

The District Court of New South Wales
Annual Review 2015



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FOREWORD BY CHIEF JUDGE

The principal issue for the District Court in 2015 was the continued increase in the Court's criminal caseload. The registration of criminal trials rose by 16.5% and sentence matters by 13.3%. The increase in criminal work in recent years is reflected by there being 1,019 trials pending at the end of 2011 whereas 2,014 trials were pending at the end of 2015.

As reported in the foreword to last year's *Annual Review*, the substantial increase in criminal work had been accompanied by the loss of three Judges' positions.

Notwithstanding the decline in judicial resources, the Court increased the finalisations of criminal trials by 13% (214 trials) compared to the previous year. This is a pleasing result as the average length of a criminal trial was about 8 days. Furthermore, the finalisation of sentence matters rose by 10% and the disposition of appeals from the Local Court also increased.

The following initiatives were implemented during the year to deal with the increased caseload:

- A Rolling List Court commenced in Sydney in April 2015 with McClintock SC DCJ being the Presiding Judge with dedicated prosecution and defence teams. One of the aims of the Rolling List Court model is to ensure that there are early discussions between the parties relating to appropriate charges being laid and the issues at trial being suitably confined. Initial indications suggest that the rolling list is working well, with above average plea rates and earlier completion of trials. The rolling list is being monitored by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
- Two special call-overs were conducted during the year with a view to obtaining early pleas in matters that had been set down for trial. These call-overs were conducted at Wagga Wagga and Newcastle and resulted in 90 matters not proceeding to trial

- An additional week each month was allocated for sentence matters in Sydney to alleviate heavy lists on Thursdays and Fridays
- Court sittings increased by 88 weeks compared to 2014, of which 73 weeks were criminal sittings

During 2015, I convened a Working Group with the aim of obtaining resources to meet the increased caseload. The principal members of the Group are Lloyd Babb SC, NSW Director of Public Prosecutions, Mark lerace SC, Senior Public Defender, and Bill Grant, CEO Legal Aid Commission of NSW. The Group adopted a "whole of justice" approach as an enhanced capacity to finalise criminal matters requires not only more Judges, but further support for each of these agencies.

Towards the end of the year, the Honourable Gabrielle Upton MP, Attorney General, announced funding for the appointment of Crown Prosecutors, Public Prosecutors and two additional District Court Judges to commence in 2016. I am grateful for the Attorney General's support.

Two specially trained Judges were appointed to the Court in August 2015 as part of the Pilot program provided by the *Criminal Procedure Amendment (Child Sexual Offence Evidence Pilot) Act 2015.* The object of the Pilot is to lessen the stress and duration of court proceedings for child complainants in sexual offence matters without impeding upon an accused's right to a fair trial. The Pilot is to commence in 2016.

In the civil jurisdiction of the Court, civil registrations and finalisations increased slightly. Greater attention is being placed upon case management of civil cases in regional centres.

I express my thanks to the Judges of the Court for their dedication and hard work in dealing with a heavy caseload.

The Honourable Justice D Price AM 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 upon the District Courts a civil jurisdiction.

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* commenced on 1 July 1973. It 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
- 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 AM*

JUDGES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2015

His Honour Judge Garry William Neilson His Honour Judge Christopher John Armitage His Honour Judge Christopher John George Robison

Her Honour Judge Robyn Christine Tupman His Honour Judge James Patrick Curtis* Her Honour Judge Deborah June Payne His Honour Judge Martin Langford Sides QC His Honour Judge Gregory David Woods QC Her Honour Judge Jennifer Anne English Her Honour Judge Susan Jennifer Gibb His Honour Judge Stephen Ronald Norrish QC Her Honour Judge Audrey Suzanne Balla Her Honour Judge Penelope Jane Hock Her Honour Judge Judith Clare Gibson His Honour Judge Anthony Martin Blackmore SC

His Honour Judge Peter Graeme Berman SC His Honour Judge Raymond Patrick

McLoughlin SC

His Honour Judge Roy David Ellis His Honour Judge Brian John Knox SC 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 William Patrick Kearns SC* His Honour Judge Paul Vincent Conlon SC His Honour Judge Peter Raymond Zahra SC His Honour Judge Richard Dominic Cogswell SC

Her Honour Judge Leonie Flannery SC His Honour Judge Robert Stephen Toner SC His Honour Judge Gregory Michael Keating His Honour Judge Paul Ivan Lakatos SC His Honour Judge Leonard Levy SC His Honour Judge Michael Elkaim SC His Honour Judge Michael King SC His Honour Judge David Clement Frearson SC His Honour Judge Andrew Michael Colefax SC Her Honour Judge Helen Syme His Honour Judge Michael Ivan Bozic SC His Honour Judge John North His Honour Judge Graham Leslie Henson Her Honour Judge Caraham Leslie Henson 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 Peter George Maiden SC His Honour Judge Phillip Gregory Mahony SC His Honour Judge Christopher Phillip Hoy 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 Dina Yehia SC His Honour Judge Julia Ann Baly SC His Honour Judge John Hatzistergos Her Honour Judge John Hatzistergos Her Honour Judge Jane Ariane Culver His Honour Judge Andrew Scotting* Her Honour Judge Andrew Scotting* Her Honour Judge Catherine Margaret Traill His Honour Judge Gregory Anthony Farmer SC His Honour Judge Mark Buscombe

APPOINTMENTS

The following Judges were appointed during 2015:

- His Honour Judge Andrew Scotting* was appointed as a Judge of the Dust Diseases Tribunal on 17 February 2015
- Her Honour Judge Jennie Anne Girdham SC was appointed on 17 August 2015
- Her Honour Judge Catherine Margaret Traill was appointed on 17 August 2015
- His Honour Judge Gregory Anthony Farmer SC was appointed on 7 September 2015
- His Honour Judge Mark Buscombe was appointed on 19 November 2015

RETIREMENTS

The following Judges retired during 2015:

- His Honour Judge Michael John Finnane RFD QC* retired on 20 February 2015
- His Honour Judge Colin David Charteris SC retired on 3 September 2015
- His Honour Judge Robert Arthur Sorby retired on 13 November 2015

APPOINTMENTS HELD

- The Honourable Justice Derek Michael Price AM held 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 Gregory Michael Keating held the appointment of President of the Workers Compensation Commission of NSW
- His Honour Judge Graeme Leslie Henson held the appointment of Chief Magistrate of the Local Court of NSW

^{*} denotes Member of the Dust Diseases Tribunal

Court Staff

ACTING JUDGES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

- Ms Linda Margaret Ashford
- Mr James Walter Black QC
- Mr Mark Buscombe
- Mr Norman Edward Delaney
- Mr Anthony Frederick Garling
- Mr Geoffrey John Graham
- Mr Gregory Scott Hosking SC
- Mr Rodney Neville Madgwick QC
- Mr Mark Curtis Marien SC
- Mr John Roscoe Nield
- Mr Colin Emmett O'Connor QC
- Mr John Lawrence O'Meally AM RFD
- Mr Colin Phegan
- Ms Anne Mary Quirk
- Ms Margaret Sidis
- Mr Ronald Herbert Solomon
- Mr Stephen Lewis Walmsley SC
- Mr Jonathan Steuart Williams

JUDICIAL REGISTRAR

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

VENUES

In 2015, the Court sat permanently in Sydney at the Downing Centre, 143-147 Liverpool Street, Sydney (in crime), where it occupies 18 courtrooms, and at the John Maddison Tower, 86 Goulburn Street, Sydney, where it occupies 23 courtrooms (mostly in civil).

In Sydney West, judges sat full-time in the courthouses at Parramatta (8 courtrooms), Penrith (1 courtroom) and Campbelltown (2 courtrooms due to refurbishment at Wollongong). In addition, continuous sittings were conducted at Gosford, Lismore and Newcastle.

Other places where the Court sat were:

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

PRINCIPAL REGISTRAR

Mr Peter Ryan is the Acting Principal Registrar and exercises functions pursuant to s 18H(3) of the *District Court Act 1973.*

CRIMINAL LISTINGS AND JUDICIAL ARRANGEMENTS

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

Mr Robert Fornito is the District Court Criminal Listing Director. Pursuant to s 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

In 2012, the Court introduced its fourth 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 and 2007.

The current Strategic Plan articulates the values of the Court and sets out the goals to be achieved over 2012-2017.

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

Criminal Business Committee Report

TERMS OF REFERENCE

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

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, NSW Bar Association, Legal Aid Commission of NSW, Commonwealth and State DPP, Aboriginal Legal Service, Public Defenders and Crown Prosecutors.

ACTIVITIES

The Committee met on four occasions during the year and matters considered included:

- 1. The continuing increase in the Court's criminal caseload
- 2. The Child Sexual Offence Evidence Pilot
- 3. The "Rolling List" Court
- 4. Special call-overs
- 5. Increased sittings at Parramatta, Campbelltown, Penrith and in regional areas

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

Criminal trials in country circuits are managed and listed by way of a weekly telephone callover.

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 disputes.

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

ACTIVITIES

The Committee met on three occasions during the year and matters considered included:

- 1. The Court's Operational Performance Report with up-to-date statistical information presented at each meeting
- 2. Proposed amendments to the rules and practice notes
- 3. Particular concerns of the various representatives and matters which the Court wished to bring to their attention
- 4. The Committee also considered a wide range of issues including:
 - The components of the caseload by cause of action
 - Judicial and listing arrangements
 - The impingement of the backlog of criminal trials on the judicial resources available for civil cases
 - Current agenda matters of the UCPR
 Committee
 - The online registry
 - Issues arising under the *Motor Accidents Compensation Act* and the latest reforms
 - The formulation of standard directions in relation to experts giving concurrent evidence
 - The amendment of the Standard Orders for Hearing to incorporate the directions in relation to concurrent evidence
 - Referrals by the Court to mediation
 - Children's Court Appeals

Professional Standards (Education) Committee Report

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The District Court, in partnership with the Judicial Commission of New South Wales, provides a relevant 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 recentlyappointed 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

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 2015 (from an average response rate of 74%) reveal that judges find the District Court's education program relevant and a useful source of knowledge and ideas. While 72% of participants said that the education program

enhanced their knowledge and capability, only 5% of participants found that the program had little or no relevance to their work.

During 2015, judges:

- Continued to receive focused and tailored training to meet their educational needs
- Attended 109 days of face-to-face judicial education organised by the Judicial Commission, an average of 1.6 days of judicial education per judge

ACTIVITIES

Annual Conference

The Annual Conference, held in Sydney on 7 April 2015, was attended by 49 judges, four acting judges and the judicial registrar. 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 an 89% satisfaction rating from participants, exceeding the target of 85%. Topics included:

- "Recurring Issues in the NSW Court of Appeal", The Honourable Justice Margaret Beazley AO, President, Court of Appeal
- "Unrepresented Litigants: What Can Be Done?", The Honourable Justice Robert Benjamin, Family Court of Australia
- "Civil Issues: Dealing with Medical Negligence Cases", His Honour Judge Leonard Levy SC
- "Civil Issues: Basics of Personal Injury Damages", His Honour Judge Michael Bozic SC
- "Wellness and Resilience on the Bench", Dr Nigel Prior, Psychiatrist, Wentworth Clinic, Queensland
- "Court of Criminal Appeal Review", The Honourable Justice Robert A Hulme, Supreme Court of NSW
- "Sentencing Workshop", His Honour Judge Gordon Lerve

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:

- "The Bail Amendment Act 2014 An Overview and Some Issues Affecting the District Court", The Honourable Justice Richard Button, Supreme Court of NSW, and His Honour Judge Andrew Haesler SC, District Court of NSW, 12 February 2015
- "The Role of the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal", The Honourable Justice Robertson Wright, President, NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal, 10 June 2015

Judges also attended the following crossjurisdictional seminars and field trips:

- "Procedure for Fitness to be Tried and Mental Illness Cases", Professor Dan Howard SC, President, Mental Health Review Tribunal, and Dr Tobias Mackinnon, Statewide Clinical Director for Forensic Mental Health, 29 April 2015
- Correctional visit to Long Bay Complex, 6 May 2015
- "The Rise of the Digital Natives: Communicating with Juries", Dr Jacqueline Horan, Senior Lecturer Melbourne Law School, Melbourne University and Professor James Ogloff AM, Director, Centre for Forensic Behaviour, 20 October 2015
- Correctional visit to Windsor Complex, 4 November 2015
- "Giving Juries Written Directions", His Honour Judge Thomas Ingram, District Court of New Zealand, 18 November 2015

Child Sexual Assault

The Judicial Commission organised a two day pre-bench program in August for two judges appointed as 'specialist' child sexual assault judges. The program provided the two new judges with training in child sexual assault matters, important legislative topics and practical courtroom considerations. The program received a 100% satisfaction rating from participants. Topics included:

- "Child Sexual Assault Matters in Court", Dr Rita Shackel, Associate Professor, Sydney Law School, University of Sydney
- "Overcoming Communication Difficulties in the Courtroom", Ms Mary Woodward, Senior Speech Pathologist, Speak Your Mind Services
- "Child Victims of Sexual Assault", Ms Caroline Knight and Ms Calli Goninan, Senior Social Workers, Child Protection Unit, Children's Hospital Westmead
- "Sentencing Patterns for Child Sexual Assault", Mr Hugh Donnelly, Research Director, Judicial Commission of NSW
- "Resources available on JIRS", Mr Hugh Donnelly, Research Director, Judicial Commission of NSW
- "Key Sexual Assault Directions", The Honourable Justice Helen Wilson, Supreme Court of NSW
- "The Evidence Act/Juries", Her Honour Judge Sarah Huggett, District Court of NSW
- "Court Demonstration Session", Her Honour Judge Robyn Tupman and Her Honour Judge Sarah Huggett, District Court of NSW
- "Child Sexual Assault Proceedings: Practical Issues", Her Honour Judge Robyn Tupman, District Court of NSW

Judicial Orientation

Four District Court judges attended the National Judicial Orientation Program at Broadbeach, Queensland in June 2015. 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, the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration and the Judicial College of Victoria.

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:

- Visit to St Heliers Correctional Centre, 22–23 June 2015
- "Violence at Home is Everybody's Business: Legal Responses to Family Violence", Ms Rosie Batty, Australian of the Year 2015; Ms Dixie Link-Gordon, Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia; The Honourable Justice Hilary Hannam, Family Court of Australia and, Ms Cheryl Orr, Cheryl Orr Family Law, 2 June 2015
- Field Trip to Jibbon Beach Rock Engravings, 13 June 2015
- "Communicating with Aboriginal People in Court", Dr Diana Eades, Adjunct Professor, Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, University of New England, 24 September 2015
- Community Visit: Bathurst, 17–18 October 2015

CRIMINAL JURISDICTION

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 2015:

- Registrations rose by 17%
- Finalisations rose by 13%
- Pending trials rose by 17%
- Median finalisation time rose from 50 weeks to 55 weeks
- Average length of trials fell from 8.80 days to 7.84 days

Caseload

There were **1,809** trials finalised in 2015, as compared to **1,595** in 2014. Notwithstanding an increase in trial finalisations of 13%, there were **2,014** trials on hand at the end of 2015, compared to **1,716** trials at the end of 2014.

The number of sexual assault trials registered has increased from **434** in 2013 and **472** in 2014 to **549** in 2015. Of these, **341** trials involved child sexual assault compared to **252** in 2013 and **291** in 2014.

Figure 1 tracks the statewide 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 less 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:

- **90%** of cases within 4 months of committal, or such other event which causes the proceedings
- 100% of cases within 1 year

In 2015, **19%** of trial finalisations where the accused was in custody were finalised within 4 months, and **22%** exceeded 12 months. Where the accused was on bail, **10%** of finalisations occurred within 4 months, with **34%** exceeding 12 months.

Figure 3 sets out comparative compliance rates with time standards for all trials finalised.





Figure 4 shows the age of all trials which were pending at the end of the year indicated.



60% 50%

40%

30%

20% 10%

0%

2011

<1 year</p>

2012

2013

■1-2 years

2014

2015

□>2 years

Figure 5 tracks the median finalisation times, from committal to commencement of the trial, for matters finalised during the year indicated.

Figure 5. Median Finalisation Times -**Criminal Trials**



TRIAL DURATIONS

The statewide average length of criminal trials finalised in 2015 was 7.84 days, as compared to **8.80** days in 2014. In Sydney the average duration was 9.69 days in 2015, compared to 12.71 days in 2014.

Figure 6 illustrates the fluctuating rise in the average trial duration time.

Figure 6. Average Trial Length



Figure 4. All Registered Trials - Pending Matters

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TRIAL LISTING OUTCOMES

About **2,442** trials were listed for hearing in 2015.

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

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

Figure 8. Trial Listings Dealt With



Table 1. Trial Listing Outcomes

The following table sets out trial listing outcomes for 2015.

	Sydney	Sydney West	Country	Total
NOT DEALT WITH	27%	39%	30%	32%
Vacated	23%	24%	13%	21%
Prior to Trial Week	7%	12%	4%	8%
During Trial Week	16%	11%	10%	13%
Other Not Dealt With (Trial Week)	4%	15%	17%	11%
Not Reached	0%	13%	12%	8%
Other	4%	2%	5%	4%
DEALT WITH	73%	61%	70%	68%
Dealt With Prior to Trial Week	3%	5%	1%	3%
No Billed	1%	2%	0%	1%
Bench Warrant	0%	0%	0%	0%
Plea	2%	2%	1%	2%
Other (e.g. deceased)	0%	1%	0%	0%
Transferred	0%	0%	0%	0%
Dealt With In Trial Week	31%	30%	33%	31%
No Billed	4%	6%	5%	5%
Bench Warrant	1%	0%	1%	1%
Plea	23%	21%	24%	22%
Other (e.g. deceased)	3%	1%	2%	2%
Transferred	0%	2%	1%	1%
Trials Commenced	38%	27%	36%	34%
Aborted	1%	2%	2%	2%
Hung Jury	1%	1%	2%	1%
Proceeded	36%	24%	32%	31%

Of trials dealt with in 2015 (i.e. 68% of total listings):

- 35% pleaded guilty
- 46% proceeded to verdict
- 9% were "no billed"
- 1% were transferred
- 2% were aborted
- 2% ended with a "hung jury"
- 4% were otherwise disposed
- 1% had bench warrants issued

SENTENCES

In 2015:

- Registrations rose by 13%
- Finalisations rose by 10%
- Pending cases rose by 18%
- Median finalisation time rose from 26 weeks to 28 weeks

SENTENCES

There were **2,090** committals for sentence received in 2015, compared to **1,844** in 2014.

1,938 sentences were finalised during the year compared to **1,760** in 2014. Notwithstanding an increase in finalisations of 10%, there were **991** sentence matters pending at the end of the year as compared to **839** at the end of 2014.

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

Figure 10. Sentence Caseload



The ideal time standard from committal for sentence to hearing is 3 months in **90%** of cases, with **100%** being completed within 6 months.

Figure 11 illustrates compliance rates with time standards.

Figure 11. Compliance with Time Standards



LOCAL COURT APPEALS

Conviction Appeals

In 2015:

- Registrations fell by 3%
- Finalisations rose by 4%
- Pending cases fell by 4%
- Median finalisation time fell from 24 weeks to 23 weeks

CONVICTION APPEALS

There were **1,266** conviction appeals lodged in 2015 and **1,285** finalisations. At the end of the year there were **451** conviction appeals pending, compared to **470** at the end of 2014.

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



Figure 12. Conviction Appeals Caseload

The ideal time standard from lodgement to finalisation is 4 months in **90%** of cases, with **100%** being completed within 12 months.

Figure 13 illustrates compliance rates with time standards.

Figure 13. Compliance with Time Standards



Sentence Appeals

In 2015:

- Registrations rose by 10%
- Finalisations rose by 9%
- Pending cases rose by 13%
- Median finalisation time rose from 7 weeks to 10 weeks

SENTENCE APPEALS

There were **5,781** sentence appeals lodged in 2015 and **5,668** finalised. At the end of the year there were **1,008** sentence appeals pending, compared to **895** at the end of 2014.

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



Figure 14. Sentence Appeals Caseload

The ideal time standard from lodgment to finalisation for sentence appeals is 2 months in **90%** of cases, with **100%** being completed within 6 months.

Figure 15 illustrates compliance rates with time standards.

Figure 15. Compliance with Time Standards



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

In 2015:

- Registrations rose by 5%
- Finalisations rose by 1%
- Pending cases rose by 3%
- Median finalisation time fell from 12.6 months to 12.5 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 **4,956** matters registered in 2015, compared to **4,737** in 2014.

FINALISATIONS

There were **4,788** matters finalised in 2015, compared to **4,740** in 2014.

PENDING

At the end of 2015 the pending caseload was **5,986**, compared to **5,809** in 2014.

Comparison with Previous Years

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

Figure 16. NSW Civil Caseload



FINALISATION TIMES

In 2015, **58%** of all actions finalised were completed within 12 months, with **88%** being completed within 24 months. This compares to **60%** and **90%**, respectively, in 2014.

Of the pending caseload at the end of 2015, **22%** exceeded 12 months and were not more than 24 months and **7%** exceeded more than 24 months.

SYDNEY

In 2015:

- Registrations rose by 7%
- Finalisations rose by 2%
- Pending cases rose by 5%
- Median finalisation time rose from 12.4 months to 12.6 months

Caseload

In 2015, Sydney civil case managed matters represented **71%** of the State's registrations and **72%** 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. Sydney's % of NSW Registrations

REGISTRATIONS, FINALISATIONS AND PENDING CASES

Excluding the Residual Jurisdiction, there were **3,526** new actions registered and **3,335** finalised in Sydney in 2015. At the end of the year there were **4,299** 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 2 years.

In 2015, **60%** of all actions finalised were completed within 12 months, with **89%** being completed within 24 months. This compares to **63%** and **91%**, respectively, in 2014.

Of the pending caseload at the end of 2015, **21%** exceeded 12 months and not more than 24 months and **6%** exceeded 24 months.

HOW CASES ARE FINALISED

Table 2 shows the break-up of how case managed list matters were finalised in 2015. 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

Total	3,335
Transferred	119
Arbitration	0
Discontinued	412
Dismissed	432
Settlement Filed	2,207
Default Judgment	10
Judgment following Trial	155

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
2011	3,369	276	1,802
	(100%)	(8%)	(53%)
2012	3,393	301	2,010
	(100%)	(9%)	(59%)
2013	3,188	218	2,175
	(100%)	(7%)	(68%)
2014	3,286	210	2,180
	(100%)	(6%)	(66%)
2015	3,335	155	2,207
	(100%)	(5%)	(66%)

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 Regulations (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 2015, **333** actions were commenced and **318** finalised. At the end of 2015 there were **234** matters on hand in the residual jurisdiction.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

MEDIATION

Pursuant to Civil Practice Note 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 2015, the Sydney District Court referred **385** matters to mediation (**302** were referred to private mediation and **83** to court provided mediation). Settlement conferences were ordered in **1,860** matters.

Approximately **54%** 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

Sydney West totalled **4%** of the number of new actions in 2015 (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 **207** matters registered and **169** finalisations throughout the year. At the end of 2015 the total pending caseload was **244**, as compared to **206** 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 **18%** and the median finalisation time was 9.5 months.

23% of pending cases exceeded 12 months and not more than 24 months and **9%** exceeded 24 months.

COUNTRY

Venues outside of Sydney and Sydney West totalled **18%** of the number of new actions in 2015 (excluding the Court's Residual Jurisdiction).

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



Outside of Sydney and Sydney West, there were **890** matters registered and **966** finalisations throughout the year. At the end of the year the total pending caseload was **1,209** as compared to **1,285** 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 **6%** and the median finalisation time was 12.7 months.

26% of pending cases exceeded 12 months and not more than 24 months and **11%** exceeded 24 months.

JUDICIAL RESOURCES

- Allocated Sittings
- Actual Sittings

Allocated Sittings

Actual Sittings

Table 4 sets out the number of judicial sitting weeks allocated in 2015 as published in the Court's Calendar of Sittings.

Table 4. Sitting Allocations

Location	Jurisdiction	No. of Weeks	Judge EFT	%
Cudman	Criminal	866	21.3	34%
Sydney	Civil	704	17.3	28%
Sydney	Criminal	449	11.1	18%
West	Civil	11	0.3	0%
Major	Criminal	326	8.0	13%
Country	Civil	38	0.9	1%
Other	Criminal	139	3.4	5%
Venues	Civil	23	0.6	1%
	Criminal	1,780	43.8	70%
Total	Civil	776	19.1	30%
	All	2,556	63.0	100%

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

Table 5 sets out the number of days actually sat by the Court in 2015 converted into weeks (by dividing the number of days by 5).

Table 5. Actual Sittings

Location	Jurisdiction	No. of Weeks	Judge EFT	%
Cudmou	Criminal	922	22.7	37%
Sydney	Civil	560	13.8	23%
Sydney	Criminal	460	11.3	19%
West	Civil	14	0.3	1%
Major	Criminal	322	7.9	13%
Country	Civil	24	0.6	1%
Other	Criminal	140	3.4	6%
Venues	Civil	27	0.7	1%
	Criminal	1,844	45.4	75%
Total	Civil	625	15.4	25%
	All	2,469	60.8	100%

COMPARISON WITH 2014

Overall, there was an increase of **88** weeks for sittings in 2015 compared to 2014. This included **73** extra weeks of criminal sittings and **15** weeks of civil sittings.

The increase in criminal sittings was due to an increase in pending workload.

ACTING JUDGES

Acting Judges provided an extra **967** days of actual sittings. Based on the maximum of **40.6** sitting weeks per year for a permanent judge, this equated to **4.8** additional judges.

Figure 23 shows the fluctuations in the number of Acting Judges' weeks since 2010.



Figure 23. Acting Judges' Weeks

Table 6 sets out the number of sitting days by Acting Judges in 2015.

	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	TOTAL
Ashford	1	5		5		18	9	5	5	5	8	5	66
Charteris									6	1	6	5	18
Delaney		2	10	8	7	4	3	16	3	7	10	10	80
Garling		10	22	6	13	17	21	12	13	12	21	1	148
Graham		3	15	15	7	14	1	11	1	1	13	4	85
Hosking			4	5	3	4	4	1	4	4	4	1	34
Madgwick	5	7	10	9	11	1	13	6		19	5	3	89
Marien			14	18	15	6	1	6		5	19		84
O'Connor	1	15	7	2	1			5	10	11	8		60
Phegan		7	19	15	1	19		1		5	4		71
Quirk					4	12			1		4		21
Sidis			5								22	10	37
Solomon	1	5	9		1	8	2	6	10	1		3	46
Sorby											4	5	9
Walmsley	1		1		1			7	14				24
Williams		1	11	15		12	11	10	20		15		95
Total days	9	55	127	98	64	115	65	86	87	71	143	47	967
							Av	erage sit	ting days	s per Act	ting Judg	je 2015	60

Table 6. Acting Judges' Sitting Days 2015

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.

ACTUALLY SAT * AVERAGE ALLOCATED **AVAILABLE RECORDED HOURS** (weeks) (days) (days) CRIME CIVIL CRIME CIVIL CRIME CIVIL CRIME CIVIL 866 704 4,201 3,422 4,609 3.99 3.10 Sydney 2,801 71 0 344 0 380 0 4.03 0.00 Campbelltown Parramatta 339 11 1,648 54 1,691 70 4.58 4.27 Penrith 39 0 188 0 229 0 4.22 0.00 Sydney West Total 449 11 2,180 54 2,300 70 4.45 4.27 50 6 249 30 230 34 4.68 Gosford 3.73 Newcastle 80 17 394 85 428 99 4.27 3.58 Wollongong 9 0 45 0 43 0 4.58 0.00 139 O/S total 23 688 115 701 133 4.11 3.86 Albury 16 2 78 10 80 8 4.81 4.25 Armidale 15 0 74 0 86 0 5.01 0.00 2 76 4 Bathurst 20 97 10 4.12 0.00 45 0 0.00 Bega 8 1 40 5 4.96 Bourke 4 0 19 0 15 0 3.67 0.00 Broken Hill 6 1 30 5 32 0 5.69 0.00 3 Coffs Harbour 22 109 14 113 13 4.30 4.92 Coonamble 2 0 10 0 10 0 4.00 0.00 Dubbo 41 2 197 10 194 5 3.80 0.00 0 0 0 Goulburn 11 53 46 4.80 0.00 Grafton 6 0 30 0 30 0 3.83 0.00 Griffith 15 2 73 10 77 4 5.13 0.00 Lismore 8 40 42 202 199 40 4.47 4.38 0 0 Moree 4 20 0 20 5.85 0.00 Nowra 14 1 70 4 71 3 5.34 0.00 7 Orange 6 З 30 15 36 5.06 4.57 17 Parkes 4 0 20 0 0 4.41 0.00 2 6 Port Macquarie 26 128 10 133 4.26 3.33 8 2 39 10 46 1 5.04 0.00 Queanbeyan 2 Tamworth 14 70 10 73 1 4.70 1.00 20 2 97 8 4.38 Taree 99 10 4.45 Wagga Wagga 22 5 109 25 114 19 5.06 3.53 **Country Total** 326 38 1,597 188 1,610 119 4.58 4.32 State Total 1,780 776 8,666 3,779 9,220 3,123 4.22 3.21

Table 7. District Court Sittings 2015

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

ANNEXURES

- Annexure A Criminal Caseload
- Annexure B Compliance with Criminal Time Standards
- Annexure C Civil Caseload
- Annexure D Court Committees

Annexure A1 Criminal Caseload

TRIALS

Registered

	2013	2014	2015	14/15 Variant
Sydney	605	653	745	14%
Sydney West	563	454	536	18%
Newcastle	203	234	209	-11%
Gosford	53	54	99	83%
Wollongong	124	117	152	30%
Lismore	120	97	165	70%
Dubbo	81	97	103	6%
Wagga Wagga	65	91	98	8%
Country Total	646	690	826	20%
State Total	1,814	1,797	2,107	17%



Finalised

	2013	2014	2015	14/15 Variant
Sydney	637	563	634	13%
Sydney West	435	447	456	2%
Newcastle	181	198	252	27%
Gosford	62	55	45	-18%
Wollongong	133	99	94	-5%
Lismore	94	98	122	24%
Dubbo	71	84	109	30%
Wagga Wagga	49	52	97	87%
Country Total	590	586	719	23%
State Total	1,662	1,595	1,809	13%



Pending

	2013	2014	2015	14/15 Variant
Sydney	477	567	678	20%
Sydney West	475	482	562	17%
Newcastle	193	229	186	-19%
Gosford	34	33	87	164%
Wollongong	93	111	169	52%
Lismore	96	95	138	45%
Dubbo	83	96	90	-6%
Wagga Wagga	64	103	104	1%
Country Total	563	667	774	16%
State Total	1,515	1,716	2,014	17%



Annexure A2 Criminal Caseload

SENTENCES

Registered

	2013	2014	2015	14/15 Variant
Sydney	619	706	745	6%
Sydney West	505	469	518	10%
Newcastle	194	203	243	20%
Gosford	79	71	72	1%
Wollongong	134	128	165	29%
Lismore	96	112	140	25%
Dubbo	66	81	108	33%
Wagga Wagga	59	74	99	34%
Country Total	628	669	827	24%
State Total	1,752	1,844	2,090	13%



Finalised

	2013	2014	2015	14/15 Variant
Sydney	615	625	690	10%
Sydney West	492	472	495	5%
Newcastle	202	197	218	11%
Gosford	78	74	79	7%
Wollongong	121	143	140	-2%
Lismore	98	106	121	14%
Dubbo	58	78	104	33%
Wagga Wagga	61	65	91	40%
Country Total	618	663	753	14%
State Total	1,725	1,760	1,938	10%



Pending

				14/15
	2013	2014	2015	Variant
Sydney	318	399	454	14%
Sydney West	213	210	233	11%
Newcastle	70	76	101	33%
Gosford	26	23	16	-30%
Wollongong	53	38	63	66%
Lismore	30	36	55	53%
Dubbo	27	30	34	13%
Wagga Wagga	18	27	35	30%
Country Total	224	230	304	32%
State Total	755	839	991	18%



Annexure A3 Criminal Caseload

CONVICTION APPEALS

Registered

	2013	2014	2015	14/15 Variant
Sydney	312	445	391	-12%
Sydney West	324	364	367	1%
Newcastle	196	125	141	13%
Gosford	53	37	39	5%
Wollongong	103	84	81	-4%
Lismore	91	101	119	18%
Dubbo	95	100	68	-32%
Wagga Wagga	38	45	60	33%
Country Total	576	492	508	3%
State Total	1,314	1,301	1,266	-3%



Finalised

	2013	2014	2015	14/15 Variant
Sydney	342	386	405	5%
Sydney West	424	362	388	7%
Newcastle	203	130	133	2%
Gosford	54	39	37	-5%
Wollongong	109	169	80	-53%
Lismore	111	102	110	8%
Dubbo	100	95	76	-20%
Wagga Wagga	44	38	56	47%
Country Total	621	490	492	0%
State Total	1,387	1,238	1,285	4%



Pending

	2013	2014	2015	14/15 Variant
Sydney	134	193	179	-7%
Sydney West	135	137	116	-15%
Newcastle	42	37	45	22%
Gosford	15	13	15	15%
Wollongong	26	24	25	4%
Lismore	25	24	33	38%
Dubbo	22	27	19	-30%
Wagga Wagga	8	15	19	27%
Country Total	138	140	156	11%
State Total	407	470	451	-4%


Annexure A4 Criminal Caseload

SENTENCE APPEALS

Registered

	2013	2014	2015	14/15 Variant
Sydney	1,049	1,299	1,409	8%
Sydney West	1,422	1,387	1,706	23%
Newcastle	807	763	822	8%
Gosford	248	272	310	14%
Wollongong	617	536	603	13%
Lismore	383	440	392	-11%
Dubbo	394	360	305	-15%
Wagga Wagga	196	219	234	7%
Country Total	2,645	2,590	2,666	3%
State Total	5,116	5,276	5,781	10%



Finalised

	2013	2014	2015	14/15 Variant
Sydney	1,023	1,222	1,310	7%
Sydney West	1,350	1,388	1,697	22%
Newcastle	829	778	808	4%
Gosford	232	276	302	9%
Wollongong	638	529	594	12%
Lismore	393	427	412	-4%
Dubbo	419	385	307	-20%
Wagga Wagga	210	213	238	12%
Country Total	2,721	2,608	2,661	2%
State Total	5,094	5,218	5,668	9%



Pending

	2013	2014	2015	14/15 Variant
Sydney	189	266	365	37%
Sydney West	233	232	241	4%
Newcastle	151	136	150	10%
Gosford	44	40	48	20%
Wollongong	56	63	72	14%
Lismore	63	76	56	-26%
Dubbo	67	42	40	-5%
Wagga Wagga	34	40	36	-10%
Country Total	415	397	402	1%
State Total	837	895	1,008	13%



Annexure B1 Compliance with Criminal Time Standards

TRIALS - REGISTERED

Accused Custody

		Percentage of Cases Disposed within											
	4	1 Months	3	6 Months			1	12 Months			>12 Months		
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	
Sydney	11%	13%	15%	36%	41%	26%	84%	81%	77%	16%	19%	23%	
Sydney West	21%	12%	20%	40%	17%	26%	83%	76%	74%	17%	24%	26%	
Newcastle	30%	19%	25%	51%	45%	38%	90%	87%	81%	10%	13%	19%	
Gosford	42%	33%	6%	65%	67%	38%	94%	93%	94%	6%	7%	6%	
Wollongong	29%	31%	9%	40%	60%	13%	85%	90%	66%	15%	10%	34%	
Lismore	24%	19%	31%	45%	38%	42%	88%	92%	88%	12%	8%	13%	
Dubbo	17%	7%	21%	41%	23%	48%	86%	80%	81%	14%	20%	19%	
Wagga Wagga	9%	29%	18%	35%	36%	32%	78%	79%	82%	22%	21%	18%	
Country Total	27%	22%	22%	47%	44%	36%	88%	87%	81%	12%	13%	19%	
State Total	19%	16%	19%	4 1 %	36%	30%	85%	81%	78%	15%	19%	22%	

Accused on Bail

		Percentage of Cases Disposed within											
	4	1 Months	5	6 Months			1	12 Months			>12 Months		
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	
Sydney	8%	8%	8%	24%	25%	18%	74%	74%	74%	26%	26%	26%	
Sydney West	16%	11%	11%	27%	15%	15%	77%	61%	58%	23%	39%	42%	
Newcastle	11%	13%	9%	26%	31%	13%	77%	71%	61%	23%	29%	39%	
Gosford	27%	10%	17%	47%	38%	36%	77%	78%	83%	23%	23%	17%	
Wollongong	15%	12%	9%	26%	32%	12%	69%	74%	65%	31%	26%	35%	
Lismore	21%	13%	10%	42%	26%	19%	90%	64%	68%	10%	36%	32%	
Dubbo	13%	15%	12%	27%	22%	21%	73%	58%	62%	27%	42%	38%	
Wagga Wagga	11%	28%	13%	25%	34%	24%	82%	72%	61%	18%	28%	39%	
Country Total	15%	14%	11%	30%	30%	18%	77%	69%	64%	23%	31%	36%	
State Total	13%	11%	10%	27%	25%	17%	76%	69%	66%	24%	31%	34%	

All Trials

		Percentage of Cases Disposed within											
	4	4 Month	S	6 Months			1	12 Months			>12 Months		
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	
Sydney	9%	10%	11%	29%	32%	21%	78%	77%	75%	22%	23%	25%	
Sydney West	18%	12%	15%	32%	16%	19%	79%	67%	64%	21%	33%	36%	
Newcastle	18%	15%	14%	35%	36%	21%	82%	77%	67%	18%	23%	33%	
Gosford	34%	16%	13%	56%	45%	37%	85%	82%	87%	15%	18%	13%	
Wollongong	21%	19%	9%	32%	42%	12%	76%	80%	65%	24%	20%	35%	
Lismore	22%	15%	18%	43%	29%	28%	89%	72%	75%	11%	28%	25%	
Dubbo	14%	12%	15%	32%	22%	30%	78%	66%	68%	22%	34%	32%	
Wagga Wagga	10%	28%	15%	29%	35%	26%	80%	75%	67%	20%	25%	33%	
Country Total	20%	17%	14%	37%	35%	24%	82%	75%	70%	18%	25%	30%	
State Total	15%	13%	13%	33%	29%	22%	80%	74%	70%	20%	26%	30%	

Annexure B2 Compliance with Criminal Time Standards

TRIALS - VERDICTS

Accused Custody

		Percentage of Cases Disposed within											
	4	Month	s	6 Months			1	2 Month	IS	>12 Months			
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	
Sydney	0%	4%	3%	19%	35%	14%	75%	81%	77%	25%	19%	23%	
Sydney West	2%	3%	2%	24%	5%	2%	70%	61%	45%	30%	39%	55%	
Newcastle	11%	9%	20%	22%	22%	40%	83%	65%	93%	17%	35%	7%	
Gosford	17%	50%	0%	67%	50%	67%	83%	100%	100%	17%	0%	0%	
Wollongong	27%	0%	0%	27%	46%	0%	91%	85%	44%	9%	15%	56%	
Lismore	14%	29%	29%	57%	57%	57%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	
Dubbo	0%	0%	13%	11%	0%	20%	89%	71%	73%	11%	29%	27%	
Wagga Wagga	0%	20%	0%	50%	20%	0%	50%	60%	57%	50%	40%	43%	
Country Total	13%	11%	13%	33%	30%	27%	85%	75%	77%	15%	25%	23%	
State Total	4%	6%	5%	24%	25%	14%	77%	74%	67%	23%	26%	33%	

Accused on Bail

		Percentage of Cases Disposed within												
	4	Month	S	6 Months			12 Months			>.	>12 Months			
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015		
Sydney	1%	1%	3%	15%	17%	11%	69%	67%	65%	31%	33%	35%		
Sydney West	0%	1%	1%	8%	4%	1%	64%	53%	48%	36%	48%	52%		
Newcastle	5%	10%	0%	19%	24%	4%	68%	69%	38%	32%	31%	62%		
Gosford	17%	15%	17%	25%	38%	33%	67%	85%	67%	33%	15%	33%		
Wollongong	0%	0%	4%	6%	19%	8%	47%	71%	54%	53%	29%	46%		
Lismore	4%	4%	4%	42%	15%	8%	83%	56%	58%	17%	44%	42%		
Dubbo	6%	10%	4%	17%	10%	17%	50%	40%	39%	50%	60%	61%		
Wagga Wagga	0%	13%	0%	0%	13%	0%	67%	75%	35%	33%	25%	65%		
Country Total	5%	8%	3%	21%	20%	8%	65%	64%	45%	35%	36%	55%		
State Total	2%	3%	3%	15%	15%	8%	67%	63%	54%	33%	37%	46%		

All Trials

		Percentage of Cases Disposed within											
	4	Month	s	6 Months			12 Months			>12 Months			
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	
Sydney	1%	2%	3%	17%	24%	12%	71%	73%	68%	29%	27%	32%	
Sydney West	1%	2%	2%	14%	4%	2%	66%	56%	47%	34%	44%	53%	
Newcastle	7%	9%	5%	20%	23%	13%	73%	68%	52%	27%	32%	48%	
Gosford	17%	20%	11%	39%	40%	44%	72%	87%	78%	28%	13%	22%	
Wollongong	11%	0%	3%	14%	29%	6%	64%	76%	52%	36%	24%	48%	
Lismore	6%	9%	9%	45%	24%	18%	87%	65%	67%	13%	35%	33%	
Dubbo	4%	7%	8%	15%	7%	18%	63%	48%	53%	37%	52%	47%	
Wagga Wagga	0%	15%	0%	15%	15%	0%	62%	69%	42%	38%	31%	58%	
Country Total	8%	9%	6%	24%	23%	14%	72%	68%	54%	28%	32%	46%	
State Total	3%	4%	3%	18%	19%	10%	70%	67%	59%	30%	33%	4 1 %	

Annexure B3 Compliance wth Criminal Time Standards

APPEALS

Conviction Appeals

		Percentage of Cases Disposed within										
	4	4 Months	3	(6 Months	;	1	2 Month	s	>12 Months		
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
Sydney	48%	44%	35%	78%	72%	69%	98%	97%	95%	2%	3%	5%
Sydney West	59%	44%	56%	79%	65%	79%	98%	98%	97%	2%	2%	3%
Newcastle	78%	65%	69%	88%	79%	86%	97%	100%	97%	3%	0%	3%
Gosford	69%	53%	59%	87%	71%	86%	98%	97%	97%	2%	3%	3%
Wollongong	65%	63%	73%	82%	79%	90%	97%	99%	100%	3%	1%	0%
Lismore	63%	56%	71%	81%	75%	89%	98%	97%	99%	2%	3%	1%
Dubbo	76%	71%	62%	92%	86%	77%	98%	99%	96%	2%	1%	4%
Wagga Wagga	68%	70%	60%	88%	78%	88%	100%	100%	98%	0%	0%	2%
Country Total	71%	63%	67%	86%	79%	86%	98%	99%	98%	2%	1%	2%
State Total	61%	52%	54%	82%	73%	79%	98%	98%	97%	2%	2%	3%

Sentence Appeals

		Percentage of Cases Disposed within									
	2	2 Months	S	(6 Months	;	>	>6 Months			
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015		
Sydney	76%	73%	60%	97%	97%	95%	3%	3%	5%		
Sydney West	71%	67%	73%	98%	94%	96%	2%	6%	4%		
Newcastle	55%	55%	62%	94%	95%	94%	6%	5%	6%		
Gosford	67%	56%	66%	98%	97%	97%	2%	3%	3%		
Wollongong	73%	72%	70%	98%	99%	99%	2%	1%	1%		
Lismore	59%	61%	65%	96%	96%	95%	4%	4%	5%		
Dubbo	60%	62%	66%	95%	96%	96%	5%	4%	4%		
Wagga Wagga	58%	57%	64%	96%	95%	95%	4%	5%	5%		
Country Total	62%	61%	65%	96%	96%	96%	4%	4%	4%		
State Total	67%	65%	67%	97%	96%	96%	3%	4%	4%		

		Percentage of Cases Disposed within										
		3 Month	S		6 Months	5	>6 Months					
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015			
Sydney	27%	18%	8%	67%	61%	56%	33%	39%	44%			
Sydney West	19%	18%	22%	74%	63%	62%	26%	37%	38%			
Newcastle	38%	41%	39%	78%	79%	75%	22%	21%	25%			
Gosford	20%	47%	21%	70%	84%	76%	30%	16%	24%			
Wollongong	37%	42%	40%	75%	85%	80%	25%	15%	20%			
Lismore	40%	35%	37%	82%	82%	82%	18%	18%	18%			
Dubbo	30%	35%	30%	75%	81%	75%	25%	19%	25%			
Wagga Wagga	37%	53%	46%	84%	88%	89%	16%	12%	11%			
Country Total	35%	42%	37%	77%	83%	79%	23%	17%	21%			
State Total	28%	27%	22%	73%	70%	66%	27%	30%	34%			

SENTENCES

Annexure C1 Civil Caseload

	F	Registere	d		Disposed	ł	Pending				
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015		
Sydney CML	3,437	3,286	3,526	3,188	3,268	3,335	4,071	4,099	4,299		
Residual Jurisdiction	319	323	333	337	277	318	173	219	234		
Parramatta	141	150	186	175	128	149	154	175	212		
Penrith	43	7	18	38	28	19	51	30	29		
Campbelltown	3	2	3	4	3	1	2	1	3		
Sydney West	187	159	207	217	159	169	207	206	244		
Newcastle	264	238	272	250	265	231	312	284	325		
Gosford	83	83	50	58	87	85	114	110	74		
Wollongong	118	134	101	122	109	142	164	189	149		
Major Country	465	455	423	430	461	458	590	583	548		
Albury	30	28	41	54	26	28	44	46	59		
Armidale	6	8	7	15	7	9	8	10	8		
Bathurst	9	12	1	16	9	14	18	21	8		
Bega	7	2	3	10	4	3	7	5	5		
Broken Hill	8	6	3	5	5	8	9	10	5		
Coffs Harbour	51	36	28	47	46	39	60	50	39		
Dubbo	27	7	19	35	17	12	31	21	28		
Griffith	18	28	20	13	30	23	41	39	36		
Lismore Region	132	120	114	135	125	126	163	158	146		
Lithgow	4	11	8	12	19	4	18	10	14		
Maitland	11	22	10	18	16	21	18	24	13		
Nowra	23	29	25	28	27	29	26	27	23		
Orange	26	24	28	29	27	29	40	37	36		
Port Macquarie	62	39	35	69	42	38	53	50	47		
Queanbeyan	30	18	9	21	30	15	29	18	12		
Tamworth	24	25	16	22	29	25	37	33	24		
Taree	39	44	26	33	49	38	58	52	40		
Wagga Wagga	53	55	74	58	67	47	103	91	118		
Other Venues	560	514	467	620	575	508	763	702	661		
NSW Total	4,968	4,737	4,956	4,792	4,740	4,788	5,804	5,809	5,986		

Annexure C2 Civil Disposal Times

	Median Delay (mths)			% of Cases Disposed within						% of Pending			% of Pending		
				12 mths		24 mths			> 12 mths < 24 mths			> 24 mths			
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
Sydney CML	9.0	12.4	12.6	50%	63%	60%	87%	91%	89%	19%	24%	21%	5%	4%	6%
Parramatta	11.0	11.7	9.5	50%	67%	74%	88%	92%	95%	22%	23%	24%	7%	2%	6%
Penrith	9.0	15.3	10.6	71%	39%	48%	97%	85%	71%	18%	65%	16%	5%	9%	32%
Campbelltown	3.0	9.1	1.1	50%	77%	60%	10%	92%	60%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	33%
Sydney West	10.0	12.2	9.5	53%	64%	72%	90%	91%	93%	22%	28%	23%	6%	3%	9%
Newcastle	10.0	11.0	11.3	52%	51%	50%	90%	89%	84%	20%	24%	21%	7%	4%	7%
Gosford	10.5	12.2	13.6	50%	54%	49%	86%	83%	86%	25%	31%	28%	12%	10%	19%
Wollongong	8.0	15.4	13.8	64%	36%	39%	92%	77%	77%	35%	18%	32%	13%	11%	7%
Major Country	10.0	13.1	12.6	55%	48%	47%	90%	85%	83%	25%	24%	25%	10%	10%	9%
Albury	11.0	13.6	14.6	59%	46%	53%	87%	82%	67%	36%	23%	26%	6%	18%	11%
Armidale	12.5	12.5	13.3	33%	75%	64%	80%	100%	86%	0%	14%	33%	0%	0%	0%
Bathurst	16.0	9.9	9.2	38%	40%	20%	75%	90%	80%	47%	11%	33%	7%	32%	67%
Bega	14.5	14.2	9.4	40%	0%	80%	80%	75%	100%	17%	33%	33%	17%	0%	0%
Broken Hill	12.0	17.5	8.9	40%	25%	25%	100%	75%	88%	38%	33%	20%	0%	0%	20%
Coffs Harbour	12.0	13.8	11.8	47%	60%	63%	85%	88%	98%	18%	21%	36%	9%	9%	9%
Dubbo	12.0	11.3	18.9	43%	40%	60%	83%	75%	80%	23%	47%	8%	17%	21%	38%
Griffith	13.0	15.9	14.4	23%	31%	33%	85%	66%	67%	54%	26%	31%	5%	21%	20%
Lismore Region	12.0	17.6	11.9	47%	43%	49%	90%	80%	84%	29%	30%	27%	5%	8%	11%
Lithgow	21.0	14.0	15.3	17%	47%	0%	50%	79%	0%	43%	0%	33%	29%	33%	0%
Maitland	12.0	12.9	17.6	50%	65%	56%	89%	80%	84%	44%	13%	46%	6%	13%	8%
Nowra	12.0	9.5	11.4	40%	54%	41%	89%	89%	86%	17%	20%	9%	8%	4%	5%
Orange	10.0	9.9	11.1	62%	39%	58%	93%	85%	82%	44%	16%	35%	9%	16%	10%
Port Macquarie	11.0	17.6	17.7	70%	41%	29%	91%	86%	74%	38%	17%	22%	10%	19%	4%
Queanbeyan	9.0	14.5	12.2	72%	54%	47%	95%	94%	88%	21%	22%	42%	3%	6%	8%
Tamworth	10.5	10.9	10.9	50%	55%	55%	86%	91%	87%	39%	19%	26%	6%	19%	17%
Taree	13.0	11.3	8.6	42%	55%	54%	88%	87%	72%	27%	23%	36%	6%	9%	6%
Wagga Wagga	15.0	12.2	15.1	36%	31%	44%	81%	72%	70%	37%	30%	25%	14%	13%	13%
Other Venues	12.0	19.1	12.9	48%	45%	48%	87%	82%	80%	32%	24%	27%	8%	13%	12%
NSW Total	10.0	12.6	12.5	51%	60%	58%	87%	90%	88%	21%	24%	22%	6%	5%	7%

Annexure D District Court Committees

MEMBERSHIP DURING 2015:

Policy and Planning Committee

The Honourable Justice Price AM, Chief Judge (Chair) His Honour Judge Neilson Her Honour Judge Hock His Honour Judge Elkaim SC His Honour Judge North Her Honour Judge Woodburne SC His Honour Judge Mahony SC His Honour Judge Huggett His Honour Judge M Williams SC Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar (Secretary)

Criminal Business Committee

The Honourable Justice Price AM. Chief Judge (Chair) His Honour Judge McClintock SC Mr R Bromwich SC, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (Commonwealth) Ms E Mackenzie. Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (Commonwealth) Ms Joanne 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 M lerace SC, Senior Public Defender Mr D Giddy, Law Society of NSW Mr J Styles, Aboriginal Legal Service Mr R Funston, Legal Aid Commission Mr A Coultas-Roberts, Legal Aid Commission Ms J Boulos, Legal Aid Commission Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar Mr R Fornito, Criminal Listing Director

Ms J Garvey, Judicial Support (Secretary)

Civil Business Committee

His Honour Judge Elkaim SC (Convenor) His Honour Judge McLoughlin SC His Honour Judge Colefax SC His Honour Judge Letherbarrow SC Her Honour Judge Olsson SC His Honour Judge Mahony SC Mr E Romaniuk SC, NSW Bar Association Mr L King SC, NSW Bar Association Mr T Stern, Law Society of NSW Mr J Prowse, Law Society of NSW Ms B Cassidy, Motor Accidents Authority Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar Ms J Dunn, Civil Case Management and Listing **Professional Standards (Education)**

Professional Standards (Education) Committee

Her Honour Judge Hock (Chair) His Honour Judge Neilson His Honour Judge Woods QC His Honour Judge Berman SC His Honour Judge Zahra SC His Honour Judge Lakatos SC His Honour Judge Levy SC His Honour Judge Elkaim SC Her Honour Judge Wells SC His Honour Judge Lerve Her Honour Judge Culver Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar Ms R Windeler, Judicial Commission of NSW (Convenor)

Rule Committee

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

Security Committee

His Honour Judge Robison (Chair) His Honour Judge Neilson His Honour Judge Armitage His Honour Judge Woods QC Her Honour Judge Gibb His Honour Judge Berman SC His Honour Judge Toner SC His Honour Judge Colefax SC His Honour Judge Letherbarrow SC His Honour Judge Jeffreys His Honour Judge Hoy SC His Honour Judge Hatzistergos Her Honour Judge Culver Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar (Secretary)

Technology Committee

The Honourable Justice Price AM, Chief Judge (Chair) Her Honour Judge Gibson His Honour Judge Berman SC His Honour Judge Lakatos SC His Honour Judge Levy SC Her Honour Judge Syme His Honour Judge Jeffreys His Honour Judge McClintock SC His Honour Judge Whitford SC Her Honour Judge Yehia SC Her Honour Judge Culver Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar (Secretary)

John Maddison Tower and Downing Centre Building Committee

Her Honour Judge Tupman (Convenor) His Honour Judge Kearns SC His Honour Judge Driver, Federal Circuit Court Ms P Green, Registrar, NSW Civil & Administrative Tribunal Mr R Gounder, Asset Management Services Mr R Cowburn, Brookfield Multiplex Ltd Mr P Ryan, Acting Principal Registrar Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar Mr K Breen, Judicial Support (Secretary)

Judicial Commission, Criminal Trial Courts Bench Book Committee His Honour Judge Lakatos SC

His Honour Judge Arnott SC

Judicial Commission, Civil Trials Bench Book Committee His Honour Judge Neilson

His Honour Judge Elkaim SC

Judicial Commission, Equality before the Law Bench Book Committee His Honour Judge Norrish QC

Judicial Commission, Sexual Assault Trials Handbook Committee

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

Judicial Commission, Standing Advisory Committee on Judicial Education His Honour Judge Lakatos SC

Judicial Commission, Ngara Yura Committee

His Honour Judge Haesler SC

District Court of NSW PO Box K1026 Haymarket NSW 1240 Phone: +61 1300 679 272 Internet: www.districtcourt.justice.nsw.gov.au ISSN 1834-9978

