



The District Court of New South Wales
Annual Review 2019

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FOREWORD BY THE CHIEF JUDGE

I am pleased to report that the Court's pending criminal trial and pending sentence caseloads declined in 2019. The significance of the decline is illustrated by the comparison to previous years:

Year	Pending Criminal Trials	Pending Sentence Matters
2019	1,399	800
2018	1,831	1,266
2017	2,008	1,307

The reduction in 609 pending criminal trials and 507 pending sentence matters over three years may be explained by:

- The Early Appropriate Guilty Plea reform package ("EAGP") which commenced in April 2018
- The Table Offence Reforms that were introduced in April and July 2018
- The appointment of seven additional Judges in February 2019; and
- The continued use of special call-overs

The EAGP and Table Offence Reforms resulted in a decline of 21% in criminal trial registrations and 17% in sentence registrations in 2019.

The average length of criminal trials has increased as the Table Offence Reforms have resulted in less complex criminal matters being dealt with in the Local Court.

A review of the Court's pre-trial procedures for criminal trials was conducted during the year which will result in the publication of new Practice Notes in 2020. The Principal objectives of the review were to ensure that trials were dealt with efficiently and avoidable delays reduced.

The Court continued to deal efficiently with its civil caseload. For the last three years, finalisations have exceeded registrations. In 2019, civil finalisations exceeded registrations by 190 matters.

I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of the judges and staff of the Court.

I express my thanks to the Attorney General, The Honourable Mark Speakman SC MP for the appointment of additional judges and his continued support for the Court.

**The Honourable Justice D Price AO
Chief Judge**

THE DISTRICT COURT

- History
- Jurisdiction
- Judiciary
- Court Staff



History

By the mid-19th century the court system in New South Wales consisted of:

- The Supreme Court of New South Wales which, under the Third Charter of Justice sealed in 1823, had a criminal and civil jurisdiction similar to that of the superior Courts of England
- Courts of General and Quarter Sessions which could deal with “crimes and misdemeanours not punishable by death”
- Courts of Requests in Sydney and the County of Cumberland, with a civil jurisdiction not exceeding £30
- Courts of Petty Sessions, which dealt with criminal misdemeanours in a summary way and had a civil jurisdiction up to £10 (or £30 if the defendant consented)

With the discovery of gold in 1851 the Colony's population increased and became more dispersed. Litigation grew as the Colony prospered, and crime did not decline. The Supreme Court began to fall seriously into arrears, and this was not helped by the fact that it did not visit a lot of towns. Courts of Quarter Sessions were also few in number and had no civil jurisdiction.

By the mid-1850s there were calls for a revision of the court system in order to meet the growing needs of the Colony. As a result, the *District Courts Act 1858* (22 Vic No 18) was assented to on 12 November 1858.

This Act established District Courts as Courts of Records to replace Courts of Requests and divided the Colony into Districts. It conferred civil jurisdiction upon the District Courts.

It also provided for the appointment of a District Court judge as Chairman of any Court of Quarter Sessions or General Sessions, to be held within the limits of the district for which that judge was appointed.

The purpose of the Act was briefly described in *The Practice of the District Courts of NSW* by W.J. Foster and C.E.R. Murray (Sydney, 1870) as follows:

“District Courts were established by the Legislature for the purpose of simplifying legal proceedings in the recovery of amounts under £200, and lessening the expenses of attending such proceedings, as well as to relieving the Supreme Court of some portion of the overwhelming civil business which the rapid progress of the colony had lately engendered.

The Act providing for the institution of these Courts also extended the jurisdiction of Courts of General and Quarter Sessions of the Peace, and prepared the way for a great increase in their numbers, under the presidency of District Court judges as Chairmen, whereby criminal proceedings have been much facilitated, especially in the more distant and outlying portions of the country...”

The *District Courts Act 1858* remained in force until 1973, although the jurisdiction of the Court was increased from time to time.

The *District Court Act 1973* which commenced on 1 July 1973 abolished the District Courts and Courts of Quarter Sessions and established one District Court of New South Wales, with a statewide criminal and civil jurisdiction.

Jurisdiction

The District Court is the intermediate Court in the State's judicial hierarchy. It is a trial Court and has an appellate jurisdiction. In addition, the judges of the Court preside over a range of tribunals.

In its criminal jurisdiction, the Court may deal with all criminal offences except murder, treason and piracy.

In its civil jurisdiction the Court may deal with:

- All motor accident cases, irrespective of the amount claimed; and
- Other claims to a maximum amount of \$750,000, although it may deal with matters exceeding this amount if the parties consent

In addition, the Court may deal with equitable claims or demands for recovery of money or damages for amounts not exceeding \$750,000.

The Court is also empowered to deal with applications under the *De Facto Relationships Act 1984* and the *Guardianship of Infants Act 1916* that involve amounts or property to the value of not more than \$250,000.

Judiciary

CHIEF JUDGE

The Honourable Justice Derek Michael Price AO*

JUDGES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

His Honour Judge Garry William Neilson

His Honour Judge Christopher John George Robison

Her Honour Judge Robyn Christine Tupman

Her Honour Judge Deborah June Payne

Her Honour Judge Jennifer Anne English

Her Honour Judge Susan Jennifer Gibb

His Honour Judge Stephen Ronald Norrish QC

Her Honour Judge Penelope Jane Hock

Her Honour Judge Judith Clare Gibson

His Honour Judge Anthony Martin Blackmore SC

His Honour Judge Roy David Ellis

His Honour Judge John Roger Dive

Her Honour Judge Deborah Anne Sweeney

His Honour Judge James Leonard Alexandre Bennett SC

His Honour Judge Peter Lind Johnstone

His Honour Judge Peter Raymond Zahra SC

Her Honour Judge Leonie Flannery SC

His Honour Judge Paul Ivan Lakatos SC

His Honour Judge Leonard Levy SC

His Honour Judge Michael King SC

His Honour Judge Andrew Michael Colefax SC

Her Honour Judge Helen Lorraine Syme

His Honour Judge Michael Ivan Bozic SC

His Honour Judge John North

His Honour Judge Graham Leslie Henson

Her Honour Judge Laura Kathleen Wells SC

His Honour Judge Ross Victor Letherbarrow SC

His Honour Judge Andrew Carl Haesler SC

Her Honour Judge Donna Mary Lisa Woodburne SC

Her Honour Judge Elizabeth Margaret Olsson SC

His Honour Judge Clive Vaughan Jeffreys

His Honour Judge David Ulric Arnott SC

His Honour Judge Phillip Gregory Mahony SC

His Honour Judge Christopher Phillip Hoy SC

His Honour Judge Phillip Thomas Taylor SC

His Honour Judge Gordon Bruce Lerve
 His Honour Judge Ian Hartley McClintock SC
 His Honour Judge Christopher Bruce Craigie SC
 Her Honour Judge Sarah Jane Huggett
 His Honour Judge Antony Edward Townsden
 His Honour Judge Peter Raymond Whitford SC
 His Honour Judge Stephen Scott Hanley SC
 Her Honour Judge Sharron Norton SC
 His Honour Judge Mark Lloyd Williams SC
 Her Honour Judge Dina Yehia SC
 Her Honour Judge Julia Ann Baly SC
 His Honour Judge John Hatzistergos AM
 Her Honour Judge Jane Ariane Culver
 His Honour Judge Andrew Scotting*
 Her Honour Judge Jennie Anne Girdham SC
 Her Honour Judge Catherine Margaret Traill
 His Honour Judge Mark Buscombe
 His Honour Judge John Hunter Pickering SC
 Her Honour Judge Siobhan Pauline Herbert
 Her Honour Judge Penelope Margot Wass SC
 His Honour Judge Robert Edward Montgomery
 His Honour Judge Matthew Charles Leckie Dicker SC
 Her Honour Judge Nicole Frances Noman SC
 His Honour Judge Warwick James Hunt
 His Honour Judge Robert Forbes Sutherland SC
 His Honour Judge Phillip Gerard Ingram SC
 His Honour Judge Jeffery Mark McLennan SC
 Her Honour Judge Tanya Bright
 His Honour Judge David Wilson SC
 His Honour Judge David Russell SC*
 His Honour Judge Timothy Hans Gartelmann SC
 Her Honour Judge Gina O'Rourke SC
 His Honour Judge Christopher Gerard O'Brien AM
 Her Honour Judge Wendy Strathdee*
 His Honour Judge Gerard Mark Phillips
 His Honour Judge Ian David Bourke SC
 His Honour Judge Jonathon James Priestley SC
 His Honour Judge Robert John Weber SC

Her Honour Judge Kara Natalie Shead SC
 His Honour Judge Walter Graham Turnbull SC
 His Honour Judge Richard Weinstein SC
 Her Honour Judge Nanette Lee Williams
 His Honour Judge Sean Elwin Grant
 His Honour Judge Justin Dupont Smith SC
 Her Honour Judge Sharon Harris
 His Honour Judge Alister John Abadee
 Her Honour Judge Susan Cole
 Her Honour Judge Sophia Frances Beckett

*denotes Member of the Dust Diseases Tribunal

APPOINTMENTS DURING 2019

- His Honour Judge Gerard Mark Phillips on 23 January 2019
- His Honour Judge Ian David Bourke SC on 4 February 2019
- His Honour Judge Jonathon James Priestley SC on 4 February 2019
- His Honour Judge Robert John Weber SC on 7 February 2019
- Her Honour Judge Kara Natalie Shead SC on 7 February 2019
- His Honour Judge Walter Graham Turnbull SC on 11 February 2019
- His Honour Judge Richard Weinstein SC on 11 February 2019
- Her Honour Judge Nanette Lee Williams on 14 February 2019
- His Honour Judge Sean Elwin Grant on 14 February 2019
- His Honour Judge Justin Dupont Smith SC on 18 February 2019
- Her Honour Judge Sharon Harris on 18 February 2019
- His Honour Judge Alister John Abadee on 21 February 2019
- Her Honour Judge Susan Cole on 27 February 2019
- Her Honour Judge Sophia Frances Beckett on 30 September 2019

RETIREMENTS DURING 2019

- His Honour Judge Gregory Michael Keating on 22 January 2019
- Her Honour Judge Audrey Suzanne Balla on 28 January 2019
- His Honour Judge Peter Graeme Berman SC on 28 January 2019
- His Honour Judge David Clement Frearson SC on 13 April 2019
- His Honour Judge Richard Dominic Cogswell SC on 26 May 2019
- His Honour Judge Peter George Maiden SC on 11 July 2019

APPOINTMENTS HELD

- The Honourable Justice Derek Michael Price AO has been a judge of the Supreme Court of NSW since 28 August 2006 and holds the appointment of President of the Dust Diseases Tribunal of NSW
- His Honour Judge John Roger Dive held the appointment of Senior Judge of the Drug Court of NSW
- His Honour Judge Peter Lind Johnstone held the appointment of President of the Children's Court of NSW
- His Honour Judge Paul Ivan Lakatos SC held the appointment of President of the Mental Health Review Tribunal
- His Honour Judge Graeme Leslie Henson held the appointment of Chief Magistrate of the Local Court of NSW
- His Honour Judge Gerard Mark Phillips held the appointment of President of the Workers Compensation Commission of NSW
- Her Honour Judge Susan Cole held the appointment of Deputy President and Division Head of New South Wales Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) Administrative and Equal Opportunity Division and Occupational Division

ACTING JUDGES (Alphabetical Order)

- Mr Christopher John Armitage
- Ms Audrey Suzanne Balla
- Mr Peter Graeme Berman SC
- Mr Colin David Charteris SC
- Mr Paul Vincent Conlon SC
- Mr Malcolm Craig QC
- Mr James Patrick Curtis
- Mr Norman Edward Delaney
- Mr David Clement Frearson SC
- Mr Geoffrey John Graham
- Mr Gregory Scott Hosking SC
- Mr William Patrick Kearns SC
- Mr Brian John Knox SC
- Ms Megan Fay Latham SC
- Mr Rodney Neville Madgwick QC
- Mr Mark Curtis Marien SC
- Mr Colin Emmett O'Connor QC
- Ms Anne Mary Quirk
- Ms Margaret Sidis
- Mr Robert Sorby
- Mr Stephen Lewis Walmsley SC
- Mr Jonathan Steuart Williams
- Mr Gregory David Woods QC

JUDICIAL REGISTRAR

Mr James Howard is the Judicial Registrar and exercises functions pursuant to section 18FB of the *District Court Act 1973*.

VENUES

In 2019, the Court sat permanently in Sydney at the Downing Centre, 143-147 Liverpool Street, Sydney (in crime), where it occupies 21 courtrooms, and at the John Maddison Tower, 86 Goulburn Street, Sydney, where it occupies 23 courtrooms (mostly in civil).

Court Staff

In Sydney West, judges sat full-time in the courthouses at Parramatta (8 courtrooms), Penrith (2 courtrooms) and Campbelltown (3 courtrooms). In addition, resident judges presided at Armidale, Dubbo, Gosford, Lismore, Newcastle, Tamworth, Wagga Wagga and Wollongong.

Other places where the Court sat were:

Albury, Bathurst, Bega, Bourke, Broken Hill, Coffs Harbour, Coonamble, Goulburn, Grafton, Griffith, Moree, Nowra, Orange, Parkes, Port Macquarie, Queanbeyan, and Taree.

PRINCIPAL REGISTRAR

Ms Grace Romeo is the Principal Registrar and exercises functions pursuant to section 18H of the *District Court Act 1973*.

CRIMINAL LISTINGS AND JUDICIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Schedules cases in accordance with Court policy, prepares lists, allocates courtrooms and co-ordinates the assignment of judges to venues throughout the State.

Mr Robert Fornito is the Criminal Listing Director. Pursuant to section 123 of the *Criminal Procedure Act 1986*, the Criminal Listing Director assists the Chief Judge in making arrangements for the listing of criminal proceedings.

CIVIL LISTINGS AND CASE MANAGEMENT

Implements civil case management and listing practices for the timely finalisation of cases, schedules cases, prepares lists and allocates courtrooms.

Ms Jane Dunn is the Civil List and Case Manager and works in conjunction with the Civil List Judge and the Judicial Registrar in making arrangements for the listing of civil proceedings.

STRATEGIC PLAN

- Criminal Business Committee Report
 - Civil Business Committee Report
 - Professional Standards (Education) Committee Report
- 
- The bottom of the page features a decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, stylized mountain-like shapes. These shapes are formed by white outlines and are filled with various shades of purple, ranging from a light lavender to a dark, almost black purple. The shapes are arranged in a way that they appear to be layered, with some in front of others, creating a sense of depth and movement.

Criminal Business Committee Report

In 2017 the Court introduced its fifth Strategic Plan. The first such plan was adopted in 1995 and provided a template for significant changes in the way the Court operated as did the subsequent Strategic Plans released in 2000, 2007 and 2012.

The current Strategic Plan articulates the values of the Court and sets out the goals to be achieved over 2018-2021.

The Court is committed to discharging its responsibilities to ensure:

- That the Court is accessible to the public and those who need to use its services
- The effective determination of cases in an orderly, cost effective and expeditious manner
- The equal protection of the law to all
- The independence of the judges of the Court, and the Court as a branch of our system of government
- Accountability for the performance of the Court and its use of public funds
- The highest standard of excellence in the functioning of the Court

The Court will continue to maintain a Policy and Planning Committee to provide advice to the Chief Judge on matters relating to the business of the Court. There are also three major committees that are accountable to the Policy and Planning Committee. Those Committees are:

- The Criminal Business Committee
- The Civil Business Committee
- The Professional Standards (Education) Committee

TERMS OF REFERENCE

To monitor, report and advise on any matter relating to the Court's objective of providing a system for the earliest, most effective and efficient resolution of criminal proceedings.

Consultation with court users is carried out through the Criminal Business Committee. The Committee consists of the Chief Judge, the Criminal Listing Director and representatives from the Law Society of NSW, Bar Association of NSW, Legal Aid Commission of NSW, Commonwealth and State DPP, Aboriginal Legal Service, Public Defenders and Crown Prosecutors.

ACTIVITIES

When the Committee met in 2019, the issues discussed included the following:

- The Early Appropriate Guilty Plea reform package, Table Offence Reforms, appointment of additional judges and the continuing program of special call-overs that resulted in a fall of the Court's pending trial caseload
- The continuation of the program of special call-overs throughout the state to identify early pleas
- The continuation throughout the year of the Rolling List Court and expanding it to include proceedings from Sydney West
- The allocation of additional weeks in the Court's schedule for the disposal of sentences
- The expansion of readiness hearings of trial matters and the conduct of these hearings by way of VMR ("Virtual Meeting Room") rather than by phone
- The establishment of VMR technology in all courtrooms throughout the state

The Court continues to maintain a collaborative approach in its partnership with the Court's stakeholders in its criminal jurisdiction.

Civil Business Committee Report

TERMS OF REFERENCE

To monitor, report and advise on any matter relating to the Court's objective of providing a system for the earliest, most effective and efficient resolution of civil proceedings.

The Committee consists of judges of the Court, the Judicial Registrar, the Civil List and Case Manager and representatives of the Law Society of NSW, the Bar Association of NSW and the Motor Accidents Authority.

ACTIVITIES

The Online Court in the General List of the District Court that commenced on 31 October 2018 successfully entered into full operation in February 2019.

The Court has focused on reducing its pending caseload with some success. The Report of Government Services released on 24 January 2019 for the year ending 2018 confirmed for the second year in a row that the civil jurisdiction in the District Court of NSW has the lowest pending caseload compared to all other jurisdictions in Australia.

The Committee did not hold any meetings in 2019.

Professional Standards (Education) Committee Report

The District Court, in partnership with the Judicial Commission of New South Wales, provides a stimulating and practical continuing judicial education program for all judges. The program aims to inform judicial officers about changes to the law, community values, court practice and court procedure in order to maintain and improve judicial performance.

With a focus on interactive learning, the program is based on enhancing skills, attitudes and knowledge in a judicially relevant environment. The program is delivered through:

- An annual conference with an emphasis on sentencing, important legal developments, improving knowledge in difficult areas of legal practice and procedure, and the development of judicial skills
- A series of seminars on practical matters, social awareness issues and legislative changes which encourage peer-based learning through discussion
- Orientation programs to assist recently-appointed judges with their transition to judicial office, with a focus on knowledge and fundamental judicial skills about court craft, decision-making, sentencing, judicial administration and judicial conduct
- Experiential learning through field trips and site visits

The Professional Standards (Education) Committee composed of judges and the Judicial Commission's Education Director develops each education program based on the identified needs of judges. Judges are involved in the development and delivery of the education program to ensure its relevance to the judicial role. A member of the Committee is also a member of the Judicial Commission's Standing Advisory Committee on Judicial Education.

Participants are asked to rate the practical value of each education event to their role as a judge. The overall ratings in 2019 (from an average response rate of 55%) reveal that judges find the District Court's education program relevant and a useful source of knowledge and ideas. 92% of participants said that the education program was applicable to their role and 82% said they gained one or more ideas from the programs.

During 2019 judges:

- Continued to receive focused and tailored training to meet their educational needs
- Attended 219 days of face-to-face judicial education organised by the Judicial Commission, an average of 2.7 days of judicial education per judge

ACTIVITIES

Annual Conference

The Annual Conference, held in Bowral in April 2019 had a total of 73 in attendance. The conference focused on providing challenging and interesting educational sessions, while also providing a valuable opportunity for discussion and debate. The program consisted primarily of sessions relevant to the day-to-day work of a judge. The Conference received a 90% satisfaction rating from participants. Topics included:

- **Recurring issues in the NSW Court of Appeal**, The Honourable Justice Mark Leeming, Supreme Court of NSW
- **Criminal Law Review**, The Honourable Justice R A Hulme, Supreme Court of NSW
- **Criminal Jurisdiction**, Her Honour Judge Deborah Sweeney, His Honour Judge James Bennett SC, Her Honour Judge Donna Woodburne SC, His Honour Judge Gordon Lerve, His Honour Judge Stephen Hanley SC
- **Civil Jurisdiction**, His Honour Judge Ross Letherbarrow SC
- **Civil issues – Care proceedings**, His Honour Judge Peter Johnstone

- **Civil issues – Current topics update on commercial jurisdiction**, His Honour Judge Philip Taylor SC
- **Repeat interlocutory applications**, His Honour Judge Matthew Dicker SC
- **Practical issues in criminal and civil jurisdictions – panel discussion**, The Honourable Justice R A Hulme, Supreme Court of NSW
- **Online Court update**, Judicial Registrar James Howard
- **Indigenous justice – diversionary programs and other services**, Ms Melissa Merritt - Creating Futures Justice Program, Weave Youth and Community Services; Ms Belinda McInnes - Mothers and Children's Program, Jacaranda Cottages; Mr Jeff Amatto - Brothers 4 Recovery
- **How forensic psychologists work and community management of sex offenders**, Dr Katie Seidler, Clinical and Forensic Psychologist
- **Bullying and harassment in the courtroom**, Her Honour Chief Judge Jan-Marie Doogue, District Court of New Zealand
- **Why is it so hard being a young person in 2019 and why it matters?** Dr Andrew Kennedy, Paediatrician

Occasional Seminars

The Education Committee has continued to work with the Judicial Commission to organise a series of twilight education sessions for District Court judges. These seminars provide useful, informative and timely information on a range of topical matters relevant to the work of the District Court. They aim to enhance judicial performance and assist in the further development of judicial skills and knowledge. Seminars were held on the following topics:

- **Conducting stress free circuit courts**, 26 February 2019
- **Running judge alone trials and deciding when to order one**, 26 March 2019

- **Dealing with unrepresented litigants in lengthy and complex trials**, 8 May 2019
- **Tendencies and Coincidences**, 11 June 2019
- **Child Sexual Assault Program in practice**, 6 August 2019

Judicial Orientation

Two judges attended the National Judicial Orientation Program in Glenelg, South Australia in April 2019 and three judges attended the National Judicial Orientation Program on the Gold Coast, Queensland in November 2019. This five-day orientation program assists newly appointed judicial officers with their transition to judicial office by facilitating the development and refinement of the skills and knowledge necessary for effective judging. It is conducted by the National Judicial College of Australia with the assistance of the Judicial Commission of New South Wales and the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration.

Pre Bench

Three newly appointed judges attended the District Court's Pre-Bench program in 2019. This two-day program was delivered by an Acting Judge of the District Court and addressed topics such as judicial conduct, criminal and civil law proceedings, self-represented litigants, jury trials and more.

Ngara Yura Program

Judges continued to participate in the Judicial Commission's Ngara Yura Program which aims to increase awareness among judicial officers about contemporary Aboriginal society, customs and traditions, and their effect on Aboriginal people in the justice system. Judges participated in the following Ngara Yura Program events:

- **Exchanging Ideas: First Nations consensus in Constitutional reform, nation building and treaty making processes**, 15 June 2019, five attended
- **State Library of NSW – Living language: country, culture, community**, 6 November 2019, one attended

Cross Jurisdictional Programs

These programs aim to facilitate discussion about topical issues and provide opportunities for exchanging ideas between members of different courts. They focus on informing the NSW judiciary about changes in legislation and practice and procedure. Judges continued to participate in these programs with 14 attending two cross-jurisdictional programs.

- **Forensic science in the courtroom**, 20 August 2019, 10 attended
- **Risky business**, 21 November 2019, four attended

Online Resources

There are a number of online resources permanently available to judges of the District Court. Bench books and other research tools are available online via the JIRS database and are updated regularly. Where possible, judges are also able to view and participate in programs remotely either via the live streaming of certain programs or viewing a number of programs that have been recorded.

CRIMINAL JURISDICTION NEW SOUTH WALES

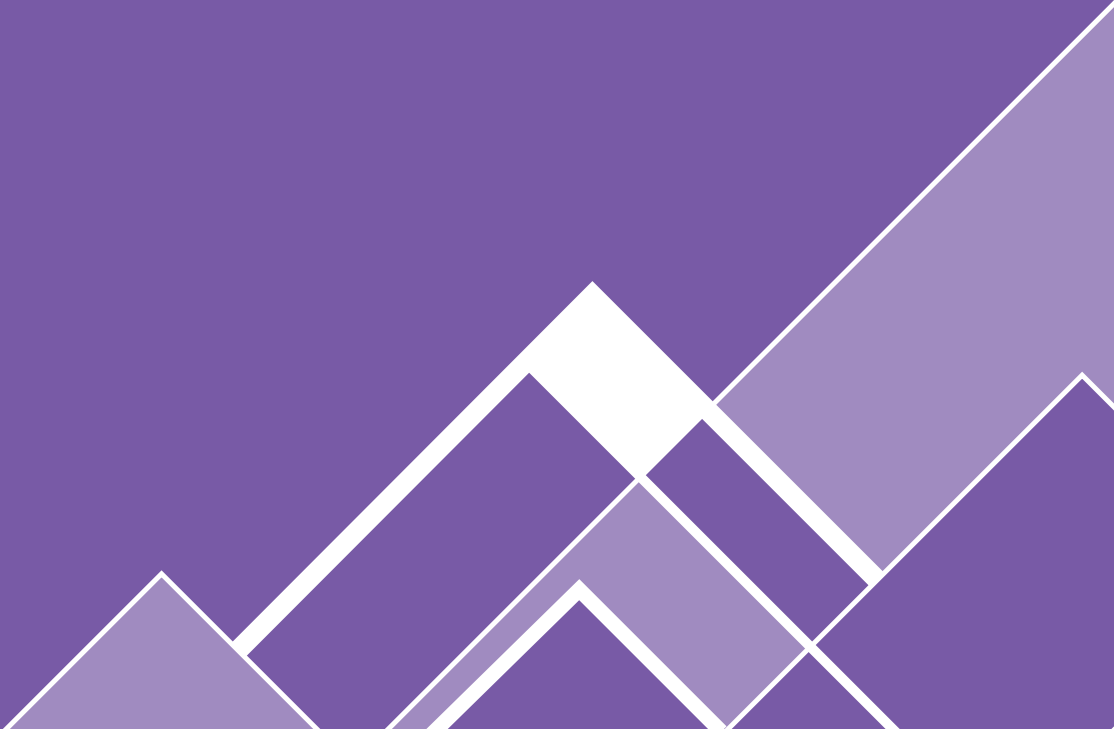
Full statistical data on the Court's criminal operations is set out in Annexures A and B

Trials

- Caseload

Sentences

Local Court Appeals

- Conviction Appeals
 - Sentence Appeals
- 

TRIALS

In 2019:

- Registrations fell by 21.3%
- Finalisations fell by 7.2%
- Pending trials fell by 23.6%
- Median finalisation time fell from 61.8 weeks to 60.4 weeks
- Average length of trials rose from 9.95 days to 10.29 days

Caseload

There were **1,924** trials finalised in 2019 as compared to **2,074** in 2018. There were **1,399** trials on hand at the end of 2019 compared to **1,831** trials at the end of 2018.

The number of sexual assault trials registered in 2019 was **577** compared to **630** in 2018 and **632** in 2017. Of these, **307** trials involved child sexual assault compared to **352** in 2018 and **377** in 2017.

Figure 1. tracks the state-wide trends in the criminal trial caseload for the past 5 years.

Figure 1. Criminal Trial Caseload

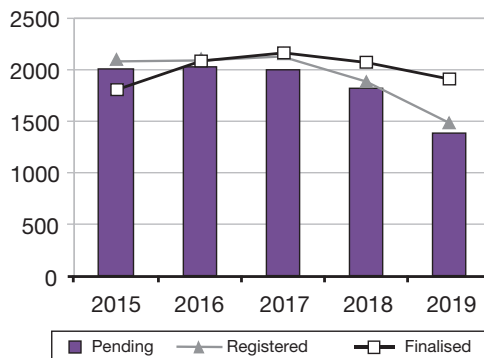
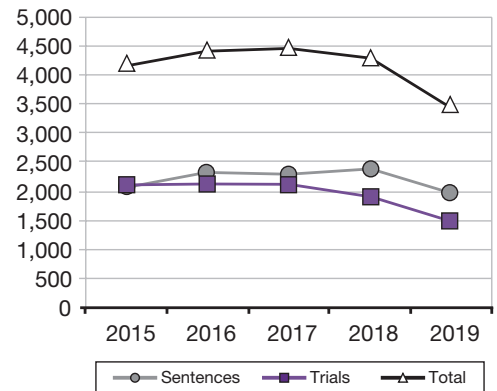


Figure 2 shows variation in trial and sentence registrations for the last 5 years.

Figure 2. Trial and Sentence Registrations



Sentence hearings are far less demanding on victims. They also absorb far fewer resources than trials. It is therefore important to ensure that in appropriate cases guilty pleas are entered at the earliest possible time, preferably at the committal stage.

TIME STANDARDS

The Court's ideal time standards for the commencement of criminal trials are:

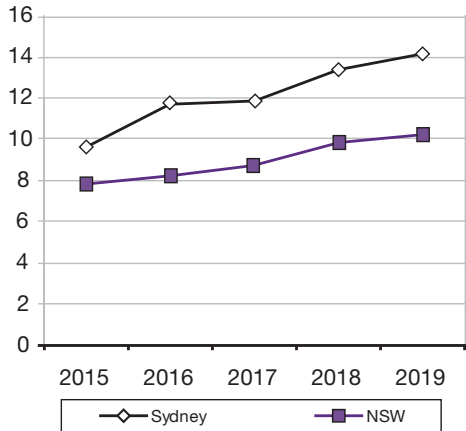
- **100%** of sexual assault trials and trials of accused persons refused bail commenced within 8 months of committal or other event that gives rise to the need for trial
- **100%** of cases commenced within 12 months of committal, or other event that gives rise to the need for trial

TRIAL DURATIONS

The state-wide average length of criminal trials finalised in 2019 was **10.29** days compared to **9.95** days in 2018. In Sydney the average duration was **14.22** days in 2019 compared to **13.37** days in 2018.

Figure 3 illustrates the fluctuating rise in the average trial duration time.

Figure 3. Average Trial Length



FINALISATIONS

In 2019, **66%** of all registered trials were finalised within the first 12 months.

Figure 4 illustrates the rate of finalisations for all trials.

Figure 4. Rate of Registered Trials Finalised

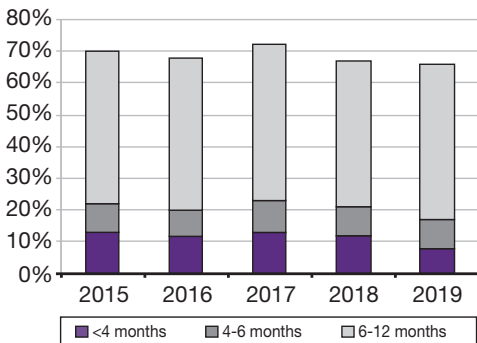


Figure 5 shows the age of all trials which were pending at the end of the year indicated.

Figure 5. All Registered Trials – Pending Matters

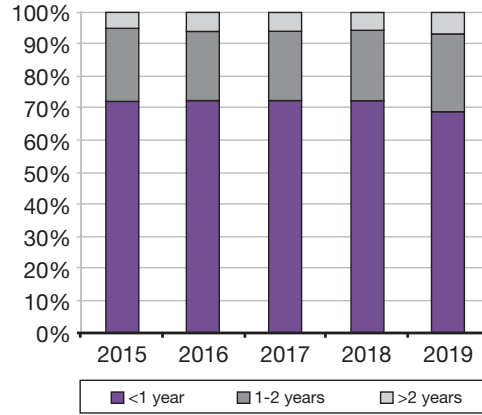
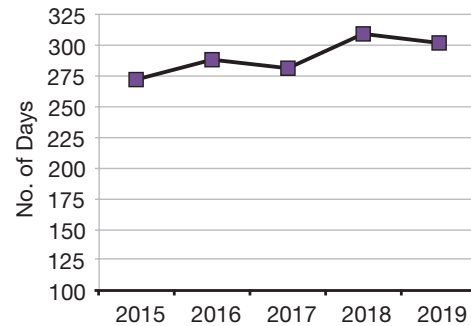


Figure 6 tracks the median finalisation times from committal to commencement of the trial for matters finalised during the year indicated.

Figure 6. Median Finalisation Times – Criminal Trials



TRIAL LISTING OUTCOMES

About 2,600 trials were listed for hearing in 2019.

Of trials dealt with in 2019 (i.e. 76% of total listings):

- 35% pleaded guilty
- 48% proceeded to verdict
- 8% were “no billed”
- 3% were transferred
- 2% were aborted
- 2% ended with a “hung jury”
- 1% were otherwise disposed
- 1% had bench warrants issued

Table 1. Trial Listing Outcomes

The following table sets out trial listing outcomes for 2019.

	Sydney	Sydney West	Country	Total
NOT DEALT WITH	17.9%	28.9%	26.5%	24.3%
Vacated	10.7%	17.9%	10.7%	12.7%
Prior to Trial Week	4.3%	8.6%	2.4%	4.7%
During Trial Week	6.4%	9.3%	8.3%	8.0%
Other Not Dealt With (Trial Week)	7.2%	11.0%	15.7%	11.7%
Not Reached	0.0%	9.0%	9.4%	6.2%
Other	7.2%	2.0%	6.3%	5.5%
DEALT WITH	82.1%	71.1%	73.5%	75.7%
Dealt With Prior to Trial Week	9.1%	12.0%	6.3%	8.8%
No Billed	2.7%	2.3%	0.8%	1.8%
Bench Warrant	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Plea	6.1%	7.2%	5.3%	6.0%
Other (e.g. deceased)	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.2%
Transferred	0.2%	2.0%	0.2%	0.7%
Dealt With In Trial Week	25.1%	30.4%	25.8%	26.8%
No Billed	3.0%	4.4%	5.0%	4.2%
Bench Warrant	0.1%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%
Plea	20.5%	20.9%	19.4%	20.2%
Other (eg. deceased)	1.3%	0.3%	0.8%	0.8%
Transferred	0.2%	4.3%	0.3%	1.3%
Trials Commenced	47.8%	28.7%	41.4%	40.1%
Aborted	0.8%	1.4%	3.0%	1.8%
Hung Jury	2.2%	0.7%	1.8%	1.7%
Proceeded	44.8%	26.5%	36.6%	36.6%

Figure 7 shows the break-up of those matters not dealt with.

Figure 7. Trial Listings Not Dealt With

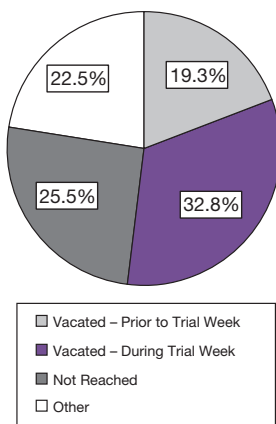


Figure 9 shows the outcome of those that commenced.

Figure 9. Trial Outcomes

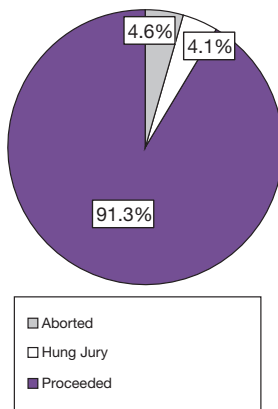
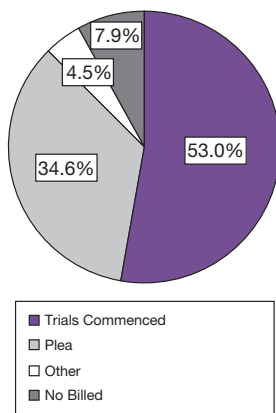


Figure 8 shows the break-up of those matters that were dealt with after being listed.

Figure 8. Trial Listings Dealt With



SENTENCES

In 2019:

- Registrations fell by 17.3%
- Finalisations rose by less than 0.5%
- Pending cases fell by 36.8%
- Median finalisation time fell from 36.6 weeks to 32.0 weeks

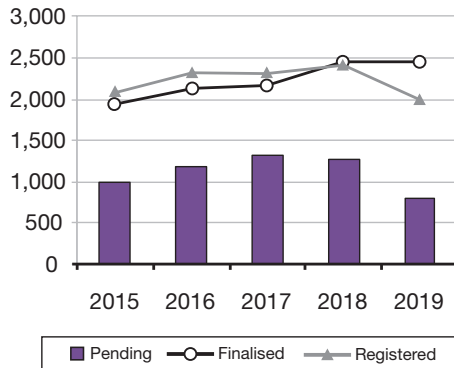
SENTENCES

There were **1,980** committals for sentence received in 2019 compared to **2,393** in 2018.

2,446 sentences were finalised during the year compared to **2,434** in 2018. There were **800** sentence matters pending at the end of the year compared to **1,266** at the end of 2018.

Figure 10 tracks the sentence caseload for the last 5 years.

Figure 10. Sentence Caseload



TIME STANDARDS

The Court's ideal time standard for the commencement of sentences is:

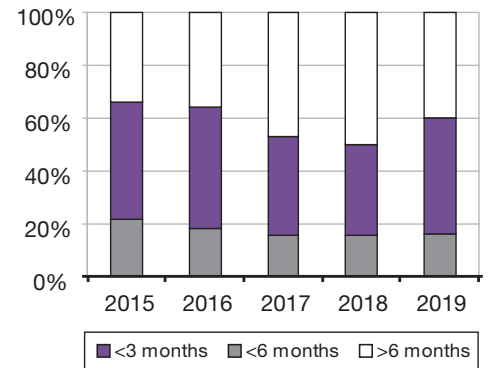
- **100%** commenced within 6 months of committal

FINALISATIONS

In 2019, **60%** of all registered sentences were finalised within the first 6 months.

Figure 11 illustrates the rate of finalisation for all sentences.

Figure 11. Rate of Registered Sentences Finalised



LOCAL COURT APPEALS

Conviction Appeals

In 2019:

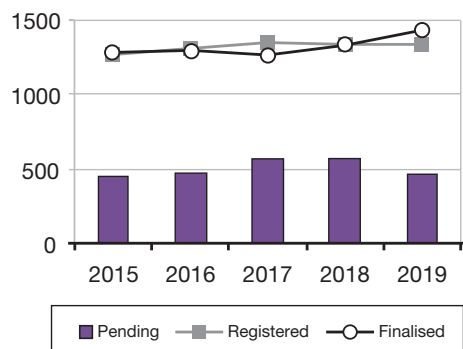
- Registrations fell by less than 0.2%
- Finalisations rose by 7.5%
- Pending cases fell by 17.8%
- Median finalisation time rose from 23.6 weeks to 24.2 weeks

CONVICTION APPEALS

There were **1,325** conviction appeals lodged in 2019 and **1,426** finalisations. At the end of the year there were **467** conviction appeals pending compared to **568** at the end of 2018.

Figure 12 tracks the conviction appeal caseload for the last 5 years.

Figure 12. Conviction Appeals Caseload



TIME STANDARDS

The Court's ideal time standard for the commencement of conviction appeals is:

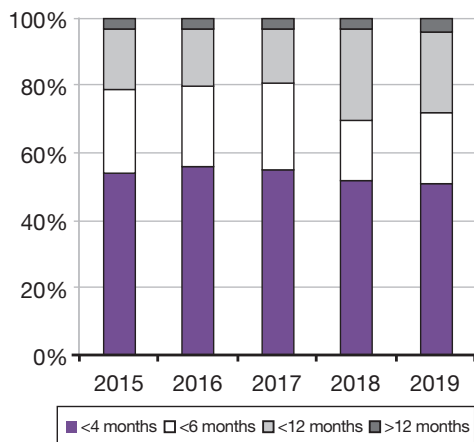
- **100%** commenced within 12 months of appeal

FINALISATIONS

In 2019, **96%** of all registered conviction appeals were finalised within the first 12 months.

Figure 13 illustrates the rate of finalisations for all conviction appeals

Figure 13. Rate of Registered Conviction Appeals Finalised



Sentence Appeals

In 2019:

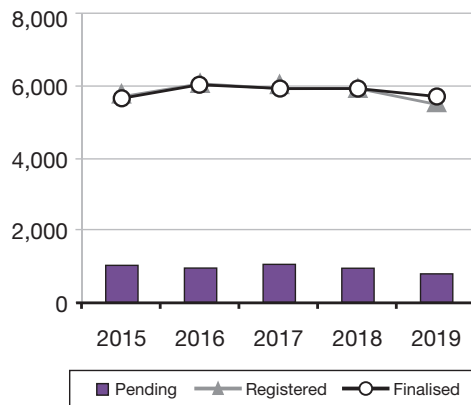
- Registrations fell by 5.9%
- Finalisations fell by 5.0%
- Pending cases fell by 16.2%
- Median finalisation time fell from 9.8 weeks to 9.4 weeks

SENTENCE APPEALS

There were **5,500** sentence appeals lodged in 2019 and **5,652** finalised. At the end of the year there were **788** sentence appeals pending compared to **940** at the end of 2018.

Figure 14 tracks the sentence appeals caseload for the last 5 years.

Figure 14. Sentence Appeals Caseload



TIME STANDARDS

The Court's ideal time standard for the commencement of sentence appeals is:

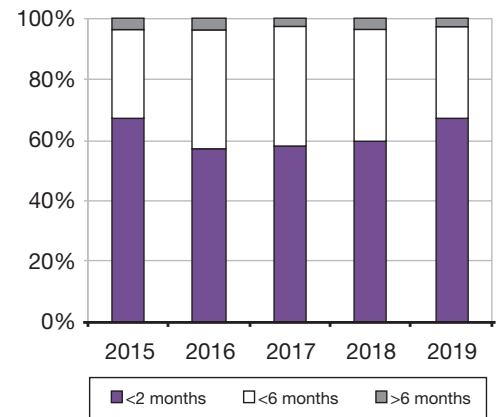
- **100%** commenced within 6 months of appeal

FINALISATIONS

In 2019, **97%** of all registered sentence appeals were finalised within the first 6 months.

Figure 15 illustrates the rate of finalisations for all sentence appeals.

Figure 15. Rate of Registered Sentence Appeals Finalised



CIVIL JURISDICTION

Full statistical data on the Court's civil operations is set out in Annexure C

New South Wales

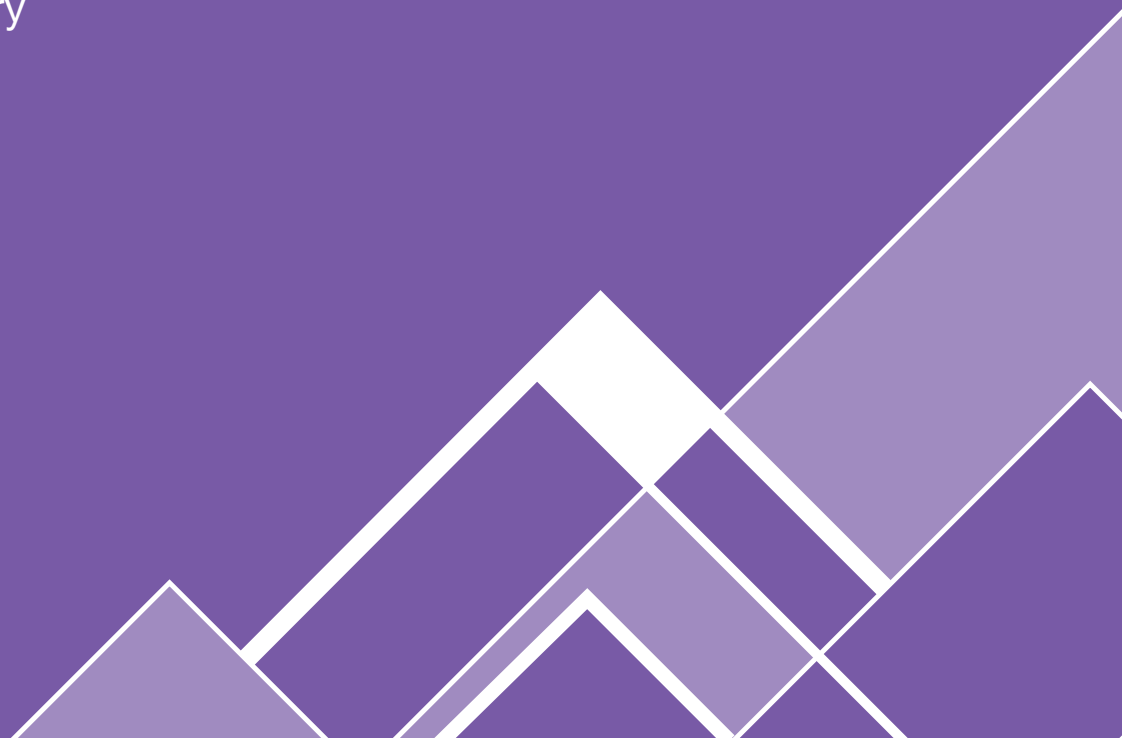
- Caseload

Sydney

- Caseload
- Residual Jurisdiction
- Alternative Dispute Resolution

Sydney West

Country



NEW SOUTH WALES

Full statistical data on the Court's civil operations is set out in Annexure C

In 2019:

- Registrations fell by 1.0%
- Finalisations fell by 2.8%
- Pending cases fell by 3.3%
- Median finalisation fell from 11.8 months to 11.7 months

Caseload

EXPLANATORY BACKGROUND

Comparing registrations and finalisations is not an exact science. For example, a matter in the course of its life may, for various reasons, be registered more than once. Multiple parties and cross actions can further affect the equation. Cases determined at arbitration can be re-heard. A matter previously dismissed can be restored or a retrial may be ordered. Registries also conduct stocktakes of cases on hand during the course of the year, with pending statistics being adjusted as necessary.

It is therefore important to view comparisons of registrations and finalisations against pending caseload with some caution, as it is often difficult to reconcile the figures. However, they are helpful in providing general trends concerning the incoming and outgoing work of the Court.

REGISTRATIONS

There were **4,549** matters registered in 2019 compared to **4,595** in 2018.

FINALISATIONS

There were **4,739** matters finalised in 2019 compared to **4,878** in 2018.

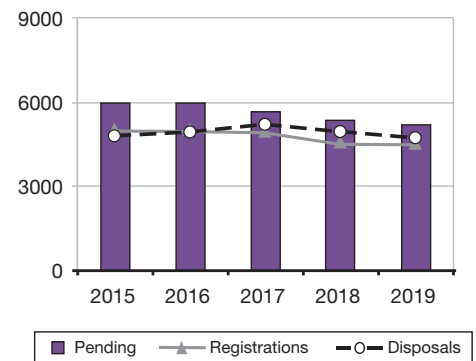
PENDING

At the end of 2019 the pending caseload was **5,202** compared to **5,378** in 2018.

Comparison with Previous Years

Figure 16 tracks the Court's caseload for the past 5 years.

Figure 16. NSW Civil Caseload



FINALISATION TIMES

In 2019, **62%** of all actions finalised were completed within 12 months with **90%** being completed within 24 months. This compares to **62%** and **92%** respectively in 2018.

Of the pending caseload at the end of 2019, **18%** exceeded 12 months and not more than 24 months and **5%** exceeded more than 24 months.

SYDNEY

In 2019:

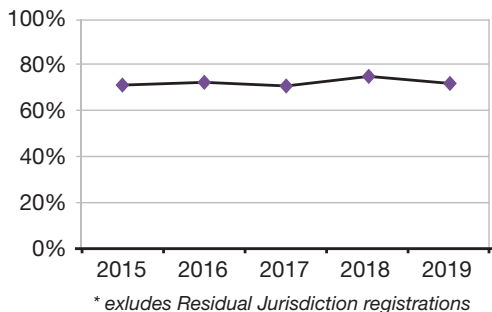
- Registrations fell by 4.1%
- Finalisations fell by 1.9%
- Pending cases fell by 5.2%
- Median finalisation time fell from 11.6 months to 11.4 months

Caseload

In 2019, Sydney civil case managed matters represented **72%** of the State's registrations and **71%** of the matters on hand.

Figure 17 shows the ratio of new civil actions commencing in Sydney, as compared to the whole State for the past 5 years.

Figure 17. % of NSW Registrations

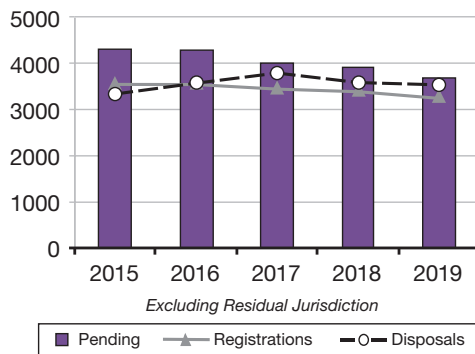


REGISTRATIONS, FINALISATIONS AND PENDING CASES

Excluding the Residual Jurisdiction there were **3,291** new actions registered and **3,504** finalised in Sydney in 2019. At the end of the year there were **3,676** actions pending.

Figure 18 tracks Sydney's caseload for the last five years.

Figure 18. Sydney Caseload



FINALISATION TIMES

The Court's ideal time standard for civil cases is a **90%** finalisation rate within 12 months of commencement and **100%** within 24 months.

In 2019, **64%** of all actions finalised were completed within 12 months with **92%** being completed within 24 months. This compares to **65%** and **92%** respectively, in 2018.

Of the pending caseload at the end of 2019, **16%** exceeded 12 months and not more than 24 months and **3%** exceeded 24 months.

HOW CASES ARE FINALISED

Table 2 shows the break-up of how case managed list matters were finalised in 2019. The categories of “Dismissed” and “Discontinued” include matters that settled without judgment being entered and/or terms of settlement being filed.

Table 2. Finalisation Outcomes

Judgment following Trial	157
Default Judgment	18
Settlement Filed	2,166
Dismissed	541
Discontinued	518
Arbitration	0
Transferred	104
Total	3,504

Table 3 compares two of the seven categories of finalised outcomes as against the total number of finalised outcomes. These two categories are selected because “Finalised following trial” represents the number of hearings to judgment before judges, and “Finalised by settlement filed” includes matters that settled as a result of Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Table 3. Judgments/Settlements

Year	Total Disposals	Disposed of by Judgment Following Trial	Disposed of by Settlement Filed
2015	3,335 (100%)	155 (6%)	2,207 (66%)
2016	3,575 (100%)	159 (5%)	2,391 (66%)
2017	3,762 (100%)	141 (4%)	2,415 (64%)
2018	3,573 (100%)	165 (5%)	2,276 (64%)
2019	3,504 (100%)	157 (4%)	2,166 (62%)

Residual Jurisdiction

The *Compensation Court Repeal Act 2002* abolished the Compensation Court and transferred the Compensation Court’s jurisdiction to the Workers Compensation Commission or the District Court. The Act commenced on 1 January 2004.

The disputes that were transferred to the District Court are commonly referred to as its “Residual Jurisdiction” and involve the following:

- *The Police Act 1990*, concerning police officers “hurt on duty”, and the *Police Regulation (Superannuation) Act 1906*, concerning the payment of superannuation benefits to police officers
- Payment under the *Police Regulation (Superannuation) Act 1906* (paid to the SAS Trustee Corporation) continued under the *Superannuation Administration Act 1996* and special risk benefits payable by the Commissioner of Police
- *The Workers Compensation Act 1987*, concerning workers in or about a coal mine
- *The Workers Compensation (Dust Diseases) Act 1942*
- The Sporting Injuries Insurance Scheme
- *The Workers Compensation (Bush Fire, Emergency and Rescue Services) Act 1987*

During 2019, **238** actions were commenced and **267** finalised. At the end of 2019 there were **194** matters on hand in the Residual Jurisdiction.

SYDNEY WEST

Alternative Dispute Resolution

MEDIATION

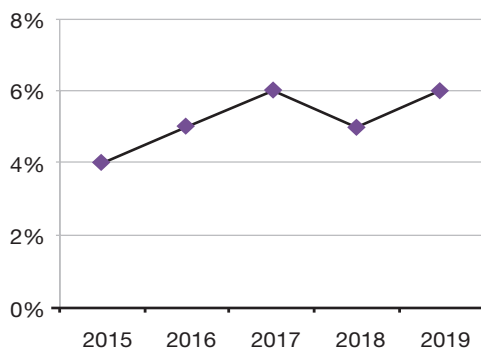
Pursuant to Practice Note DC (Civil) No. 1, cases before the Sydney District Court are referred to mediation where appropriate. The referral may be either to private mediation or to court provided mediation. The Assistant Registrars in Sydney undertake the court provided mediation. In 2019, the Court referred **638** matters to mediation (**544** were referred to private mediation and **94** to court provided mediation). Settlement conferences were ordered in **1,457** matters.

Approximately **47%** of matters referred to mediation by Assistant Registrars were settled. There are no available statistics in relation to settlement of matters referred to private mediators.

Sydney West totalled **6%** of the number of new actions in 2019 (excluding the Court's residual jurisdiction).

Figure 19 tracks the variation in the proportional rate of registrations in Sydney West.

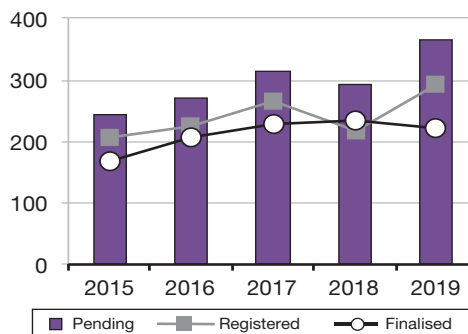
Figure 19. % of NSW Registrations



In Sydney West there were **293** matters registered and **220** finalisations throughout the year. At the end of 2019 the total pending caseload was **365** compared to **294** the previous year.

Figure 20 shows comparative registrations, finalisations and pending caseloads for the past 5 years.

Figure 20. Sydney West Caseload



Pending matters in Sydney West rose by **24.1%** and the median finalisation time was 13.5 months.

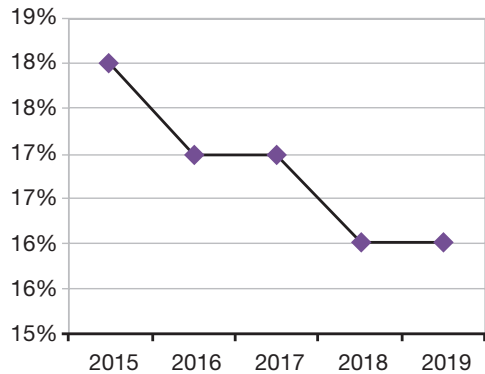
21% of pending cases exceeded 12 months and not more than 24 months and **8%** exceeded 24 months.

COUNTRY

Venues outside of Sydney and Sydney West totalled **16%** of the number of actions in 2019 (excluding the Court's Residual Jurisdiction).

Figure 21 tracks the proportional rate of registrations for Country venues.

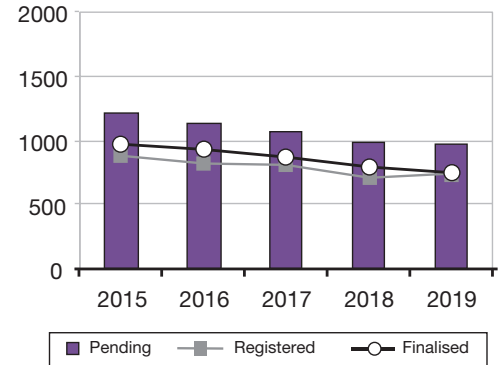
Figure 21. % of NSW Registrations



Outside of Sydney and Sydney West, there were **727** matters registered and **748** finalisations throughout the year. At the end of the year the total pending caseload was **967** compared to **982** the previous year.

Figure 22 shows comparative registrations, finalisations and pending caseloads for the past 5 years.

Figure 22. Country Civil Caseload



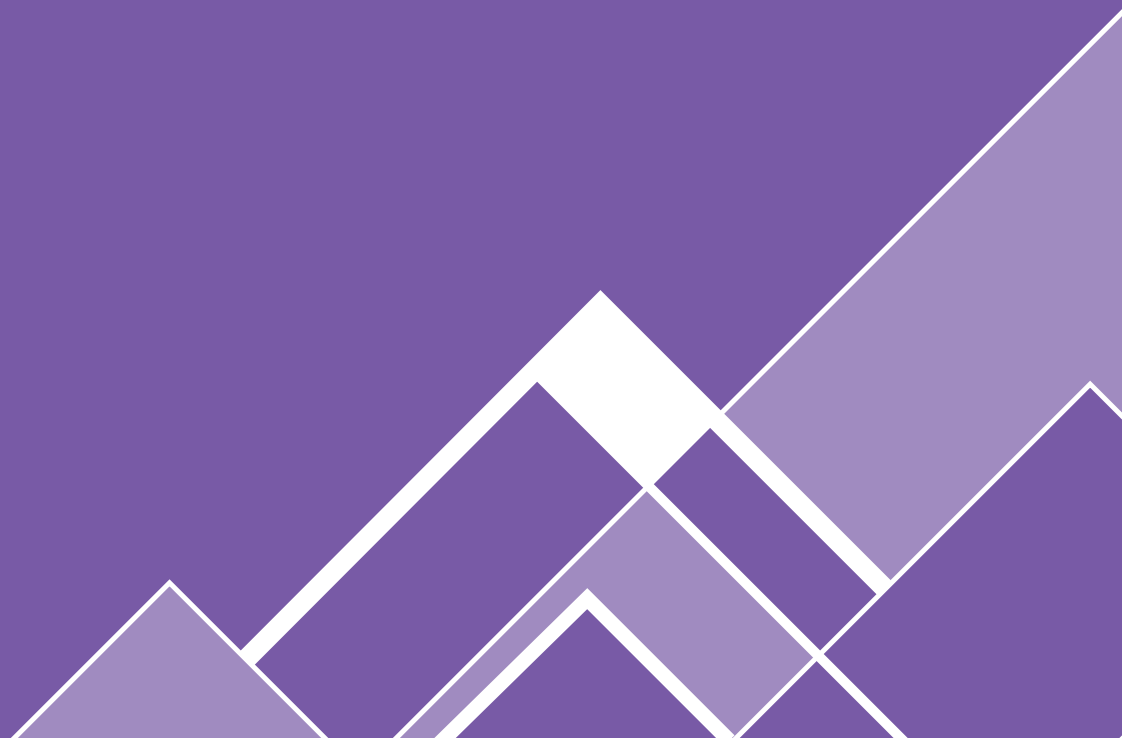
Pending matters in the country fell by **1.5%** and the median finalisation time was 14.5 months.

24% of pending cases exceeded 12 months and not more than 24 months and **8%** exceeded 24 months.

JUDICIAL RESOURCES

- Allocated Sitings
- Actual Sitings

Committees



Allocated Sittings

Table 4 sets out the number of judicial sitting weeks allocated in 2019 as published in the Court's Calendar of Sittings.

Table 4. Sitting Allocations

Location	Jurisdiction	No. of Weeks	Judge EFT	%
Sydney	Criminal	810	20.0	28%
	Civil	645	15.9	22%
Sydney West	Criminal	547	13.5	19%
	Civil	10	0.2	0%
Major Country	Criminal	481	11.8	17%
	Civil	33	0.8	1%
Other Venues	Criminal	337	8.3	12%
	Civil	28	0.7	1%
Total	Criminal	2,175	53.6	75%
	Civil	716	17.6	25%
	All	2,891	71.2	100%

Judge Equivalent Full Time is calculated at 40.6 sitting weeks per year - i.e. 52 weeks less judicial vacations, public holidays and the Annual Judges' Conference.

Actual Sittings

Table 5 sets out the number of days actually sat by the Court in 2019 converted into weeks (by dividing the number of days by 5).

Table 5. Actual Sittings

Location	Jurisdiction	No. of Weeks	Judge EFT	%
Sydney	Criminal	1,133	27.9	39%
	Civil	450	11.1	15%
Sydney West	Criminal	530	13.1	18%
	Civil	5	0.1	0%
Major Country	Criminal	433	10.7	15%
	Civil	13	0.3	0%
Other Venues	Criminal	342	8.4	12%
	Civil	24	0.6	1%
Total	Criminal	2,438	60.0	83%
	Civil	492	12.1	17%
	All	2,930	72.2	100%

COMPARISON WITH 2018

Overall, there was a decrease of **90** weeks for sittings in 2019 compared to 2018. This included **73** fewer weeks of criminal sittings and **17** fewer weeks of civil sittings.

The reduction in criminal sittings was due to more rigorous case management of pending trials, the Early Appropriate Guilty Plea reform scheme and the settling of a number of listed special fixture trials.

ACTING JUDGES

Acting Judges provided an extra **1,223** days of actual sittings. Based on the maximum of **40.6** sitting weeks per year for a permanent judge, this equated to **six** additional judges.

Figure 23 shows the fluctuations in the number of Acting Judges' weeks since 2015.

Figure 23. Acting Judges' Weeks

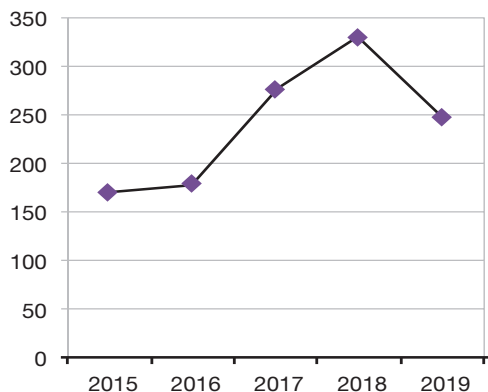


Table 6 sets out the number of sitting days by Acting Judges in 2019.

Table 6. Acting Judges' Sitting Days 2019

	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	TOTAL
Armitage		18	8	4	7	14	21	3		14	1	6	96
Balla		11	15			10	15	10		3	5		69
Berman		14	15	4	1	3	15	6	6	2	10	5	81
Charteris		1				4							5
Conlon		12	8	13	14	18	13	11	13	8	2	4	116
Craig		3	1	3			1	2		1	2	1	14
Curtis		16	5	1	7	11	18	14	3	16	5	8	104
Delaney	5	13	3	9	4	6	19	4	4	6	4		77
Frearson					9	19	10		14	16	5	1	74
Graham		6			10			10	15	15	10	1	67
Hosking		1	1	1		10							13
Kearns				4	2	1				5	5	1	18
Knox													0
Latham			18				5	6	25	2	7	11	74
Madgwick		5	1	3		1	8	15	23	19	3	4	82
Marien		7	13	2	2	9	13	8	11	17	10	1	93
O'Connor	1			7	14	2	10	9	1	6	5		55
Quirk		8	6	1			7	1	6			1	30
Sidis		5	1							5			11
Sorby		1			8	5		3			1		18
Walmsley		11	6		1		8	10	10		10		56
Williams	4		3			7	9	15	3	2	2		45
Woods									8	15	1	1	25
Total days	10	132	104	52	79	120	172	127	142	152	88	45	1,223
Average sitting days per Acting Judge 2019													53

SITTING DETAILS

The final table sets out the allocated, available and actual sittings at all venues, as well as the average daily recorded sitting hours.

Table 7. District Court Sitings 2019

	ALLOCATED (weeks)		AVAILABLE (days)		ACTUALLY SAT (days)		* AVERAGE RECORDED HOURS	
	CRIME	CIVIL	CRIME	CIVIL	CRIME	CIVIL	CRIME	CIVIL
Sydney	810	645	3,906	5,805	5,663	2,248	3.85	2.71
Campbelltown	130	0	651	0	628	0	4.44	0.00
Parramatta	327	10	2,864	44	1,621	23	4.28	3.65
Penrith	90	0	404	0	400	0	4.20	0.00
Sydney West Total	547	10	3,919	44	2,649	23	4.30	3.65
Gosford	80	6	394	30	390	12	4.49	4.17
Newcastle	178	13	859	63	993	91	4.14	2.95
Wollongong	79	9	384	44	327	19	4.05	3.53
O/S total	337	28	1,637	137	1,710	122	4.21	3.16
Albury	24	2	118	10	114	3	4.21	3.33
Armidale	23	0	110	0	105	0	4.46	0.00
Bathurst	16	1	78	5	88	0	4.68	0.00
Bega	17	1	85	5	77	0	3.84	0.00
Bourke	3	0	15	0	12	0	5.33	0.00
Broken Hill	15	1	75	5	61	0	4.72	0.00
Coffs Harbour	35	3	172	15	142	2	4.76	3.00
Coonamble	3	0	14	0	12	0	3.67	0.00
Dubbo	43	2	207	10	197	4	4.11	0.00
Goulburn	19	0	93	0	74	0	4.20	0.00
Grafton	12	0	60	0	56	0	4.96	0.00
Griffith	26	1	128	5	104	3	4.42	0.00
Lismore	61	8	310	40	272	25	4.15	3.24
Moree	9	0	44	0	40	0	5.58	0.00
Nowra	20	1	99	5	100	0	4.43	0.00
Orange	17	2	85	10	78	7	4.35	0.00
Parkes	4	0	20	0	18	0	3.61	0.00
Port Macquarie	21	1	104	5	108	0	4.40	0.00
Queanbeyan	15	2	75	10	56	3	4.30	4.33
Tamworth	30	1	147	5	137	3	4.44	2.67
Taree	19	2	93	9	94	4	4.28	0.00
Wagga Wagga	49	5	237	25	220	10	3.38	3.40
Country Total	481	33	2,369	164	2,165	64	4.27	3.23
State Total	2,175	716	11,831	6,150	12,187	2,457	4.07	2.75

* "Average Recorded Hours" are based on the number of sitting hours during which proceedings were recorded, as provided by the Reporting Services Branch, NSW Department of Communities & Justice. This is often less than the actual hours the Court sat.

COMMITTEES

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES DURING 2019:

Policy and Planning Committee

The Honourable Justice D Price AO,
Chief Judge (Chair)

His Honour Judge G Neilson

His Honour Judge C Robison

His Honour Judge S Norrish QC

Her Honour Judge P Hock

Her Honour Judge J Gibson

Her Honour Judge H Syme

His Honour Judge R Letherbarrow SC

His Honour Judge D Arnott SC

His Honour Judge P Mahony SC

His Honour Judge C Hoy SC

His Honour Judge P Taylor SC

His Honour Judge M Williams SC

Her Honour Judge J Culver

Her Honour Judge P Wass SC

His Honour Judge R Montgomery

Her Honour Judge S Grant

Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar (Secretary)

Criminal Business Committee

The Honourable Justice D Price AO,
Chief Judge (Chair)

Ms J Philipson, Office of the Director of Public
Prosecutions (Commonwealth)

Mr L Babb SC, Office of the Director of Public
Prosecutions (NSW)

Ms S Govind, Office of the Director of Public
Prosecutions (NSW)

Mr R Button SC, Deputy Public Defender

Mr J Styles, Aboriginal Legal Service,

Ms N Miles, Aboriginal Legal Service

Ms R Khalilzadeh, Bar Association of NSW

Ms J Sanders, Law Society of NSW

Ms A Coultas-Roberts, Legal Aid Commission

Mr R Fornito, Criminal Listing Director

Ms J Garvey, Judicial Support Co-ordinator
(Secretary)

Civil Business Committee

His Honour Judge R Letherbarrow SC (Convenor)

Her Honour Judge E Olsson SC

His Honour Judge P Taylor SC

His Honour Judge J Hatzistergos AM

Her Honour Judge P Wass SC

His Honour Judge R Montgomery

His Honour Judge D Russell SC

Mr L King SC, Bar Association of NSW

Mr E Romaniuk SC, Bar Association of NSW

Mr S Brodowski, Law Society of NSW

Mr T Stern, Law Society of NSW

Ms B Cassidy, Motor Accidents Authority

Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar (Secretary)

Ms J Dunn, Civil Case Management and Listing

Professional Standards (Education) Committee

Her Honour Judge P Hock (Chair)

His Honour Judge P Berman SC

His Honour Judge P Lakatos SC

His Honour Judge G Lerve

Her Honour Judge S Huggett

His Honour Judge P Whitford SC

Her Honour Judge D Yehia SC

His Honour Judge J Hatzistergos AM

Her Honour Judge J Culver

Her Honour Judge Jennie Girdham SC

His Honour Judge John Pickering SC

His Honour Judge M Dicker SC

His Honour Judge W Hunt

His Honour Judge C O'Brien AM

His Honour Judge Richard Weinstein SC

His Honour Judge Justin Smith SC

Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar

Ms U Doyle, Director of Education, Judicial
Commission of NSW (Convenor)

Rule Committee

The Honourable Justice D Price AO,
Chief Judge (Chair)
His Honour Judge G Neilson
His Honour Judge C Robison
Her Honour Judge E Olsson SC
Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar (Secretary)
Mr P Khandar, Bar Association of NSW
Mr J Prowse, Law Society of NSW
Mr T Stern, Law Society of NSW

Security Committee

His Honour Judge C Robison (Chair)
Her Honour Judge E Olsson SC
His Honour Judge C Jeffreys
His Honour Judge R Montgomery
His Honour Judge R Sutherland SC
Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar (Secretary)

Technology Committee

The Honourable Justice D Price AO,
Chief Judge (Chair)
Her Honour Judge J Gibson (Secretary)
His Honour Judge C Jeffreys
Her Honour Judge J Culver
His Honour Judge J Priestley SC
His Honour Judge W Turnbull SC
Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar
Ms S King, Principal Registrar
Ms G Romero, Principal Registrar
Mr C Doulgeris, Business Relationships
Manager, DTS
Mr J Duffy, Business Partner, ITC

Building Committee

Her Honour Judge R Tupman (Convenor)
Ms S King, Principal Registrar
Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar
Ms A Curtin, Registrar & Director, NCAT
Ms S Chia, Acting Registrar, DDT
Mr R Cowburn, Brookfield Multiplex Ltd
Mr K Breen, Judicial Support Officer (Secretary)

**Judicial Commission, Criminal Trial Courts
Bench Book Committee**

His Honour Judge P Zahra SC
His Honour Judge P Lakatos SC
His Honour Judge D Arnott SC
Her Honour Judge S Huggett

**Judicial Commission, Civil Trials Bench
Book Committee**

His Honour Judge G Neilson
His Honour Judge R Letherbarrow SC
His Honour Judge R Weinstein SC

**Judicial Commission, Sexual Assault Trials
Handbook Committee**

His Honour Judge S Norrish QC
His Honour Judge R Ellis (Chair)
Her Honour Judge S Huggett

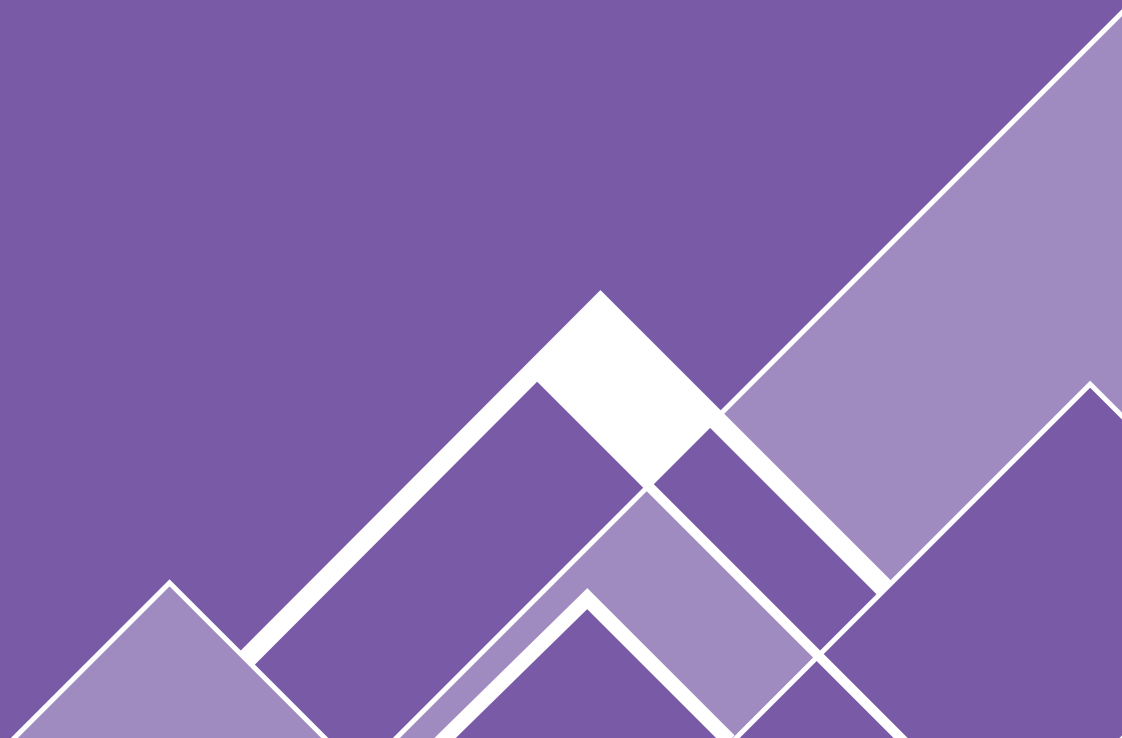
**Judicial Commission, Standing Advisory
Committee on Judicial Education**

His Honour Judge P Lakatos SC

**Judicial Commission, Ngara Yura
Committee**

Her Honour Judge D Yehia SC

ANNEXURES

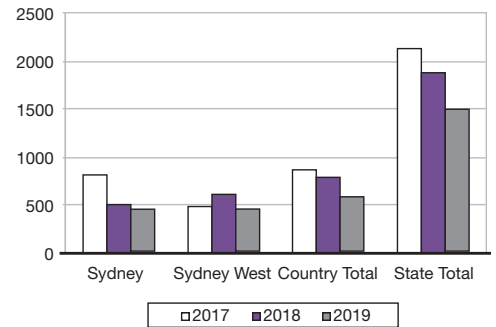
- Annexure A – Criminal Caseload
 - Annexure B – Compliance with Criminal Time Standards
 - Annexure C – Civil Caseload / Civil Disposal Times
- 

Annexure A1 Criminal Caseload

TRIALS

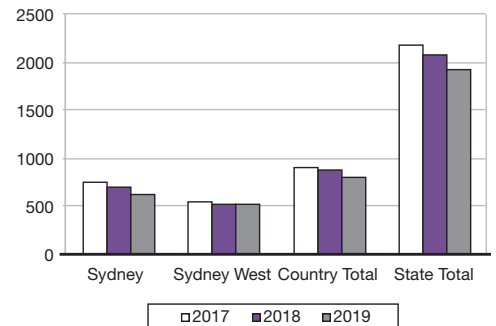
Registered

	2017	2018	2019	18/19 Variant
Sydney	805	495	436	-12%
Sydney West	488	605	462	-24%
Newcastle	255	255	203	-20%
Gosford	94	89	52	-42%
Wollongong	150	158	99	-37%
Lismore	139	116	98	-16%
Dubbo	119	110	83	-25%
Wagga Wagga	96	69	59	-14%
Country Total	853	797	594	-25%
State Total	2,146	1,897	1,492	-21%



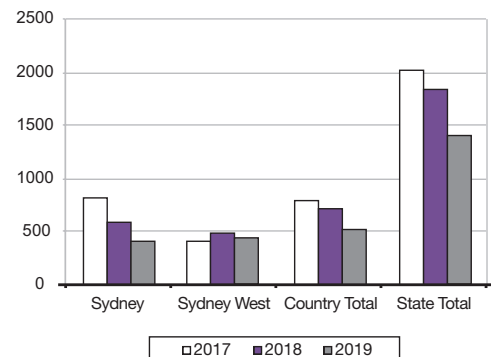
Finalised

	2017	2018	2019	18/19 Variant
Sydney	743	702	617	-12%
Sydney West	545	510	509	0%
Newcastle	268	226	267	18%
Gosford	76	100	83	-17%
Wollongong	175	149	167	12%
Lismore	171	136	116	-15%
Dubbo	85	139	94	-32%
Wagga Wagga	114	112	71	-37%
Country Total	889	862	798	-7%
State Total	2,177	2,074	1,924	-7%



Pending

	2017	2018	2019	18/19 Variant
Sydney	811	604	423	-30%
Sydney West	404	499	452	-9%
Newcastle	228	257	193	-25%
Gosford	83	72	41	-43%
Wollongong	135	144	76	-47%
Lismore	126	106	88	-17%
Dubbo	112	83	72	-13%
Wagga Wagga	109	66	54	-18%
Country Total	793	728	524	-28%
State Total	2,008	1,831	1,399	-24%



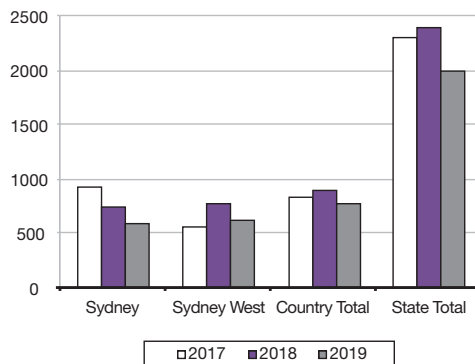
Annexure A2

Criminal Caseload

SENTENCES

Registered

	2017	2018	2019	18/19 Variant
Sydney	917	729	587	-19%
Sydney West	558	777	623	-20%
Newcastle	248	270	262	-3%
Gosford	86	104	79	-24%
Wollongong	161	194	143	-26%
Lismore	133	117	111	-5%
Dubbo	115	94	100	6%
Wagga Wagga	84	108	75	-31%
Country Total	827	887	770	-13%
State Total	2,302	2,393	1,980	-17%



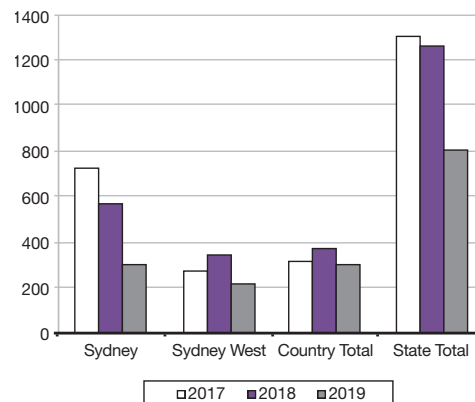
Finalised

	2017	2018	2019	18/19 Variant
Sydney	798	894	861	-4%
Sydney West	533	705	745	6%
Newcastle	239	248	277	12%
Gosford	70	97	101	4%
Wollongong	168	181	171	-6%
Lismore	135	123	113	-8%
Dubbo	129	90	96	7%
Wagga Wagga	96	96	82	-15%
Country Total	837	835	840	1%
State Total	2,168	2,434	2,446	0%



Pending

	2017	2018	2019	18/19 Variant
Sydney	728	563	289	-49%
Sydney West	267	339	217	-36%
Newcastle	101	123	108	-12%
Gosford	42	49	27	-45%
Wollongong	64	77	49	-36%
Lismore	50	44	42	-5%
Dubbo	36	40	44	10%
Wagga Wagga	19	31	24	-23%
Country Total	312	364	294	-19%
State Total	1,307	1,266	800	-37%

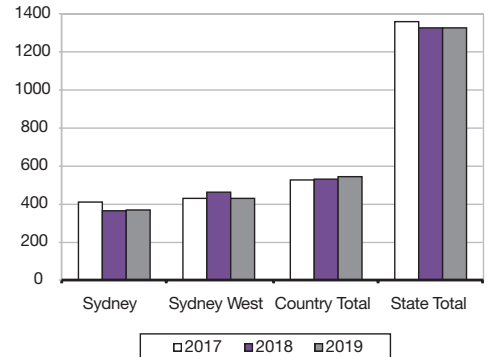


Annexure A3 Criminal Caseload

CONVICTION APPEALS

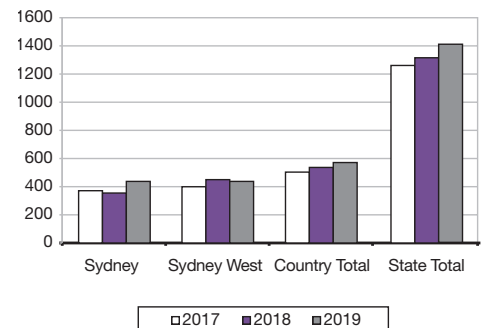
Registered

	2017	2018	2019	18/19 Variant
Sydney	412	353	363	3%
Sydney West	421	447	424	-5%
Newcastle	142	144	153	6%
Gosford	53	59	60	2%
Wollongong	97	108	105	-3%
Lismore	97	96	83	-14%
Dubbo	88	76	80	5%
Wagga Wagga	47	44	57	30%
Country Total	524	527	538	2%
State Total	1,357	1,327	1,325	0%



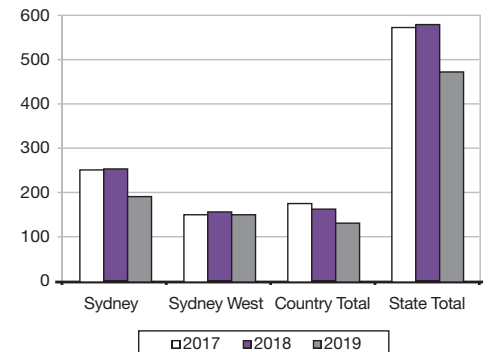
Finalised

	2017	2018	2019	18/19 Variant
Sydney	364	351	428	22%
Sydney West	402	440	427	-3%
Newcastle	124	146	162	11%
Gosford	45	62	65	5%
Wollongong	106	102	116	14%
Lismore	78	106	92	-13%
Dubbo	85	81	82	1%
Wagga Wagga	57	38	54	42%
Country Total	495	535	571	7%
State Total	1,261	1,326	1,426	8%



Pending

	2017	2018	2019	18/19 Variant
Sydney	248	250	185	-26%
Sydney West	147	154	151	-2%
Newcastle	52	50	41	-18%
Gosford	23	20	15	-25%
Wollongong	24	30	19	-37%
Lismore	45	35	26	-26%
Dubbo	24	19	17	-11%
Wagga Wagga	4	10	13	30%
Country Total	172	164	131	-20%
State Total	567	568	467	-18%



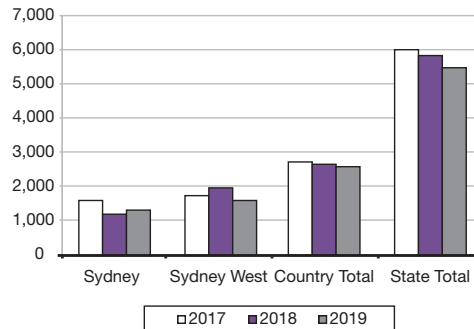
Annexure A4

Criminal Caseload

SENTENCE APPEALS

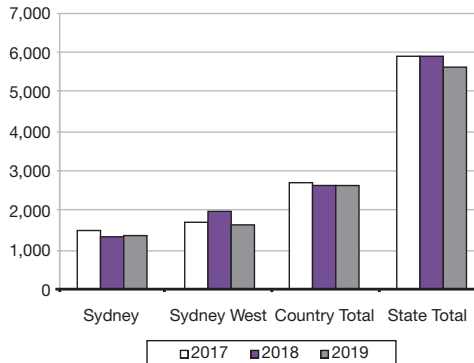
Registered

	2017	2018	2019	18/19 Variant
Sydney	1,568	1,196	1,337	12%
Sydney West	1,732	1,967	1,597	-19%
Newcastle	798	735	764	4%
Gosford	319	326	260	-20%
Wollongong	559	596	557	-7%
Lismore	471	412	424	3%
Dubbo	317	424	349	-18%
Wagga Wagga	275	187	212	13%
Country Total	2,739	2,680	2,566	-4%
State Total	6,039	5,843	5,500	-6%



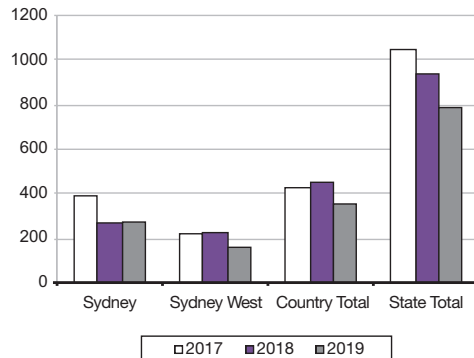
Finalised

	2017	2018	2019	18/19 Variant
Sydney	1,507	1,323	1,334	1%
Sydney West	1,711	1,966	1,658	-16%
Newcastle	818	690	868	26%
Gosford	311	325	244	-25%
Wollongong	567	586	563	-4%
Lismore	442	436	416	-5%
Dubbo	324	419	365	-13%
Wagga Wagga	260	207	204	-1%
Country Total	2,722	2,663	2,660	0%
State Total	5,940	5,952	5,652	-5%



Pending

	2017	2018	2019	18/19 Variant
Sydney	395	268	271	1%
Sydney West	221	222	161	-27%
Newcastle	138	183	79	-57%
Gosford	40	41	57	39%
Wollongong	63	73	67	-8%
Lismore	87	63	71	13%
Dubbo	57	62	46	-26%
Wagga Wagga	48	28	36	29%
Country Total	433	450	356	-21%
State Total	1,049	940	788	-16%



Annexure B1

Compliance with Criminal Time Standards

TRIALS – REGISTERED

Accused Custody

	Percentage of Cases Disposed within											
	4 Months			6 Months			12 Months			>12 Months		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Sydney	11%	9%	7%	19%	17%	18%	76%	70%	72%	24%	30%	28%
Sydney West	19%	19%	8%	33%	39%	19%	81%	84%	77%	19%	16%	23%
Newcastle	22%	16%	18%	37%	38%	33%	85%	78%	70%	15%	22%	30%
Gosford	16%	17%	24%	32%	32%	45%	74%	73%	79%	26%	27%	21%
Wollongong	11%	19%	14%	27%	29%	22%	77%	84%	69%	23%	16%	31%
Lismore	26%	20%	20%	39%	38%	32%	86%	83%	64%	14%	17%	36%
Dubbo	23%	16%	7%	35%	28%	36%	81%	82%	88%	19%	18%	12%
Wagga Wagga	6%	17%	6%	15%	29%	27%	76%	63%	70%	24%	37%	30%
Country Total	19%	18%	15%	33%	33%	32%	82%	79%	73%	18%	21%	27%
State Total	16%	15%	11%	28%	30%	24%	79%	77%	74%	21%	23%	26%

Accused on Bail

	Percentage of Cases Disposed within											
	4 Months			6 Months			12 Months			>12 Months		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Sydney	7%	5%	3%	12%	9%	9%	69%	58%	60%	31%	42%	40%
Sydney West	11%	12%	7%	22%	23%	10%	66%	67%	67%	34%	33%	33%
Newcastle	19%	8%	10%	34%	15%	16%	79%	64%	62%	21%	36%	38%
Gosford	7%	16%	8%	13%	26%	26%	66%	66%	51%	34%	34%	49%
Wollongong	6%	16%	6%	16%	19%	16%	65%	65%	67%	35%	35%	33%
Lismore	20%	13%	7%	30%	29%	21%	66%	56%	61%	34%	44%	39%
Dubbo	13%	18%	14%	23%	24%	20%	70%	75%	52%	30%	25%	48%
Wagga Wagga	9%	3%	8%	21%	13%	23%	63%	45%	55%	37%	55%	45%
Country Total	14%	12%	9%	25%	20%	19%	69%	62%	61%	31%	38%	39%
State Total	11%	9%	6%	20%	17%	13%	68%	61%	62%	32%	39%	38%

All Trials

	Percentage of Cases Disposed within											
	4 Months			6 Months			12 Months			>12 Months		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Sydney	8%	6%	5%	14%	11%	12%	71%	61%	64%	29%	39%	36%
Sydney West	14%	15%	7%	26%	29%	14%	71%	73%	72%	29%	27%	28%
Newcastle	20%	11%	13%	35%	24%	23%	81%	70%	65%	19%	30%	35%
Gosford	9%	16%	16%	17%	28%	35%	68%	69%	65%	32%	31%	35%
Wollongong	8%	17%	9%	19%	23%	18%	68%	73%	68%	32%	27%	32%
Lismore	22%	16%	10%	34%	32%	23%	74%	67%	62%	26%	33%	38%
Dubbo	16%	17%	11%	27%	26%	27%	74%	78%	68%	26%	22%	32%
Wagga Wagga	8%	7%	7%	19%	18%	25%	67%	51%	62%	33%	49%	38%
Country Total	16%	14%	11%	28%	25%	24%	74%	69%	65%	26%	31%	35%
State Total	13%	12%	8%	23%	21%	17%	72%	67%	66%	28%	33%	34%

Annexure B2

Compliance with Criminal Time Standards

TRIALS – VERDICTS

Accused Custody

	Percentage of Cases Disposed within											
	4 Months			6 Months			12 Months			>12 Months		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Sydney	3%	1%	1%	7%	8%	7%	72%	65%	56%	28%	35%	44%
Sydney West	9%	7%	4%	26%	27%	9%	74%	75%	68%	26%	25%	32%
Newcastle	11%	5%	11%	21%	35%	21%	79%	70%	54%	21%	30%	46%
Gosford	0%	25%	20%	50%	38%	33%	50%	75%	87%	50%	25%	13%
Wollongong	0%	4%	0%	10%	13%	6%	70%	87%	44%	30%	13%	56%
Lismore	43%	29%	14%	57%	57%	57%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%
Dubbo	0%	0%	0%	7%	31%	33%	67%	69%	67%	33%	31%	33%
Wagga Wagga	0%	10%	0%	0%	10%	7%	67%	60%	53%	33%	40%	47%
Country Total	7%	9%	8%	17%	27%	22%	74%	77%	62%	26%	23%	38%
State Total	6%	6%	5%	16%	21%	13%	73%	72%	61%	27%	28%	39%

Accused on Bail

	Percentage of Cases Disposed within											
	4 Months			6 Months			12 Months			>12 Months		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Sydney	1%	1%	1%	5%	3%	3%	56%	48%	52%	44%	52%	48%
Sydney West	4%	1%	1%	14%	9%	1%	56%	52%	58%	44%	48%	42%
Newcastle	2%	0%	2%	9%	4%	7%	68%	54%	47%	32%	46%	53%
Gosford	0%	0%	6%	0%	7%	17%	71%	47%	33%	29%	53%	67%
Wollongong	0%	6%	0%	6%	8%	6%	49%	44%	49%	51%	56%	51%
Lismore	9%	4%	0%	26%	4%	15%	57%	32%	58%	43%	68%	42%
Dubbo	8%	0%	3%	21%	8%	10%	50%	67%	50%	50%	33%	50%
Wagga Wagga	0%	0%	5%	4%	3%	19%	40%	34%	52%	60%	66%	48%
Country Total	3%	2%	2%	11%	6%	11%	57%	47%	49%	43%	53%	51%
State Total	3%	1%	1%	10%	5%	6%	56%	48%	52%	44%	52%	48%

All Trials

	Percentage of Cases Disposed within											
	4 Months			6 Months			12 Months			>12 Months		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Sydney	2%	1%	1%	6%	4%	4%	60%	52%	53%	40%	48%	47%
Sydney West	6%	3%	2%	18%	15%	4%	62%	60%	62%	38%	40%	38%
Newcastle	6%	1%	5%	14%	13%	12%	72%	59%	49%	28%	41%	51%
Gosford	0%	9%	12%	4%	17%	24%	70%	57%	58%	30%	43%	42%
Wollongong	0%	5%	0%	7%	10%	6%	56%	61%	47%	44%	39%	53%
Lismore	14%	9%	3%	31%	16%	23%	64%	47%	65%	36%	53%	35%
Dubbo	5%	0%	3%	15%	16%	14%	56%	68%	53%	44%	32%	47%
Wagga Wagga	0%	3%	3%	3%	5%	14%	49%	41%	53%	51%	59%	47%
Country Total	4%	4%	4%	13%	12%	14%	62%	56%	53%	38%	44%	47%
State Total	4%	3%	2%	12%	10%	8%	61%	56%	55%	39%	44%	45%

Annexure B3

Compliance with Criminal Time Standards

APPEALS

Conviction Appeals

	Percentage of Cases Disposed within											
	4 Months			6 Months			12 Months			>12 Months		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Sydney	41%	17%	23%	66%	36%	47%	95%	93%	92%	5%	7%	8%
Sydney West	59%	63%	51%	84%	84%	77%	97%	98%	96%	3%	2%	4%
Newcastle	61%	61%	65%	85%	76%	86%	96%	95%	98%	4%	5%	2%
Gosford	45%	60%	54%	86%	85%	73%	98%	100%	90%	2%	0%	10%
Wollongong	70%	79%	77%	91%	89%	93%	97%	99%	97%	3%	1%	3%
Lismore	64%	63%	71%	96%	79%	85%	100%	98%	98%	0%	2%	2%
Dubbo	59%	64%	80%	85%	83%	89%	100%	98%	100%	0%	2%	0%
Wagga Wagga	71%	88%	82%	93%	95%	91%	98%	100%	100%	2%	0%	0%
Country Total	63%	67%	71%	89%	82%	87%	98%	98%	97%	2%	2%	3%
State Total	55%	52%	51%	81%	70%	72%	97%	97%	96%	3%	3%	4%

Sentence Appeals

	Percentage of Cases Disposed within								
	2 Months			6 Months			>6 Months		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Sydney	24%	25%	61%	95%	95%	95%	5%	5%	5%
Sydney West	77%	80%	78%	97%	97%	97%	3%	3%	3%
Newcastle	53%	42%	49%	95%	96%	95%	5%	4%	5%
Gosford	77%	73%	71%	98%	97%	97%	2%	3%	3%
Wollongong	73%	75%	74%	99%	99%	99%	1%	1%	1%
Lismore	66%	63%	69%	97%	94%	99%	3%	6%	1%
Dubbo	62%	54%	61%	98%	97%	97%	2%	3%	3%
Wagga Wagga	70%	72%	71%	98%	95%	97%	2%	5%	3%
Country Total	65%	61%	63%	97%	96%	97%	3%	4%	3%
State Total	58%	59%	67%	97%	96%	97%	3%	4%	3%

Sentences

	Percentage of Cases Disposed within								
	3 Months			6 Months			>6 Months		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Sydney	5%	4%	10%	28%	21%	46%	72%	79%	54%
Sydney West	13%	19%	13%	63%	65%	63%	37%	35%	37%
Newcastle	16%	17%	20%	68%	66%	73%	32%	34%	27%
Gosford	32%	16%	11%	58%	62%	65%	42%	38%	35%
Wollongong	26%	40%	29%	69%	76%	77%	31%	24%	23%
Lismore	43%	25%	37%	76%	72%	77%	24%	28%	23%
Dubbo	30%	25%	29%	75%	73%	76%	25%	27%	24%
Wagga Wagga	38%	42%	28%	90%	86%	78%	10%	14%	22%
Country Total	28%	27%	25%	72%	72%	74%	28%	28%	26%
State Total	16%	16%	16%	53%	50%	60%	47%	50%	40%

Annexure C1

Civil Caseload

	Registered			Disposed			Pending		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Sydney CML	3,477	3,433	3,291	3,762	3,573	3,504	4,002	3,879	3,676
Residual Jurisdiction	314	242	238	317	280	267	266	223	194
Parramatta	253	206	275	200	215	201	283	274	346
Penrith	13	9	16	26	18	18	28	19	17
Campbelltown	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	2
Sydney West	267	217	293	228	235	220	313	294	365
Newcastle	219	213	157	246	230	198	304	288	247
Gosford	60	44	40	61	54	43	68	58	55
Wollongong	137	105	148	125	115	131	165	155	173
Major Country	416	362	345	432	399	372	537	501	475
Albury	26	14	20	31	21	17	35	28	32
Armidale	4	0	2	7	1	2	2	1	1
Bathurst	10	8	8	4	12	4	16	12	16
Bega	3	2	0	3	7	0	5	0	0
Broken Hill	4	0	0	3	3	1	4	1	0
Coffs Harbour	25	14	26	32	26	22	32	20	24
Dubbo	12	9	15	13	9	9	17	17	23
Griffith	4	24	21	16	10	16	14	28	34
Lismore Region	110	76	94	114	101	94	126	102	102
Lithgow	6	13	8	6	9	10	9	13	11
Maitland	21	20	12	9	22	19	25	23	16
Nowra	14	16	11	31	12	23	24	27	15
Orange	14	20	21	16	15	16	18	23	29
Port Macquarie	39	26	47	33	39	30	47	35	52
Queanbeyan	7	6	12	8	7	11	11	10	12
Tamworth	20	20	11	14	20	21	32	32	23
Taree	5	17	15	18	8	16	14	22	21
Wagga Wagga	77	56	59	82	69	65	100	87	81
Other Venues	401	341	382	440	391	376	531	481	492
NSW Total	4,875	4,595	4,549	5,179	4,878	4,739	5,649	5,378	5,202

Annexure C2

Civil Disposal Times

	Median Delay (mths)			% 'age of Cases Disposed within						% 'age of Pending > 12 mths < 24 mths			% 'age of Pending > 24 mths		
				12 mths			24 mths			2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019						
Sydney CML	12.6	11.6	11.4	60%	65%	64%	91%	93%	92%	16%	19%	16%	3%	3%	3%
Parramatta	11.9	12.0	13.5	61%	57%	58%	92%	92%	87%	19%	29%	22%	5%	7%	7%
Penrith	19.2	15.7	15.0	45%	50%	66%	65%	86%	81%	29%	23%	7%	10%	15%	20%
Campbelltown	19.8	54.9	10.1	75%	88%	92%	88%	88%	92%	0%	0%	0%	50%	0%	0%
Sydney West	12.2	12.1	13.5	60%	57%	60%	89%	92%	87%	20%	28%	21%	5%	7%	8%
Newcastle	13.1	13.8	14.3	48%	52%	50%	85%	88%	81%	29%	21%	29%	9%	12%	7%
Gosford	13.7	10.8	15.2	50%	70%	63%	82%	96%	86%	15%	27%	31%	2%	8%	10%
Wollongong	11.6	14.4	15.2	57%	41%	43%	89%	83%	91%	21%	33%	19%	6%	6%	9%
Major Country	13.2	13.4	14.9	51%	52%	50%	86%	88%	85%	25%	26%	26%	7%	10%	8%
Albury	15.3	15.3	18.2	44%	36%	27%	81%	82%	68%	26%	20%	13%	7%	20%	13%
Armidale	6.4	19.9	1.5	56%	50%	100%	89%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Bathurst	4.9	14.3	13.4	83%	43%	50%	100%	93%	100%	31%	33%	9%	8%	22%	27%
Bega	23.5	13.3	0.0	43%	57%	0%	86%	86%	0%	20%	0%	0%	20%	0%	0%
Broken Hill	19.7	12.3	50.2	50%	0%	67%	75%	100%	67%	0%	0%	0%	25%	100%	0%
Coffs Harbour	9.3	11.3	7.5	69%	59%	79%	92%	93%	92%	31%	18%	5%	7%	12%	5%
Dubbo	21.9	12.7	9.4	41%	54%	55%	71%	92%	55%	15%	27%	22%	8%	9%	11%
Griffith	22.5	36.1	13.9	32%	33%	29%	63%	50%	76%	0%	8%	41%	0%	0%	3%
Lismore Region	12.6	12.9	11.6	54%	50%	50%	84%	88%	87%	18%	23%	19%	7%	6%	4%
Lithgow	11.0	10.9	10.3	67%	56%	67%	100%	89%	92%	38%	8%	20%	25%	17%	10%
Maitland	10.9	11.4	11.8	73%	60%	57%	93%	100%	78%	20%	14%	31%	4%	14%	15%
Nowra	10.7	16.3	16.6	58%	46%	36%	90%	69%	64%	50%	22%	47%	4%	22%	0%
Orange	16.0	10.3	13.2	52%	67%	61%	83%	89%	91%	25%	29%	30%	13%	5%	7%
Port Macquarie	12.0	12.9	12.3	54%	45%	47%	83%	86%	80%	16%	28%	22%	9%	6%	4%
Queanbeyan	8.3	25.7	12.6	75%	42%	60%	81%	58%	90%	56%	22%	0%	11%	11%	0%
Tamworth	9.5	11.3	14.3	70%	62%	32%	90%	88%	84%	19%	35%	25%	8%	4%	19%
Taree	18.9	22.4	11.6	22%	25%	67%	67%	50%	89%	40%	6%	22%	0%	0%	0%
Wagga Wagga	18.2	12.7	16.4	34%	47%	30%	81%	93%	77%	33%	36%	20%	1%	17%	16%
Other Venues	13.4	12.9	14.3	51%	49%	47%	83%	87%	82%	26%	24%	22%	7%	11%	8%
NSW Total	12.7	11.8	11.7	59%	62%	62%	90%	92%	90%	18%	21%	18%	4%	4%	5%



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