



The District Court of New South Wales  
**Annual Review 2023**





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# Acknowledgment of Country

The Chief Judge and the Judges of the District Court of NSW acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their deep and ongoing connection to land, sea and community. We acknowledge that the courtrooms in which we work stand on their Country and we pay our respect to their Elders past and present.

The District Court of NSW recognises the complex relationship between First Nations peoples and Australia's legal system. As an integral part of that system, we acknowledge the longstanding structural and cultural implications of its procedures and decisions on First Nations peoples and commit to redressing the inherent imbalance of power.



# Foreword by the Chief Judge

After ten years of service including leading the Court through the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Honourable Justice Derek Michael Price AO retired as Chief Judge in April 2024. Justice Price worked tirelessly throughout his time as Chief Judge and during his leadership, initiatives and resources were introduced and implemented to address the Court's pending caseload. This included the appointment of additional Judges, the introduction of trial super call-overs in Sydney and regional areas, and significant improvements in the Court's technology.

The Court returned to its pre-COVID-19 operations in 2023, with all hearings resuming in-person and without restrictions. However, the improvements to the technology, and in particular audio-visual links continue to be used for parties and witnesses, enhancing access to justice and improving the efficiency of the Court.

The civil work of the Court continues to be finalised effectively under the leadership of the civil list Judges, Judge Wilson SC and Judge Dicker SC, together with the civil Judges of the Court. 2023 is the first calendar year following the introduction of the *District Court Amendment Act 2022* (NSW), which increased the Court's civil jurisdictional limit. As a result of the increase, the civil registration caseload increased from 3,724 registrations to 4,100 with the percentage finalisation of cases within 24 months remaining at a pleasing 89%.

The principal and significant work of the Court continues to be in the criminal jurisdiction with 1,488 criminal trial registrations. As foreshadowed by Justice Price in the 2022 Annual Review, due to the number of trials with estimates of eight weeks or more, finalisations dropped by 9.3% to 1,354. While conviction appeal finalisation rates within six months also fell by 8% to 70%, sentence disposals within six months increased by 2% to 67% with sentence appeals remaining static at 96%.

As a result of considerable hard work and commitment, eight super call-overs were held across the State. These call-overs resulted in the shortening and finalisation of some 186 criminal trials.

To assist with the Court's criminal trial caseload, Court 8A in the John Maddison Tower, Sydney, commenced operating as an additional jury trial court room on 1 March 2023. The Court also secured the use of the former Central Local Court building, now known as Central District Court, where four additional courtrooms are available.

In February 2023, the NSW Government announced that the Child Sexual Offence Evidence Program (CSOEP) would be rolled out across the state.

A Steering Committee was established in the Court to assist in the implementation of the roll out. Considerable renovations were made to Central District Court (previously Central Local Court) in preparation for conducting the CSOEP list. This included the installation of improved technology in the courtrooms for conducting pre-recorded evidence hearings and the designing of remote witness rooms intended for use by child witnesses.

In October 2023, the Government enacted the *Criminal Procedure Amendment (Child Sexual Offence Evidence) Act 2023* (NSW) which facilitated this roll-out with an anticipated commencement date in early 2024.

The Court continues to work closely with the Attorney General of NSW, the Honourable Michael Daley MP, the Secretary of the Department of Communities and Justice, Michael Tidball, and the Sheriff of NSW, Tracey Hall to address the resources required to support the Court in all its operations. Their ongoing support of the Court is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Finally, the Court's ability to meet its ever-demanding caseload is due to the continued hard work and commitment of the Judges, the associates and the court staff. To each and every one of them, I express my sincere thanks and appreciation.

**Sarah Huggett, Chief Judge District Court of NSW**





**THE  
DISTRICT  
COURT**

# History of the District Court of NSW

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*With the discovery of gold in 1851, the Colony's population increased and dispersed.*

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By the mid-19<sup>th</sup> 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 dispersed. Legislation grew as the Colony prospered, and crime did not decline. Under pressure of Court business, the Supreme Court fell into arrears, and this was not helped by the fact that the Court did not visit a lot of towns outside of Sydney. Courts of Quarter Sessions were also limited and had no civil jurisdiction.

By the mid-1850s, there were calls for a revision of the court system 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, divided the Colony into Districts and 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 and Personnel

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*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 number of tribunals.*

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In its criminal jurisdiction, the Court deals with all state criminal offences except offences including murder, treason, and piracy.

The Court also has a criminal jurisdiction over a range of offences under federal, as distinguished from State laws. The federal jurisdiction operates by agreement between the NSW and Commonwealth government, under which federal crimes are tried in state courts by state judges, applying (mostly) state procedures. Such trials may involve, for example, the importation of prohibited drugs into Australia, offences against social security, or “sex tourism” laws.

In 1858, it was not imagined that there could be anyone other than male judges appointed to the District Courts. In the related criminal jurisdiction (Quarter Sessions), the presiding judicial officer was called “Chairman”, a title which continued until 1973.

Gender diversity on the bench came in slowly after, beginning in 1980 with the appointment of Jane Matthews as the first female District Court Judge. From 1977 onwards, the rules which effectively prevented women from serving on juries, were overturned by statute and for the last several decades there has been approximate gender balance among jurors in District Court criminal trials.

In its civil jurisdiction the Court may deal with:

- all motor accident cases, irrespective of the amount claimed;
- all work injury damages cases against an employer, irrespective of the amount claimed;
- other claims to a maximum amount of \$1,250,000.00, although it may deal with matters exceeding this amount if the parties consent;
- some equitable claims to a maximum amount of \$1,250,000.00 subject to certain express statutory exceptions.

The Court is also empowered to deal with applications under the *Property (Relationships Act) 1984* and the *Guardianship of Infants Act 1916* that involve amounts or property to the value of less than \$250,000.

# District Court of NSW 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2023, the District Court celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a Golden Anniversary Dinner.

The event was attended by her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC Governor of NSW, the Honourable Chief Justice Andrew Bell, the Honourable Justice Julie Ward, the Honourable Derek Price AO (the then Chief Judge) and his Honour Judge Peter Johnstone (the then Chief Magistrate), among a number of other distinguished Judges and guests.

The Anniversary Dinner commenced with a Welcome to Country by Uncle Craig Madden, followed by a speech from the Honourable Justice Price AO. Retired Judge Dr Greg Woods KC also shared some of the fantastic highlights and history of the District Court of NSW over its 50 years.



# Judiciary

## Chief Judge

The Honourable Justice Derek Michael Price AO\*

## Judges as at 31 December 2023

His Honour Judge Garry William Neilson

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 Judith Clare Gibson

His Honour Judge Roy David Ellis

His Honour Judge James Leonard Alexandre  
Bennett SC

His Honour Judge Peter Lind Johnstone

Her Honour Judge Leonie Flannery 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 Gordon Bruce Lerve

His Honour Judge Antony Edward Townsden

His Honour Judge Peter Raymond Whitford SC

His Honour Judge Stephen Scott Hanley 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 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

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 Priestley SC

His Honour Judge Robert John Weber SC

Her Honour Judge Kara Natalie Shead SC

His Honour Judge Walter Graham Turnbull 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 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 Lea Turner

His Honour Judge Kevin Andronos SC

Her Honour Judge Sarah Hopkins

Her Honour Judge Lara Margaret Gallagher  
His Honour Judge Michael Gerard Allen  
His Honour Judge Charles Robert Campbell  
Newlinds SC  
His Honour Judge Craig Michael Everson SC  
His Honour Judge Paul Rennie McGuire SC  
His Honour Judge Gregory Richard Waugh SC  
His Honour Judge Troy Duncan Anderson SC  
Her Honour Judge Christine Mendes  
Her Honour Judge Miiko Kumar

*\*denotes Member of the Dust Diseases Tribunal*

## Retirements

His Honour Judge Ian Hartley McClintock SC on  
30 January 2023  
His Honour Judge Christopher John George  
Robison on 13 March 2023  
His Honour Judge Jeffery Mark McLennan SC on  
17 March 2023  
His Honour Judge Christopher Phillip Hoy SC on  
2 June 2023  
His Honour Judge Leonard Ari Levy SC on  
26 June 2023  
Her Honour Judge Sharron Norton SC on  
29 September 2023  
His Honour Judge Christopher Bruce Craigie SC on  
1 October 2023

## 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 holds the appointment of Senior Judge of the Drug Court of NSW
- Her Honour Judge Ellen Lucy Skinner holds the appointment of President of the Children's Court of NSW
- His Honour Judge Peter Lind Johnstone holds the appointment of Chief Magistrate of the Local Court of NSW

- His Honour Judge Gerard Mark Phillips holds the appointment of President of the Personal Injury Commission of NSW
- Her Honour Judge Susanne Denise Cole holds 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

## Judges appointed to the Supreme Court of NSW

- His Honour Judge Richard Weinstein SC was appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of NSW on 1 February 2023
- Her Honour Judge Deborah Anne Sweeney was appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of NSW on 8 February 2023
- Her Honour Judge Sarah Jane Huggett was appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of NSW on 12 December 2023

## 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 Leonard Ari Levy SC  
Mr Mark Curtis Marien SC  
Ms Anne Mary Quirk  
Mr Stephen Lewis Walmsley SC  
Mr Jonathan 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 2023, 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.

The Court also sat in regional locations around NSW including Bega, Bourke, Broken Hill, Coonamble, Goulburn, Grafton, Griffith, Katoomba, Moree, Nowra, Port Macquarie, Queanbeyan and Taree.

# Retirements

In 2023, we thanked and farewelled Judge Levy SC and Judge Robison, following their 15 and 28 years service to the District Court of NSW, respectively.



## His Honour Judge Levy SC

His Honour Judge Levy SC served the Court's civil jurisdiction for 15 years, having joined the Court in 2008. Judge Levy's distinguished career commenced as an Associate to his Honour Judge Humfry Henchman QC between 1971 and 1974.

Justice Price, the former Chief Judge, fondly recounted in Judge Levy's Bench Farewell Speech his early years, as an Associate in 1971, inadvertently, it is said, he indicted the same Crown Prosecutor on not one – but two – separate occasions – a plea of not guilty was entered in good humour on each occasion.

After being admitted to the Bar in 1977 and appointed Senior Counsel in 1996, Judge Levy was appointed as a Judge of this Court, handing down 1,368 substantive judgments. He was also a proud member of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee.

The District Court thanks Judge Levy for his contributions to the Court and wishes him all the best in his pursuits as an Acting Judge. He will continue to be remembered as a humorous and personable mentor to many.



## His Honour Judge Robison

His Honour Judge Robison served the Court for 28 years in both the civil and criminal jurisdictions. Previously, Judge Robison was a partner of the Ellitt and Law firm and served on Council of the Law Society of NSW.

Judge Robison first came to the Court in 1995, before – as noted by Justice Price – the introduction of both the *Civil Liability Act 2002* (NSW) and the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999* (NSW).

He was affectionately referred to as “Boy Judge”, after being appointed as a Judge at a young age.

Notably, Judge Robison was also and still is a member of the Rural Fire Service. He will be remembered for his warmth, quick intellect, and willingness to listen. In the words of Justice Price at his Honour Judge Robison's Bench Farewell:

“These characteristics, together with his commitment to the work of the court and dedication to justice, endeared his Honour to all of us who have served with him.”

# Court Staff

## Principal Registrar

The Principal Registrar exercises functions pursuant to s 18H of the *District Court Act 1973*.

This role was held by Ms Grace Romeo until February 2023, and then by Mr Martin Kane for the remainder of the year.

## Criminal listings and judicial arrangements

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

The Criminal Listing Director is responsible for ensuring compliance with Practice Notes issued by the Chief Judge for the purposes of implementing the most effective prioritisation and resourcing of criminal cases in NSW.

The staff within the criminal listings section schedule cases in accordance with Court policy, prepare lists, allocate courtrooms, and coordinate the assignment of Judges to venues throughout NSW.

## Civil listings and case management

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.

Civil listings staff implement civil case management and listing practices for the timely finalisation of cases, as well as schedule cases, prepare lists, and allocate courtrooms.



# Robert Fornito's 50 Years of Service

Robert Fornito commenced working on 24 February 1974 at the then Office of the Clerk of the Peace on an annual salary of \$3,244.00. At that time, the listing and registry functions of the Court were under the control of the Clerk of the Peace.

In 1987, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions was created by the *Director of Public Prosecutions Act 1986* (NSW). Amongst other significant changes, an independent Listing Director was appointed by government and Robert was appointed as the Deputy Listing Director.

In 1998 Robert was appointed as the Criminal Listing Director, a position in which he remains today.

Pursuant to Chapter 3, Part 3, Division 1 of the *Criminal Procedure Act 1986* (NSW), the Criminal Listing Director is responsible to the Chief Judge of the District Court for making arrangements for the listing of criminal proceedings in the District Court. The role involves managing the Criminal Listing Unit of the Court to ensure timely listing and case management strategies in the Court's criminal jurisdiction are implemented effectively and in accordance with Practice Notes issued by the Chief Judge.

To date, Robert has worked under four Chief Judges. In his words, "I have enjoyed a long and fulfilling career spanning fifty years in the Department and have been fortunate to have worked with the most talented and respected members of the judiciary and colleagues during this time".



# District Court Registries

Registry staff are responsible for the ongoing administrative functions of the Court and are integral to the everyday efficiency and effectiveness of its operations. 23 District Court registries operated across NSW in 2023.

Functions of registry staff include listing of matters, file management, document security and assisting in recording the recording of results and maintenance of proper records. Registry staff prepare warrants, return bail monies and passports, as well as assist members of the public with file and media enquiries. They also are responsible for the closure of court files, known as completed action.

Registry staff assist members of the public in obtaining necessary information and understanding aspects of court process. This is extremely important for all people that come into contact with the legal system and the courts, in particular those without legal representation.

Registry staff work tirelessly to ensure the effective and efficient operation of our courts and the Chief Judge and the Judges of the Court extend their appreciation to the registry staff for their commitment to the Court and the public.

# Open Justice

The District Court acknowledges the importance and necessity of open justice, which is largely facilitated by the involvement of media organisations in court processes. The District Court welcomes the accurate reporting of court proceedings to ensure fairness and openness in the interests of the public.

The District Court Media Officer is a liaison between the Court and media, working for the Court and assisting the media to obtain accurate information. Some common media enquiries include non-publication orders, the filming of sentence proceedings and applications to have access to material on case files.

The District Court Media Manager can be contacted for all media enquiries.

- Mobile: 0475 822 661
- Email: [mediadistrictcourt@dcj.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mediadistrictcourt@dcj.nsw.gov.au)

# Extra-curricular Work

The Judges of the District Court are involved in an array of extra-curricular work, ranging from pre-bench training programs, guest speaking, authorship, to policy development and university involvement.

In 2023, District Court Judges have presented guest lectures at:

- High School Legal Studies seminars and universities across NSW
- Rural Legal Centres
- The Law Society of NSW Annual Conference
- The NSW Bar Association
- Law seminars and judicial conferences

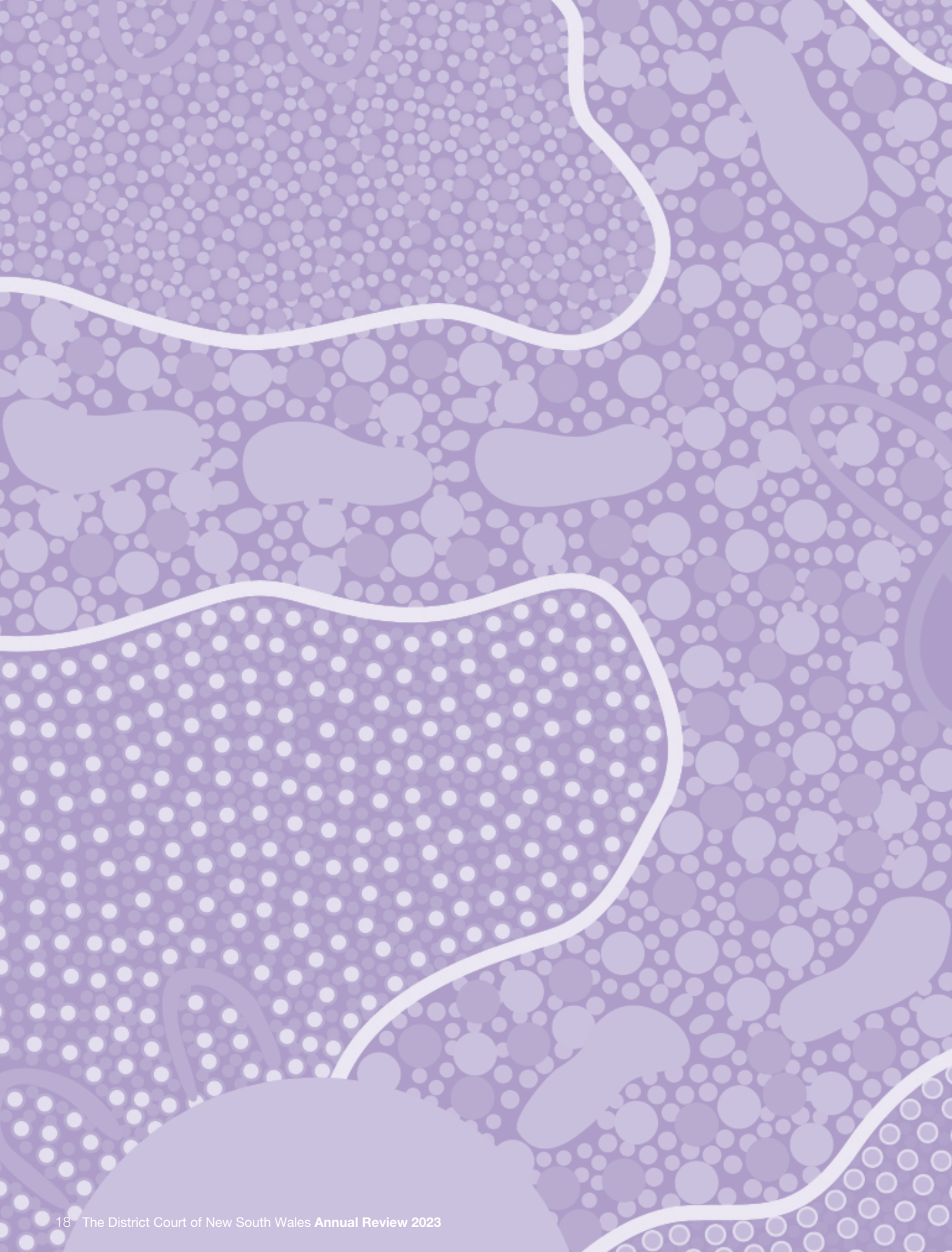
Committee membership is consistently high amongst District Court Judges, with Judges apart of the following committees:

- Managing Sexual Assault Hearings
- District Court Policy and Planning
- Criminal and Civil Trial Bench Book
- NJCA Family Violence Committee
- CSOEP Rollout Implementation
- Steering Committee
- Education Committee
- Civil Practice Committee
- Policy and Planning Committee

There is consistent involvement with universities across NSW, with District Court Judges assisting with:

- Diverse Women in Law 'Day with a Judge' Program
- UNSW 'Day with a Judge' Masters Criminal Law Program
- Macquarie University Law Advisory Board membership
- Hosting UOW students as interns

The District Court is immensely proud of the extra-curricular work of its Judges and will continue to support their involvement.





# **STRATEGIC PLAN**

# Current Strategic Plan

In 2021, the Court introduced its sixth 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 previous Strategic Plans released in 2000, 2007, 2012 and 2017.

The current Strategic Plan articulates the values of the Court and sets out the goals to be achieved from 2021 onwards.

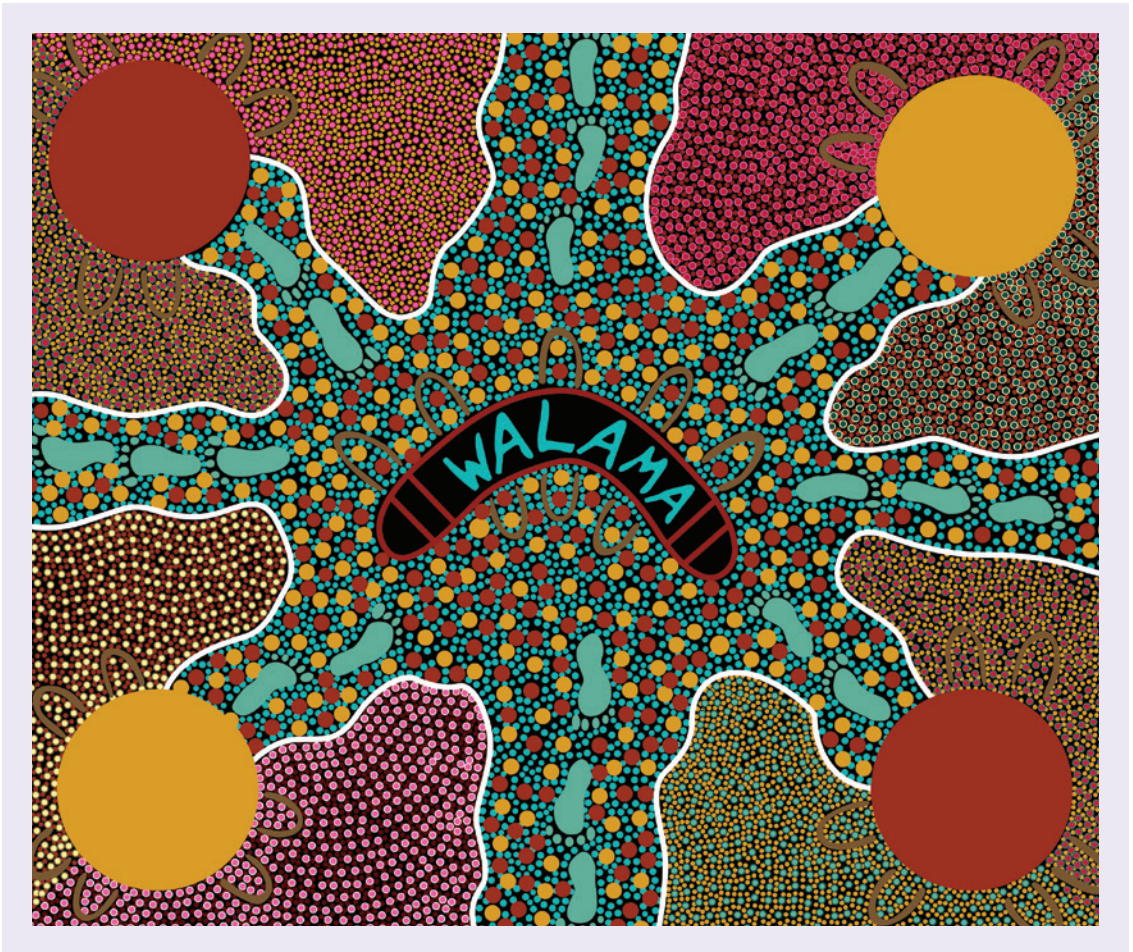
The Court is committed to discharging its responsibilities to ensure:

- 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.

In 2023 the Court has continued 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 four 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
- the Technology Committee

# Walama List Pilot



In 2023, the District Court had successfully undertaken the first full year of operation of the Walama List pilot sentence program. The initiative operates pursuant to Practice Note 26 and aims to:

- (a) reduce the risk factors related to re-offending by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders;
- (b) reduce the rate of breaches of court orders by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders;
- (c) increase compliance with court orders by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders;
- (d) reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons in custody in NSW;
- (e) increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community participation and confidence in the criminal justice system; and
- (f) facilitate a better understanding of any underlying issues which may increase the likelihood of re-offending.

The Walama List is an opportunity for eligible participants to have detailed conversations (during which they give recorded evidence) over a 12-month period regarding their offending and measures that can assist in rehabilitation. The monthly conversations take place with and include input from Elders and Respected Persons in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and representatives from Community Corrections, Corrective Services, Justice Health and other community-based services.

At the end of the 12-month period participants are sentenced in the same way as all offenders with the sentencing Walama List Judge having the benefit of comprehensive subjective material, often with evidence of adaption to lawful community life.

79 eligible offenders participated in the Walama List in 2023. Of those, 21 offenders were sentenced at the conclusion of their participation in the List and 9 offenders were either discharged or withdrew from participation. The participation of the remaining offenders continued into 2024.

Throughout 2023, guidance continued to be provided through meetings with the Walama Working Group, with ongoing input from the Walama Users Group.

Quantitative and qualitative evaluations are underway but anecdotally the Walama List is promoting very good outcomes for the majority of participants. Many participants have connected deeply with culture, community and Country, which are known protective factors. In addition to decreasing recidivism, other outcomes include stable housing, resumption of parenting responsibilities, and engagement in employment and education.

To ensure that support is available for participants at liberty in the community as well as for those who remain in custody for all or part of their time in the Walama List, a custodial pathway has now been developed through which male participants (the vast majority of Walama participants) are housed at John Moroney Correctional Centre and are able to access appropriate cultural programs and support within that facility.



A mural in Central Cells painted by a Walama participant and a local Aboriginal artist.



# Walama Case Studies

## Case Study 1

*Names have been changed to protect the identification of Walama participants.*

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Ruby is a female in her late 20s. During her childhood she moved around a lot and had many interactions with the Department of Community Services (DOCS) system. At the time of engaging with Walama Ruby had a school aged child, who she had primary care of.

Ruby struggled with mental health issues including anxiety, depression and PTSD from childhood trauma. Between the ages of 14 and 18, she smoked cannabis and drank socially. As a teenager, Ruby saw a counsellor through a youth service and expressed a desire to re-engage with a counsellor.

Ruby's referral to the Walama List program in 2021 was due to two serious offences. In 2021, she was charged with Induce/Attempt to dispensation of prescription, resulting in a sentence of a 7-month Community Release Order. In the same year, she was involved in other criminal activities, including aggravated entry into a dwelling while armed and assault occasioning bodily harm.

During her time with Walama Ruby has been engaged with WEAVE, a community led organisation that provides counselling, crisis intervention, and therapeutic programs. This has led to Ruby gaining appropriate housing and support for her mental health. She has been assessed by Community Corrections as low risk of reoffending.

Ruby has a Certificate III in Nursing and a Certificate III in Business Administration and was employed as an Assistant in Nursing (AIN) at a hospital at the time of engaging with Walama.

During her time on the Walama List, Ruby fell pregnant to her current partner. She continued in full-time employment at the hospital until she gave birth. She is currently a full-time parent, and her employer is happy for her to return to work when she is ready.

Ruby graduated from the Walama List in 2023 and was sentenced to a Community Correction Order for a period of 3 years. She has made positive changes and is making great use of the supports provided to keep her positive, help meet her goals, and avoid reoffending.

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## Case Study 2

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Damien is a male in his 30s who is a passionate advocate for the Aboriginal and LGBTQIA+ community. Prior to his participation in the Walama List, Damien had mental health and drug treatment (yearly attendance at ages 18-27) at Kadesh Rehabilitation, and Wesley Mission, but failed to complete these programs.

He was diagnosed with PTSD, depression, and anxiety in 2013 for which he was prescribed Avanza. In 2020 he stopped taking Avanza and began self-medicating with drugs and alcohol. He did engage with victim services approved counselling in 2021 to address this.

Since engaging with the Walama List, Damien has stated his desire to address his underlying trauma and to develop coping strategies that are more meaningful and long term.

Damien's offending history began in 2005 and the charges that brought him in front of the Walama List were assaulting a police officer in the execution of their duty and taking/detaining a person with the intent to obtain advantage.

Damien was referred to a 9-week in patient program at a rehabilitation centre through the Walama List in 2022. His case manager and counsellor sent a report detailing his high level of motivation and engagement with the program.

Damien stated that he regretted his actions completely and empathised with how unsafe the victim of his most recent crime would have felt. To express his remorse, he sent the victim a heartfelt letter which detailed how ashamed he feels of his actions and hoped that the victim and their family can heal from the trauma he caused.

Damien was given a 27-month intensive correction order in 2023. He is currently engaged with his local Aboriginal Medical Service and continues to utilise the support offered to him during Walama, such as counselling and Narcotics Anonymous meetings. He has expressed a desire to pursue a career in NGOs and politics and continue with the activism work he feels passionately about.

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## Case Study 3

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Stella is a female in her mid-20s. She began using cannabis at age 15 and later turned to intravenous methamphetamine use. At age 18, Stella fell pregnant with her daughter and at 22 she decided to relinquish her home to participate in a residential rehabilitation program. This decision was challenging, as she wanted to access the program while still caring for her daughter. Despite this wish, her daughter was taken into the care of the Minister just five days before her admission into the rehabilitation program.

Stella has built meaningful relationships with Elders and engaged with Aboriginal organisations. She has faced significant mental health challenges and during her engagement with the Walama List in 2023, she relapsed. She admitted this to the Walama List panel of Elders, who then provided her with support and interventions. She has remained abstinent since and there are no current concerns regarding substance abuse.

Stella has committed a range of offences, including aggravated robbery with wounding/GBH, which was the offence that led to her inclusion on the Walama List. Her offending was influenced by extreme stress, including the removal of her child, homelessness, unemployment, and attempts to quit smoking cigarettes.

Stella received comprehensive supporting during her engagement with the Walama List, including residential rehabilitation programs, weekly counselling sessions, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous and cultural activities. She received assistance from a support worker to navigate the Family Law Court and work towards restoring custody of her daughter.

While participating in the Walama List, she enrolled in a Certificate IV in Community Services and became a mentor at a rehabilitation centre. Stella was sentenced to 2 years and 3 months of imprisonment, commencing in April 2023, with a non-parole period of 7 months and 2 weeks. She was released on parole in December 2023.

Stella now has stable accommodation and employment and remains motivated to be a good mother to her daughter.

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## Case Study 4

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Jake is a male in his mid-40s. When he was aged 18 months old, his parents separated and he resided with his mother and her new partner. Over the years Jake and his mother were subjected to physical abuse by her partners. He moved in briefly with his father to escape the violence, before being made a ward of the state and placed in a refuge at age 12.

Jake started using cannabis and alcohol at age 12, developing polydrug use throughout his teens. He struggled with an untreated diagnosis of ADHD and was subject to systemic abuse during his time in the juvenile system. At the age of 17, heroin became his primary drug of choice, leading to a lifelong struggle with addiction punctuated by several periods of abstinence.

When his father passed away suddenly in 2021, Jake relapsed and committed his latest crime under the influence of illicit substances. The offence committed by Jake that came before the Walama List was breaking and entering.

Jake has spent much of his life in correctional facilities, and prior to his involvement with the Walama List, he lacked the tools to develop the drug-free, crime-free, and stable life necessary for successful reintegration into society.

During his time on the Walama List, Jake was able to explore his interest in painting and has produced beautiful works that capture his experiences. He participated in the NAIDOC week exhibition in 2023 and had the significant achievement of having his artwork purchased. When questioned by a young girl at the exhibition about his art piece and his techniques, he guided her through the experience, encouraging her to pursue her own artistic endeavours. The Walama List team were able to see the potential that Jake has to be a mentor and to instil confidence in others.

Jake successfully graduated the Walama List Program and was sentenced to a Community Correction Order of 18 months. Since his release in 2022 Jake has remained offence free and appears to have adapted to a stable and lawful community life. Jake continues to engage in counselling and demonstrates his commitment to ongoing abstinence.

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# Criminal Business Committee Report

## Terms of reference

The terms of reference of the Criminal Business Committee are to monitor, report and advise on any matter relating to the Court's objective of providing a system for the earliest, most effective, just and efficient resolution of criminal proceedings. Consultation with Court users is conducted by the Criminal Business Committee. The Committee consists of the Chief Judge, Judges appointed to the Committee by 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.

The Criminal Business Committee Report has introduced legislation to expand the Child Sexual Offence Evidence Program statewide and reported on legislative amendments concerning criminal law practice and procedure, including reforms to Bail and Directions regarding consent in sexual offence trials.

## The Professional Standards (Education) Committee

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 practices and procedures to maintain and improve judicial performance. Judicial education in 2023 was more reminiscent of pre-pandemic times than previous years, providing more opportunities for in-person attendance and interaction amongst colleagues. The Court continued to embrace technology, offering hybrid programs and webinars to benefit those Judges sitting in regional courts.

The Professional Standards (Education) Committee, comprised of Judges and the Judicial Commission's Programs staff, developed 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. 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 in criminal and civil proceedings, improving knowledge in difficult areas of legal practice and procedure, professional wellbeing and the development of judicial skills, and cultural diversity understanding;
- a series of programs on practical matters, social awareness issues, efficient conduct of proceedings, legislative changes being programs designed to 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.

Participants are asked to evaluate the practical value of each education event to their role as a Judge. The overall ratings in 2023 revealed that Judges find the education program relevant and a useful source of knowledge and judicial guidance.

During 2023, District Court Judges continued to receive focused and tailored training to meet their educational needs. This included attending 8 separate programs of judicial education by the Judicial Commission, attending face-to-face judicial education by the Judicial Commission (an average of 1.17 days of judicial education per Judge) and utilising the Judicial Commission's expanded online library of materials and resources.

## Pre-Bench Education Program

The Court appointed 10 Judges in 2023, of which seven attended the District Court's Pre-Bench program. An exception was made for one judicial officer given prior court experience and two other new appointments completed pre-bench training in 2022. This program was delivered by Judges of the Court with the assistance of the Judicial Commission of NSW, and addressed topics such as judicial conduct, criminal and civil law proceedings, self-represented litigants, jury trials, sentences and appeals.

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

The Committee members were reconstituted in November 2023.

## Professional Standards (Education) Committee Report – Judicial Commission

### Annual Conference

The 2023 Conference was held in Sydney and had a total of 67 Judges in attendance. This conference was shorter than normal, (one day as opposed to two), due to the competing demands of the court scheduling and other available programs. The Conference focused on providing challenging and interesting educational sessions, while also providing a valuable opportunity for discussion and debate. The Conference received an 91% satisfaction rating from participants. Conference topics/sessions that rated 90% or higher include:

- *Some Keys Decisions of the Court of Appeal in 2022*  
The Honourable Justice Julie Ward, President, Court of Appeal of NSW
- *Criminal Law Review: Common Themes on CCA Appeals*  
The Honourable Justice Natalie Adams
- *Keep it Simple: A Call to Action*  
Professor Kay Wilhelm AM MD MBBS FRANZCP
- *The Walama List*  
His Honour Judge Warwick Hunt, Ms Edwina Crawford and Aunty Marcia Ella-Duncan OAM

### Ngara Yura Program

Judges continued to participate in the Ngara Yura Program which aims to increase awareness among Judges about contemporary First Nations society, customs and traditions, and their effect on their people in the justice system. Judges participated in the following Ngara Yura Program events:

- 4 February 2023: Ngara Yura Program Seminar: Exchanging Ideas Symposium
- 24 May 2023: Ngara Yura Program Webinar: Muru Ngubadi, the Path of Respect
- 23 September 2023: Ngara Yura Program Site Visit AHO Freshwater
- 8 November 2023: First Nations Speaker Series 2023 Victor Steffensen

### 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:

- 8 May 2023: Cross-jurisdictional Seminar: Bugmy Update in Penrith

## **Online Resources**

Online resources permanently available to Judges, including bench books and other research tools via the JIRS database 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, initially as a positive outcome because of the limitations imposed by COVID-19, is now a staple in the Court's education programming.

## **Educational Programs and Graduate Placements**

The Judges of the Court regularly engage with schools across Sydney assisting 950 students to attend Court to learn about the New South Wales legal system.

In addition, 23 university students enjoyed placements with Judges of two to four weeks' duration.

The Court continued to work closely with the New South Wales Bar Association First Nations Clerkship Program and Diverse Women in Law, by facilitating placements with Judges.





# **CRIMINAL JURISDICTION**

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

# Trials

In 2023:

- Registrations rose by 14%
- Finalisations fell by 9.3%
- Pending trials rose by 9.4%
- Median finalisation time fell from 65.6 weeks to 65.3 weeks
- Average length of trials rose from 10.33 days to 11.37 days

## Caseload

There were **1,354** trials finalised in 2023 compared to **1,493** in 2022. There were **1560** trials on hand at the end of 2023 compared to **1,426** trials at the end of 2022.

The number of sexual assault trials registered in 2023 was **571** compared to **511** in 2022 and **571** in 2021. Of these, **252** trials involved child sexual assault compared to **258** in 2022 and **284** in 2021.

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

Figure 1. Criminal Trial Caseload

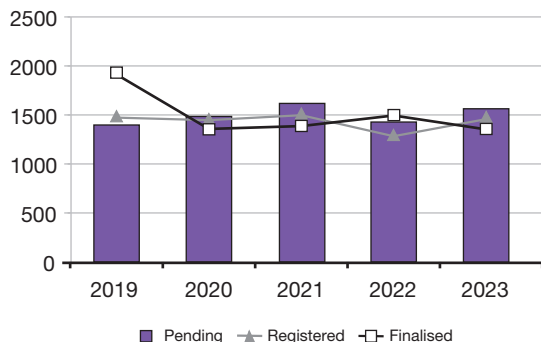
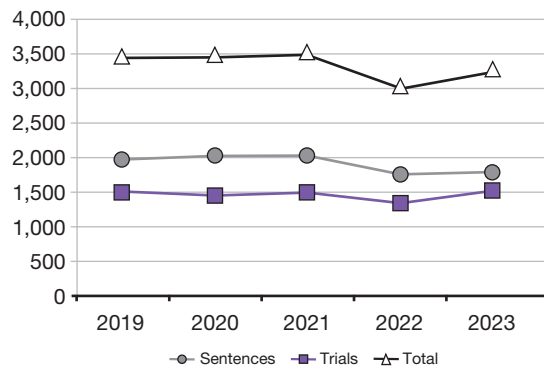


Figure 2 shows variation in trial and sentence registrations for the previous five years.

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:

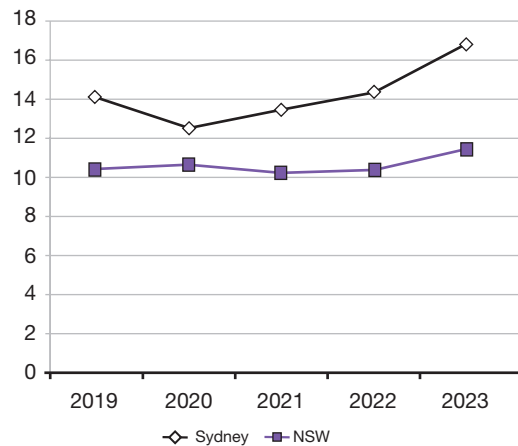
- **100%** of sexual assault trials and trials of accused persons refused bail commenced within eight months of committal or other event that gives rise to the need for trial; and
- **100%** of cases commenced within 12 months of committal or other event that gives rise to the need for trial.

### Trial durations

The state-wide average length of criminal trials finalised in 2023 was 11.37 days compared to 10.33 days in 2022. In Sydney, the average duration was 16.74 days in 2023 compared to 14.42 days in 2022.

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

Figure 3. Average Trial Length



### Finalisations

In 2023, **59%** of all registered trials were finalised within the first 12 months.

Figure 4. Rate of Registered Trials Finalised

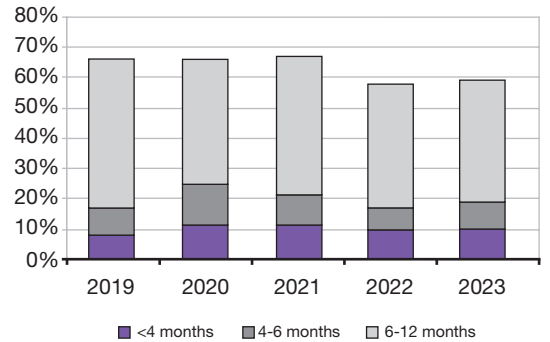


Figure 5. All Registered Trials – Pending Matters

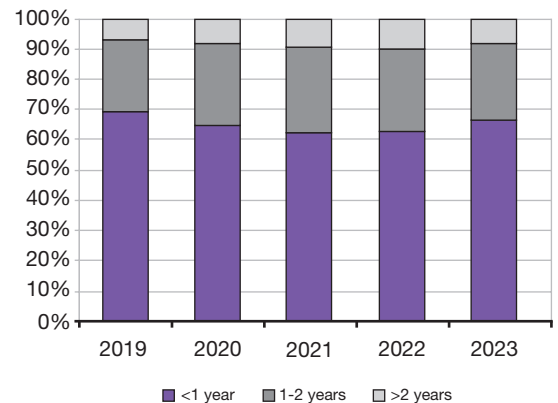
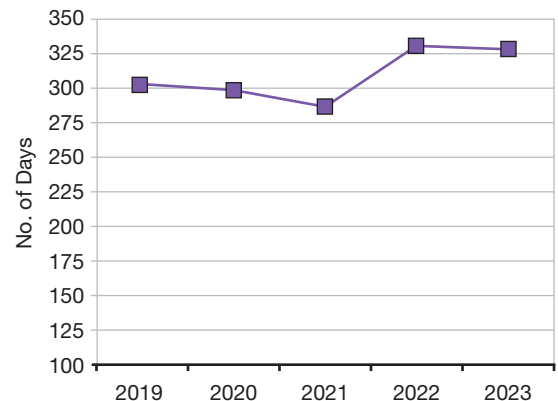


Figure 6. Median Finalisation Times – Criminal Trials



## Trial listing outcomes

About **1,872** trials were listed for hearing in 2023.

Of trials dealt with in 2023 (i.e. 73.4% of total listings):

- **61.9% proceeded to verdict**
- **20.5% pleaded guilty**
- **6.2% were “no billed”**
- **1.5% were otherwise disposed**
- **3.9% were transferred**
- **3.1% ended with a “hung jury”**
- **2.5% were aborted**
- **0.4% had bench warrants issued**

**Table 1. Trial Listing Outcomes**

The following table sets out trial listing outcomes for 2023.

	Sydney	Sydney West	Country	Total
<b>NOT DEALT WITH</b>	<b>25.0%</b>	<b>32.9%</b>	<b>23.8%</b>	<b>26.5%</b>
<b>Vacated</b>	<b>13.9%</b>	<b>25.5%</b>	<b>13.4%</b>	<b>16.6%</b>
Prior to Trial Week	8.6%	14.9%	5.6%	9.1%
During Trial Week	5.4%	10.6%	7.8%	7.5%
<b>Other Not Dealt With (Trial Week)</b>	<b>11.1%</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>10.4%</b>	<b>9.9%</b>
Not Reached	0.1%	4.5%	6.4%	3.3%
Other	11.0%	2.8%	4.0%	6.6%
<b>DEALT WITH</b>	<b>75.0%</b>	<b>67.1%</b>	<b>76.2%</b>	<b>73.5%</b>
<b>Dealt With Prior to Trial Week</b>	<b>9.1%</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>10.1%</b>
No Billed	2.3%	2.2%	1.1%	1.9%
Bench Warrant	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%
Plea	6.5%	11.3%	4.9%	7.2%
Other (e.g. deceased)	0.1%	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%
Transferred	0.1%	1.7%	1.3%	0.9%
<b>Dealt With in Trial Week</b>	<b>11.2%</b>	<b>10.2%</b>	<b>16.4%</b>	<b>12.7%</b>
No Billed	2.7%	3.0%	2.4%	2.7%
Bench Warrant	0.0%	0.2%	0.5%	0.2%
Plea	7.3%	4.3%	11.3%	7.9%
Other (eg. deceased)	0.5%	0.9%	1.6%	1.0%
Transferred	0.8%	1.7%	0.6%	1.0%
<b>Trials Commenced</b>	<b>54.7%</b>	<b>41.6%</b>	<b>52.2%</b>	<b>50.6%</b>
Aborted	2.6%	2.2%	1.9%	2.2%
Hung Jury	3.6%	1.9%	2.7%	2.9%
Proceeded	48.5%	37.4%	47.5%	45.5%

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

**Figure 7. Trial Listings Not Dealt With**

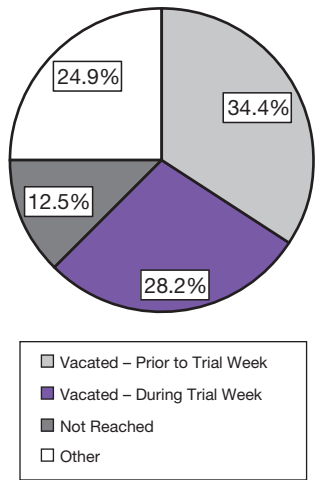


Figure 9 shows the outcome of those that commenced.

**Figure 9. Trial Outcomes**

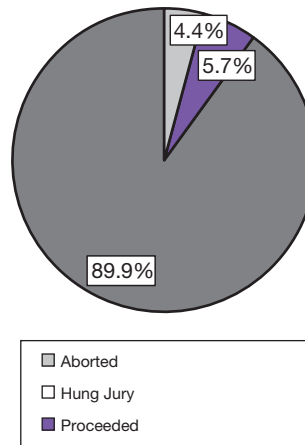
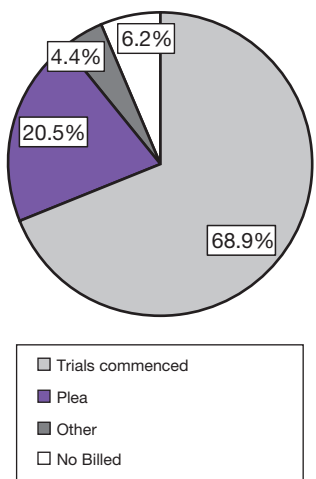


Figure 8 shows the break-up of those matters that were dealt with after being listed.

**Figure 8. Trial Listings Dealt With**



# Sentences

In 2023:

- Registrations rose by 2% to 1,800 as compared to 1,764 in 2022.
- Finalisations fell by 6.9%
- Pending cases rose by 10.2%
- Median finalisation time rose from 29.4 weeks to 29.6 weeks

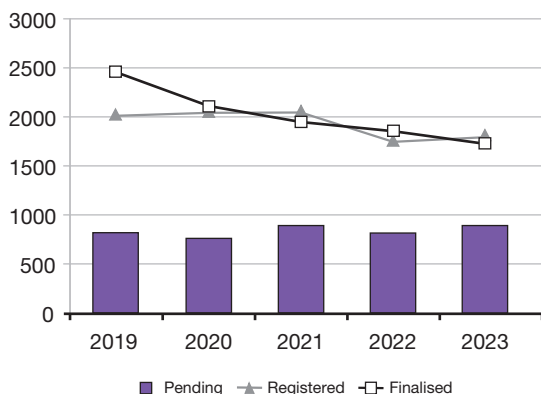
## Sentences

There were **1,800** committals for sentence received in 2023 compared to **1,764** in 2022.

**1,711** sentences were finalised during 2023 compared to **1,838** in 2022. There were **895** sentence matters pending at the end of 2023 compared to **812** at the end of 2022.

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:

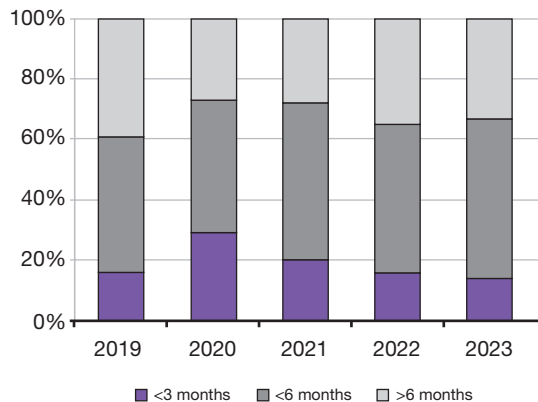
- 100% commenced within 6 months of committal.

## Finalisations

In 2023, 67% 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 2023:

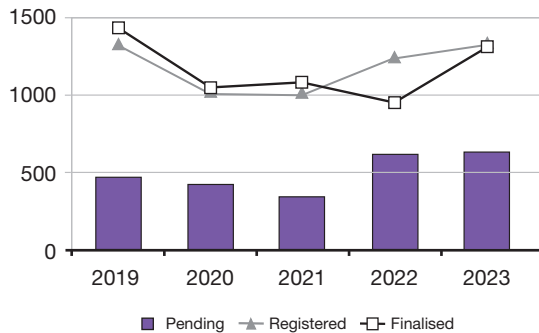
- Registrations rose by 71.0%
- Finalisations rose by 37.2%
- Pending cases rose by 1.9%
- Median finalisation time rose from 23.6 weeks to 27.6 weeks

## Conviction appeals

There were **1,322** conviction appeals lodged in 2023 and **1,310** finalisations. At the end of 2023, there were **631** conviction appeals pending compared to **319** at the end of 2022.

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:

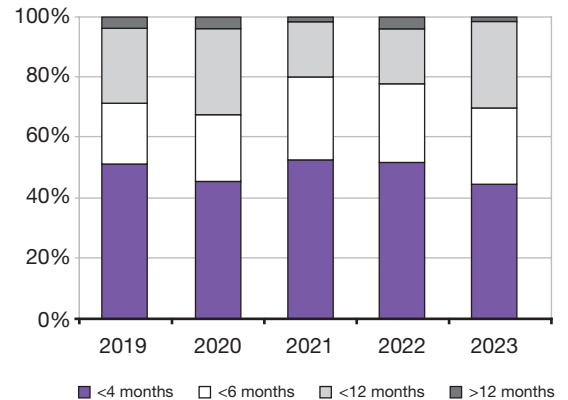
- **100%** commenced within 12 months of appeal.

## Finalisations

In 2023, **98%** of all registered conviction appeals were finalised within the first 12 months.

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

Figure 13. Rate of Registered Conviction Appeals Finalised



# Sentence Appeals

In 2023:

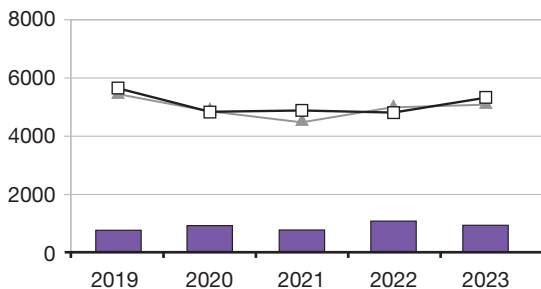
- Registrations fell by 0.6%
- Finalisations rose by 10.1%
- Pending cases fell by 16.9%
- Median finalisation time rose from 10.2 weeks to 12.4 weeks

## Sentence appeals

There were **5,085** sentence appeals lodged in 2023 and **5,256** finalised. At the end of 2023, there were **895** sentence appeals pending compared to **1,066** at the end of 2022.

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

Figure 14. Sentence Appeals Caseload



## Time standards

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

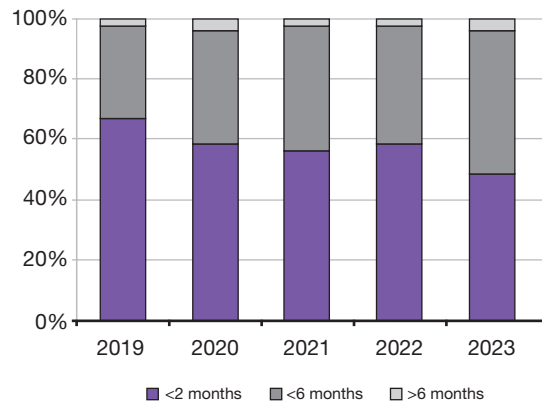
- 100% commenced within six months of appeal.

## Finalisations

In 2023, **96%** 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

# Civil Jurisdiction

In 2023:

- Registrations rose by 10.1%
- Finalisations fell by 2.8%
- Pending cases rose by 5.3%
- Median finalisation time rose from 11.8 months to 12.2 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 **4,100** matters registered in 2023 compared to **3,724** in 2022.

### Finalisations

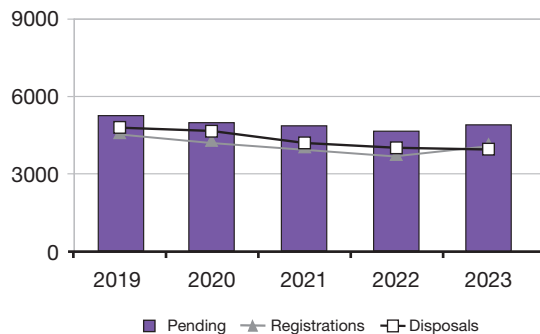
There were **3,862** matters finalised in 2023 compared to **3,973** in 2022.

### Pending

At the end of 2023, the pending caseload was **4,862** compared to **4,616** in 2022.

### Comparison with previous years

Figure 16. NSW Civil Caseload



# Sydney

In 2023:

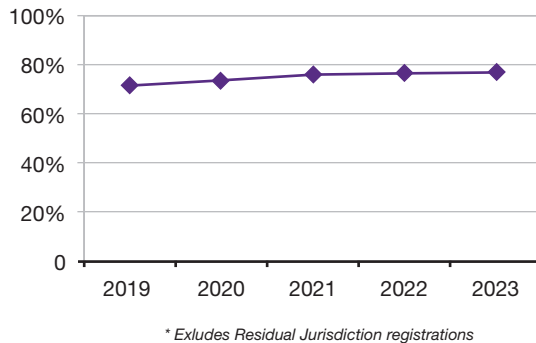
- Registrations rose by 9.2%
- Finalisations fell by 3%
- Pending cases rose by 6.8%
- Median finalisation time rose from 11.4 months to 12.0 months

## Caseload

In 2023, Sydney civil case managed matters represented **77%** of the State's registrations and **75%** 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

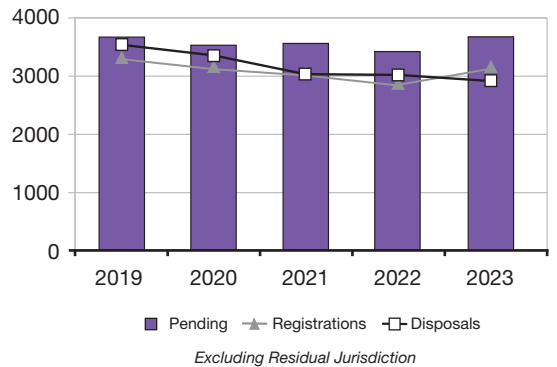


## Registrations, finalisations and pending cases

Excluding the Residual Jurisdiction, there were **3,149** new actions registered and **2,922** finalised in Sydney in 2023. At the end of 2023, there were **3,658** 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 2023, **63%** of all actions finalised were completed within 12 months with **90%** being completed within 24 months, comparable figures to that of the preceding year.

Of the pending caseload at the end of 2023, **16%** exceeded 12 months but not more than 24 months and **4%** 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	<b>108</b>
Default Judgment	<b>13</b>
Settlement Filed	<b>1463</b>
Dismissed	<b>555</b>
Discontinued	<b>664</b>
Arbitration	<b>0</b>
Transferred	<b>119</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2922</b>

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
2019	3504 100%	157 4%	2166 62%
2020	3337 100%	154 5%	1942 58%
2021	3026 100%	116 4%	1752 58%
2022	3026 100%	91 3%	1685 56%
2023	2922 100%	108 4%	1463 50%

## 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 (Dust Diseases) Act 1942*;
- The *Workers Compensation Act 1987*, concerning workers in or about a coal mine;
- The *Workers Compensation (Bush Fire, Emergency and Rescue Services) Act 1987*; and
- The Sporting Injuries Insurance Scheme.

During 2023, **254** actions were commenced and **260** finalised. At the end of 2023, there were **216** 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 2023, the Court referred 584 matters to mediation (530 were referred to private mediation and 54 to court-provided mediation). Settlement conferences were ordered in 1,128 matters.

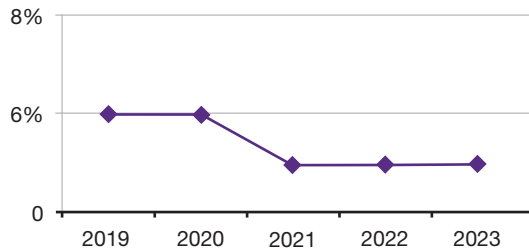
Approximately 38% of matters referred to mediation conducted by Assistant Registrars were settled. There are no available statistics in relation to settlement of matters referred to private mediators.

# Sydney West

Sydney West totalled **5%** of the number of new actions in 2023 (excluding the Court's residual jurisdiction).

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

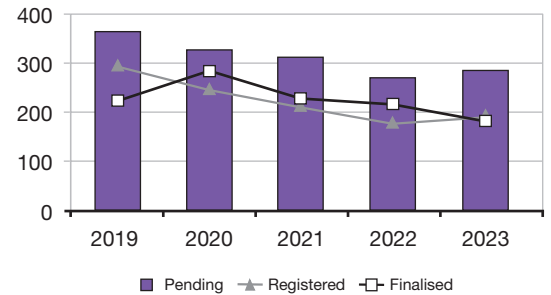
**Figure 19. % of NSW Registrations**



In Sydney West there were **194** matters registered and **179** finalisations throughout the year. At the end of 2023, the total pending caseload was **285** compared to **271** 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 rose by **5.2%** and the median finalisation time was **17.5** months.

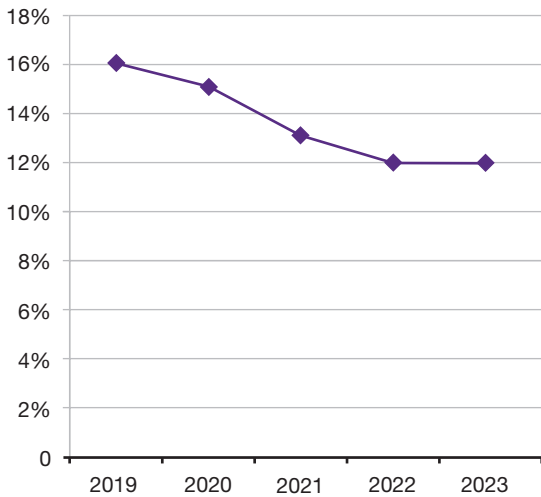
**22%** of pending cases exceeded 12 months but not more than 24 months and **14%** exceeded 24 months.

# Regional

Venues outside of Sydney and Sydney West totalled **12%** of the number of actions in 2023 (excluding the Court's Residual Jurisdiction).

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

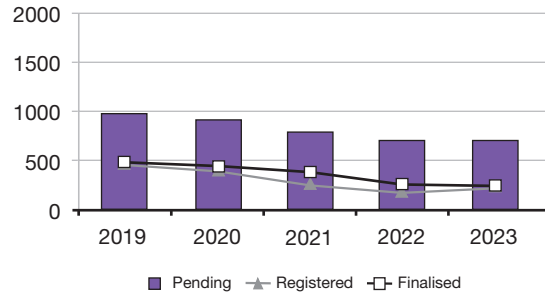
**Figure 21. % of NSW Registrations**



Outside of Sydney and Sydney West, there were **503** matters registered and **501** finalisations throughout 2023. At the end of 2023, the total pending caseload was **703** compared to **702** in 2022.

Figure 22 shows comparative registrations, finalisations, and pending caseloads for the previous five years.

**Figure 22. Country Civil Caseload**





# **JUDICIAL RESOURCES**

# Allocated Sittings

Table 4 sets out the number of judicial sitting weeks allocated in 2023 as published in the Court's Calendar of Sittings.

**Table 4. Sitting Allocations**

Location	Jurisdiction	No. of Weeks	Judge EFT	%
Sydney	Criminal	1128	27.8	40%
	Civil	364	9.0	13%
Sydney West	Criminal	570	14.0	20%
	Civil	12	0.3	0%
Major Country	Criminal	287	7.1	10%
	Civil	24	0.6	1%
Other Venues	Criminal	48	1.2	2%
	Civil	29	0.7	1%
Total	Criminal	2408	59.3	85%
	Civil	429	10.6	15%
	<b>All</b>	<b>2837</b>	<b>69.9</b>	<b>100%</b>

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 2023 converted into weeks (by dividing the number of days by five).

**Table 5. Actual Sittings**

Location	Jurisdiction	No. of Weeks	Judge EFT	%
Sydney	Criminal	1103	27.2	41%
	Civil	353	8.7	13%
Sydney West	Criminal	549	13.5	20%
	Civil	1	0.0	0%
Major Country	Criminal	286	7.0	11%
	Civil	13	0.3	0%
Other Venues	Criminal	411	10.1	15%
	Civil	2	0.0	0%
Total	Criminal	2349	57.9	86%
	Civil	368	9.1	14%
	<b>All</b>	<b>2718</b>	<b>66.9</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Comparison with 2022

Overall, there was an increase of 17 weeks for sittings in 2023 compared to 2022. This included 5 additional weeks of criminal sittings and 12 additional 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 **637** days of actual sittings. Based on the maximum of **40.6** sitting weeks per year for a permanent Judge, this equated to **3.14** additional Judges.

Figure 23 shows the fluctuations in the number of Acting Judges' weeks since 2019.

**Figure 23. Acting Judges' Weeks**

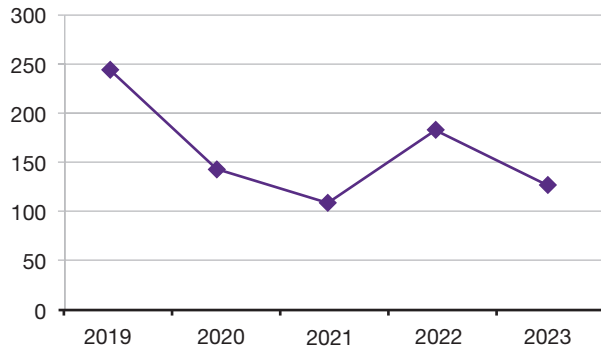


Table 6 sets out the number of sitting days by Acting Judges in 2023.

**Table 6. Acting Judges' Sitting Days 2023**

	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	TOTAL
Ainslie-Wallace		10	1	1	17		4	1		11		1	46
Allen		20											20
Berman		1			3					1	1	1	7
Blackmore	13	18	17	13	25		20	20	20	10		1	157
Coleman					7	5	1	15	14	9	12	10	73
Conlon	3	6	4	6	6		8	5	2	1	5		46
Curtis		5	1	8	8		4		2	3		1	32
Graham		2											2
Henson		5	5	10	8	5		5	5	5	5		53
Hoy							18		2				18
Kearns			2	1						5	5		13
Latham				1	15	10	1			6	2		35
Levy							10	7	10	6	8	1	7
Marien	1	3	3		11	5	1	13	4	10	5	2	58
McClintock			5	1	8			3		15			32
Quirk			5				5	5			5		10
Walmsley			12		7								27
Williams		1											1
<b>Total days</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>637</b>
<b>Average sitting days per Acting Judge 2023</b>													<b>31.85</b>

## Sitting details

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

**Table 7. District Court Sitings 2023**

	ALLOCATED		AVAILABLE		ACTUALLY SAT		* AVERAGE RECORDED HOURS	
	CRIME	CIVIL	CRIME	CIVIL	CRIME	CIVIL	CRIME	CIVIL
<b>Sydney</b>	<b>1128</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>5515</b>	<b>1820</b>	<b>5516</b>	<b>1765</b>	<b>3.84</b>	<b>2.47</b>
Campbelltown	134	0	670	0	577	0	3.85	0.00
Parramatta	346	12	1730	60	1628	4	4.02	2.50
Penrith	90	0	450	0	541	0	4.13	0.00
<b>Sydney West Total</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2850</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>2746</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4.01</b>	<b>2.50</b>
Gosford	77	6	385	30	382	0	4.41	0.00
Newcastle	164	10	820	50	807	60	3.91	3.08
Wollongong	46	8	230	40	241	5	3.89	2.00
<b>O/S Total</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1435</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>1430</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>4.04</b>	<b>3.00</b>
ALBURY	28	2	140	10	133	0	3.22	0.00
ARMIDALE	15	1	75	5	74	0	4.43	0.00
BATHURST	16	1	80	5	71	0	4.39	0.00
BEGA	7	1	35	5	32	0	3.56	0.00
BOURKE	2	0	10	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
BROKEN HILL	8	1	40	5	39	0	5.41	0.00
COFFS HARBOUR	24	3	120	15	128	0	4.33	0.00
COONAMBLE	2	0	10	0	4	0	5.00	0.00
DUBBO	42	2	210	10	194	0	3.98	0.00
GOULBURN	19	0	95	0	84	1	4.20	3.00
GRAFTON	10	0	50	0	47	0	4.30	0.00
GRIFFITH	14	2	70	10	50	0	3.38	0.00
KATOOMBA	0	0	0	0	59	0	4.42	0.00
LISMORE	48	6	240	30	252	5	4.24	5.60
MOREE	7	0	35	0	41	0	4.10	0.00
NOWRA	22	1	110	5	99	0	4.58	0.00
ORANGE	26	1	130	5	132	2	4.52	3.00
PARKES	4	0	20	0	17	0	5.24	0.00
PORT MACQUARIE	24	1	120	5	114	0	3.88	0.00
QUEANBEYAN	16	1	80	5	73	0	4.03	0.00
TAMWORTH	26	1	130	5	121	0	4.25	0.00
TAREE	21	1	105	5	88	0	4.89	0.00
WAGGA WAGGA	42	4	210	20	202	0	3.47	0.00
<b>Country Total</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>2115</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>2054</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4.13</b>	<b>4.63</b>
<b>State Total</b>	<b>2408</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>11915</b>	<b>2145</b>	<b>11746</b>	<b>1842</b>	<b>3.95</b>	<b>2.50</b>

\* "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.

# Committee Membership

## Professional Memberships

Australian Judicial Officers Association (AJOA)  
His Honour Judge C Smith SC  
Judicial Council on Diversity & Inclusion (JCIDI)  
Her Honour Judge S Beckett

## Committees

### Policy and Planning Committee Members

His Honour Justice Price AO Chief Judge (Chair)  
His Honour Judge Neilson  
Her Honour Judge Gibson  
Her Honour Judge Huggett (retired December 2023)  
His Honour Judge Williams SC  
Her Honour Judge Culver AM  
His Honour Judge Buscombe  
His Honour Judge Montgomery  
His Honour Judge Dicker SC  
Her Honour Judge Noman SC  
His Honour Judge Wilson SC  
His Honour Judge Gartelmann SC  
Her Honour Judge Musgrave  
His Honour Judge Fitzsimmons SC  
Her Honour Judge Hopkins  
His Honour Judge Newlinds SC  
Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar (Secretary)

### Criminal Business Committee Members

The Honourable Justice D Price AO, Chief Judge (Chair)  
Ms J Philipson, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (Commonwealth)  
Ms Eliza Amparo, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (Commonwealth)  
Mr Frank 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 Khalilzadeh, 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

### Civil Business Committee Members

His Honour Judge D Wilson SC (Chair)  
Judge E Olsson SC  
Judge P Wass SC  
Judge R Montgomery  
Judge Dicker SC  
Judge D Russell SC  
Judge A Abadee  
Judge Newlinds 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 Members

His Honour Judge Gordon Lerve  
Her Honour Judge Sarah Huggett (Chair)  
(Retired as Chair December 2023)  
Her Honour Judge Jane Culver AM  
His Honour Judge Andrew Scotting  
His Honour Judge Matthew Dicker SC  
His Honour Judge Warwick Hunt  
Her Honour Judge Gina O'Rourke SC  
His Honour Judge Christopher O'Brien AM  
His Honour Judge Graham Turnbull SC  
His Honour Judge Justin Smith SC  
His Honour Judge Alister Abadee  
Her Honour Judge Sarah Hopkins  
Mr James Howard, Judicial Registrar  
Ms Anne-Elise Smith, Programs Manager, Judicial Commission of NSW

### **Rule Committee Members**

The Honourable Justice D Price AO, Chief Judge (Chair)  
His Honour Judge G Neilson  
Her Honour Judge E Olsson SC  
Mr Ian Jones, Law Society of NSW  
Ms K McLean, Law Society of NSW  
Mr Paresh Khandar, NSW Bar Association  
Mr James Howard, Judicial Registrar (Secretary)

### **Technology Committee Members**

The Honourable Justice D Price AO, Chief Judge (Chair)  
Judge Gibson, (Secretary)  
Judge Culver AM  
Judge Jeffreys  
Judge Priestley  
Judge Turnbull SC  
Jane Mathison, Director, IDS Frontline Divisional Services  
Paul Falconer, Principal Consultant, ICT Frontline Divisional Services  
Anthony Donlon, Technical Support Officer (Multimedia)  
Simon Moore, Principal Policy Officer, Court Services  
Grace Romeo, Principal Registrar and Regional Director, Court Services, Metro Region  
Mr James Howard, Judicial Registrar

### **Security Committee Members**

His Honour Judge C Robison (Chair) (Retired as at March 2023)  
Her Honour Judge E Olsson SC  
His Honour Judge C Jeffreys  
His Honour Judge R Montgomery  
His Honour Judge R Sutherland SC  
Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar (Secretary)

### **Building Committee Members**

Her Honour 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 D Zorad, Judicial Support Officer (Secretary)

### **Criminal Trial Courts Bench Book Committee Members**

His Honour Judge D Arnott SC  
Her Honour Judge S Huggett  
Her Honour Judge N Noman SC  
His Honour Judge C Smith SC

### **Civil Trials Bench Book Committee Members**

His Honour Judge M Dicker SC  
His Honour Judge A Coleman SC  
His Honour Judge R Weinstein SC  
Sentencing Bench Book Committee Members  
His Honour Judge A Townsden  
Her Honour Judge S Beckett

### **Children's Court Education Committee Members**

Her Honour Judge E Skinner

### **Ngara Yura Committee Members**

Her Honour Justice D Yehia SC (Chair)  
His Honour Judge W Hunt

### **External Committees and Projects with District Court Judges**

Judicial Council on Diversity and Inclusion  
AI Taskforce convened by the Law Society of NSW  
Consent Monitoring & Advisory Committee  
Criminal & Civil Trial Bench Books  
Early Appropriate Guilty Pleas (EAGP) Steering Committee  
Programs run by National Judicial College of Australia  
Court Accessibility User Group



# ANNEXURES

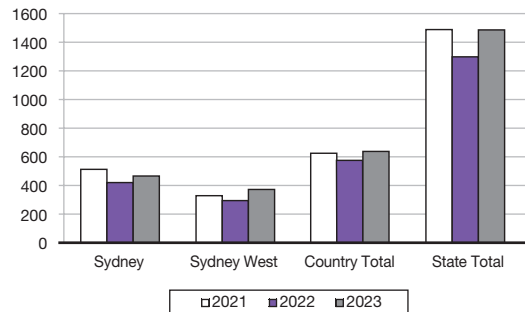
# Annexure A1

## Criminal Caseload

### TRIALS

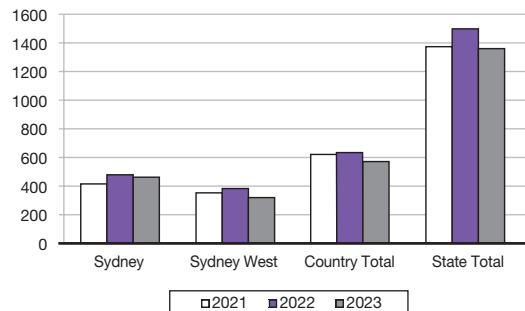
#### Registered

	2021	2022	2023	22/23 Variant
Sydney	522	421	475	13%
Sydney West	339	299	373	25%
Newcastle	202	181	218	20%
Gosford	61	54	49	-9%
Wollongong	111	98	115	17%
Lismore	109	82	101	23%
Dubbo	60	72	62	-14%
Wagga Wagga	85	98	95	-3%
Country Total	628	585	640	9%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>1,489</b>	<b>1,305</b>	<b>1,488</b>	<b>14%</b>



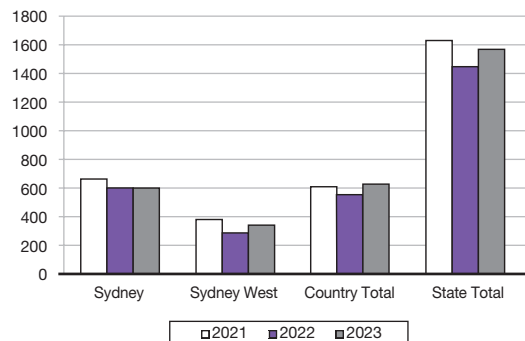
#### Finalised

	2021	2022	2023	22/23 Variant
Sydney	405	474	464	-2%
Sydney West	356	380	325	-14%
Newcastle	218	230	179	-22%
Gosford	56	50	58	16%
Wollongong	109	96	97	1%
Lismore	87	88	84	-5%
Dubbo	56	85	64	-25%
Wagga Wagga	82	90	83	-8%
Country Total	608	639	565	-12%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>1,369</b>	<b>1,493</b>	<b>1,354</b>	<b>-9.3%</b>



#### Pending

	2021	2022	2023	22/23 Variant
Sydney	649	596	607	2%
Sydney West	367	286	334	17%
Newcastle	211	162	201	24%
Gosford	63	67	58	-13%
Wollongong	85	87	105	21%
Lismore	97	91	108	19%
Dubbo	76	63	61	-3%
Wagga Wagga	66	74	86	16%
Country Total	598	544	619	14%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>1,614</b>	<b>1,426</b>	<b>1,560</b>	<b>9%</b>



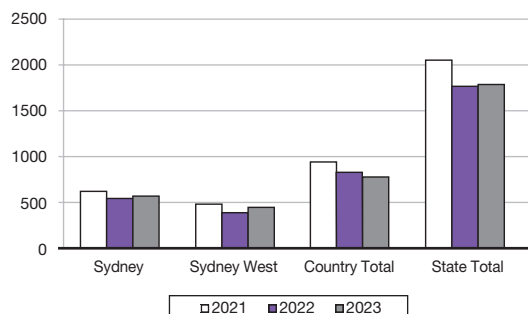
# Annexure A2

## Criminal Caseload

### SENTENCES

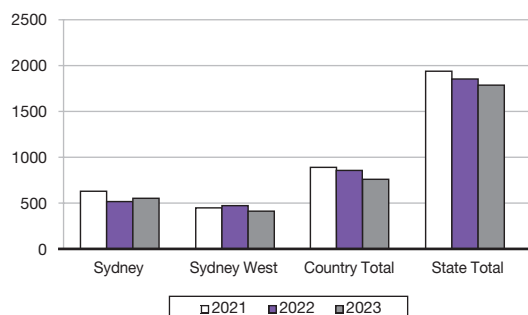
#### Registered

	2021	2022	2023	22/23 Variant
Sydney	627	550	567	3%
Sydney West	485	394	445	13%
Newcastle	305	267	313	17%
Gosford	108	73	78	7%
Wollongong	177	134	125	-7%
Lismore	136	117	97	-17%
Dubbo	104	118	79	-33%
Wagga Wagga	111	111	96	-14%
Country Total	941	820	788	-4%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>2,053</b>	<b>1,764</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>2%</b>



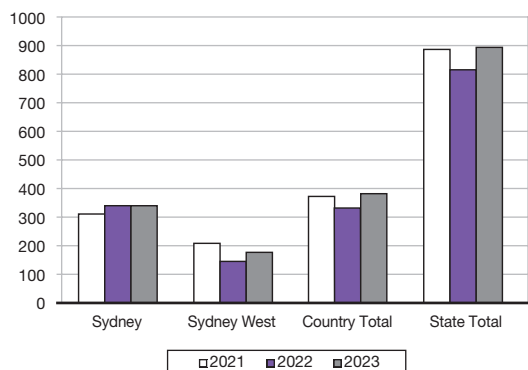
#### Finalised

	2021	2022	2023	22/23 Variant
Sydney	610	524	545	4%
Sydney West	438	454	411	-9%
Newcastle	284	288	259	-10%
Gosford	94	85	79	-7%
Wollongong	181	150	106	-29%
Lismore	128	116	111	-4%
Dubbo	93	117	95	-19%
Wagga Wagga	97	104	105	1%
Country Total	877	860	755	-12%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>1,925</b>	<b>1,838</b>	<b>1,711</b>	<b>-7%</b>



#### Pending

	2021	2022	2023	22/23 Variant
Sydney	311	337	339	1%
Sydney West	207	147	178	21%
Newcastle	106	85	89	5%
Gosford	51	39	40	3%
Wollongong	55	39	60	54%
Lismore	58	59	59	0%
Dubbo	57	58	91	57%
Wagga Wagga	41	48	39	-19%
Country Total	368	328	378	15%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>10%</b>



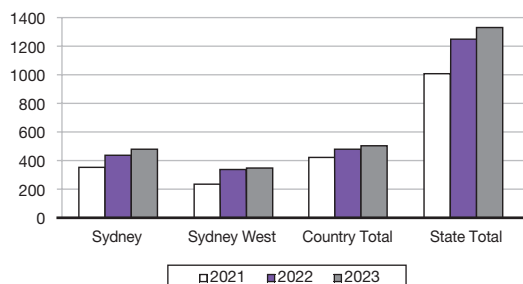
# Annexure A3

## Criminal Caseload

### CONVICTION APPEALS

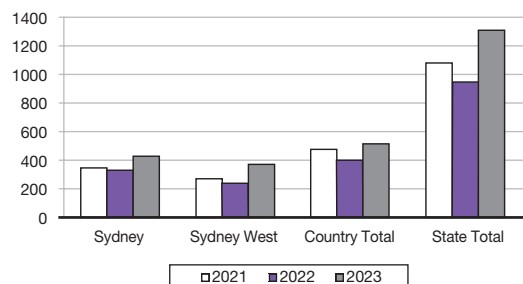
#### Registered

	2021	2022	2023	22/23 Variant
Sydney	341	435	475	9%
Sydney West	233	330	348	5%
Newcastle	129	111	110	-1%
Gosford	22	33	44	33%
Wollongong	87	111	126	14%
Lismore	66	79	102	29%
Dubbo	76	92	72	-22%
Wagga Wagga	41	43	45	5%
Country Total	421	469	499	6%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>1,234</b>	<b>1,322</b>	<b>7%</b>



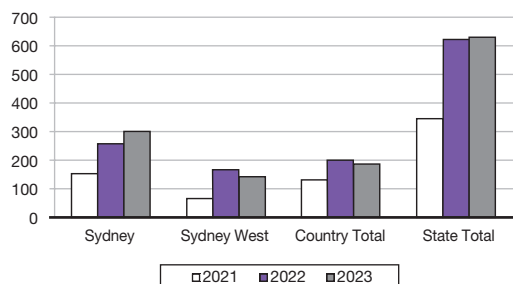
#### Finalised

	2021	2022	2023	22/23 Variant
Sydney	338	330	429	30%
Sydney West	269	233	364	56%
Newcastle	129	96	122	27%
Gosford	23	30	39	30%
Wollongong	109	90	119	32%
Lismore	72	58	106	83%
Dubbo	89	78	81	4%
Wagga Wagga	47	40	50	25%
Country Total	469	392	517	32%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>1,076</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>1,310</b>	<b>37%</b>



#### Pending

	2021	2022	2023	22/23 Variant
Sydney	150	255	301	18%
Sydney West	64	161	145	-10%
Newcastle	36	51	39	-24%
Gosford	9	12	17	42%
Wollongong	22	43	50	16%
Lismore	20	41	37	-10%
Dubbo	26	40	31	-23%
Wagga Wagga	13	16	11	-31%
Country Total	126	203	185	-9%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>2%</b>





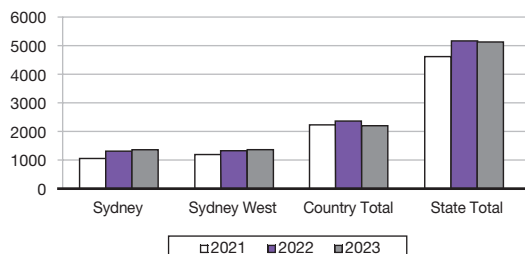
# Annexure A4

## Criminal Caseload

### SENTENCE APPEALS

#### Registered

	2021	2022	2023	22/23 Variant
Sydney	1,104	1,347	1,405	4%
Sydney West	1,246	1,360	1,450	7%
Newcastle	822	826	743	-10%
Gosford	279	218	187	-14%
Wollongong	305	419	364	-13%
Lismore	324	323	311	-4%
Dubbo	332	335	407	21%
Wagga Wagga	214	287	218	-24%
Country Total	2,276	2,408	2,230	-7%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>4,626</b>	<b>5,115</b>	<b>5,085</b>	<b>-1%</b>



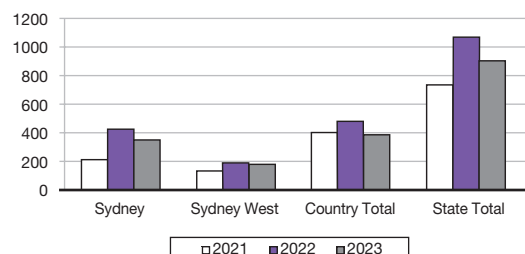
#### Finalised

	2021	2022	2023	22/23 Variant
Sydney	1,178	1,137	1,480	30%
Sydney West	1,365	1,301	1,458	12%
Newcastle	814	803	827	3%
Gosford	274	231	175	-24%
Wollongong	348	367	391	7%
Lismore	331	329	297	-10%
Dubbo	343	346	384	11%
Wagga Wagga	204	259	244	-6%
Country Total	2,314	2,335	2,318	-1%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>4,857</b>	<b>4,773</b>	<b>5,256</b>	<b>10%</b>



#### Pending

	2021	2022	2023	22/23 Variant
Sydney	204	414	339	-18%
Sydney West	127	186	178	-4%
Newcastle	150	173	89	-49%
Gosford	41	28	40	43%
Wollongong	35	87	60	-31%
Lismore	51	45	59	31%
Dubbo	79	68	91	34%
Wagga Wagga	37	65	39	-40%
Country Total	393	466	378	-19%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>1,066</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>-16%</b>



# Annexure B1

## Compliance with Criminal Time Standards

### TRIALS – REGISTERED

#### Accused in Custody

	Percentage of Cases Disposed within											
	4 Months			6 Months			12 Months			>12 Months		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Sydney	9%	8%	12%	17%	18%	21%	71%	60%	59%	29%	40%	41%
Sydney West	20%	13%	13%	30%	23%	27%	75%	68%	63%	25%	32%	37%
Newcastle	9%	18%	29%	37%	32%	42%	78%	76%	81%	22%	24%	19%
Gosford	10%	0%	6%	19%	0%	13%	90%	38%	50%	10%	63%	50%
Wollongong	33%	0%	4%	57%	17%	16%	83%	100%	92%	17%	0%	8%
Lismore	26%	13%	5%	39%	26%	15%	81%	78%	65%	19%	22%	35%
Dubbo	50%	20%	14%	61%	30%	33%	89%	63%	81%	11%	37%	19%
Wagga Wagga	26%	46%	17%	39%	50%	38%	78%	81%	88%	22%	19%	13%
Country Total	22%	18%	17%	41%	29%	31%	82%	75%	79%	18%	25%	21%
State Total	<b>17%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>32%</b>

#### Accused on Bail

	Percentage of Cases Disposed within											
	4 Months			6 Months			12 Months			>12 Months		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Sydney	7%	3%	6%	13%	7%	11%	66%	49%	45%	34%	51%	55%
Sydney West	9%	9%	13%	13%	16%	21%	47%	56%	62%	53%	44%	38%
Newcastle	12%	9%	10%	19%	20%	17%	65%	50%	56%	35%	50%	44%
Gosford	3%	10%	8%	12%	13%	11%	55%	30%	32%	45%	70%	68%
Wollongong	5%	6%	8%	29%	22%	24%	71%	75%	83%	29%	25%	17%
Lismore	12%	12%	4%	25%	19%	11%	62%	55%	46%	38%	45%	54%
Dubbo	5%	7%	7%	5%	15%	19%	63%	43%	58%	37%	57%	42%
Wagga Wagga	7%	18%	13%	15%	26%	23%	81%	79%	70%	19%	21%	30%
Country Total	9%	10%	9%	19%	20%	18%	67%	57%	60%	33%	43%	40%
State Total	<b>8%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>45%</b>

## All Trials

	Percentage of Cases Disposed within											
	4 Months			6 Months			12 Months			>12 Months		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
<b>Sydney</b>	8%	5%	8%	15%	10%	14%	67%	52%	50%	33%	48%	50%
<b>Sydney West</b>	13%	10%	13%	19%	18%	23%	57%	60%	62%	43%	40%	38%
<b>Newcastle</b>	11%	12%	17%	25%	24%	26%	69%	59%	65%	31%	41%	35%
<b>Gosford</b>	6%	7%	8%	15%	9%	11%	69%	33%	38%	31%	67%	62%
<b>Wollongong</b>	13%	5%	7%	37%	21%	22%	75%	81%	85%	25%	19%	15%
<b>Lismore</b>	16%	12%	4%	30%	21%	12%	68%	61%	51%	32%	39%	49%
<b>Dubbo</b>	19%	12%	9%	22%	20%	23%	71%	50%	66%	29%	50%	34%
<b>Wagga Wagga</b>	13%	26%	14%	22%	33%	27%	81%	79%	75%	19%	21%	25%
<b>Country Total</b>	13%	13%	11%	26%	23%	22%	72%	62%	66%	28%	38%	34%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>41%</b>

# Annexure B2

## Compliance with Criminal Time Standards

### TRIALS – VERDICTS

#### Accused in Custody

	Percentage of Cases Disposed within											
	4 Months			6 Months			12 Months			>12 Months		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
<b>Sydney</b>	2%	3%	2%	9%	5%	4%	62%	41%	40%	38%	59%	60%
<b>Sydney West</b>	8%	0%	0%	17%	8%	10%	50%	54%	39%	50%	46%	61%
<b>Newcastle</b>	0%	0%	11%	10%	14%	22%	62%	67%	67%	38%	33%	33%
<b>Gosford</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	75%	25%	50%	25%	75%	50%
<b>Wollongong</b>	17%	0%	0%	42%	18%	18%	83%	100%	91%	17%	0%	9%
<b>Lismore</b>	13%	0%	0%	13%	17%	0%	63%	100%	56%	38%	0%	44%
<b>Dubbo</b>	33%	7%	0%	50%	13%	14%	83%	67%	57%	17%	33%	43%
<b>Wagga Wagga</b>	18%	30%	22%	18%	40%	22%	64%	90%	100%	36%	10%	0%
<b>Country Total</b>	11%	6%	7%	20%	18%	15%	70%	76%	72%	30%	24%	28%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>47%</b>

#### Accused on Bail

	Percentage of Cases Disposed within											
	4 Months			6 Months			12 Months			>12 Months		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
<b>Sydney</b>	2%	1%	2%	4%	2%	3%	56%	38%	29%	44%	62%	71%
<b>Sydney West</b>	2%	3%	2%	2%	3%	8%	34%	41%	46%	66%	59%	54%
<b>Newcastle</b>	2%	2%	0%	3%	3%	2%	45%	24%	31%	55%	76%	69%
<b>Gosford</b>	0%	7%	0%	15%	7%	0%	38%	13%	20%	62%	87%	80%
<b>Wollongong</b>	0%	7%	5%	22%	14%	12%	57%	69%	85%	43%	31%	15%
<b>Lismore</b>	0%	4%	0%	0%	13%	4%	50%	50%	30%	50%	50%	70%
<b>Dubbo</b>	0%	3%	3%	0%	10%	16%	44%	31%	53%	56%	69%	47%
<b>Wagga Wagga</b>	4%	3%	0%	8%	10%	14%	72%	66%	66%	28%	34%	34%
<b>Country Total</b>	1%	4%	1%	8%	9%	8%	51%	43%	49%	49%	57%	51%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>58%</b>

## All Trials

	Percentage of Cases Disposed within											
	4 Months			6 Months			12 Months			>12 Months		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
<b>Sydney</b>	2%	2%	2%	5%	3%	3%	58%	39%	32%	42%	61%	68%
<b>Sydney West</b>	4%	2%	1%	7%	4%	9%	39%	44%	44%	61%	56%	56%
<b>Newcastle</b>	1%	1%	3%	5%	6%	7%	49%	35%	40%	51%	65%	60%
<b>Gosford</b>	0%	5%	0%	10%	5%	0%	52%	16%	27%	48%	84%	73%
<b>Wollongong</b>	4%	6%	4%	27%	15%	13%	63%	75%	87%	37%	25%	13%
<b>Lismore</b>	3%	3%	0%	3%	13%	3%	53%	60%	36%	47%	40%	64%
<b>Dubbo</b>	8%	5%	3%	13%	11%	15%	54%	43%	54%	46%	57%	46%
<b>Wagga Wagga</b>	8%	10%	5%	11%	18%	16%	69%	72%	74%	31%	28%	26%
<b>Country Total</b>	4%	4%	3%	11%	11%	10%	56%	51%	54%	44%	49%	46%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>56%</b>

# Annexure B3

## Compliance with Criminal Time Standards

### APPEALS

#### Conviction Appeals

	Percentage of Cases Disposed within											
	4 Months			6 Months			12 Months			>12 Months		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
<b>Sydney</b>	31%	30%	20%	69%	62%	48%	97%	91%	96%	3%	9%	4%
<b>Sydney West</b>	59%	64%	48%	83%	85%	77%	98%	98%	99%	2%	2%	1%
<b>Newcastle</b>	67%	60%	65%	86%	88%	84%	99%	100%	98%	1%	0%	2%
<b>Gosford</b>	58%	52%	53%	77%	79%	84%	96%	93%	100%	4%	7%	0%
<b>Wollongong</b>	75%	78%	71%	90%	93%	91%	100%	100%	99%	0%	0%	1%
<b>Lismore</b>	55%	63%	61%	92%	92%	76%	100%	100%	99%	0%	0%	1%
<b>Dubbo</b>	48%	62%	46%	76%	76%	78%	98%	100%	99%	2%	0%	1%
<b>Wagga Wagga</b>	89%	72%	80%	94%	85%	88%	96%	97%	100%	4%	3%	0%
<b>Country Total</b>	65%	65%	63%	86%	86%	84%	99%	99%	99%	1%	1%	1%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>2%</b>

#### Sentence Appeals

	Percentage of Cases Disposed within								
	2 Months			6 Months			>6 Months		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
<b>Sydney</b>	37%	27%	12%	98%	95%	94%	2%	5%	6%
<b>Sydney West</b>	72%	84%	81%	98%	99%	98%	2%	1%	2%
<b>Newcastle</b>	45%	50%	45%	96%	96%	97%	4%	4%	3%
<b>Gosford</b>	71%	75%	75%	97%	97%	97%	3%	3%	3%
<b>Wollongong</b>	70%	70%	63%	98%	98%	98%	2%	2%	2%
<b>Lismore</b>	64%	71%	64%	96%	98%	95%	4%	2%	5%
<b>Dubbo</b>	41%	54%	41%	93%	93%	96%	7%	7%	4%
<b>Wagga Wagga</b>	72%	71%	58%	98%	98%	98%	2%	2%	2%
<b>Country Total</b>	57%	62%	54%	96%	96%	97%	4%	4%	3%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>4%</b>

## Sentences

	Percentage of Cases Disposed within								
	3 Months			6 Months			>6 Months		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
<b>Sydney</b>	9%	10%	10%	64%	54%	57%	36%	46%	43%
<b>Sydney West</b>	25%	16%	14%	75%	67%	71%	25%	33%	29%
<b>Newcastle</b>	28%	18%	20%	78%	74%	76%	22%	26%	24%
<b>Gosford</b>	19%	5%	9%	68%	59%	54%	32%	41%	46%
<b>Wollongong</b>	37%	31%	26%	86%	84%	82%	14%	16%	18%
<b>Lismore</b>	17%	19%	17%	72%	64%	71%	28%	36%	29%
<b>Dubbo</b>	16%	15%	9%	56%	64%	58%	44%	36%	42%
<b>Wagga Wagga</b>	34%	26%	19%	89%	82%	78%	11%	18%	22%
<b>Country Total</b>	27%	20%	18%	76%	72%	72%	24%	28%	28%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>33%</b>

# Annexure C1

## Civil Caseload

	Registered			Disposed			Pending		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
<b>Sydney CML</b>	<b>3,047</b>	<b>2,883</b>	<b>3,149</b>	<b>3,026</b>	<b>3,012</b>	<b>2,922</b>	<b>3,543</b>	<b>3,425</b>	<b>3,658</b>
<b>Residual Jurisdiction</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>216</b>
Parramatta	197	160	184	217	207	164	298	250	269
Penrith	10	15	9	7	9	13	14	20	16
Campbelltown	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	0
<b>Sydney West</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>285</b>
Newcastle	137	96	133	175	147	119	223	172	186
Gosford	45	25	26	39	37	32	68	55	49
Wollongong	93	70	108	81	64	119	124	130	119
<b>Major Country</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>354</b>
Albury	17	16	11	26	21	16	26	21	16
Armidale	1	3	2	2	1	3	1	3	2
Bathurst	6	9	2	5	13	4	14	10	7
Bega	2	1	5	3	2	3	2	1	3
Broken Hill	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Coffs Harbour	17	15	11	21	17	14	24	22	19
Dubbo	5	4	5	10	10	7	21	15	13
Griffith	15	9	10	20	11	10	23	21	21
Lismore	62	82	51	81	71	66	94	104	89
Lithgow	9	12	11	17	9	10	12	15	16
Maitland	16	8	7	21	12	11	15	11	7
Nowra	10	12	9	11	9	12	15	17	14
Orange	15	14	41	26	16	14	12	10	37
Port Macquarie	22	18	15	32	21	25	35	32	22
Queanbeyan	7	8	9	6	10	9	12	10	10
Tamworth	6	7	9	15	7	5	9	8	12
Taree	4	7	7	7	5	10	9	11	8
Wagga Wagga	29	26	31	49	40	12	48	34	53
<b>Other Venues</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>349</b>
<b>NSW Total</b>	<b>4,002</b>	<b>3,724</b>	<b>4,100</b>	<b>4,159</b>	<b>3,973</b>	<b>3,862</b>	<b>4,778</b>	<b>4,616</b>	<b>4,862</b>



# Annexure C2

## Civil Disposal Times

	Median Delay (mths)			% 'age of Cases Disposed within						% 'age of Pending > 12 mths < 24 mths			% 'age of Pending > 24 mths		
				12 mths			24 mths			2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023						
<b>Sydney CML</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>4%</b>
Parramatta	13.6	14.1	17.2	50%	50%	50%	86%	84%	82%	25%	29%	22%	14%	17%	13%
Penrith	12.6	9.9	18.0	69%	65%	73%	100%	82%	87%	0%	29%	21%	27%	6%	21%
Campbelltown	0.0	0.0	11.6	75%	86%	75%	100%	100%	100%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Sydney West</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>14%</b>
Newcastle	13.8	14.4	13.9	47%	45%	49%	87%	77%	78%	26%	30%	21%	14%	15%	15%
Gosford	13.3	15.6	20.7	50%	34%	44%	88%	83%	63%	33%	35%	27%	7%	24%	24%
Wollongong	14.3	14.6	11.2	47%	43%	54%	87%	90%	83%	27%	30%	18%	7%	20%	18%
<b>Major Country</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>17%</b>
Albury	12.4	12.1	14.1	57%	48%	29%	83%	74%	76%	21%	15%	18%	26%	8%	9%
Armidale	99.0	21.6	10.5	67%	0%	75%	83%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Bathurst	45.5	10.9	12.6	20%	54%	60%	20%	62%	100%	25%	25%	0%	25%	13%	60%
Bega	9.7	17.2	8.8	80%	50%	100%	100%	100%	100%	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Broken Hill	0.0	8.1	0.0	0%	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Coffs Harbour	11.5	12.4	11.8	63%	57%	59%	92%	100%	94%	25%	28%	27%	5%	6%	7%
Dubbo	12.8	18.4	19.4	38%	36%	50%	92%	71%	80%	53%	33%	29%	20%	33%	29%
Griffith	20.0	16.3	17.8	35%	56%	50%	65%	81%	75%	36%	44%	31%	9%	17%	31%
Lismore	12.1	12.6	10.9	54%	48%	60%	89%	76%	84%	31%	20%	31%	15%	13%	22%
Lithgow	11.7	9.3	16.2	53%	56%	45%	82%	89%	82%	18%	14%	15%	18%	14%	8%
Maitland	10.7	12.2	11.8	52%	54%	50%	76%	85%	71%	15%	10%	14%	8%	20%	14%
Nowra	11.9	13.6	12.2	54%	45%	38%	92%	73%	92%	7%	24%	8%	33%	12%	23%
Orange	13.2	10.5	7.0	53%	70%	75%	87%	91%	100%	27%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%
Port Macquarie	14.7	13.3	14.8	41%	41%	41%	86%	77%	83%	32%	26%	29%	12%	19%	24%
Queanbeyan	8.1	13.7	7.0	89%	67%	87%	100%	87%	87%	30%	11%	40%	20%	22%	20%
Tamworth	13.6	10.0	5.6	47%	67%	75%	82%	89%	100%	29%	0%	20%	29%	17%	10%
Taree	16.5	27.7	12.7	33%	33%	55%	78%	50%	82%	33%	20%	14%	0%	10%	0%
Wagga Wagga	20.4	15.0	12.0	27%	27%	60%	73%	80%	87%	28%	14%	31%	13%	4%	6%
<b>Other Venues</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>NSW Total</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>6%</b>





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