

The District Court of New South Wales
Annual Review 2022



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FOREWORD BY THE CHIEF JUDGE

A major issue for the Court continued to be the impact of COVID-19. An outbreak of the Omicron variant at the beginning of the year required increased Rapid Antigen Screening, the continuation of mandatory double vaccinations against COVID, and mandatory mask wearing for all court participants in jury trials and judge alone trials.

The Jury Regulations were further amended to enable the selection of up to an additional 3 jurors in trials estimated to take 2 weeks or more. Prior to the commencement of the COVID-19 pandemic, additional jurors could not be selected unless the trial was likely to be more than 3 months. The requirement that all court participants be double vaccinated was lifted from 2 May 2022.

The gradual easing throughout the year of COVID restrictions enabled the Court to finalise more trials in 2022 than in the previous year. The combination of a decline in trial registrations and increased trial finalisations resulted in a significant decline in the pending criminal trial caseload from 1,614 trials (2021) to 1,493 trials (2022).

I expect that the pending criminal trial caseload will increase. A large number of trials with estimates of 8 weeks or more have been listed in 2023 and more trial registrations from the Local Court are anticipated. An increased average length of trials will result in fewer trial finalisations.

Super call-overs were conducted at Newcastle, Port Macquarie, Lismore, Armidale/ Tamworth, Parramatta, Sydney, and Albury/ Griffith, resulting in some 252 trials being finalised by pleas. The continuing success of these Super call-overs was due to the hard work and patience of the following judges:

- Judge Roy Ellis
- Judge Leonie Flannery SC
- Judge Anthony Townsden
- Judge Peter Whitford SC
- Judge Stephen Hanley SC
- Judge Dina Yehia SC
- Judge Christopher O'Brien AM
- Judge Sean Grant

Important changes to the business of the Court included:

- 1. The Walama List Pilot commenced in February. The aims of the Walama List include a reduction of the risk factors related to re-offending by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders and the reduction of their overrepresentation in custody. The Walama List operates at the Sydney District Court and participant numbers are capped at 50 at any one time.
- 2. The District Court Amendment Act 2022 (NSW) increased the Court's general civil jurisdictional limit from \$750,000 to \$1,250,000 and the jurisdictional limits in equity proceedings and temporary injunctions from \$20,000 to \$100,000. The Court's general jurisdictional limit had not been increased since 18 July 1997. There had not been an increase in the equitable/ injunction jurisdictional limits since 1 January 1990.

The civil work of the Court continued to be dealt with efficiently. At the end of the year, the pending caseload was 4,616 compared to 4,159 in the previous year. However, filings fell by 7%. The increased jurisdictional limits may result in an increase in filings in the coming years.

It is with sadness that I report the passing of Judge Peter Zahra SC on 8 May 2022. His Honour was appointed to the Court on 30 January 2007. Judge Zahra had been appointed the Acting Chief Judge on two occasions. He was highly respected by his judicial colleagues, the legal profession, and the community that he served.

After three COVID impacted years, the Court remains in a sound position which is a tribute to the hard work of the Judges and staff of the Court.

The Honourable Justice D M Price AO Chief Judge

THE DISTRICT COURT

- History
- Jurisdiction
- Judiciary
- Court Staff



History

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

- The Supreme Court of New South Wales which, under the Third Charter of Justice sealed in 1823, had a criminal and civil jurisdiction similar to that of the superior Courts of England;
- Courts of General and Quarter Sessions which could deal with "crimes and misdemeanours not punishable by death";
- Courts of Requests in Sydney and the County of Cumberland, with a civil jurisdiction not exceeding £30; and
- 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) ("the Act") was assented to on 12 November 1858.

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

It also provided for the appointment of a District Court Judge as Chairman of any Court of Quarter Sessions or General Sessions, to be held within the limits of the district for which that Judge was appointed. The purpose of the Act was briefly described in *The Practice of the District Courts of NSW* by W.J. Foster and C.E.R. Murray (Sydney, 1870) as follows:

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

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

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

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

Jurisdiction

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

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

In its civil jurisdiction the Court may deal with:

- All motor accident cases, irrespective of the amount claimed; and
- Other claims to a maximum amount of \$1,250,000.00 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 \$100.000.00.

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 \$250,000.00.

Judiciary

CHIEF JUDGE

The Honourable Justice Derek Michael Price AO

JUDGES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

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 Her Honour Judge Penelope Jane Hock Her Honour Judge Ponelope Jane Hock Her Honour Judge Roy David Ellis Her Honour Judge Roy David Ellis Her Honour Judge Deborah Anne Sweeney His Honour Judge James Leonard Alexandre Bennett SC

His Honour Judge Peter Lind Johnstone Her Honour Judge Leonie Flannery SC His Honour Judge Leonard Ari Levy SC His Honour Judge Michael John King SC His Honour Judge Andrew Michael Colefax SC His Honour Judge John Frederick Stuart North His Honour Judge Andrew Carl Haesler SC Her Honour Judge Donna Mary Lisa Woodburne SC

Her Honour Judge Elizabeth Margaret Olsson SC

His Honour Judge Clive Vaughan Jeffreys His Honour Judge David Ulric Arnott SC His Honour Judge Phillip Gregory Mahony SC His Honour Judge Christopher Phillip Hoy SC His Honour Judge Gordon Bruce Lerve His Honour Judge lan 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 Julia Ann Baly SC Her Honour Judge Jane Ariane Culver His Honour Judge Andrew Scotting Her Honour Judge Jennie Anne Girdham SC Her Honour Judge Catherine Margaret Traill His Honour Judge Mark Buscombe His Honour Judge Mark Buscombe His Honour Judge John Hunter Pickering SC Her Honour Judge Siobhan Pauline Herbert Her Honour Judge Penelope Margot Wass SC His Honour Judge Robert Edward Montgomery

His Honour Judge Matthew Charles Leckie Dicker SC

Her Honour Judge Nicole Frances Noman SC His Honour Judge Warwick James Hunt His Honour Judge Robert Forbes Sutherland SC

His Honour Judge Phillip Gerard Ingram SC His Honour Judge Jeffery Mark McLennan SC Her Honour Judge Tanya Anne Bright His Honour Judge David Michael Wilson SC His Honour Judge David John Russell SC

His Honour Judge Timothy Hans Gartelmann SC

Her Honour Judge Gina O'Rourke SC His Honour Judge Christopher Gerard O'Brien AM

Her Honour Judge Wendy Sue Strathdee His Honour Judge Gerard Mark Phillips His Honour Judge Ian David Bourke SC

His Honour Judge Jonathon James Priestlev SC

His Honour Judge Robert John Weber SC Her Honour Judge Kara Natalie Shead SC His Honour Judge Walter Graham Turnbull SC His Honour Judge Richard Weinstein SC Her Honour Judge Nanette Lee Williams His Honour Judge Sean Elwin Grant Her Honour Judge Sharon Lisa Harris His Honour Judge Justin Dupont Smith SC His Honour Judge Alister John Abadee Her Honour Judge Susanne Denise Cole Her Honour Judge Sophia Frances Beckett His Honour Judge Craig John Gordon Smith SC

His Honour Judge Andrew Phillip Coleman SC

Her Honour Judge Tanya Louise Smith SC Her Honour Judge Karen Robinson Her Honour Judge Jane Ellen Mottley AM Her Honour Judge Ellen Lucy Skinner His Honour Judge Peter John McGrath SC Her Honour Judge Penelope Mary Musgrave His Honour Judge Huw Baker SC His Honour Judge William Marley Fitzsimmons SC

Her Honour Judge Pauline Anne David His Honour Judge Michael McHugh SC Her Honour Judge Georgia Lee Turner His Honour Judge Kevin Andronos SC

*denotes Member of the Dust Diseases Tribunal

RETIREMENTS

 His Honour Judge Phillip Thomas Taylor SC on 10 November 2022

DEATH IN OFFICE

His Honour Peter Raymond Zahra SC

APPOINTMENTS HELD

- The Honourable Justice Derek Michael Price AO has been a Justice of the Supreme Court of NSW since 28 August 2006 and holds the appointment of President of the Dust Diseases Tribunal of NSW
- Her Honour Judge Jane Ellen Mottley AM held the appointment of Senior Judge of the Drug Court of NSW

- Her Honour Judge Ellen Lucy Skinner held the appointment of President of the Children's Court of NSW
- His Honour Judge Peter Lind Johnstone held the appointment of Chief Magistrate of the Local Court of NSW
- His Honour Judge Gerard Mark Phillips held the appointment of President of the Personal Injury Commission of NSW
- Her Honour Judge Susanne Denise Cole held the appointment of Deputy President and Division Head of the New South Wales Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) Administrative and Equal Opportunity Division and Occupational Division

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE APPOINTED TO THE SUPREME COURT OF NSW

• Her Honour Judge Dina Yehia SC was appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of NSW on 4 July 2022

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE APPOINTED TO THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

- His Honour Judge John Hatzistergos AM was appointed as the Chief Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption on 7 August 2022
- His Honour Judge Paul Ivan Lakatos SC AM was appointed as the Deputy Chief Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption on 12 September 2022

ACTING JUDGES (ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

- Ms Audrey Suzanne Balla
- Mr Peter Graeme Berman SC
- Mr Anthony Martin Blackmore SC
- Mr Paul Vincent Conlon SC
- Mr James Patrick Curtis

- Mr Norman Edward Delaney
- Mr Geoffrey John Graham
- Mr Graham Leslie Henson AM
- Mr William Patrick Kearns SC
- Ms Megan Fay Latham SC
- Mr Mark Curtis Marien SC
- Ms Anne Mary Quirk
- Mr Stephen Lewis Walmsley SC
- Mr Jonathan Steuart Williams
- Mr Gregory David Woods QC

JUDICIAL REGISTRAR

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

VENUES

In 2022, the Court sat permanently in Sydney at the Downing Centre, 143-147 Liverpool Street, Sydney, where it occupies 21 courtrooms (in crime), 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 (9 courtrooms), Penrith (3 courtrooms) and Campbelltown (3 courtrooms). In addition, resident Judges presided at Albury, Armidale, Bathurst, Coffs Harbour, Dubbo, Gosford, Lismore, Newcastle, Orange, Parkes, Tamworth, Wagga Wagga and Wollongong.

Other places where the Court sat were:

Bega, Bourke, Broken Hill, Coonamble, Goulburn, Grafton, Griffith, Katoomba, Moree, Nowra, Port Macquarie, Queanbeyan and Taree.

Court Staff

PRINCIPAL REGISTRAR

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

CRIMINAL LISTINGS AND JUDICIAL ARRANGEMENTS

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

Mr Robert Fornito is the Criminal Listing Director. Pursuant to 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 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, 2012 and 2018.

The current Strategic Plan articulates the values of the Court and sets out the goals to be achieved over 2022 to 2025.

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; and
- 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; and
- 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 the 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 Services, Public Defenders and Crown Prosecutors.

ACTIVITIES

- Despite the continuing challenges of COVID-19, 2022 has seen over 700 trials finalised.
- The COVID-19 disruptions in 2020 and 2021 has resulted in many lengthier trials pending.
- As at December 2022 the pending trial caseload was 1,426, almost to pre COVID numbers of 1.399 trials.
- Continuing program of special criminal call overs of State and Commonwealth trials throughout the state to identify early pleas. This year the program conducted call over at Newcastle, Port Macquarie, Lismore, Armidale/Tamworth, Parramatta, Sydney and Albury/Griffith, disposing of 252 trials.
- Pending sentence caseload decreased from 940 in 2021 to 868 at the end of 2022.
- Continuing to sit at Katoomba and renovations commenced at Penrith to establish a third jury courtroom there for 2023.
- Work commenced to establish a criminal jury courtroom in court 8A JMT.

Civil Business Committee Report

- Expanding readiness hearings of trial matters and the conduct of these hearings by way of AVL rather than by phone conference.
- AVL technology established in all courtrooms throughout the state.
- The Rolling List court completed its last matter in 2022.
- The Walama List Pilot commenced in February before Judge Yehia SC.
- The Court continues to maintain a collaborative approach in its partnership with the Courts stakeholders in its criminal jurisdiction.

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, and representatives of the Law Society of New South Wales and the New South Wales Bar Association.

The Committee held a meeting in November 2022 to discuss with stakeholders the increase in filing of Historical/Institutional Abuse claims and methods to manage these kinds of claims due to their many unique features.

It was resolved following the meeting to adapt the application of Practice Note 1 to the management of claims of this nature to excuse them from all requirements of Practice Note 1 and to encourage early mediation, joint assessments and flexible management depending on the needs of each case.

A Practice Note for such claims was considered, but for the time being will not be implemented pending further monitoring of the extent of the increase of filings (which is not yet known) and whether present management methods remain successful, which has been the case to date with the majority of such claims resolving without proceeding to hearing.

Professional Standards (Education) Committee Report – Judicial Commission

The District Court, in partnership with the Judicial Commission of NSW, provides a continuing judicial education program for Judges. The program aims to inform Judges about changes to the law, community values, and court practice and procedure in order to maintain and improve judicial performance.

Judicial education in 2022 was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic which restricted the ability to gather in person. However, Judges again embraced opportunities to learn through new mediums such as webinars and the growth of this form of delivery has been a very positive outcome.

With a focus on interactive learning, the program is based on enhancing skills, attitudes and knowledge in a judicially relevant environment. The Professional Standards (Education) Committee, composed of Judges and the Judicial Commission's Director of 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.

The program is normally 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 programs on practical matters, social awareness issues, and legislative changes which encourage peer-based learning through discussion; and
- 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.

Cognisant that Judges are located in metropolitan and regional areas, programs have been offered by webinar. The true value of this medium for delivering education has been highlighted in recent years. Participants are asked to rate the practical value of each education event to their role as a Judge. The overall ratings in 2022 revealed that Judges find the education program relevant and a useful source of knowledge and ideas. 98% of participants said that the education program was applicable to their role and 87% rated the programs as highly useful.

During 2022, within the constraints imposed by COVID-19 restrictions, Judges continued to receive focused and tailored training to meet their educational needs. Judges;

- Attended ten separate programs of judicial education organised by the Judicial Commission;
- Attended 176 days of face to face judicial education organised by the Judicial Commission, an average of 3.97 days of judicial education per Judge; and
- Availed of the Judicial Commission's newly expanded online library of video recordings.

PROGRAMS

Annual Conference

The 2022 Conference was held in Sydney and had a total of 69 Judges in attendance. The Conference focused on providing challenging and interesting educational sessions, while also providing a valuable opportunity for discussion and debate. The Conference received an 89% satisfaction rating from participants. Topics included:

- State Parole Authority, His Honour Judge David Frearson SC, Chair of the State Parole Authority;
- Sentencing: Bugmy Principles and Intensive Correction Orders, The Honourable Justice Peter Hamill, Supreme Court of New South Wales;
- Assessing Objective Gravity and a Balanced Summing Up, The Honourable Justice Helen Wilson, Supreme Court of New South Wales;

- Criminal Law Review: Common Themes in CCA Appeals, The Honourable Justice Natalie Adams, Supreme Court of New South Wales;
- Significance of Culture to Well-being, Healing and Rehabilitation, Psychologist Vanessa Edwige and Dr Paul Gray;
- New Consent Laws, The Honourable Justice Helen Wilson, Supreme Court of New South Wales;
- Some Key Decisions of the Court of Appeal in 2021, The Honourable Andrew Bell, Chief Justice of New South Wales;
- Respect@Work: Understanding and addressing sexual harassment in judicial settings, Commissioner Kate Jenkins, Sex Discrimination Commissioner;
- Associates' Terms of Employment, Mr James Gordon, Director (HR Business Partner), Courts, Tribunals and Service Delivery; Law Reform and Legal Services, Department of Communities and Justice;
- Wellbeing: Where stress presides: Predictors and correlates of stress among Australian judges, Ms Carly Schrever, Judicial Wellbeing Advisor, Judicial College of Victoria;
- Reforms in defamation law, Her Honour Judge Judith Gibson, District Court of NSW.

Pre-Bench

Nine Judges were appointed and attended the Court's pre-bench program. This two-day program addressed topics such as judicial conduct, criminal and civil law proceedings, Self-represented litigants, jury trials and more.

Ngara Yura Program

Judges continued to participate in the Ngara Yura Program which aims to increase awareness among Judges 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:

- 15 March 2022: A Story of Resistance: Fred Maynard and the Australian Aboriginal Progressive Association;
- 3 May 2022: Wellbeing Toolkit: Dadirri a culturally sensitive practice for recovering from trauma;
- 14 May 2022: Community Visit Ngara Yura Visit to the Dharawal community of La Perouse;
- 15 September 2022 : First Nations Speaker Series: Emily McDaniel, Director, First Nations at the Powerhouse Museum, curator of Yananuraia for the City of Sydney;
- 6 October 2022: First Nations Speaker Series: Dr Miriam Rose AM, 2021 Senior Australian of the Year, the first fully qualified Aboriginal teacher in the Northern Territory and founder of the Miriam Rose Foundation;
- 20 October 2022: First Nations Speaker Series: Mr Peter Coole, founding member of First-Hand Solutions Aboriginal Corporation, co-founder of the Social Enterprise the Blak Markets; and
- 10 November 2022: Frances Forbes Joint Program – The impact of Protectionist policies on First Nations people.

Cross Jurisdictional Programs

These programs aim to facilitate discussion about current issues and provide opportunities for exchanging ideas between members of different courts.

District Court Judges participated in the following cross-jurisdictional program:

 25 May 2022: Cross-jurisdictional Webinar: Maximising the Law Courts Resources.

Online Resources

There are a number of online resources permanently available to Judges. Bench books and other research tools are available online via the JIRS database and are updated regularly. Where possible, Judges are also able to view and participate in programs remotely either via the live streaming of certain programs or viewing a number of programs that have been recorded. The move to this more flexible mode of delivery has been a positive outcome because of the limitations imposed by COVID-19.

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 2022:

- Registrations fell by 12.4%
- Finalisations rose by 9.1%
- Pending trials fell by 11.6%
- Median finalisation time rose from 57.0 weeks to 65.6 weeks
- Average length of trials fell from 10.24 days to 10.33 days

Caseload

There were **1,493** trials finalised in 2022 as compared to **1,369** in 2021. There were **1,426** trials on hand at the end of 2022 compared to **1,614** trials at the end of 2021.

The number of sexual assault trials registered in 2022 was **511** compared to **571** in 2021 and **512** in 2020. Of these, **258** trials involved child sexual assault compared to **284** in 2021 and **263** in 2020.

Figure 1 tracks the state-wide trends in the criminal trial caseload for the previous five years.



Figure 1. Criminal Trial Caseload

Figure 2 shows variation in trial and sentence registrations for the previous five years.

Figure 2. Trial and Sentence Registrations



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

TIME STANDARDS

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

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

TRIAL DURATIONS

The state-wide average length of criminal trials finalised in 2022 was **10.33** days compared to **10.24** days in 2021. In Sydney, the average duration was 14.42 days in 2022 compared to **13.48** days in 2021.

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



Figure 3. Average Trial Length

FINALISATIONS

In 2022, **58%** of all registered trials were finalised within the first 12 months.

Figure 4 illustrates the rate of finalisations for all trials.

Figure 4. Rate of Registered Trials Finalised



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





Figure 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 **2,077** trials were listed for hearing in 2022.

Of trials dealt with in 2022 (i.e. 74.4% of total listings):

- 59.5% proceeded to verdict
- 21.9% pleaded guilty
- 6.6% were "no billed"

- 2.3 were otherwise disposed
- 2.5% were transferred
- 2.7% ended with a "hung jury"
- 4.1% were aborted
- 0.4% had bench warrants issued

Table 1. Trial Listing Outcomes

The following table sets out trial listing outcomes for 2022.

	Sydney	Sydney West	Country	Total
NOT DEALT WITH	24.4%	26.2%	26.5%	25.6%
Vacated	12.1%	22.4%	12.6%	15.1%
Prior to Trial Week	5.2%	9.7%	4.0%	6.0%
During Trial Week	6.9%	12.7%	8.6%	9.1%
Other Not Dealt With (Trial Week)	12.2%	3.9%	13.9%	10.5%
Not Reached	0.1%	3.5%	6.6%	3.3%
Other	12.1%	0.4%	7.3%	7.2%
DEALT WITH	75.6%	73.8%	73.5%	74.4%
Dealt With Prior to Trial Week	8.5%	15.3%	10.5%	11.1%
No Billed	2.4%	2.6%	1.1%	2.0%
Bench Warrant	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Plea	5.7%	11.3%	6.8%	7.6%
Other (e.g. deceased)	0.3%	0.7%	1.2%	0.7%
Transferred	0.0%	0.7%	1.2%	0.6%
Dealt With In Trial Week	12.8%	14.8%	14.8%	14.0%
No Billed	2.2%	5.8%	1.4%	2.9%
Bench Warrant	0.1%	0.4%	0.1%	0.2%
Plea	8.8%	5.8%	10.9%	8.7%
Other (eg. deceased)	1.1%	0.7%	1.1%	1.0%
Transferred	0.5%	2.1%	1.2%	1.2%
Trials Commenced	54.3%	43.7%	48.3%	49.3%
Aborted	2.7%	4.8%	2.1%	3.0%
Hung Jury	2.0%	1.8%	2.2%	2.0%
Proceeded	49.6%	37.1%	44.0%	44.2%

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

Figure 9 shows the outcome of those that commenced.







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

Figure 8. Trial Listings Dealt With



SENTENCES

In 2022:

- Registrations fell by 14.1% to 1,764 as compared to 2,053 in 2021.
- Finalisations fell by 5%
- Pending cases fell by 8.4%
- Median finalisation time rose from 27.2 weeks to 29.4 weeks

SENTENCES

There were **1,764** committals for sentence received in 2022 compared to **2,053** in 2021.

1,838 sentences were finalised during 2022 compared to **1,925** in 2021. There were **812** sentence matters pending at the end of 2022 compared to **886** at the end of 2021.

Figure 10 tracks the sentence caseload for the previous five years.

Figure 10. Sentence Caseload



TIME STANDARDS

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

• **100%** commenced within six months of committal.

FINALISATIONS

In 2022, **65%** of all registered sentences were finalised within the first six months.

Figure 11 illustrates the rate of finalisation for all sentences.

Figure 11. Rate of Registered Sentences Finalised



LOCAL COURT APPEALS

In 2022:

- Registrations rose by 24.0%
- Finalisations fell by 11.2%
- Pending cases rose by 82.1%
- Median finalisation time same as last year 23.6 weeks

CONVICTION APPEALS

There were **1,234** conviction appeals lodged in 2022 and **955** finalisations. At the end of 2022, there were **619** conviction appeals pending compared to **340** at the end of 2021.

Figure 12 tracks the conviction appeals caseload for the previous five 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 2022, **96%** of all registered conviction appeals were finalised within the first 12 months.

Figure 13 illustrates the rate of finalisations for all conviction appeals.





SENTENCE APPEALS

In 2022:

- Registrations rose by 10.6%
- Finalisations fell by 1.7%
- Pending cases rose by 47.2%
- Median finalisation time fell from 11.0 weeks to 10.2 weeks

SENTENCE APPEALS

There were **5,115** sentence appeals lodged in 2022 and **4,773** finalised. At the end of 2022, there were **1,066** sentence appeals pending compared to 724 at the end of 2021.

Figure 14 tracks the sentence appeals caseload for the previous five years.



Figure 14. Sentence Appeals Caseloa

TIME STANDARDS

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

• **100%** commenced within six months of appeal.

FINALISATIONS

In 2022, **97%** of all registered sentence appeals were finalised within the first six months.

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

Figure 15. Rate of Registered Sentence Appeals Finalised



CIVIL JURISDICTION

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

New South Wales

• Caseload

Sydney

- Caseload
- Residual Jurisdiction
- Alternative Dispute Resolution

Sydney West Country

NEW SOUTH WALES

In 2022:

- Registrations fell by 7.0%
- Finalisations fell by 4.5%
- Pending cases fell by 3.5%%
- Median finalisation time fell from 11.9 months to 11.8 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 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 **3,724** matters registered in 2022 compared to **4,002** in 2021.

FINALISATIONS

There were **3,973** matters finalised in 2022 compared to **4,159** in 2021.

PENDING

At the end of 2022, the pending caseload was **4,616** compared to **4,778** in 2021.

Comparison with Previous Years

Figure 16 tracks the Court's caseload for the previous five years.

Figure 16. NSW Civil Caseload



SYDNEY

In 2022:

- Registrations fell by 5.4%
- Finalisations fell by 0.5%
- Pending cases fell by 3.3%
- Median finalisation time fell from 11.6 months to 11.4 months

Caseload

In 2022, Sydney civil case managed matters represented **77%** of the State's registrations and **74%** of the matters on hand.

Figure 17 shows the ratio of new civil actions commenced in Sydney, as compared to the whole State for the previous five years.

Figure 17. % of NSW Registrations



REGISTRATIONS, FINALISATIONS AND PENDING CASES

Excluding the Residual Jurisdiction, there were 2,883 new actions registered and 3,012 finalised in Sydney in 2022. At the end of 2022, there were 3,425 actions pending.

Figure 18 tracks Sydney's caseload for the previous 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 2022, **60%** of all actions finalised were completed within 12 months with **91%** being completed within 24 months, comparable figures to that of the preceding year.

Of the pending caseload at the end of 2022, **19%** exceeded 12 months but 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 2022. 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	91
Default Judgment	8
Settlement Filed	1685
Dismissed	558
Discontinued	546
Arbitration	0
Transferred	124
Total	3012

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
2018	3573	165	2276
	100%	5%	64%
2019	3504	157	2166
	100%	4%	62%
2020	3337	154	1942
	100%	5%	58%
2021	3026	116	1752
	100%	4%	58%
2022	3026	91	1685
	100%	3%	56%

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; and
- The Workers Compensation (Bush Fire, Emergency and Rescue Services) Act 1987.

During 2022, **223** actions were commenced and **221** finalised. At the end of 2022, there were **218** matters on hand in the Residual Jurisdiction.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

MEDIATION

Pursuant to Practice Note DC (Civil) No. 1, cases before the Sydney District Court are referred to mediation where appropriate. The referral may be either to private mediation or to court provided mediation. The Assistant Registrars in Sydney undertake the court provided mediation. In 2022, the Court referred **697** matters to mediation (**632** were referred to private mediation and **65** to court provided mediation). Settlement conferences were ordered in **1,308** matters.

Approximately **39%** of matters referred to mediation conducted 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 **5%** of the number of new actions in 2022 (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 **175** matters registered and **216** finalisations throughout the year. At the end of 2022, the total pending caseload was **271** compared to **313** the previous year.

Figure 20 shows comparative registrations, finalisations and pending caseloads for the previous five years.

Figure 20. Sydney West Caseload



Pending matters in Sydney West fell by **13.4**% and the median finalisation time was **14.0** months.

29% of pending cases exceeded 12 months but not more than 24 months and **16%** exceeded 24 months.

COUNTRY

Venues outside of Sydney and Sydney West totalled **12%** of the number of actions in 2021 (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 **443** matters registered and **524** finalisations throughout 2022. At the end of 2022, the total pending caseload was **702** compared to **787** in 2021. Figure 22 shows comparative registrations, finalisations, and pending caseloads for the previous five years.

Figure 22. Country Civil Caseload



JUDICIAL RESOURCES

- Allocated Sittings
- Actual Sittings

Committees



Allocated Sittings

Table 4 sets out the number of judicial sitting weeks allocated in 2022 as published in the Court's Calendar of Sittings.

Table 4. Sitting Allocations

Location	Jurisdiction	No. of Weeks	Judge EFT	%
Cudnou	Criminal	996	24.5	32%
Sydney	Civil	690	17.0	22%
Sydney	Criminal	584	14.4	19%
West	Civil	8	0.2	0%
Major	Criminal	298	7.3	10%
Country	Civil	19	0.5	1%
Other	Criminal	461	11.4	15%
Venues	Civil	17	0.4	1%
	Criminal	2,339	57.6	76%
Total	Civil	734	18.1	24%
	All	3073	75.7	100%

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

Actual Sittings

Table 5 sets out the number of days actually sat by the Court in 2022 converted into weeks (by dividing the number of days by five).

Table 5. Actual Sittings

Location	Jurisdiction	No. of Weeks	Judge EFT	%
Cudmour	Criminal	1084	26.7	40%
Sydney	Civil	337	8.3	12%
Sydney	Criminal	520	12.8	19%
West	Civil	3	0.1	0%
Major	Criminal	320	7.9	12%
Country	Civil	6	0.1	0%
Other	Criminal	420	10.4	16%
Venues	Civil	10	0.2	0%
	Criminal	2344	57.7	87%
Total	Civil	356	8.8	13%
	All	2700	66.5	100%

COMPARISON WITH 2021

Overall, there was an increase of twenty weeks for sittings in 2022 compared to 2021. This included 72 additional weeks of criminal sittings and 53 fewer weeks of civil sittings.

The increase in criminal sittings was to counteract the sittings lost in the previous two years due to COVID-19.

ACTING JUDGES

Acting Judges provided an extra **920** days of actual sittings. Based on the maximum of **40.6** sitting weeks per year for a permanent Judge, this equated to **4.5** additional Judges. Figure 23 shows the fluctuations in the number of Acting Judges' weeks since 2018.



Figure 23. Acting Judges' Weeks

Table 6 sets out the number of sitting days by Acting Judges in 2022.

	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	TOTAL
Ainslie- Wallace						3	14				1		17
Allen		15	20	15	25	18	25	25	20	25	20	11	219
Balla					5		5		4	7			21
Berman SC							1	10	8	5			24
Blackmore SC	1	15	12		14	9	1	13	11	3	12	12	103
Conlon SC	7	1	3	2	3	13	8	11	16	11	10	6	100
Cowdroy AO, QC		1	1										50
Curtis			3		13	6	12			12	4		50
Graham		12	2			4	6		1	1	3	1	30
Henson AM				3	10		5	5	5	5	5	5	43
Kearns SC			5		5	3	1						14
Latham SC					15	3	5		20	11			54
Marien SC			15	9	2	14	8	16	8	18	8	4	102
Walmsley SC			5	5	14					2	5		31
Williams	1	3	5	1		18	15	10	10		1		64
Woods QC	7	5	11	10			13						46
Total days	16	52	82	46	116	91	119	90	103	100	77	39	968
							Av	erage sit	ting days	s per Act	ting Judg	je 2022	57.5

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.

	ALLO	CATED	AVAIL	ABLE	ACTUA	LLY SAT	* AVERAGE RECORDED HOURS		
	CRIME	CIVIL	CRIME	CIVIL	CRIME	CIVIL	CRIME	CIVIL	
Sydney	996	690	4818	3339	5418	1685	3.71	2.45	
Campbelltown	135	0	654	0	571	0	3.95		
Parramatta	357	8	1692	40	1614	16	4.01	3.13	
Penrith	92	0	446	0	417	0	4.50	0.00	
Sydney West Total	584	8	2792	40	2602	16	4.08	3.13	
Gosford	79	5	386	25	376	8	4.26	4.00	
Newcastle	154	8	750	40	921	13	3.92	3.31	
Wollongong	65	6	317	30	302	7	3.99	3.57	
O/S Total	298	19	1453	95	1599	28	4.01	3.57	
Albury	27	2	132	7	121	6	3.12	4.00	
Armidale	19	0	94	0	89	0	4.58	0.00	
Bathurst	16	0	74	0	67	0	4.76	0.00	
Bega	11	0	55	0	41	0	3.49	0.00	
Bourke	2	0	10	0	8	0	3.00	0.00	
Broken Hill	11	0	55	0	41	0	4.00	0.00	
Coffs Harbour	27	1	134	5	124	0	4.58	0.00	
Coonamble	2		10		6		4.67	0.00	
Dubbo	43	0	207	0	197	0	4.56	0.00	
Goulburn	17	0	85	0	78	0	3.49	0.00	
Grafton	14	0	70	0	70	0	4.53	0.00	
Griffith	15	0	71	0	62	0	3.48	0.00	
Katoomba	16	0	85	0	71	0	3.73	0.00	
Lismore	50	7	244	34	224	21	4.33	3.38	
Moree	6	0	29	0	28	0	4.93	0.00	
Nowra	22	0	109	0	107	0	4.21	0.00	
Orange	29	1	144	5	143	2	5.02	6.00	
Parkes	8	0	40	0	35	0	4.49	0.00	
Port Macquarie	24	1	119	5	112	3	3.93	2.00	
Queanbeyan	17	1	84	5	87	4	4.26	4.00	
Tamworth	26	1	127	5	118	4	4.48	3.00	
Taree	18	0	87	0	79	0	4.77	0.00	
Wagga Wagga	41	3	198	15	194	8	3.48	5.13	
Country Total	461	17	2263	81	2102	48	4.20	3.79	
State Total	2339	734	11326	3555	11721	1777	3.92	2.51	

Table 7. District Court Sittings 2022

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

COMMITTEES

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES:

Policy and Planning Committee

The Honourable Justice D Price AO, Chief Judge (Chair) Judge G Neilson Judge C Robison Judge Hock Judge Gibson Judge Arnott SC Judge Mahony SC Judge Hoy SC Judge Taylor SC (retired October 2022) Judge Mark Williams SC Judge Yehia SC (appointed Justice of the Supreme Court September 2022) Judge Culver Judge Wass SC Judge Montgomery Judge Wilson SC Judge Grant Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar (Secretary) **Criminal Business Committee** The Honourable Justice D Price AO. Chief Judge (Chair)

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

Ms E Amparo, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (Commonwealth)

Mr F Veltro SC, Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW)

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

Mr R Wilson SC, Public Defender

Ms N Miles, Aboriginal Legal Service

Ms R Khalilizadeh, Bar Association of NSW

Ms J Sanders, Law Society of NSW

Ms A Coultas-Roberts, Legal Aid Commission

Mr R Hoyle, Legal Aid NSW

Mr R Fornito, Criminal Listing Director

Ms J Garvey, Judicial Support Co-ordinator (Secretary) (until November 2022)

Civil Business Committee

His Honour Judge D Wilson SC (Chair) Judge E Olsson SC Judge P Taylor SC (retired October 2022) Judge J Hatzistergos AM (retired August 2022) Judge P Wass SC Judge R Montgomery Judge D Russell SC Mr L King SC, New South Wales Bar Association Mr E Romaniuk SC, New South Wales Bar Association Mr I Jones, Law Society of New South Wales Ms K McLean, Law Society of New South Wales Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar (Secretary) **Professional Standards (Education)** Committee Judge P Hock (Chair until 28 April 2022) Judge G Lerve Judge S Huggett (Chair from 29 April 2022) Judge D Yehia SC Judge J Hatzistergos AM (retired August 2022) Judge J Culver Judge J Girdham SC Judge J Pickering SC Judge M Dicker SC Judge W Hunt Judge C O'Brien AM Judge R Weinstein SC (appointed Justice of the Supreme Court September 2022) Judge J Smith SC Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar Ms Una Doyle, Director of Education, Judicial Commission of NSW (Convenor) (until August 2022 appointed Chief Executive of Judicial Commission of NSW).

Rule Committee

The Honourable Justice D Price AO, Chief Judge (Chair) Judge G Neilson Judge E Olsson SC Mr I Jones, Law Society of NSW Ms K McLean, Law Society of NSW Mr P Khandar, NSW Bar Association Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar (Secretary)

Security Committee

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

Technology Committee

- The Honourable Justice D Price AO, Chief Judge (Chair)
- Judge Gibson (Secretary)
- Judge Culver
- Judge Jeffreys
- Judge Priestley
- Judge Turnbull
- Ms J Mathison, Director, IDS Frontline Divisional Services
- Mr P Falconer, Principal Consultant, ICT Frontline Divisional Services
- Mr A Donlon, Technical Support Officer (Multimedia)
- Mr S Moore, Principal Policy Officer, Court Services
- Ms G Romeo, Principal Registrar and Regional Director, Court Services, Metro Region
- Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar

Building Committee

Judge R Tupman (Convenor) Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar Mr D Watson, Registrar, DDT Ms A Curtin, Registrar & Director, NCAT

- Mr R Cowburn, Brookfield Multiplex Ltd
- Mr K Breen, Judicial Support Officer (Secretary) (Until April 2022)

Criminal Trial Courts Bench Book Committee

Judge P Zahra SC (until 6 May 2022) Judge D Arnott SC Judge S Huggett Judge N Noman SC

Civil Trials Bench Book Committee

Judge P Mahony SC

Judge R Weinstein SC (appointed Justice of the Supreme Court September 2022)

Children's Court Education Committee Judge E Skinner

Ngara Yura Committee Judge D Yehia SC (Chair from 3 March 2022)

34 The District Court of New South Wales Annual Review 2022
ANNEXURES

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



Annexure A1 Criminal Caseload

TRIALS

Registered

	2020	2021	2022	21/22 Variant
Sydney	528	522	421	-19%
Sydney West	341	339	299	-12%
Newcastle	196	202	181	-10%
Gosford	58	61	54	-11%
Wollongong	110	111	98	-12%
Lismore	84	109	82	-25%
Dubbo	66	60	72	20%
Wagga Wagga	68	85	98	15%
Country Total	582	628	585	-7%
State Total	1,451	1,489	1,305	-12%



Finalised

	2020	2021	2022	21/22 Variant	
Sydney	419	405	474	17%	
Sydney West	409	356	380	7%	
Newcastle	162	218	230	6%	
Gosford	41	56	50	-11%	
Wollongong	103	109	96	-12%	
Lismore	97	87	88	1%	
Dubbo	66	56	85	52%	
Wagga Wagga	59	82	90	10%	
Country Total	528	608	639	5%	
State Total	1,356	1,369	1,493	9.1%	



	2020	2021	2022	21/22 Variant
Sydney	532	649	596	-8%
Sydney West	384	367	286	-22%
Newcastle	227	211	162	-23%
Gosford	58	63	67	6%
Wollongong	83	85	87	2%
Lismore	75	97	91	-6%
Dubbo	72	76	63	-17%
Wagga Wagga	63	66	74	12%
Country Total	578	598	544	-9%
State Total	1,494	1,614	1,426	-12%



Annexure A2

Criminal Caseload

SENTENCES

Registered

	2020	2021	2022	21/22 Variant
Sydney	668	627	550	-12%
Sydney West	491	485	394	-19%
Newcastle	301	305	267	-12%
Gosford	107	108	73	-32%
Wollongong	184	177	134	-24%
Lismore	132	136	117	-14%
Dubbo	99	104	118	13%
Wagga Wagga	71	111	111	0%
Country Total	894	941	820	-13%
State Total	2,053	2,053	1,764	-1 4%



Finalised

	2020	2021	2022	21/22 Variant
Sydney	663	610	524	-14%
Sydney West	548	438	454	4%
Newcastle	324	284	288	1%
Gosford	97	94	85	-10%
Wollongong	174	181	150	-17%
Lismore	124	128	116	-9%
Dubbo	97	93	117	26%
Wagga Wagga	68	97	104	7%
Country Total	884	877	860	-2%
State Total	2,095	1,925	1,838	-5%



	2020	2021	2022	21/22 Variant
Sydney	294	311	337	8%
Sydney West	160	207	147	-29%
Newcastle	85	106	85	-20%
Gosford	37	51	39	-24%
Wollongong	59	55	39	-29%
Lismore	50	58	59	2%
Dubbo	46	57	58	2%
Wagga Wagga	27	41	48	17%
Country Total	304	368	328	-11%
State Total	758	886	812	-8%



Annexure A3 Criminal Caseload

CONVICTION APPEALS

Registered

	2020	2021	2022	21/22 Variant
Sydney	314	341	435	28%
Sydney West	268	233	330	42%
Newcastle	106	129	111	-14%
Gosford	34	22	33	50%
Wollongong	90	87	111	28%
Lismore	72	66	79	20%
Dubbo	76	76	92	21%
Wagga Wagga	43	41	43	5%
Country Total	421	421	469	11%
State Total	1,003	995	1,234	24%



Finalised

	2020	2021	2022	21/22 Variant
Sydney	352	338	330	-2%
Sydney West	319	269	233	-13%
Newcastle	111	129	96	-26%
Gosford	39	23	30	30%
Wollongong	65	109	90	-17%
Lismore	72	72	58	-19%
Dubbo	54	89	78	-12%
Wagga Wagga	37	47	40	-15%
Country Total	378	469	392	-16%
State Total	1,049	1,076	955	-11%



	2020	2021	2022	21/22 Variant
Sydney	147	150	255	70%
Sydney West	100	64	161	152%
Newcastle	36	36	51	42%
Gosford	10	9	12	33%
Wollongong	44	22	43	95%
Lismore	26	20	41	105%
Dubbo	39	26	40	54%
Wagga Wagga	19	13	16	23%
Country Total	174	126	203	61%
State Total	421	340	619	82%



Annexure A4

Criminal Caseload

SENTENCE APPEALS

Registered

	2020	2021	2022	21/22 Variant
Sydney	1,221	1,104	1,347	22%
Sydney West	1,388	1,246	1,360	9%
Newcastle	741	822	826	0%
Gosford	246	279	218	-22%
Wollongong	447	305	419	37%
Lismore	335	324	323	0%
Dubbo	371	332	335	1%
Wagga Wagga	216	214	287	34%
Country Total	2,356	2,276	2,408	6%
State Total	4,965	4,626	5,115	11%



Finalised

	2020	2021	2022	21/22 Variant
Sydney	1,214	1,178	1,137	-3%
Sydney West	1,303	1,365	1,301	-5%
Newcastle	678	814	803	-1%
Gosford	267	274	231	-16%
Wollongong	436	348	367	5%
Lismore	348	331	329	-1%
Dubbo	327	343	346	1%
Wagga Wagga	225	204	259	27%
Country Total	2,281	2,314	2,335	1%
State Total	4,798	4,857	4,773	-2%



	2020	2021	2022	21/22 Variant
Sydney	278	204	414	103%
Sydney West	246	127	186	46%
Newcastle	142	150	173	15%
Gosford	36	41	28	-32%
Wollongong	78	35	87	149%
Lismore	58	51	45	-12%
Dubbo	90	79	68	-14%
Wagga Wagga	27	37	65	76%
Country Total	431	393	466	19%
State Total	955	724	1,066	47%



Annexure B1 Compliance with Criminal Time Standards

TRIALS – REGISTERED

Accused in Custody

				Perc	centage	of Case	es Disp	osed wi	thin			
	4	4 Month	S	6	6 Month	IS	1	2 Montl	าร	>'	12 Mont	hs
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Sydney	14%	9%	8%	35%	17%	18%	68%	71%	60%	32%	29%	40%
Sydney West	17%	20%	13%	26%	30%	23%	69%	75%	68%	31%	25%	32%
Newcastle	17%	9%	18%	29%	37%	32%	71%	78%	76%	29%	22%	24%
Gosford	14%	10%	0%	29%	19%	0%	86%	90%	38%	14%	10%	63%
Wollongong	21%	33%	0%	36%	57%	17%	85%	83%	100%	15%	17%	0%
Lismore	19%	26%	13%	30%	39%	26%	74%	81%	78%	26%	19%	22%
Dubbo	16%	50%	20%	40%	61%	30%	84%	89%	63%	16%	11%	37%
Wagga Wagga	27%	26%	46%	47%	39%	50%	80%	78%	81%	20%	22%	19%
Country Total	18%	22%	18%	33%	41%	29%	78%	82%	75%	22%	18%	25%
State Total	17%	17%	13%	31%	30%	24%	72%	76%	68%	28%	24%	32%

Accused on Bail

				Perc	centage	of Case	es Disp	osed wi	thin			
	4	4 Month	s	(6 Month	s	1	2 Montl	าร	>.	12 Mont	hs
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Sydney	9%	7%	3%	21%	13%	7%	61%	66%	49%	39%	34%	51%
Sydney West	6%	9%	9%	13%	13%	16%	56%	47%	56%	44%	53%	44%
Newcastle	9%	12%	9%	13%	19%	20%	48%	65%	50%	52%	35%	50%
Gosford	10%	3%	10%	14%	12%	13%	71%	55%	30%	29%	45%	70%
Wollongong	8%	5%	6%	37%	29%	22%	75%	71%	75%	25%	29%	25%
Lismore	13%	12%	12%	28%	25%	19%	58%	62%	55%	42%	38%	45%
Dubbo	0%	5%	7%	20%	5%	15%	58%	63%	43%	43%	37%	57%
Wagga Wagga	10%	7%	18%	36%	15%	26%	69%	81%	79%	31%	19%	21%
Country Total	8%	9%	10%	25%	19%	20%	61%	67%	57%	39%	33%	43%
State Total	8%	8%	7%	20%	16%	14%	60%	62%	54%	40%	38%	46%

All Trials

				Perc	centage	of Case	es Disp	osed wi	thin			
	4	4 Month	s	6	6 Month	IS	1	2 Montl	าร	>.	12 Mont	ths
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Sydney	11%	8%	5%	26%	15%	10%	64%	67%	52%	36%	33%	48%
Sydney West	11%	13%	10%	19%	19%	18%	62%	57%	60%	38%	43%	40%
Newcastle	12%	11%	12%	19%	25%	24%	58%	69%	59%	42%	31%	41%
Gosford	12%	6%	7%	21%	15%	9%	79%	69%	33%	21%	31%	67%
Wollongong	12%	13%	5%	37%	37%	21%	79%	75%	81%	21%	25%	19%
Lismore	14%	16%	12%	28%	30%	21%	63%	68%	61%	37%	32%	39%
Dubbo	6%	19%	12%	28%	22%	20%	68%	71%	50%	32%	29%	50%
Wagga Wagga	14%	13%	26%	39%	22%	33%	72%	81%	79%	28%	19%	21%
Country Total	12%	13%	13%	28%	26%	23%	67%	72%	62%	33%	28%	38%
State Total	11%	11%	9%	25%	21%	17%	65%	67%	58%	35%	33%	42%

Annexure B2 Compliance with Criminal Time Standards

TRIALS – VERDICTS

Accused in Custody

				Pe	ercentag	je of Ca	ses Disp	osed w	ithin			
	4	Month	s	6	6 Month	s	1	2 Month	าร	>'	12 Mont	hs
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Sydney	3%	2%	3%	22%	9%	5%	58%	62%	41%	42%	38%	59%
Sydney West	11%	8%	0%	26%	17%	8%	71%	50%	54%	29%	50%	46%
Newcastle	4%	0%	0%	8%	10%	14%	46%	62%	67%	54%	38%	33%
Gosford	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	71%	75%	25%	29%	25%	75%
Wollongong	17%	17%	0%	25%	42%	18%	83%	83%	100%	17%	17%	0%
Lismore	8%	13%	0%	17%	13%	17%	67%	63%	100%	33%	38%	0%
Dubbo	9%	33%	7%	27%	50%	13%	73%	83%	67%	27%	17%	33%
Wagga Wagga	29%	18%	30%	43%	18%	40%	86%	64%	90%	14%	36%	10%
Country Total	10%	11%	6%	18%	20%	18%	66%	70%	76%	34%	30%	24%
State Total	7%	7%	4%	21%	15%	11%	64%	62%	59%	36%	38%	41%

Accused on Bail

				Pe	ercentag	ge of Ca	ses Disp	osed wi	ithin			
	4	Month	s	6	6 Month	s	1	2 Month	າຣ	>.	12 Mont	hs
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Sydney	3%	2%	1%	18%	4%	2%	58%	56%	38%	42%	44%	62%
Sydney West	1%	2%	3%	9%	2%	3%	48%	34%	41%	52%	66%	59%
Newcastle	2%	2%	2%	5%	3%	3%	41%	45%	24%	59%	55%	76%
Gosford	0%	0%	7%	0%	15%	7%	43%	38%	13%	57%	62%	87%
Wollongong	6%	0%	7%	32%	22%	14%	74%	57%	69%	26%	43%	31%
Lismore	0%	0%	4%	7%	0%	13%	44%	50%	50%	56%	50%	50%
Dubbo	0%	0%	3%	6%	0%	10%	47%	44%	31%	53%	56%	69%
Wagga Wagga	4%	4%	3%	32%	8%	10%	60%	72%	66%	40%	28%	34%
Country Total	3%	1%	4%	16%	8%	9%	53%	51%	43%	47%	49%	57%
State Total	3%	2%	3%	15%	5%	5%	54%	49%	41%	46%	51%	59%

All Trials

				Pe	ercentag	ge of Ca	ses Disp	osed wi	thin			
	4	Month	s	6	6 Month	s	1	2 Month	ıs	>'	12 Mont	hs
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Sydney	3%	2%	2%	19%	5%	3%	58%	58%	39%	42%	42%	61%
Sydney West	5%	4%	2%	15%	7%	4%	56%	39%	44%	44%	61%	56%
Newcastle	3%	1%	1%	6%	5%	6%	43%	49%	35%	57%	51%	65%
Gosford	0%	0%	5%	0%	10%	5%	57%	52%	16%	43%	48%	84%
Wollongong	9%	4%	6%	30%	27%	15%	77%	63%	75%	23%	37%	25%
Lismore	3%	3%	3%	10%	3%	13%	51%	53%	60%	49%	47%	40%
Dubbo	4%	8%	5%	14%	13%	11%	57%	54%	43%	43%	46%	57%
Wagga Wagga	9%	8%	10%	34%	11%	18%	66%	69%	72%	34%	31%	28%
Country Total	5%	4%	4%	16%	11%	11%	57%	56%	51%	43%	44%	49%
State Total	4%	3%	3%	17%	8%	6%	57%	53%	45%	43%	47%	55%

Annexure B3 Compliance with Criminal Time Standards

APPEALS

Conviction Appeals

				P€	ercentag	je of Ca	ses Disp	osed wi	thin			
	4	Month	s	e	6 Month	s	1	2 Month	IS	>1	2 Mont	hs
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Sydney	31%	31%	30%	56%	69%	62%	93%	97%	91%	7%	3%	9%
Sydney West	40%	59%	64%	63%	83%	85%	96%	98%	98%	4%	2%	2%
Newcastle	56%	67%	60%	79%	86%	88%	97%	99%	100%	3%	1%	0%
Gosford	68%	58%	52%	81%	77%	79%	92%	96%	93%	8%	4%	7%
Wollongong	71%	75%	78%	83%	90%	93%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%
Lismore	65%	55%	63%	87%	92%	92%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%
Dubbo	71%	48%	62%	85%	76%	76%	98%	98%	100%	2%	2%	0%
Wagga Wagga	74%	89%	72%	90%	94%	85%	97%	96%	97%	3%	4%	3%
Country Total	66%	65%	65%	83%	86%	86%	98%	99%	99%	2%	1%	1%
State Total	46%	53%	52%	68%	80%	78%	96%	98%	96%	4%	2%	4%

Sentence Appeals

			Perce	ntage o	f Cases	Dispose	ed within	ı	
	2	2 Month	s	6	6 Month	s	>	6 Month	IS
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Sydney	40%	37%	27%	93%	98%	95%	7%	2%	5%
Sydney West	73%	72%	84%	97%	98%	99%	3%	2%	1%
Newcastle	60%	45%	50%	97%	96%	96%	3%	4%	4%
Gosford	67%	71%	75%	95%	97%	97%	5%	3%	3%
Wollongong	68%	70%	70%	99%	98%	98%	1%	2%	2%
Lismore	55%	64%	71%	97%	96%	98%	3%	4%	2%
Dubbo	52%	41%	54%	95%	93%	93%	5%	7%	7%
Wagga Wagga	68%	72%	71%	96%	98%	98%	4%	2%	2%
Country Total	61%	57%	62%	97%	96%	96%	3%	4%	4%
State Total	59%	56%	59%	96%	97%	97%	4%	3%	3%

			Perce	ntage o	f Cases	Dispose	ed within	1	
	3	8 Month	s	e	6 Month	s	>	6 Month	IS
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Sydney	28%	9%	10%	69%	64%	54%	31%	36%	46%
Sydney West	24%	25%	16%	69%	75%	67%	31%	25%	33%
Newcastle	33%	28%	18%	81%	78%	74%	19%	22%	26%
Gosford	20%	19%	5%	75%	68%	59%	25%	32%	41%
Wollongong	45%	37%	31%	90%	86%	84%	10%	14%	16%
Lismore	28%	17%	19%	78%	72%	64%	22%	28%	36%
Dubbo	27%	16%	15%	65%	56%	64%	35%	44%	36%
Wagga Wagga	36%	34%	26%	82%	89%	82%	18%	11%	18%
Country Total	33%	27%	20%	80%	76%	72%	20%	24%	28%
State Total	29%	20%	16%	73%	72%	65%	27%	28%	35%

Sentences

Annexure C1 Civil Caseload

	F	Registere	d		Disposed	ł		Pending	
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Sydney	3,173	3,047	2,883	3,337	3,026	3,012	3,515	3,543	3,425
Residual Jurisdiction	227	229	223	253	262	221	168	135	218
Parramatta	235	197	160	265	217	207	316	298	250
Penrith	6	10	15	12	7	9	11	14	20
Campbelltown	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	1
Sydney West	241	208	175	279	224	216	327	313	271
Newcastle	187	137	96	175	175	147	261	223	172
Gosford	47	45	25	40	39	37	62	68	55
Wollongong	90	93	70	150	81	64	113	124	130
Major Country	324	275	191	365	295	248	436	415	357
Albury	18	17	16	16	26	21	34	26	21
Armidale	3	1	3	2	2	1	2	1	3
Bathurst	7	6	9	10	5	13	13	14	10
Bega	4	2	1	1	3	2	3	2	1
Broken Hill	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Coffs Harbour	23	17	15	18	21	17	29	24	22
Dubbo	18	5	4	15	10	10	26	21	15
Griffith	16	15	9	22	20	11	28	23	21
Lismore	92	62	82	83	81	71	112	94	104
Lithgow	18	9	12	9	17	9	20	12	15
Maitland	11	16	8	7	21	12	20	15	11
Nowra	12	10	12	11	11	9	16	15	17
Orange	16	15	14	22	26	16	23	12	10
Port Macquarie	31	22	18	38	32	21	45	35	32
Queanbeyan	10	7	8	11	6	10	11	12	10
Tamworth	11	6	7	16	15	7	18	9	8
Taree	8	4	7	17	7	5	12	9	11
Wagga Wagga	32	29	26	45	49	40	68	48	34
Other Venues	330	243	252	343	352	276	480	372	345
NSW Total	4,295	4,002	3,724	4,577	4,159	3,973	4,926	4,778	4,616

Annexure C2 Civil Disposal Times

	Ме	dian De	elay				•	ed with			e of Pe			e of Pe	
		(mths)			12 mth			24 mths			ths < 2			24 mth	-
0.1	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Sydney	11.4	11.6	11.4	64%	60%	60%	92%	91%	91%	17%	15%	19%	3%	4%	3%
Parramatta	13.2	13.6	14.1	55%	50%	50%	87%	86%	84%	27%	25%	29%	9%	14%	17%
Penrith	14.5	12.6	9.9	61%	69%	65%	84%	100%	82%	22%	0%	29%	22%	27%	6%
Campbelltown	9.0	0.0	0.0	88%	75%	86%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%
Sydney West	13.6	13.6	14.0	57%	51%	52%	87%	87%	84%	27%	24%	29%	9%	15%	16%
Newcastle	14.0	13.8	14.4	48%	47%	45%	83%	87%	77%	26%	26%	30%	8%	14%	15%
Gosford	14.4	13.3	15.6	56%	50%	34%	79%	88%	83%	20%	33%	35%	11%	7%	24%
Wollongong	13.0	14.3	14.6	47%	47%	43%	87%	87%	90%	21%	27%	30%	12%	7%	20%
Major Country	13.6	13.8	15.3	49%	48%	42%	84%	87%	81%	24%	27%	31%	10%	11%	18%
Albury	12.5	12.4	12.1	50%	57%	48%	75%	83%	74%	34%	21%	15%	14%	26%	8%
Armidale	7.7	99.0	21.6	50%	67%	0%	100%	83%	100%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Bathurst	13.1	45.5	10.9	30%	20%	54%	80%	20%	62%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	13%
Bega	6.1	9.7	17.2	100%	80%	50%	100%	100%	100%	0%	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Broken Hill	0.0	0.0	8.1	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Coffs Harbour	11.3	11.5	12.4	61%	63%	57%	100%	92%	100%	12%	25%	28%	4%	5%	6%
Dubbo	12.8	12.8	18.4	44%	38%	36%	88%	92%	71%	20%	53%	33%	5%	20%	33%
Griffith	18.1	20.0	16.3	17%	35%	56%	91%	65%	81%	36%	36%	44%	11%	9%	17%
Lismore	12.0	12.1	12.6	53%	54%	48%	91%	89%	76%	25%	31%	20%	6%	15%	13%
Lithgow	8.0	11.7	9.3	56%	53%	56%	100%	82%	89%	21%	18%	14%	11%	18%	14%
Maitland	17.8	10.7	12.2	38%	52%	54%	88%	76%	85%	25%	15%	10%	13%	8%	20%
Nowra	9.4	11.9	13.6	57%	54%	45%	93%	92%	73%	38%	7%	24%	13%	33%	12%
Orange	10.1	13.2	10.5	63%	53%	70%	90%	87%	91%	29%	27%	0%	10%	0%	0%
Port Macquarie	12.3	14.7	13.3	47%	41%	41%	88%	86%	77%	33%	32%	26%	7%	12%	19%
Queanbeyan	5.1	8.1	13.7	93%	89%	67%	100%	100%	87%	33%	30%	11%	0%	20%	22%
Tamworth	14.5	13.6	10.0	37%	47%	67%	68%	82%	89%	14%	29%	0%	14%	29%	17%
Taree	15.7	16.5	27.7	6%	33%	33%	88%	78%	50%	20%	33%	20%	10%	0%	10%
Wagga Wagga	14.3	20.4	15.0	41%	27%	27%	74%	73%	80%	41%	28%	14%	17%	13%	4%
Other Venues	12.7	13.2	13.3	48%	48%	48%	87%	83%	80%	28%	29%	20%	10%	15%	13%
NSW Total	11.7	11.9	11.8	61%	58%	58%	91%	90%	89%	20%	18%	21%	5%	6%	6%

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