

The District Court of New South Wales
Annual Review 2017



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### FOREWORD BY CHIEF JUDGE

The Court continues to endeavour to meet its large criminal and civil caseloads as efficiently as possible. A major challenge is the increasing number of complex and lengthy criminal trials that are placing added strain on the Court's limited judicial resources. Of particular concern is the rising number of requests for special fixtures in regional areas. Another matter of concern is the increase in pending matters for sentence. In order to meet these challenges, the Court has:

- held special call-overs at Lismore, Newcastle, Port Macquarie, Sydney and Wollongong which resulted in 178 matters not proceeding to trial
- focussed on trial management. Readiness hearings were previously required for criminal trials in excess of four weeks.
   Practice Note 12 has been amended to include all trials in excess of two weeks, other than circuit sittings, where Telephone Readiness Hearings are required by Practice Note 14 for trials with estimates of five days or more
- provided additional courtroom capacity in Sydney by the completion of three multiple accused jury trial courtrooms at the Downing Centre
- increased criminal sittings of the Court by 143 weeks, of which 15 additional weeks were allocated to sentence matters
- increased the use of Acting Judges so as to equate to 6.8 additional judges

The Court's efficiency in dealing with its civil work continued to improve in 2017. The Australian Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services 2016-2017 reveals that civil finalisations exceeded registrations by 406 cases and the total clearance rate was 105.5%. Much of this improvement is due to the tight management of the civil list by Judge Letherbarrow SC, the Civil List Judge. Practice Note DC (Civil) No 1, which provides for case management in the general list, has been updated. One of the issues that the Practice Note seeks to deal with is the substantial underestimation of the length of a hearing given by parties to the Court. Provision is made for cost consequences against legal practitioners in such circumstances.

An emerging issue is the number of sexual assault trials that may come before the Court as a result of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Typically these trials, which are of a historical nature, involve multiple complainants and are lengthy. The advanced age of the accused presents difficulties for trials by jury. The Court is aware that there have been a large number of referrals by the Royal Commission to New South Wales Police. At the present time, the number of charges that will be laid is unknown.

It is not difficult, however, to predict that the Court will be unable to deal with the influx of these trials without the appointment of additional judges. Although the Court finalised 582 more trials in 2017 than were finalised in 2014 the criminal trial pending caseload remains around 2,000 trials.

I thank the Judges of the Court, James Howard, the Judicial Registrar, Robert Fornito, the Criminal Listing Director, Jenifar Garvey, the Judicial Support Co-ordinator, Jane Dunn, the Civil List Case Manager and all the staff of the Court for their dedication and hard-work in dealing with the continuing 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 2017

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 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 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 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 King SC

- His Honour Judge David Clement Frearson 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 AM 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 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 Julia Ann Baly SC His 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 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 Jeffrey Mark McLennan SC Her Honour Judge Tanya Bright His Honour Judge David Wilson SC His Honour Judge David Russell SC\* His Honour Timothy Hans Gartelmann SC

\*denotes Member of the Dust Diseases Tribunal

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

The following Judges were appointed during 2017:

- Her Honour Judge Tanya Bright on 31 January 2017
- His Honour Judge David Wilson SC on 3 April 2017
- His Honour Judge David Russell SC on 24 May 2017
- His Honour Judge Timothy Hans Gartelmann SC on 3 October 2017

#### RETIREMENTS

The following Judges retired during 2017:

- His Honour Judge Gregory David Woods QC on 10 February 2017
- His Honour Judge Raymond Patrick McLoughlin SC on 15 March 2017
- His Honour Judge James Patrick Curtis on 14 November 2017
- His Honour Judge Martin Langford Sides QC on 24 November 2017

#### **APPOINTMENTS HELD**

- The Honourable Justice Derek Michael Price AM held the appointment of President of the Dust Diseases Tribunal of NSW
- His Honour Judge Richard Dominic Cogswell SC held the appointment of President of the Mental Health Review Tribunal
- 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

#### **ACTING JUDGES (In Alphabetical Order)**

- Mr Christopher John Armitage
- Ms Linda Margaret Ashford
- Mr James Walter Black QC
- Mr Colin David Charteris SC
- Mr Dennis Cowdroy QC
- Mr Malcolm Craig QC
- Mr Norman Edward Delaney
- Mr Anthony Frederick Garling
- Mr Geoffrey John Graham
- Mr Gregory Grogin
- Mr Gregory Scott Hosking SC
- Mr Brian John Knox SC
- Mr Rodney Neville Madgwick QC

- Mr Mark Curtis Marien SC
- Mr Raymond Patrick McLoughlin SC
- Mr Christopher O'Brien
- Mr Colin Emmett O'Connor QC
- Mr Colin Phegan
- Ms Anne Mary Quirk
- Ms Margaret Sidis
- Mr Ronald Herbert Solomon
- Mr Robert Sorby
- Mr Stephen Lewis Walmsley SC
- Mr Jonathan Steuart Williams

#### JUDICIAL REGISTRAR

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

#### VENUES

In 2017, 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).

In Sydney West, judges sat full-time in the courthouses at Parramatta (8 courtrooms), Penrith (2 courtrooms) and Campbelltown (3 courtrooms). In addition, continuous sittings were conducted at Dubbo, Gosford, Lismore, Newcastle and Wollongong.

Other places where the Court sat were:

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

### Court Staff

#### **PRINCIPAL REGISTRAR**

Ms Sue King is the Principal Registrar and exercises functions pursuant to section 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 co-ordinates the assignment of judges to venues throughout the State.

Mr Robert Fornito is the District Court 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



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

### Criminal 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 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 2017, the issues discussed included the following:

- permanent judges appointed to Dubbo, New England and Wagga Wagga
- the increase in the Court's criminal caseload
- the allocation of additional weeks for the disposal of trials and sentences
- monitoring results from special call-overs in regional areas and continuing to target identified regions
- the introduction of telephone readiness hearings for country trials
- three additional criminal courtrooms now operating at the Downing Centre

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 listed and managed by way of a weekly telephone call-over.

### **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**

When the Committee met in 2017, the issues discussed included the following:

- changes to listing numbers since Judge Letherbarrow became List Judge
- recent changes to the Court's attitude and practice with respect to the vacation of hearing dates
- the absence of e-filed documents in court files, especially those documents e-filed close to the relevant listing date
- the likely impact of the introduction of the Motor Accidents Injuries Act 2017

### Professional Standards (Education) Committee Report

#### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

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 Director, Education, 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 2017 (from an average response rate of 70%) reveal that judges find the District Court's education program relevant and a useful source of knowledge and ideas. 82% of participants said that the education program enhanced their knowledge and capability, while only 1% of participants found that the program had little or no relevance to their work.

During 2017, judges:

- continued to receive focussed and tailored training to meet their educational needs
- attended 169 days of face-to-face judicial education organised by the Judicial Commission, an average of 2.5 days of judicial education per judge

#### ACTIVITIES

#### Annual Conference

The Annual Conference, held in Bowral in April had a total of 59 judges in attendance. The conference focussed 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 84% satisfaction rating from participants. Topics included:

- Criminal Law Review, The Honourable Justice Peter Johnson
- Stress and Wellbeing, Ms Carly Schrever, Judicial Wellbeing Project Advisor, Judicial College of Victoria
- The Secret Life of Documents, Mr Paul Westwood OAM, Managing Director, Forensic Document Services
- Expert Evidence, Professor Gary Edmond, Professor and Australian Research Council Future Fellow, University of New South Wales

- Torts Claims Arising from the Conduct of Police, The Honourable Justice Stephen Campbell
- Ex Tempore Judgments, The Honourable Justice Helen Murrell, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the ACT
- Intervention Programs Indigenous Offenders, Mr Luke Grant, Assistant Commissioner, Corrective Services NSW, Ms Alison Churchill, Chief Executive Officer, Community Restorative Centre, Miss Lisa O'Brien, Manager, Balund-a Program, NSW Department of Justice
- Recurring issues in the NSW Court of Appeal, The Honourable Justice Margaret Beazley AO
- Parole and the NSW State Parole Authority, The Honourable James Wood AO QC, NSW State Parole Authority

#### **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:

- Legal research on the iPad, 23 February 2017
- Clean slate without prejudice, 3 May 2017
- Non publication and suppression orders, 30 June 2017
- Tendency what's not to admit?, 26 July 2017
- Using JIRS effectively, 22 August 2017
- Fact finding, 21 November 2017

#### **Cross Jurisdictional**

Cross jurisdictional programs 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. The following programs were attended by District Court Judges:

- Accommodating Muslims in Court, 4 May 2017. Four attended
- Reforming the Justice System: The Alchemy of Data, Leadership and Synergy, 23 May 2017. Seven attended

#### Judicial Orientation

Three District Court judges attended the National Judicial Orientation Program in Manly, New South Wales in October 2017. 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:

- Motorkite Dreaming movie night, 7 March 2017. Two attended
- Community Visit: Darkinjung Country, 22 July 2017. One attended
- The Uluru Statement, 24 October 2017. Two attended

# 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 2017:

- Registrations rose by 1%
- Finalisations rose by 4%
- Pending trials fell by 2%
- Median finalisation time fell from 58 weeks to 56 weeks
- Average length of trials rose from 8.32 days to 8.79 days

### Caseload

There were **2,177** trials finalised in 2017, compared to **2,094** in 2016. There were **2,008** trials on hand at the end of 2017, compared to **2,039** trials at the end of 2016.

The number of sexual assault trials registered has increased from **549** in 2015 and **595** in 2016 to **632** in 2017. Of these, **377** trials involved child sexual assault compared to **341** in 2015 and **349** in 2016.

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:

- 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 statewide average length of criminal trials finalised in 2017 was **8.79** days, as compared to **8.32** days in 2016. In Sydney the average duration was **11.93** days in 2017, compared to **11.79** days in 2016.

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





#### **FINALISATIONS**

In 2017, **85%** of all registered trials were finalised within the first 12 months.

Figure 4 illustrates the rate of finalisations for all trials.

#### Figure 4. All Registered Trials Finalised



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





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 2,771 trials were listed for hearing in 2017.

Of trials dealt with in 2017 (i.e. 70% of total listings):

- 39% pleaded guilty
- 46% proceeded to verdict
- 6% were "no billed"
- 2% were transferred

- 3% were aborted
- 2% ended with a "hung jury"
- 2% were otherwise disposed
- 1% had bench warrants issued

#### Table 1. Trial Listing Outcomes

The following table sets out trial listing outcomes for 2017.

	Sydney	Sydney West	Country	Total
NOT DEALT WITH	22%	32%	35%	30%
Vacated	18%	18%	14%	16%
Prior to Trial Week	14%	7%	4%	8%
During Trial Week	4%	11%	10%	8%
Other Not Dealt With (Trial Week)	4%	14%	21%	13%
Not Reached	0%	13%	18%	11%
Other	4%	0%	3%	3%
DEALT WITH	78%	68%	65%	70%
Dealt With Prior to Trial Week	3%	8%	5%	5%
No Billed	1%	1%	1%	1%
Bench Warrant	0%	0%	0%	0%
Plea	1%	5%	3%	3%
Other (eg. deceased)	0%	0%	0%	0%
Transferred	0%	1%	1%	0%
Dealt With In Trial Week	30%	29%	30%	30%
No Billed	2%	3%	4%	3%
Bench Warrant	0%	0%	1%	0%
Plea	26%	23%	23%	24%
Other (eg. deceased)	1%	1%	1%	1%
Transferred	0%	3%	1%	1%
Trials Commenced	44%	31%	30%	36%
Aborted	2%	2%	2%	2%
Hung Jury	2%	1%	1%	1%
Proceeded	41%	28%	28%	32%

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 2017:

- Registrations fell by 0.35%
- Finalisations rose by 2%
- Pending cases rose by 11%
- Median finalisation time rose from 30 weeks to 36 weeks

#### SENTENCES

There were **2,302** committals for sentence received in 2017, compared to **2,310** in 2016.

2,168 sentences were finalised during the year compared to 2,128 in 2016. Notwithstanding an increase in finalisations of 2%, there were 1,307 sentence matters pending at the end of the year compared to 1,173 at the end of 2016.

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 2017, **69%** of all registered sentences were finalised within the first 6 months.

Figure 11 illustrates the rate of finalisation for all sentences.

#### Figure 11. All Registered Sentences Finalised



# LOCAL COURT APPEALS

#### **Conviction Appeals**

In 2017:

- Registrations rose by 3%
- Finalisations fell by 3%
- Pending cases rose by 20%
- Median finalisation time rose from 22 weeks to 23 weeks

#### **CONVICTION APPEALS**

There were **1,357** conviction appeals lodged in 2017 and **1,261** finalisations. At the end of the year there were **567** conviction appeals pending, compared to **471** at the end of 2016.

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 2017, **97%** 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. All Registered Conviction Appeals Finalised



#### Sentence Appeals

#### In 2017:

- Registrations rose by 1%
- Finalisations fell by 2%
- Pending cases rose by 10%
- Median finalisation time fell from
   11 weeks to 10 weeks

#### SENTENCE APPEALS

There were **6,039** sentence appeals lodged in 2017 and **5,940** finalised. At the end of the year there were **1,049** sentence appeals pending, compared to **950** at the end of 2016.

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 2017, **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. All 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

Sydney West

Country

## NEW SOUTH WALES

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

#### In 2017:

- Registrations fell by 1.28%
- Finalisations rose by 4%
- Pending cases fell by 5%
- Median finalisation time remained steady at 12.7 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 **4,875** matters registered in 2017, compared to **4,938** in 2016.

#### **FINALISATIONS**

There were **5,179** matters finalised in 2017, compared to **4,973** in 2016.

#### PENDING

At the end of 2017 the pending caseload was **5,649**, compared to **5,943** in 2016.

#### **Comparison with Previous Years**

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





#### **FINALISATION TIMES**

In 2017, **59%** of all actions finalised were completed within 12 months, with **90%** being completed within 24 months. This compares to **59%** and **89%**, respectively, in 2016.

Of the pending caseload at the end of 2017, **18%** exceeded 12 months and were not more than 24 months and **4%** exceeded more than 24 months.

# SYDNEY

#### In 2017:

- Registrations fell by 2.2%
- Finalisations rose by 5%
- Pending cases fell by 5%
- Median finalisation time remained steady at 12.6 months

### Caseload

In 2017, Sydney civil case managed matters represented **71%** 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. Sydney's % of NSW Registrations



# REGISTRATIONS, FINALISATIONS AND PENDING CASES

Excluding the Residual Jurisdiction, there were **3,477** new actions registered and **3,762** finalised in Sydney in 2017. At the end of the year there were **4,002** 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 2017, **60%** of all actions finalised were completed within 12 months, with **91%** being completed within 24 months. This compares to **60%** and **90%**, respectively, in 2016.

Of the pending caseload at the end of 2017, **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 2017. 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	141
Default Judgment	22
Settlement Filed	2,415
Dismissed	591
Discontinued	474
Arbitration	0
Transferred	114
Total	3,762

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
2013	<b>3,188</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>2,175</b>
	(100%)	(9%)	(59%)
2014	<b>3,286</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>2,180</b>
	(100%)	(7%)	(68%)
2015	<b>3,335</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>2,207</b>
	(100%)	(6%)	(66%)
2016	<b>3,575</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>2,319</b>
	(100%)	(5%)	(66%)
2017	<b>3,762</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>2,415</b>
	(100%)	(4%)	(67%)

### **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 2017, **314** actions were commenced and **317** finalised. At the end of 2017 there were **266** matters on hand in the residual jurisdiction.

## SYDNEY WEST

### **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 2017, the Sydney District Court referred **446** matters to mediation (**364** were referred to private mediation and **82** to court provided mediation). Settlement conferences were ordered in **1,855** matters.

Approximately **46.1%** 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 2017 (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 **267** matters registered and **228** finalisations throughout the year. At the end of 2016 the total pending caseload was **313**, as compared to **271** 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 **15%** and the median finalisation time was 12.2 months.

**20%** of pending cases exceeded 12 months and not more than 24 months and **5%** exceeded 24 months.

# COUNTRY

Venues outside of Sydney and Sydney West totalled **17%** of the number of actions in 2017 (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 **817** matters registered and **872** finalisations throughout the year. At the end of the year the total pending caseload was **1,068** as compared to **1,122** the previous year. Figure 22 shows comparative registrations, finalisations and pending caseloads for the past 5 years.





Pending matters in the country fell by **5%** and the median finalisation time was 13 months.

**25%** of pending cases exceeded 12 months and not more than 24 months and **7%** exceeded 24 months.

# JUDICIAL RESOURCES

- Allocated Sittings
- Actual Sittings

Committees



### **Allocated Sittings**

Table 4 sets out the number of judicial sitting weeks allocated in 2017 as published in the Court's Calendar of Sittings.

#### Table 4. Sitting Allocations

Location	Jurisdiction	No. of Weeks	Judge EFT	%
Cu da ou	Criminal	853	21.0	30%
Sydney	Civil	695	17.1	25%
Sydney	Criminal	572	14.1	20%
West	Civil	13	0.3	0%
Major	Criminal	421	10.4	15%
Country	Civil	30	0.7	1%
Other	Criminal	208	5.1	7%
Venues	Civil	31	0.8	1%
	Criminal	2,054	50.6	73%
Total	Civil	769	18.9	27%
	All	2,823	69.5	100%

Judge Equivalent Full Time ("EFT") is calculated at 40.6 sitting weeks p.a. – 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 2017 converted into weeks (by dividing the number of days by 5).

#### Table 5. Actual Sittings

Location	Jurisdiction	No. of Weeks	Judge EFT	%
Cudmou	Criminal	1,029	25.3	37%
Sydney	Civil	517	12.7	19%
Sydney	Criminal	523	12.9	19%
West	Civil	7	0.2	0%
Major	Criminal	399	9.8	14%
Country	Civil	15	0.4	1%
Other	Criminal	235	5.8	9%
Venues	Civil	32	0.8	1%
	Criminal	2,186	53.8	79%
Total	Civil	571	14.1	21%
	All	2,757	67.9	100%

#### **COMPARISON WITH 2016**

Overall, there was an increase of **138** weeks for sittings in 2017 compared to 2016. This included **143** extra weeks of criminal sittings and a reduction of **5** weeks of civil sittings.

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

#### **ACTING JUDGES**

Acting Judges provided an extra **1374** days of actual sittings. Based on the maximum of **40.6** sitting weeks per year for a permanent judge, this equated to **6.8** additional judges.

Figure 23 shows the fluctuations in the number of Acting Judges' weeks since 2013.





Table 6 sets out the number of sitting days by Acting Judges in 2017.

	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	TOTAL
Armitage	3	25	18	11	20	10		18	17	22	15	13	172
Ashford		3	6	1	7		5	10	6	9	6	4	57
Black						13	1						14
Charteris		3			8	7	5		8	20	13	4	68
Cowdroy										20	15		35
Craig								9		24	20		53
Delaney	1	11		5	9	5	12	8	4	5	5	6	71
Garling			2	3	18	4		18	8	15	10	2	80
Graham			6	6	20		6	10	8	6	13	2	77
Grogin							10	20	20	4	1		55
Hosking			4	4	5	4	4	4	5		5	1	36
Knox							12		4	9			25
Madgwick	3	17	3	11	16	12	21	3	5	12	10	2	115
Marien		10		1	25	1	2	10	10	10	6	1	76
McLoughlin				4	16	16	19		17	3	1		76
O'Brien							7						7
O'Connor	2	3	2		2		1	15	2	10	5		42
Quirk			5	6		6	1	10	13		1	5	47
Sidis		4		4						3			11
Solomon		1		1		1		1		14	4	1	23
Sorby		4	14	1			9	15	20	10	18	10	101
Walmsley							10	20	1				31
Williams			15	6	8	15	7	16	7	12	5	11	102
Total days	9	81	75	64	154	94	132	187	155	208	153	62	1,374
							Av	erage sit	ting days	s per Act	ting Judg	ge 2017	60

### Table 6. Acting Judges' Sitting Days 2017

#### 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.

	ALLOCATED (weeks)			AVAILABLE (days)		ACTUALLY SAT (days)		rage D Hours
	CRIME	CIVIL	CRIME	CIVIL	CRIME	CIVIL	CRIME	CIVIL
Sydney	853	695	4,163	3,396	5,146	2,584	3.93	3.35
Campbelltown	127	0	614	0	593	0	4.39	0.00
Parramatta	341	13	1,666	64	1,607	34	4.41	2.82
Penrith	104	0	420	0	414	0	4.27	0.00
Sydney West Total	572	13	2,700	64	2,614	34	4.38	2.82
Gosford	57	6	278	30	287	21	4.59	4.19
Newcastle	96	16	470	79	612	119	4.42	3.73
Wollongong	55	9	268	44	274	23	4.28	3.78
O/S total	208	31	1,016	153	1,173	163	4.43	3.80
Albury	20	2	98	9	97	5	4.52	3.00
Armidale	31	0	153	0	136	0	4.70	0.00
Bathurst	13	1	65	5	61	2	4.51	4.50
Bega	16	1	79	5	71	1	3.68	0.00
Bourke	4	0	20	0	11	0	3.73	0.00
Broken Hill	9	0	45	0	44	0	4.89	0.00
Coffs Harbour	27	3	134	15	127	6	5.02	3.50
Coonamble	2	0	10	0	10	0	4.70	0.00
Dubbo	45	2	219	9	192	5	4.31	0.00
Goulburn	16	0	80	0	78	0	3.99	0.00
Grafton	8	0	40	0	38	0	4.61	0.00
Griffith	27	1	134	5	128	0	4.48	0.00
Lismore	59	8	288	40	292	31	4.52	4.06
Moree	5	0	25	0	23	0	4.78	0.00
Nowra	19	0	89	5	88	1	4.65	5.00
Orange	9	2	45	10	53	0	5.11	0.00
Parkes	4	0	20	0	17	0	4.00	0.00
Port Macquarie	22	2	109	10	114	5	4.73	5.80
Queanbeyan	13	2	64	10	66	4	4.86	3.75
Tamworth	17	2	85	10	85	2	5.08	1.50
Taree	18	0	88	0	82	0	4.37	0.00
Wagga Wagga	37	4	182	20	184	12	4.67	3.83
Country Total	421	30	2,072	153	1,997	74	4.57	3.64
State Total	2,054	769	9,951	3,766	10,930	2,855	4.21	3.38

#### Table 7. District Court Sittings 2017

\* "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.

# COMMITTEES

#### MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES DURING 2017:

#### Policy and Planning Committee

The Honourable Justice D Price AM, 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 His Honour Judge P Berman SC Her Honour Judge H Syme His Honour Judge R Letherbarrow SC His Honour Judge P Mahony SC His Honour Judge C Hoy SC His Honour Judge S Hanley SC His Honour Judge M Williams SC Her Honour Judge S Huggett His Honour Judge P Whitford SC Her Honour Judge D Yehia SC Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar (Secretary)

#### **Criminal Business Committee**

- The Honourable Justice D Price AM, 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 M lerace SC, Senior Public Defender
- Ms N Miles, Aboriginal Legal Service
- Ms A Healy, Bar Association of BSW
- Ms P Musgrave, Law Society of NSW
- Mr R Funston, Legal Aid Commission
- Ms J Boulos, Legal Aid Commission
- Ms A Coultas-Roberts, Legal Aid Commission
- Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar
- Mr R Fornito, Criminal Listing Director
- Ms J Garvey, Judicial Support Co-ordinator (Secretary)

#### **Civil Business Committee**

His Honour Judge G Neilson His Honour Judge L Levy SC His Honour Judge R Letherbarrow (Convenor) Her Honour Judge E Olsson SC His Honour Judge P Mahony SC Her Honour Judge S Norton His Honour Judge J Hatzistergos Mr L King SC, Bar Association of NSW Mr E Romaniuk SC, Bar Association of NSW Mr T Stern, Law Society of NSW Mr S Brodowski, 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) 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 Her Honour Judge J Culver His Honour Judge M Dicker SC Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar Ms U Doyle, Director, Education, Judicial Commission of NSW (Convenor)

#### **Rules Committee**

The Honourable Justice D Price AM, Chief Judge (Chair) His Honour Judge G Neilson 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 Mr S Browdowski, Law Society of NSW

#### Security Committee

His Honour Judge C Robison (Chair) His Honour Judge S Norrish QC His Honour Judge C Jeffreys His Honour Judge C Craigie SC His Honour Judge S Herbert His Honour Judge R Montgomery His Honour Judge R Sutherland SC Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar (Secretary)

#### **Technology Committee**

The Honourable Justice D Price AM, Chief Judge (Chair) Her Honour Judge J Gibson (Secretary) His Honour Judge P Lakatos SC His Honour Judge C Jeffreys Her Honour Judge J Culver Her Honour Judge N Noman SC Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar Ms S King, Principal Registrar Mr C Doulgeris, Business Relationships Manager, DTS Ms C Carter, AVL Service Owner-Court Services

#### John Maddison Tower and Downing Centre Building Committee

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

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

His Honour Judge P Lakatos SC His Honour Judge D Arnott SC

### Judicial Commission, Civil Trials Bench Book Committee

His Honour Judge G Neilson

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

#### 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

HIS HOHOUF JUUGE F LAKALOS 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


# Annexure A1 Criminal Caseload

## TRIALS

#### Registered

	2015	2016	2017	16/17 Variant
Sydney	745	753	805	7%
Sydney West	536	495	488	-1%
Newcastle	209	273	255	-7%
Gosford	99	90	94	4%
Wollongong	152	149	150	1%
Lismore	165	165	139	-16%
Dubbo	103	81	119	47%
Wagga Wagga	98	113	96	-15%
Country Total	826	871	853	-2%
State Total	2,107	2,119	2,146	1%



### Finalised

	2015	2016	2017	16/17 Variant
Sydney	634	682	743	9%
Sydney West	456	596	545	-9%
Newcastle	252	218	268	23%
Gosford	45	112	76	-32%
Wollongong	94	158	175	11%
Lismore	122	145	171	18%
Dubbo	109	93	85	-9%
Wagga Wagga	97	90	114	27%
Country Total	719	816	889	9%
State Total	1,809	2,094	2,177	4%



	2015	2016	2017	16/17 Variant
Sydney	678	749	811	8%
Sydney West	562	461	404	-12%
Newcastle	186	241	228	-5%
Gosford	87	65	83	28%
Wollongong	169	160	135	-16%
Lismore	138	158	126	-20%
Dubbo	90	78	112	44%
Wagga Wagga	104	127	109	-14%
Country Total	774	829	793	-4%
State Total	2,014	2,039	2,008	-2%



# Annexure A2 Criminal Caseload

### SENTENCES

### Registered

	2015	2016	2017	16/17 Variant
Sydney	745	871	917	5%
Sydney West	518	509	558	10%
Newcastle	243	255	248	-3%
Gosford	72	66	86	30%
Wollongong	165	189	161	-15%
Lismore	140	151	133	-12%
Dubbo	108	133	115	-14%
Wagga Wagga	99	136	84	-38%
Country Total	827	930	827	-11%
State Total	2,090	2,310	2,302	0%



#### Finalised

	2015	2016	2017	16/17 Variant
Sydney	690	716	798	11%
Sydney West	495	500	533	7%
Newcastle	218	264	239	-9%
Gosford	79	56	70	25%
Wollongong	140	181	168	-7%
Lismore	121	154	135	-12%
Dubbo	104	117	129	10%
Wagga Wagga	91	140	96	-31%
Country Total	753	912	837	-8%
State Total	1,938	2,128	2,168	2%



	2015	2016	2017	16/17 Variant
Sydney	454	609	728	20%
Sydney West	233	242	267	10%
Newcastle	101	92	101	10%
Gosford	16	26	42	62%
Wollongong	63	71	64	-10%
Lismore	55	52	50	-4%
Dubbo	34	50	36	-28%
Wagga Wagga	35	31	19	-39%
Country Total	304	322	312	-3%
State Total	991	1,173	1,307	11%



# Annexure A3 Criminal Caseload

### **CONVICTION APPEALS**

### Registered

	2015	2016	2017	16/17 Variant
Sydney	391	383	412	8%
Sydney West	367	384	421	10%
Newcastle	141	131	142	8%
Gosford	39	48	53	10%
Wollongong	81	114	97	-15%
Lismore	119	111	97	-13%
Dubbo	68	85	88	4%
Wagga Wagga	60	63	47	-25%
Country Total	508	552	524	-5%
State Total	1,266	1,319	1,357	3%



#### Finalised

	2015	2016	2017	16/17 Variant
Sydney	405	362	364	1%
Sydney West	388	372	402	8%
Newcastle	133	142	124	-13%
Gosford	37	48	45	-6%
Wollongong	80	106	106	0%
Lismore	110	118	78	-34%
Dubbo	76	83	85	2%
Wagga Wagga	56	68	57	-16%
Country Total	492	565	495	-12%
State Total	1,285	1,299	1,261	-3%



	2015	2016	2017	16/17 Variant
Sydney	179	200	248	24%
Sydney West	116	128	147	15%
Newcastle	45	34	52	53%
Gosford	15	15	23	53%
Wollongong	25	33	24	-27%
Lismore	33	26	45	73%
Dubbo	19	21	24	14%
Wagga Wagga	19	14	4	-71%
Country Total	156	143	172	20%
State Total	451	471	567	20%



# Annexure A4 Criminal Caseload

## SENTENCE APPEALS

### Registered

	2015	2016	2017	16/17 Variant
Sydney	1,409	1,463	1,568	7%
Sydney West	1,706	1,664	1,732	4%
Newcastle	822	1007	798	-21%
Gosford	310	288	319	11%
Wollongong	603	591	559	-5%
Lismore	392	369	471	28%
Dubbo	305	366	317	-13%
Wagga Wagga	234	225	275	22%
Country Total	2,666	2,846	2,739	-4%
State Total	5,781	5,973	6,039	1%



#### Finalised

	2015	2016	2017	16/17 Variant
Sydney	1,310	1,494	1,507	1%
Sydney West	1,697	1,705	1,711	0%
Newcastle	808	999	818	-18%
Gosford	302	304	311	2%
Wollongong	594	592	567	-4%
Lismore	412	367	442	20%
Dubbo	307	342	324	-5%
Wagga Wagga	238	228	260	14%
Country Total	2,661	2,832	2,722	-4%
State Total	5,668	6,031	5,940	-2%



	2015	2016	2017	16/17 Variant
Sydney	365	334	395	18%
Sydney West	241	200	221	11%
Newcastle	150	158	138	-13%
Gosford	48	32	40	25%
Wollongong	72	71	63	-11%
Lismore	56	58	87	50%
Dubbo	40	64	57	-11%
Wagga Wagga	36	33	48	45%
Country Total	402	416	433	4%
State Total	1,008	950	1,049	10%



Annexure B1 Criminal Disposal Times

## **TRIALS – REGISTERED**

### Accused Custody

				Perc	centage	of Case	es Dispo	osed wi	thin			
	4	1 Months	3	6	6 Month	S	1	2 Montł	าร	>'	12 Mont	hs
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
Sydney	15%	10%	11%	26%	19%	19%	77%	80%	76%	23%	20%	24%
Sydney West	20%	16%	19%	26%	25%	33%	74%	70%	81%	26%	30%	19%
Newcastle	25%	19%	22%	38%	32%	37%	81%	80%	85%	19%	20%	15%
Gosford	6%	20%	16%	38%	26%	32%	94%	94%	74%	6%	6%	26%
Wollongong	9%	9%	11%	13%	23%	27%	66%	81%	77%	34%	19%	23%
Lismore	31%	24%	26%	42%	48%	39%	88%	84%	86%	13%	16%	14%
Dubbo	21%	15%	23%	48%	37%	35%	81%	78%	81%	19%	22%	19%
Wagga Wagga	18%	17%	6%	32%	38%	15%	82%	71%	76%	18%	29%	24%
Country Total	22%	18%	19%	36%	33%	33%	81%	82%	82%	19%	18%	18%
State Total	19%	14%	16%	30%	26%	28%	78%	78%	79%	22%	22%	21%

### Accused on Bail

				Perc	entage	of Case	es Dispo	osed wi	thin			
	2	1 Months	3	6	6 Month	s	1:	2 Month	าร	>'	12 Mont	hs
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
Sydney	8%	8%	7%	18%	13%	12%	74%	70%	69%	26%	30%	31%
Sydney West	11%	14%	11%	15%	21%	22%	58%	56%	66%	42%	44%	34%
Newcastle	9%	13%	19%	13%	19%	34%	61%	59%	79%	39%	41%	21%
Gosford	17%	15%	7%	36%	18%	13%	83%	62%	66%	17%	38%	34%
Wollongong	9%	6%	6%	12%	12%	16%	65%	55%	65%	35%	45%	35%
Lismore	10%	11%	20%	19%	21%	30%	68%	68%	66%	32%	32%	34%
Dubbo	12%	4%	13%	21%	15%	23%	62%	66%	70%	38%	34%	30%
Wagga Wagga	13%	12%	9%	24%	18%	21%	61%	45%	63%	39%	55%	37%
Country Total	11%	10%	14%	18%	17%	25%	64%	59%	69%	36%	41%	31%
State Total	10%	10%	11%	17%	17%	20%	66%	62%	68%	34%	38%	32%

### All Trials

				Perc	entage	of Case	es Disp	osed wi	thin			
	4	1 Month	3	6	6 Month	s	1	2 Montł	าร	>.	12 Mont	hs
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
Sydney	11%	9%	8%	21%	15%	14%	75%	73%	71%	25%	27%	29%
Sydney West	15%	15%	14%	19%	22%	26%	64%	61%	71%	36%	39%	29%
Newcastle	14%	15%	20%	21%	24%	35%	67%	68%	81%	33%	32%	19%
Gosford	13%	17%	9%	37%	21%	17%	87%	73%	68%	13%	27%	32%
Wollongong	9%	7%	8%	12%	15%	19%	65%	64%	68%	35%	36%	32%
Lismore	18%	15%	22%	28%	30%	34%	75%	74%	74%	25%	26%	26%
Dubbo	15%	7%	16%	30%	21%	27%	68%	69%	74%	32%	31%	26%
Wagga Wagga	15%	13%	8%	26%	24%	19%	67%	52%	67%	33%	48%	33%
Country Total	14%	13%	16%	24%	23%	28%	70%	67%	74%	30%	33%	26%
State Total	13%	12%	13%	22%	20%	23%	70%	68%	72%	30%	32%	28%

## **TRIALS – VERDICTS**

### Accused Custody

				Pe	ercentag	je of Ca	ses Disp	osed wi	thin			
	4	Month	s	6	6 Month	S	1	2 Month	IS	>'	12 Mont	hs
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
Sydney	3%	3%	3%	14%	12%	7%	77%	79%	72%	23%	21%	28%
Sydney West	2%	3%	9%	2%	6%	26%	45%	55%	74%	55%	45%	26%
Newcastle	20%	11%	11%	40%	11%	21%	93%	78%	79%	7%	22%	21%
Gosford	0%	17%	0%	67%	33%	50%	100%	100%	50%	0%	0%	50%
Wollongong	0%	6%	0%	0%	11%	10%	44%	83%	70%	56%	17%	30%
Lismore	29%	0%	43%	57%	57%	57%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%
Dubbo	13%	20%	0%	20%	40%	7%	73%	73%	67%	27%	27%	33%
Wagga Wagga	0%	0%	0%	0%	10%	0%	57%	30%	67%	43%	70%	33%
Country Total	13%	9%	7%	27%	23%	17%	77%	76%	74%	23%	24%	26%
State Total	5%	5%	6%	14%	14%	16%	67%	70%	73%	33%	30%	27%

### Accused on Bail

				Pe	ercentag	je of Ca	ses Disp	osed wi	thin			
	4	Month	s	6	6 Month	S	1	2 Month	IS	>'	12 Mont	hs
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
Sydney	3%	0%	1%	11%	3%	5%	65%	61%	56%	35%	39%	44%
Sydney West	1%	2%	4%	1%	7%	14%	48%	38%	56%	52%	62%	44%
Newcastle	0%	4%	2%	4%	8%	9%	38%	58%	68%	62%	42%	32%
Gosford	17%	0%	0%	33%	0%	0%	67%	23%	71%	33%	77%	29%
Wollongong	4%	0%	0%	8%	3%	6%	54%	44%	49%	46%	56%	51%
Lismore	4%	0%	9%	8%	6%	26%	58%	58%	57%	42%	42%	43%
Dubbo	4%	3%	8%	17%	12%	21%	39%	56%	50%	61%	44%	50%
Wagga Wagga	0%	5%	0%	0%	5%	4%	35%	24%	40%	65%	76%	60%
Country Total	3%	2%	3%	8%	6%	11%	45%	49%	57%	55%	51%	43%
State Total	3%	1%	3%	8%	5%	10%	54%	51%	56%	46%	49%	44%

### All Trials

				Pe	ercentag	e of Ca	ses Disp	osed wi	thin			
	4	Month	s	6	6 Month	S	1	2 Month	IS	>1	12 Mont	hs
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
Sydney	3%	1%	2%	12%	6%	6%	68%	66%	60%	32%	34%	40%
Sydney West	2%	2%	6%	2%	6%	18%	47%	45%	62%	53%	55%	38%
Newcastle	5%	6%	6%	13%	9%	14%	52%	63%	72%	48%	37%	28%
Gosford	11%	5%	0%	44%	11%	4%	78%	47%	70%	22%	53%	30%
Wollongong	3%	2%	0%	6%	6%	7%	52%	57%	56%	48%	43%	44%
Lismore	9%	0%	14%	18%	14%	31%	67%	65%	64%	33%	35%	36%
Dubbo	8%	8%	5%	18%	20%	15%	53%	61%	56%	47%	39%	44%
Wagga Wagga	0%	3%	0%	0%	6%	3%	42%	26%	49%	58%	74%	51%
Country Total	6%	4%	4%	14%	11%	13%	54%	56%	62%	46%	44%	38%
State Total	3%	2%	4%	10%	8%	12%	59%	57%	61%	<b>41</b> %	43%	39%

# Annexure B3 Criminal Disposal Times

# APPEALS

## **Conviction Appeals**

				Pe	ercentag	e of Ca	ses Disp	osed wi	thin			
	4	Month	s	6	6 Month	S	1	2 Month	IS	>1	2 Mont	hs
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
Sydney	35%	30%	41%	69%	64%	66%	95%	94%	95%	5%	6%	5%
Sydney West	56%	60%	59%	79%	82%	84%	97%	97%	97%	3%	3%	3%
Newcastle	69%	70%	61%	86%	87%	85%	97%	98%	96%	3%	2%	4%
Gosford	59%	66%	45%	86%	86%	86%	97%	100%	98%	3%	0%	2%
Wollongong	73%	71%	70%	90%	88%	91%	100%	100%	97%	0%	0%	3%
Lismore	71%	73%	64%	89%	91%	96%	99%	98%	100%	1%	2%	0%
Dubbo	62%	66%	59%	77%	90%	85%	96%	98%	100%	4%	3%	0%
Wagga Wagga	60%	76%	71%	88%	91%	93%	98%	98%	98%	2%	2%	2%
Country Total	67%	71%	63%	86%	89%	89%	98%	99%	98%	2%	1%	2%
State Total	54%	56%	55%	79%	80%	81%	97%	97%	97%	3%	3%	3%

## Sentence Appeals

		60% 27% 24% 95% 93% 95% 5% 7% 5%   73% 73% 77% 96% 97% 97% 4% 3% 3%   62% 51% 53% 94% 97% 95% 6% 3% 5%											
	2	Month	s	6	6 Month	S	>	6 Month	S				
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017				
Sydney	60%	27%	24%	95%	93%	95%	5%	7%	5%				
Sydney West	73%	73%	77%	96%	97%	97%	4%	3%	3%				
Newcastle	62%	51%	53%	94%	97%	95%	6%	3%	5%				
Gosford	66%	65%	77%	97%	95%	98%	3%	5%	2%				
Wollongong	70%	75%	73%	99%	98%	99%	1%	2%	1%				
Lismore	65%	68%	66%	95%	98%	97%	5%	2%	3%				
Dubbo	66%	66%	62%	96%	98%	98%	4%	2%	2%				
Wagga Wagga	64%	71%	70%	95%	96%	98%	5%	4%	2%				
Country Total	65%	63%	65%	96%	97%	97%	4%	3%	3%				
State Total	67%	57%	58%	96%	96%	97%	4%	4%	3%				

### SENTENCES

			Perce	ntage o	f Cases	Dispose	ed within	1	
	3	8 Month	s	6	6 Month	s	>	6 Month	S
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
Sydney	8%	5%	5%	56%	52%	28%	44%	48%	72%
Sydney West	22%	11%	13%	62%	65%	63%	38%	35%	37%
Newcastle	39%	25%	16%	75%	71%	68%	25%	29%	32%
Gosford	21%	16%	32%	76%	67%	58%	24%	33%	42%
Wollongong	40%	41%	26%	80%	82%	69%	20%	18%	31%
Lismore	37%	36%	43%	82%	65%	76%	18%	35%	24%
Dubbo	30%	33%	30%	75%	67%	75%	25%	33%	25%
Wagga Wagga	46%	58%	38%	89%	89%	90%	11%	11%	10%
Country Total	37%	35%	28%	79%	74%	72%	21%	26%	28%
State Total	22%	19%	16%	66%	64%	53%	34%	36%	47%

# Annexure C1 Civil Caseload

	F	Registere	d		Disposed	ł		Pending	
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
Sydney CML	3,526	3,554	3,477	3,335	3,575	3,762	4,299	4,281	4,002
Residual Jurisdiction	333	328	314	318	274	317	234	269	266
Parramatta	186	204	253	149	189	200	212	227	283
Penrith	18	22	13	19	15	26	29	41	28
Campbelltown	3	1	1	1	1	2	3	3	2
Sydney West	207	227	267	169	205	228	244	271	313
Newcastle	272	233	219	231	231	246	325	328	304
Gosford	50	48	60	85	54	61	74	68	68
Wollongong	101	127	137	142	122	125	149	154	165
Major Country	423	408	416	458	407	432	548	550	537
Albury	41	19	26	28	39	31	59	39	35
Armidale	7	9	4	9	12	7	8	5	2
Bathurst	1	11	10	14	9	4	8	10	16
Bega	3	4	3	3	4	3	5	5	5
Broken Hill	3	2	4	8	4	3	5	3	4
Coffs Harbour	28	37	25	39	35	32	39	41	32
Dubbo	19	10	12	12	19	13	28	19	17
Griffith	20	8	4	23	18	16	36	26	14
Lismore Region	114	100	110	126	117	114	146	130	126
Lithgow	8	6	6	4	11	6	14	9	9
Maitland	10	14	21	21	14	9	13	13	25
Nowra	25	43	14	29	26	31	23	41	24
Orange	28	16	14	29	32	16	36	20	18
Port Macquarie	35	37	39	38	43	33	47	41	47
Queanbeyan	9	9	7	15	10	8	12	11	11
Tamworth	16	19	20	25	17	14	24	26	32
Taree	26	10	5	38	23	18	40	27	14
Wagga Wagga	74	67	77	47	79	82	118	106	100
Other Venues	467	421	401	508	512	440	661	572	531
NSW Total	4,956	4,938	4,875	4,788	4,973	5,179	5,986	5,943	5,649

# Annexure C2 Civil Disposal Times

	Ме	dian De	elay	12 mths 24 m				ed with	in	%'ag	e of Pei	nding	%'ag	e of Pe	nding
		(mths)						24 mths	1		ths < 24	4 mths		24 mth	-
	2015	2016	2017			-		2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
Sydney CML	12.6	12.6	12.6	60%	60%	60%	89%	90%	91%	21%	19%	16%	6%	4%	3%
Parramatta	9.5	11.1	11.9	74%	66%	61%	95%	89%	92%	24%	18%	19%	6%	6%	5%
Penrith	10.6	17.9	19.2	48%	48%	45%	71%	76%	65%	16%	15%	29%	32%	27%	10%
Campbelltown	1.1	7.1	19.8	60%	100%	75%	60%	100%	88%	0%	33%	0%	33%	33%	50%
Sydney West	9.5	11.4	12.2	72%	65%	60%	93%	88%	89%	23%	18%	20%	9%	10%	5%
Newcastle	11.3	11.7	13.1	50%	59%	48%	84%	91%	85%	21%	28%	29%	7%	6%	9%
Gosford	13.6	15.5	13.7	49%	43%	50%	86%	77%	82%	28%	18%	15%	19%	13%	2%
Wollongong	13.8	14.6	11.6	39%	49%	57%	77%	83%	89%	32%	18%	21%	7%	5%	6%
Major Country	12.6	12.4	13.2	47%	54%	51%	83%	87%	86%	25%	24%	25%	9%	6%	7%
Albury	14.6	14.7	15.3	53%	38%	44%	67%	85%	81%	26%	31%	26%	11%	19%	7%
Armidale	13.3	8.3	6.4	64%	69%	56%	86%	94%	89%	33%	0%	100%	0%	25%	0%
Bathurst	9.2	45.4	4.9	20%	33%	83%	80%	44%	100%	33%	0%	31%	67%	14%	8%
Bega	9.4	10.2	23.5	80%	80%	43%	100%	90%	86%	33%	25%	20%	0%	25%	20%
Broken Hill	8.9	15.1	19.7	25%	40%	50%	88%	80%	75%	20%	33%	0%	20%	33%	25%
Coffs Harbour	11.8	15.4	9.3	63%	41%	69%	98%	86%	92%	36%	11%	31%	9%	8%	7%
Dubbo	18.9	12.3	21.9	60%	50%	41%	80%	75%	71%	8%	29%	15%	38%	35%	8%
Griffith	14.4	15.9	22.5	33%	32%	32%	67%	68%	63%	31%	32%	0%	20%	40%	0%
Lismore Region	11.9	13.3	12.6	49%	49%	54%	84%	84%	84%	27%	26%	18%	11%	7%	7%
Lithgow	15.3	15.8	11.0	0%	25%	67%	0%	92%	100%	33%	38%	38%	0%	0%	25%
Maitland	17.6	15.5	10.9	56%	53%	73%	84%	89%	93%	46%	0%	20%	8%	15%	4%
Nowra	11.4	9.4	10.7	41%	66%	58%	86%	90%	90%	9%	18%	50%	5%	3%	4%
Orange	11.1	15.2	16.0	58%	25%	52%	82%	83%	83%	35%	7%	25%	10%	20%	13%
Port Macquarie	17.7	13.4	12.0	29%	43%	54%	74%	91%	83%	22%	31%	16%	4%	8%	9%
Queanbeyan	12.2	12.2	8.3	47%	46%	75%	88%	100%	81%	42%	11%	56%	8%	22%	11%
Tamworth	10.9	17.9	9.5	55%	35%	70%	87%	76%	90%	26%	25%	19%	17%	8%	8%
Taree	8.6	14.8	18.9	54%	39%	22%	72%	83%	67%	36%	41%	40%	6%	12%	0%
Wagga Wagga	15.1	15.4	18.2	44%	38%	34%	70%	78%	81%	25%	33%	33%	13%	6%	1%
Other Venues	12.9	14.0	13.4	48%	44%	51%	80%	84%	83%	27%	25%	26%	12%	11%	7%
NSW Total	12.5	12.7	12.7	58%	59%	59%	88%	89%	90%	22%	20%	18%	7%	5%	4%

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