..	..	n.a.
Median	44.2	42.1	n.a.	25.6	53.0	..	..	..	n.a.
75th percentile	82.6	68.9	n.a.	36.1	65.7	..	..	..	n.a.
90th percentile	123.3	97.6	n.a.	55.5	80.6	..	..	..	n.a.
Verdict to finalisation									
Mean	8.6	2.6	n.a.	9.4	1.1	..	..	..	n.a.
10th percentile	0.1	0.1	n.a.	0.1	0.1	..	..	..	n.a.
25th percentile	1.1	0.1	n.a.	0.6	0.1	..	..	..	n.a.
Median	6.3	0.9	n.a.	1.8	0.1	..	..	..	n.a.
75th percentile	11.2	2.2	n.a.	5.3	0.7	..	..	..	n.a.
90th percentile	18.9	8.1	n.a.	12.7	4.1	..	..	..	n.a.
TOTAL HIGHER COURTS(b)									
Initiation to verdict									
Mean	64.5	51.5	n.a.	33.5	50.7	30.1	61.0	38.1	n.a.
10th percentile	21.2	14.1	n.a.	12.3	20.3	7.9	25.0	14.0	n.a.
25th percentile	28.9	25.3	n.a.	18.4	33.1	16.0	52.8	23.1	n.a.
Median	47.0	42.6	n.a.	28.4	49.6	24.6	70.3	37.6	n.a.
75th percentile	87.3	67.1	n.a.	40.9	64.3	38.1	75.6	54.4	n.a.
90th percentile	128.1	92.5	n.a.	65.5	78.5	53.9	81.9	57.1	n.a.
Verdict to finalisation									
Mean	8.5	2.7	n.a.	8.9	1.3	0.9	4.6	8.9	n.a.
10th percentile	0.1	0.1	n.a.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	1.7	n.a.
25th percentile	1.1	0.1	n.a.	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.3	4.9	n.a.
Median	6.1	1.1	n.a.	2.4	0.1	0.3	1.9	7.3	n.a.
75th percentile	11.1	2.6	n.a.	5.6	1.0	1.5	5.5	12.2	n.a.
90th percentile	18.3	8.2	n.a.	13.1	4.3	2.0	9.2	16.5	n.a.

(a) Date of Verdict data are not available for Qld.

(b) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

DEFENDANTS FINALISED BY A GUILTY VERDICT, Duration from Initiation to Verdict

Duration (weeks)	NSW	Vic.	Qld(a)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT									
Under 13	—	—	n.a.	0	2	6	—	2	n.a.
13 and under 26	—	4	n.a.	5	9	9	3	2	n.a.
26 and under 39	1	7	n.a.	9	18	8	—	4	n.a.
39 and under 52	—	9	n.a.	6	11	3	1	1	n.a.
52 and under 65	4	4	n.a.	—	5	3	3	5	n.a.
65 and under 78	2	2	n.a.	2	3	—	5	1	n.a.
78 and over	24	3	n.a.	5	1	1	3	—	n.a.
Total	31	29	55	27	49	30	15	15	251

PROPORTION IN SUPREME COURT (%)									
Under 13	—	—	n.a.	—	4.1	20.0	—	13.3	n.a.
13 and under 26	—	13.8	n.a.	18.5	18.4	30.0	20.0	13.3	n.a.
26 and under 39	3.2	24.1	n.a.	33.3	36.7	26.7	—	26.7	n.a.
39 and under 52	—	31.0	n.a.	22.2	22.4	10.0	6.7	6.7	n.a.
52 and under 65	12.9	13.8	n.a.	—	10.2	10.0	20.0	33.3	n.a.
65 and under 78	6.5	6.9	n.a.	7.4	6.1	—	33.3	6.7	n.a.
78 and over	77.4	10.3	n.a.	18.5	2.0	3.3	20.0	—	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT(b)									
Under 13	6	9	n.a.	17	10	..	..	..	n.a.
13 and under 26	82	39	n.a.	34	26	..	..	..	n.a.
26 and under 39	84	29	n.a.	28	33	..	..	..	n.a.
39 and under 52	56	30	n.a.	9	56	..	..	..	n.a.
52 and under 65	35	18	n.a.	7	67	..	..	..	n.a.
65 and under 78	24	16	n.a.	5	36	..	..	..	n.a.
78 and over	107	30	n.a.	2	32	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	394	171	n.a.	102	260	..	..	..	n.a.

PROPORTION IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (%) (b)									
Under 13	1.5	5.3	n.a.	16.7	3.8	..	..	..	n.a.
13 and under 26	20.8	22.8	n.a.	33.3	10.0	..	..	..	n.a.
26 and under 39	21.3	17.0	n.a.	27.5	12.7	..	..	..	n.a.
39 and under 52	14.2	17.5	n.a.	8.8	21.5	..	..	..	n.a.
52 and under 65	8.9	10.5	n.a.	6.9	25.8	..	..	..	n.a.
65 and under 78	6.1	9.4	n.a.	4.9	13.8	..	..	..	n.a.
78 and over	27.2	17.5	n.a.	2.0	12.3	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	n.a.	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	n.a.

TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS(b)									
Under 13	6	9	n.a.	17	12	6	—	2	n.a.
13 and under 26	82	43	n.a.	39	35	9	3	2	n.a.
26 and under 39	85	36	n.a.	37	51	8	—	4	n.a.
39 and under 52	56	39	n.a.	15	67	3	1	1	n.a.
52 and under 65	39	22	n.a.	7	72	3	3	5	n.a.
65 and under 78	26	18	n.a.	7	39	—	5	1	n.a.
78 and over	131	33	n.a.	7	33	1	3	—	n.a.
Total	425	200	n.a.	129	309	30	15	15	n.a.

PROPORTION IN HIGHER COURTS (%) (b)									
Under 13	1.4	4.5	n.a.	13.2	3.9	20.0	—	13.3	n.a.
13 and under 26	19.3	21.5	n.a.	30.2	11.3	30.0	20.0	13.3	n.a.
26 and under 39	20.0	18.0	n.a.	28.7	16.5	26.7	—	26.7	n.a.
39 and under 52	13.2	19.5	n.a.	11.6	21.7	10.0	6.7	6.7	n.a.
52 and under 65	9.2	11.0	n.a.	5.4	23.3	10.0	20.0	33.3	n.a.
65 and under 78	6.1	9.0	n.a.	5.4	12.6	—	33.3	6.7	n.a.
78 and over	30.8	16.5	n.a.	5.4	10.7	3.3	20.0	—	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	n.a.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	n.a.

(a) Date of Verdict data are not available for Qld.

(b) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

Duration (weeks)	NSW	Vic.	Qld(a)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
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NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT

Under 1	7	8	n.a.	4	27	18	6	1	n.a.
1 and under 4	9	13	n.a.	11	11	12	4	3	n.a.
4 and under 8	3	5	n.a.	5	5	—	3	4	n.a.
8 and under 12	5	2	n.a.	2	4	—	1	2	n.a.
12 and over	7	1	n.a.	5	2	—	1	5	n.a.
Total	31	29	55	27	49	30	15	15	251

PROPORTION IN SUPREME COURT(%)

Under 1	22.6	27.6	n.a.	14.8	55.1	60.0	40.0	6.7	n.a.
1 and under 4	29.0	44.8	n.a.	40.7	22.4	40.0	26.7	20.0	n.a.
4 and under 8	9.7	17.2	n.a.	18.5	10.2	—	20.0	26.7	n.a.
8 and under 12	16.1	6.9	n.a.	7.4	8.2	—	6.7	13.3	n.a.
12 and over	22.6	3.4	n.a.	18.5	4.1	—	6.7	33.3	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT(b)

Under 1	92	86	n.a.	34	200	..	..	..	n.a.
1 and under 4	50	54	n.a.	34	33	..	..	..	n.a.
4 and under 8	91	10	n.a.	14	23	..	..	..	n.a.
8 and under 12	68	14	n.a.	9	2	..	..	..	n.a.
12 and over	93	7	n.a.	11	2	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	394	171	n.a	102	260	..	..	..	n.a.

PROPORTION IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (%) (b)

Under 1	23.4	50.3	n.a.	33.3	76.9	..	..	..	n.a.
1 and under 4	12.7	31.6	n.a.	33.3	12.7	..	..	..	n.a.
4 and under 8	23.1	5.8	n.a.	13.7	8.8	..	..	..	n.a.
8 and under 12	17.3	8.2	n.a.	8.8	0.8	..	..	..	n.a.
12 and over	23.6	4.1	n.a.	10.8	0.8	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	n.a	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	n.a.

TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS(b)

Under 1	99	94	n.a.	38	227	18	6	1	n.a.
1 and under 4	59	67	n.a.	45	44	12	4	3	n.a.
4 and under 8	94	15	n.a.	19	28	—	3	4	n.a.
8 and under 12	73	16	n.a.	11	6	—	1	2	n.a.
12 and over	100	8	n.a.	16	4	—	1	5	n.a.
Total	425	200	n.a	129	309	30	15	15	n.a.

PROPORTION IN HIGHER COURTS (%) (b)

Under 1	23.3	47.0	n.a.	29.5	73.5	60.0	40.0	6.7	n.a.
1 and under 4	13.9	33.5	n.a.	34.9	14.2	40.0	26.7	20.0	n.a.
4 and under 8	22.1	7.5	n.a.	14.7	9.1	—	20.0	26.7	n.a.
8 and under 12	17.2	8.0	n.a.	8.5	1.9	—	6.7	13.3	n.a.
12 and over	23.5	4.0	n.a.	12.4	1.3	—	6.7	33.3	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	n.a	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	n.a.

(a) Date of Verdict data are not available for Qld.

(b) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

<i>Elapsed time (weeks)</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld(b)</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.(b)</i>
NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT									
Under 13	31	23	n.a.	15	43	68	77	44	n.a.
13 and under 26	25	17	n.a.	16	19	28	52	17	n.a.
26 and under 39	24	14	n.a.	11	13	11	38	19	n.a.
39 and under 52	22	1	n.a.	10	17	7	13	12	n.a.
52 and under 65	23	2	n.a.	2	21	2	17	5	n.a.
65 and under 78	10	3	n.a.	3	10	3	8	5	n.a.
78 and over	40	5	n.a.	8	9	3	16	4	n.a.
Total	175	65	n.a.	65	132	122	221	106	n.a.
Median elapsed time	41.0	17.9	n.a.	27.6	28.7	11.9	20.7	19.0	n.a.
Mean elapsed time	50.0	28.0	n.a.	35.5	34.9	18.1	29.0	25.1	n.a.
NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT(c)									
Under 13	1 058	402	n.a.	166	591	..	..	..	n.a.
13 and under 26	676	248	n.a.	109	234	..	..	..	n.a.
26 and under 39	422	98	n.a.	61	206	..	..	..	n.a.
39 and under 52	338	84	n.a.	43	130	..	..	..	n.a.
52 and under 65	247	53	n.a.	23	65	..	..	..	n.a.
65 and under 78	140	26	n.a.	13	36	..	..	..	n.a.
78 and over	564	73	n.a.	12	71	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	3 445	984	n.a.	427	1 333	..	..	..	n.a.
Median elapsed time	24.9	17.0	n.a.	17.6	16.1	..	..	..	n.a.
Mean elapsed time	41.2	28.2	n.a.	25.0	31.1	..	..	..	n.a.
TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS(c)									
Under 13	1 089	425	n.a.	181	634	68	77	44	n.a.
13 and under 26	701	265	n.a.	125	253	28	52	17	n.a.
26 and under 39	446	112	n.a.	72	219	11	38	19	n.a.
39 and under 52	360	85	n.a.	53	147	7	13	12	n.a.
52 and under 65	270	55	n.a.	25	86	2	17	5	n.a.
65 and under 78	150	29	n.a.	16	46	3	8	5	n.a.
78 and over	604	78	n.a.	20	80	3	16	4	n.a.
Total	3 620	1 049	n.a.	492	1 465	122	221	106	n.a.
Median elapsed time	27.7	17.6	n.a.	18.0	16.9	11.9	20.7	19.0	(b)20.9
Mean elapsed time	41.6	28.2	n.a.	26.4	31.4	18.1	29.0	25.1	(b)35.4

(a) As the pending data are measured at a point in time, previously released pending data will differ. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 25-28.

(b) Data on defendants pending are not available for Qld.

(c) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

<i>Elapsed time (weeks)</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>
NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT									
Under 13	35	26	n.a.	8	53	117	54	30	n.a.
13 and under 26	30	23	n.a.	13	13	55	33	18	n.a.
26 and under 39	24	19	n.a.	10	11	29	22	18	n.a.
39 and under 52	22	9	n.a.	5	4	17	18	26	n.a.
52 and under 65	26	6	n.a.	—	3	1	28	19	n.a.
65 and under 78	18	2	n.a.	4	2	2	5	5	n.a.
78 and over	47	3	n.a.	9	23	5	15	8	n.a.
Total	202	88	n.a.	49	109	226	175	124	n.a.
Median elapsed time	47.5	21.2	n.a.	31.1	14.7	12.8	27.1	34.2	n.a.
Mean elapsed time	50.3	27.6	n.a.	48.1	39.6	18.5	34.6	36.3	n.a.
NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT(b)									
Under 13	926	483	n.a.	207	564	..	..	..	n.a.
13 and under 26	689	258	n.a.	128	277	..	..	..	n.a.
26 and under 39	540	172	n.a.	33	226	..	..	..	n.a.
39 and under 52	446	115	n.a.	21	176	..	..	..	n.a.
52 and under 65	297	68	n.a.	12	175	..	..	..	n.a.
65 and under 78	199	45	n.a.	5	75	..	..	..	n.a.
78 and over	614	62	n.a.	18	152	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	3 711	1 203	n.a.	424	1 645	..	..	..	n.a.
Median elapsed time	31.9	17.9	n.a.	13.0	24.0	..	..	..	n.a.
Mean elapsed time	45.2	26.7	n.a.	20.3	34.7	..	..	..	n.a.
TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS(b)									
Under 13	961	509	n.a.	215	617	117	54	30	n.a.
13 and under 26	719	281	n.a.	141	290	55	33	18	n.a.
26 and under 39	564	191	n.a.	43	237	29	22	18	n.a.
39 and under 52	468	124	n.a.	26	180	17	18	26	n.a.
52 and under 65	323	74	n.a.	12	178	1	28	19	n.a.
65 and under 78	217	47	n.a.	9	77	2	5	5	n.a.
78 and over	661	65	n.a.	27	175	5	15	8	n.a.
Total	3 913	1 291	n.a.	473	1 754	226	175	124	n.a.
Median elapsed time	32.0	18.3	n.a.	14.1	23.3	12.8	27.1	34.2	(a)24.1
Mean elapsed time	45.4	26.8	n.a.	23.2	35.0	18.5	34.6	36.3	(a)37.6

(a) Data on defendants pending are not available for Qld.

(b) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication presents information, relating to the criminal jurisdiction of the Higher Courts (Supreme and Intermediate Courts) in each State and Territory, which is sourced from the national Higher Criminal Courts collection. 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 high quality statistics for the States and Territories and for Australia as a whole on the management of court workloads. The data presented provide indicators of the volume and flow of defendants through the courts and 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 and classifications. These have been developed by the National Criminal Courts Statistics Unit (NCCSU) of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

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

5 The statistics presented in this publication may be different from those published in individual States and Territories due to variations between the NCCSU definitions and counting rules and those used by individual States and Territories.

6 Given 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 for the development and conduct of the Higher Criminal Courts collection.

7 This publication presents results from the first stage of the collection. This information relates to criminal cases heard in the Supreme and Intermediate Courts. Data on defendants are reported separately for each distinct court level. The publication includes statistics on the number of defendants pending, initiated and finalised in each State and Territory as well as information on the characteristics of defendants.

8 Subsequent stages of the collection will expand the dataset to include information on offences and penalties for proven charges.

DATA SOURCE

9 National statistics are derived from unit record data provided by the State and Territory agencies responsible for courts administration. The ABS receives the data directly from these agencies in all States and Territories except for Queensland (where it is supplied via Qstats) and Tasmania (where it is supplied via the State and Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions).

SCOPE

10 The scope of the data in this publication consists of all defendants with charges before the original jurisdiction (see Glossary) of the Supreme and Intermediate Courts in Australia during the reference period 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998. Within a given reference period, the total population of defendants active in a particular court level consists of those pending at the start of the reference period together with those initiated during the reference period.

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 applications to amend sentence or penalty. Also excluded are breach of bond cases and appeal cases.

12 The scope of the data collected and presented for Queensland is restricted. Figures for the number of pending defendants are currently not available. The total figure for defendants initiated in Queensland only includes defendants initiated by committal to the Higher Courts and excludes other forms of initiation such as ex-officio indictment, bench warrants executed and transfers from other courts. Total figures for defendants finalised exclude defendants finalised by the issue of a bench warrant. In order to address these issues Queensland has commenced a courts modernisation project.

13 Stage 1 of the Higher Criminal Courts collection primarily focuses on obtaining caseload information on the number of defendants pending, initiated and finalised within the Higher Courts during the reference period. Details of initiation and finalisation for all defendants who enter Higher Courts are presented. The details of initiation include the date of committal, plea at committal, date of registration and method of initiation. The details of finalisation include the date of verdict, date of finalisation, method of finalisation and the defendant's final plea.

REFERENCE PERIOD

14 This publication relates to defendants who had criminal charges active within the Higher Courts at any time during the reference period 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998.

COUNTING UNIT

15 The principle counting unit for the collection is the defendant. A defendant is a person or corporation against whom one or more criminal charges have been laid and which are heard together as the one unit of work by a court at a particular level. It should be noted that the Higher Criminal Courts collection does not enumerate individual persons or corporations. If a person or corporation is a defendant in a number of criminal cases active within the courts during the reference period, this person or corporation will be counted more than once within that reference period.

CLASSIFICATIONS

16 The national classifications used in the Higher Criminal Courts collection are:

- Method of initiation (see Appendix 1); and
- Method of finalisation (see Appendix 2).

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

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. The classifications are hierarchical and allow for different levels of detail to be recorded depending on the level of detail in the source information. Associated with each classification are coding rules which ensure that the counting of information is consistent across the States and Territories.

COUNTING METHODOLOGY

Transfer between Higher Court levels

18 Defendants who transfer from one Higher Court level to another are considered as initiated only once (in the level they first entered) and finalised only once (from the level they finally left).

Method of initiation

19 Method of initiation describes how a criminal charge is introduced to a court level (see Glossary). For the purposes of the Higher Criminal Courts collection, only one method of initiation code is applied to each defendant in the Higher Courts. Where a defendant has multiple charges and these 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
- committed n.f.d.
- committed for sentence
- transfer from Court of Summary Jurisdiction to a Higher 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

20 The date of committal is used as the date of initiation for defendants who are committed for trial or sentence from a Court of Summary Jurisdiction. For defendants who have any other method of initiation (e.g. ex-officio or bench warrant executed), the date of registration (see Glossary) for that court level is used as the date of initiation. Where there are multiple dates of initiation for charges for a defendant, the earliest date is used.

Plea

21 Plea describes a defendant's formal response to a specific charge (see Glossary). A defendant's plea on each charge is entered during a court hearing (often called a committal) and may change during the course of criminal proceedings. If a defendant has multiple charges, there may be different pleas for each charge. This collection presents an aggregated plea in which only one plea code is applied to the defendant. The rules for recording a plea are:

- The plea for a defendant is 'not guilty' whenever the plea to one or more charges is: not guilty, no plea, plea reserved, or other defended plea.
- The plea for a defendant is 'guilty' only when the plea to all charges is guilty.

Plea *continued*

22 The collection records plea information at the initiation and finalisation of the case. Initial plea (in most instances the committal plea) determines the judicial process (i.e. trial or sentence) for the defendant. The final plea is the last plea to be entered in the court level and determines the method of finalisation for the defendant.

Method of finalisation

23 Method of finalisation describes how a criminal charge is concluded by a court level. For the purposes of the collection, only one method of finalisation is applied to each defendant within the Higher Courts. Where a defendant has multiple charges and these have different methods of finalisation, the code applied is determined by the following order of precedence:

- defendant deceased
- bench warrant issued
- unfit to plead
- not guilty on grounds of insanity
- guilty finding by court
- charge proven n.f.d.
- guilty plea by defendant
- acquitted by court
- charge unproven
- transfer from a Higher Court to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction
- other transfer between court levels
- withdrawn by the prosecution
- other non-adjudicated finalisation

Date of finalisation

24 The date of finalisation is the date on which the last charge for the defendant was finalised by the court. Finalisation will only occur when there are no further hearings scheduled for the defendant at that court level.

Pending workload

25 The pending workload at a given point in time is represented by the number of defendants who have at least one unfinalised charge and is reported at the start and end of the reference period. The Higher Criminal Courts collection provides a measure of duration since initiation (in weeks) for defendants pending at the start and end of each reference period.

Merging counting units

26 Where a person/corporation is a defendant in more than one case and their cases are finalised on the same date, in the same court level and in the same court location, their defendant records will be merged and counted as a single defendant record. However, merging will only occur where at least two of the following conditions are also met:

- The date of initiation is the same.
- The method of initiation is the same.
- The method of finalisation is the same.

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 19).
- Where the method of finalisation varies, the order of precedence rules for coding method of finalisation are applied (see paragraph 23).

DATA COMPARABILITY

27 The merging of defendant records will result in adjustments to the counts of defendants pending, initiated, and finalised. Where the defendants with merged records 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 whose records are 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). Differences may also arise as a result of other factors, including refinements in data quality procedures and modifications in the systems used to obtain and compile the figures.

28 The Higher Criminal Courts collection has been designed in order to facilitate comparisons of States and Territories through the application of common national statistical standards. However, some remaining legislative and processing differences may limit the degree to which the statistics reflect the performance of State and Territory courts.

DATA QUALITY

29 To ensure that the statistics are as reliable as possible the ABS has employed a number of measures. For example, a range of edit checks identify any erroneous data and these are queried and resolved by the ABS in consultation with the relevant State or Territory representative. The final data are also checked against other available data sources, such as State and Territory court statistics and annual reports by the court administration agencies and the Offices of the Directors of Public Prosecutions.

30 Data quality control checks will continue to be reviewed and modified as the Higher Criminal Courts collection evolves. Data availability will also improve as the States and Territories further develop and improve their court operational systems.

RATES

31 Defendant rates report the number of defendants per adult person and enable comparisons of the criminal court workloads of States and Territories. Defendant rates are expressed per 100,000 adult persons aged 17 years or more.

32 The Supreme and Intermediate Courts in Australia generally deal with adult defendants aged over 17 or 18 years (depending on the State or Territory). Defendants aged under 17 or 18 years are generally dealt with in a Juvenile or Children's Court unless the charges relate to a serious indictable offence such as murder.

33 For the purposes of this publication, the population figures used in the calculation of rates are the estimated resident population for each of the States and Territories. Refer *Australian Demographic Statistics, December Quarter 1997* (Cat. no. 3101.0). As the population changes over time, the estimated resident population for the midpoint of the reference period is used as the denominator to calculate the rates. Rates for the period 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 have been calculated on the basis of the December quarter 1997 estimate.

34 All population 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:

Australian Demographic Statistics (Cat. no. 3101.0)—issued quarterly

Australian Social Trends (Cat. no. 4102.0)—issued annually

Australian Standard Offence Classification (Cat. no. 1234.0)—irregular

Corrective Services, Australia (Cat. no. 4512.0)—issued quarterly

Courts of Petty Sessions, Western Australia (Cat. no. 4502.5)—issued annually

Crime and Safety, Australia (Cat. no. 4509.0)—irregular

A Guide to Australian Social Statistics (Cat. no. 4160.0)—irregular

Occasional Paper: Review of Social and Labour Statistics — Criminal Justice (Cat. no. 4170.0)—irregular

Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories

(Cat. no. 3201.0)—issued annually

Prisoners in Australia, A Report prepared for the Corrective Services Ministers' Council by the National Corrective Services Statistics Unit—issued annually

Recorded Crime, Australia (Cat. no. 4510.0)—issued annually

36 Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (Cat. no. 1101.0) and the list is available on the ABS internet site <http://www.abs.gov.au>. 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. The National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics releases a biannual newsletter that is published on the ABS internet site. The Centre can be contacted by email through crime.justice@abs.gov.au.

Non-ABS publications

37 Non-ABS sources of criminal court statistics which may be of interest include:

Australian Institute of Criminology, *List of Publications* (<http://www.aic.gov.au>)

Crime Research Centre, University of Western Australia, *Crime and Justice Statistics for Western Australia: 1997*, The University of Western Australia, Nedlands

Department of Justice, Tasmania, *Annual Report 1997*, Government Printer, Tasmania

Department of Justice, Victoria, *Sentencing Statistics for Higher Criminal Courts Victoria 1996*, Department of Justice, Victoria

Director of Public Prosecutions, *Annual Report 1997–98*, all State, Territory and Commonwealth Offices of the Director of Public Prosecutions

District Court of Queensland, *Annual Report 1997–98*, The District Court of Queensland, Brisbane

Government Statistician's Office, *Crime and Justice Statistics 1997*, Queensland Government, Brisbane

Government Statistician's Office 1999, *Imprisonment in Sentencing*, Queensland Government, Brisbane

Ministry of Justice 1998, *Sentencing Statistics for Western Australian Higher Courts* (www.justice.wa.gov.au), Ministry of Justice, Perth

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research 1998, *Are the courts becoming more lenient? Recent trends in convictions and penalties in NSW Higher and Local courts*, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Sydney

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *New South Wales Criminal Courts Statistics 1997*, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Sydney

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research 1996, *Measuring Trial Court Performance: Indicators for Trial Case Processing*, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Sydney

Office of Courts Administration, *Annual Report 1997–98*, Northern Territory Attorney General's Department, Darwin

Office of Crime Statistics, South Australia, *Crime and Justice in South Australia 1997*, South Australian Attorney-General's Department, Adelaide

South Australia Courts Administration Authority, *1996–97 Annual Report*, South Australia Courts Administration Authority, Adelaide

Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision, *Report on Government Service Provision, 1999*, Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision, Melbourne

Supreme Court of Queensland, *Annual Report 1997–98*, The Supreme Court of Queensland, Brisbane

APPENDIX 1 Method of Initiation Classification

Division
Subdivision
Item

1 DIRECT LAYING OF CHARGES

- 10 Direct laying of charges n.f.d.
- 11 Charges laid before a Court of Summary Jurisdiction
- 12 Ex-officio indictment of charges to a Higher Court
 - 121 Ex-officio indictment of charges to a Higher Court for trial
 - 122 Ex-officio indictment of charges to a Higher Court for sentence

2 TRANSFER OF CHARGES BETWEEN COURT LEVELS

- 20 Transfer of charges between court levels n.f.d.
- 21 Transfer from a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to a Higher Court
 - 211 Committed for trial
 - 212 Committed for sentence
 - 219 Transfer from a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to a Higher Court n.e.c.
- 29 Other transfers 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 2 Method of Finalisation Classification

Division
Subdivision
Item

1 ADJUDICATED FINALISATION

10 Adjudicated finalisation n.f.d.

11 Charge proven

- 111 Guilty finding by court
- 112 Guilty plea by defendant

12 Acquitted

- 121 Acquitted by court
- 122 Not guilty on the 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 a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to a Higher Court

- 211 Committed for trial
- 212 Committed for sentence
- 219 Transfer from a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to a Higher Court n.e.c.

22 Transfer from a Higher Court to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction

29 Other transfers between court levels

3 NON-ADJUDICATED FINALISATION

30 Non-adjudicated finalisation n.f.d.

31 Defendant deceased

32 Bench warrant issued

33 Unfit to plead

34 Withdrawn by the prosecution

39 Other non-adjudicated finalisation

9 METHOD OF FINALISATION UNKNOWN/NOT STATED

GLOSSARY

Acquitted	<p>An outcome of criminal proceedings in which a court determines that a charge laid against a defendant has not been proven. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ a determination of not guilty on the grounds that the charge against the defendant has not been proven; and▪ a finding of not guilty on the grounds of insanity/unsoundness of mind at the time the defendant committed the offence. <p>For the purposes of this collection, an acquitted outcome is regarded as an adjudicated method of finalisation.</p>
Active workload	<p>Defendants who have an unfinalised charge(s) in the Higher Courts at some point during a specified period. The active workload for a reference period consists of the number of defendants pending at the start of the reference period together with the number of defendants initiated during the reference period.</p>
Adjudicated finalisation	<p>A method of finalisation based on a judgement or decision by the court as to whether or not the defendant is guilty of the charge laid against them. (See Method of finalisation, Acquitted, Guilty verdict, Guilty plea.)</p>
Bench warrant executed	<p>The apprehension of an absconder who is brought back before the court to answer outstanding (and new) charges. For the purposes of these statistics, this process is regarded as a method of initiation and results in a person being counted as a new defendant initiated.</p>
Bench warrant issued	<p>A warrant signed by a judge or magistrate ordering a person to be arrested and brought back before the court. This process takes place when a defendant, who has at least one charge that has not been finalised by the court, absconds from criminal proceedings. For the purposes of these statistics, this process is regarded as a non-adjudicated method of finalisation.</p>
Case	<p>One or more defendants against whom one or more charges have been laid and which are heard together by a court as one unit of work. The charge(s) usually relate to the same criminal incident and appear together on one indictment.</p>
Caseflow	<p>Measures of the flow of work through the courts over time. This publication presents statistics on the number of defendants initiated, finalised and pending in the Higher (Supreme and Intermediate) Courts in each State and Territory.</p>
Charge	<p>An allegation laid before a court by the police or other prosecuting agency that a person or corporation has committed a criminal offence.</p>
Committal	<p>A preliminary hearing of a charge relating to an indictable offence which is conducted by a magistrate in a Court of Summary Jurisdiction. The aim of this hearing is to decide whether there is sufficient evidence to warrant the defendant being committed to a Higher Court for trial or sentence.</p>
Committal plea	<p>The plea to a charge which is entered by a defendant at the end of committal proceedings in a Court of Summary Jurisdiction.</p>
Committed for sentence	<p>An outcome of a committal hearing where a defendant enters a guilty plea to all charges and is transferred to a Higher Court to be sentenced. This process is regarded as a method of initiation into a Higher Court level.</p>



Committed for trial	An outcome of a committal hearing where a defendant enters a not guilty plea to at least one charge and is transferred to a Higher Court to stand trial. This process is regarded as a method of initiation into a Higher Court level.
County Court	See Intermediate Court.
Court level	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.
Court of Petty Sessions	See Court of Summary Jurisdiction.
Court of Summary Jurisdiction	A lower court level (also referred to as Magistrates' Court, Local Court or Court of Petty Sessions) which deals with relatively less serious charges and has the most limited legal powers of all the State and Territory court levels. A Court of Summary Jurisdiction is presided over by a magistrate and has jurisdiction to hear trial and sentence matters relating to summary offences. Under some circumstances, this court level 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.
Date of committal	The date at the end of a committal hearing which results in a defendant being transferred to a Higher Court for a trial or sentence hearing.
Date of finalisation	The date on which all charges laid against a defendant are regarded as formally completed by the Higher Courts and the defendant ceases to be an active unit of work to be dealt with by the Higher Courts.
Date of initiation	The date on which a defendant is regarded as having started within the Higher Courts as a new item of work. 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), the date of registration for that court level is used as the date of initiation. Where there are multiple dates of initiation for charges for a defendant, the earliest date is used.
Date of registration	The date on which a defendant first enters a particular court level and is recorded as 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.
Date of verdict	The date at the conclusion of a trial when a Higher Court announces its finding as to whether the alleged criminal charge(s) laid against a defendant are proven.
Defendant	A person or corporation against whom one or more criminal charges have been laid and which are heard together as the one unit of work by a court level. It should be noted that the Higher Criminal Courts collection does not enumerate distinct persons or corporations. If a person or corporation is a defendant in a number of criminal cases active within the courts during the reference period, such a person or corporation will be counted more than once in this statistical collection.



District Court	See Intermediate Court.
Duration	The time elapsed between specified dates for a defendant that has been finalised. This collection provides statistics on the number of weeks elapsed between the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ date of initiation and date of finalisation; ▪ date of initiation and date of verdict; and ▪ date of verdict and date of finalisation.
Elapsed time since initiation	The time elapsed since the date of initiation for a defendant who has at least one charge that has not been finalised. This collection provides statistics on the elapsed time since initiation for defendants pending at the start of the reference period and for defendants pending at the end of the reference period.
Ex-officio	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 into the Higher Courts.
Final plea	The last plea entered by a defendant in relation to a criminal charge that is laid against him/her in a Higher Court. This publication presents statistics on the aggregated final plea to charges for a defendant. (See paragraph 21 of the Explanatory Notes.)
Finalised defendant	A defendant for whom all charges have been formally completed so that the defendant ceases to be an item of work to be dealt with by the Higher Courts. For the purposes of these statistics, a defendant is regarded as finalised on the date that the last charge was finalised. (See Date of finalisation.)
Guilty plea	The formal statement by a defendant admitting culpability in relation to a criminal charge. By pleading guilty, a defendant indicates to the court that they do not intend to contest the charge. If the guilty plea is accepted by the court, the charge will be considered to be proven and the guilty plea will be regarded as an adjudicated method of finalisation. This process is regarded as an adjudicated method of finalisation. A guilty plea to committal proceedings in the Court of Summary Jurisdiction also determines the method of initiation into the Higher Courts (i.e. Committed for sentence).
Guilty verdict	An outcome of a trial in which a court determines that the criminal charge against a defendant has been proven. This process is regarded as an adjudicated method of finalisation.
Higher Court	An Intermediate Court or Supreme Court, both of which hear serious criminal charges relating to indictable offences. (See Intermediate Court, Supreme Court.)
Indictable offence	A serious criminal offence which generally requires a trial and/or sentence hearing in a Higher Court. Under some circumstances, a defendant can elect to have charges relating to certain indictable offences dealt with in a Court of Summary Jurisdiction.
Initial plea	The first plea entered by a defendant in relation to a criminal charge that is laid against him or her in a Higher Court. For charges that were committed from a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, this corresponds to the plea at committal. For charges initiated by any other method, this corresponds to the first plea entered in the Higher Court. This publication presents statistics on the aggregated plea to charges for a defendant. (See paragraph 21 of the Explanatory Notes.)

Initiated defendant	A person or corporation for whom at least one criminal charge has been formally started within a Higher Court so that the defendant is regarded as a new item of work to be dealt with by that court. For the purposes of this collection, a defendant is regarded as initiated on the earliest date that a charge was initiated. (See Date of initiation.)
Intermediate Court	A Higher Court level (known either as the District Court or County Court) which has legal powers that are intermediate between those of the Court of Summary Jurisdiction and the Supreme Court and deals with the majority of cases involving serious criminal offences. An Intermediate Court is presided over by a judge, and has original jurisdiction to hear trial and sentence matters relating to most indictable offences. In some States, the Intermediate Court may have appellate jurisdiction over decisions made in the Court of Summary Jurisdiction. Note: Since Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory do not have an Intermediate Court, all indictable offences are heard in the Supreme Court.
Jurisdiction	The legal power or authority which may be exercised by a particular 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 these vary across States and Territories.
Local Court	See Court of Summary Jurisdiction.
Lower Court	See Court of Summary Jurisdiction.
Magistrates Court	See Court of Summary Jurisdiction.
Mean	The average of a set of population values.
Median	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.
Method of finalisation	The process which leads to the completion of a criminal charge within a Higher Court so that it ceases to be an item of work in that court. There are different methods by which a charge may be finalised (see Appendix 2). This publication provides statistics on the aggregated method of finalisation for a defendant. (See paragraph 23 of the Explanatory Notes.)
Method of initiation	The process which leads to the introduction of a criminal charge within a Higher Court so that it becomes a new item of work to be dealt with by that court. There are different methods by which a charge may be initiated (see Appendix 1). This publication provides statistics on the aggregated method of initiation for a defendant. (See paragraph 19 of the Explanatory Notes.)
Non-adjudicated finalisation	A method of finalisation whereby a charge is considered completed and ceases to be active in any Higher Court even though that charge has not been adjudicated. (See Method of finalisation, Bench warrant issued, Unfit to plead, and Withdrawn by prosecution.)

Not guilty plea	<p>The formal statement by a defendant denying culpability in relation to a charge. A not guilty plea to committal proceedings in the lower court determines the method of initiation into the Higher Courts. (See Committed for trial.)</p> <p>For the purposes of this collection, a plea of 'not guilty' also includes 'no plea', 'plea reserved' and 'other defended plea'. This publication presents statistics on the aggregated plea to charges for a defendant. (See paragraph 21 of the Explanatory Notes.)</p>
Not guilty verdict	See Acquitted.
Original jurisdiction	The power of a court to hear criminal charges and determine whether or not a defendant is proven guilty and/or to sentence defendants where a charge has been proven. (See Jurisdiction.)
Other initiation	All methods of initiation other than committed for trial, committed for sentence, ex-officio indictment of charges and bench warrant executed. This includes a re-trial ordered as a result of an appeal and the transfer of charges involving summary offences from a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to a Higher Court.
Pending defendant	A defendant who has been initiated in a Higher Court and has at least one charge that has not been finalised at a particular date. This publication provides statistics on the number of defendants that were pending at the start of the reference period and the number of defendants that were pending at the end of the reference period.
Percentile	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.
Plea	The formal statement by, or on behalf of, the defendant in response to a criminal charge that has been laid in a court. The nature of this response indicates whether or not the defendant intends to contest that charge.
Proven guilty	An outcome of criminal proceedings in which a court accepts a guilty plea entered by a defendant or arrives at a guilty verdict following a trial. (See Guilty plea and Guilty verdict.) A proven guilty outcome is regarded as an adjudicated method of finalisation.
Sentence	A penalty or punishment imposed by a court upon a defendant who is proven guilty of a criminal offence.
Sentence hearing	A hearing in which a judge imposes a sentence upon a convicted defendant in a particular court. (See Sentence.)
Summary offence	A criminal offence which is generally dealt with by a Court of Summary Jurisdiction and does not require a trial by jury in a Higher Court. In some States and Territories, a defendant against whom summary charges are laid may be transferred to a Higher Court for sentencing, e.g. if the Magistrate wants to impose a penalty which exceeds his/her jurisdictional powers.

- Supreme Court** A Higher Court level which deals with the most serious criminal charges and has the greatest legal powers of all the State and Territory court levels. A Supreme Court is presided over by a judge, and has jurisdiction to hear trial and sentence matters relating to all indictable offences. In States which have an Intermediate Court, the Supreme Court is usually reserved to deal with the most serious indictable offences, such as murder. 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. For all transfers, except those between Higher Court levels, 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 defendant's charge(s) were transferred.
- Defendants who transfer from one Higher Court level to another will be considered as initiated only once (in the level they first entered) and finalised only once (from the level they finally left).
- Note: A transfer between court levels does not include the transfer of a defendant 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. Where a defendant enters a not guilty plea or other defended plea in the committal proceedings, they are committed to a Higher Court for trial. In the Higher Courts, 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 and Territories also allow for a trial before a judge alone in the Higher Courts.
- Unfit to plead** An outcome of court proceedings in which a court determines that a defendant's mental status is such that he/she is unfit to plead in relation to the charge against him/her. For the purposes of this collection, this process is regarded as a non-adjudicated method of finalisation.
- Withdrawn by prosecution** The formal withdrawal of charges by the prosecution (e.g. police, Director of Public Prosecutions, Attorney-General). This includes Nolle Prosequi and No True Bill. For the purposes of this collection, this process is regarded as a non-adjudicated method of finalisation.

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