

# **HIGHER CRIMINAL COURTS**

**AUSTRALIA**

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 27 AUG 1998

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- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Jo Bell on Melbourne 03 9615 7361, or any ABS office shown on the back cover of this publication.

## NOTES

### ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The statistics in this publication provide indicators of the volume and flow of criminal work through the Higher (Supreme and Intermediate) Courts across Australia. These indicators include the number of defendants pending, initiated and finalised in each State and Territory for the period 1 January 1996 – 31 December 1996.



### DATA CONSISTENCY

The statistics are sourced from the national Higher Criminal Courts collection and have been compiled according to national standards in order to ensure consistency between the States and Territories. The Explanatory Notes, Appendixes and Glossary provide detailed information on the data sources, counting rules, terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with this collection.



### REPORTING PERIOD

This publication presents statistics on defendants who had charges active in the Higher Courts. This issue for the calendar year 1996 is the final one presenting statistics on a calendar year basis. Subsequent publications will present statistics on a financial year basis.



### CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

This 1996 issue introduces a number of enhancements to the statistics presented in the 1995 issue. There have been improvements to the coverage of the collection so that some of the data missing in the 1995 issue are now available. The range of data items collected has been expanded and information is now included on the initial and final plea status of adjudicated defendants (see table 4), the age and sex of finalised defendants (see table 5) and the elapsed time since initiation for pending defendants (see tables 11 and 12). The data extracts have been modified to improve data quality and there has been a change in the counting rule for recording transfers between Higher Court levels (see paragraph 18 in the Explanatory Notes for details).



### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many individuals and groups contributed to the development of the national Higher Criminal Courts collection. In particular, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) acknowledges the valuable contributions of the Board of Management of the National Criminal Courts Statistical Unit (NCCSU), the NCCSU Advisory Group and the State and Territory agencies responsible for courts administration.

W. McLennan  
Australian Statistician

# SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

## INTRODUCTION

This publication presents statistics on the criminal workload of the Higher (Supreme and Intermediate) Courts of Australia for the period 1 January to 31 December 1996. The Higher Courts deal with criminal cases involving serious charges, that is, those relating to indictable offences. (The Higher Courts also hear appeal and civil cases, but these are not within the scope of this publication.)

Statistics are presented separately for the Supreme and Intermediate (District/County) Court levels. In Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory there is no Intermediate Court, so the Supreme Court hears all charges relating to indictable offences. In States with both a Supreme and Intermediate Court, the majority of criminal cases are dealt with in the Intermediate Court as the Supreme Court is reserved to hear the most serious offences.

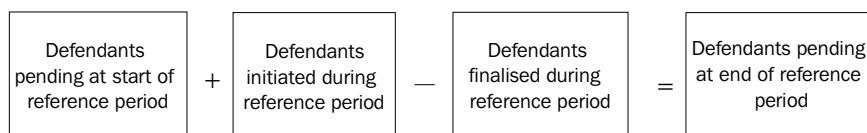
In order to make valid comparisons between all States and Territories, this commentary focuses on the combined workload of the Supreme and Intermediate Courts. Nevertheless, it should be noted that there are some significant differences in the nature of the work dealt with at each level.

The measure of criminal workload presented in this publication is the count of defendants processed by the Higher Courts. A defendant is a person who has been charged before a court with one or more criminal offences and brought before that court to face the charge(s). Information is provided on the flow of defendants through the Higher Courts in terms of two events:

- defendants initiated (i.e. defendants who entered the Higher Courts) during the reference period; and
- defendants finalised (i.e. defendants who had a final outcome for all charges before the Higher Courts) during the reference period.

Information is also presented on counts of defendants who were pending (i.e. initiated but not yet finalised) at the start and end of the reference period.

### FLOW OF DEFENDANTS THROUGH THE HIGHER COURTS



## OVERVIEW OF COURT WORKLOAD

The Higher Criminal Courts collection, from which the statistics in this publication are compiled, provides a basis for measuring the volume of work before the Higher Courts and the rate at which this work is processed. The workflow measures provided by these statistics include:

- the *total active workload* defined as the number of defendants who had charges active before the Higher Courts during the reference period (i.e the number of defendants pending at the start of the reference period plus the number of defendants initiated in the Higher Courts during the reference period);

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### OVERVIEW OF COURT WORKLOAD *continued*

- the *total finalised workload* defined as the number of defendants who were finalised in the Higher Courts during the reference period;
- the speed with which the justice system deals with the criminal charges laid against a defendant as measured by the *duration* or the time taken for defendants to go from initiation to finalisation; and
- the size and age of the pending workload as measured by the number of *defendants pending* at the end of the reference period and the *elapsed time since initiation* for those pending defendants.

In 1996 there were 15,727 defendants who entered the Higher Courts. Queensland had the highest number of defendants initiated, with 5,682 or 36.1% of defendants, followed by New South Wales (3,835 or 24.4%) and Western Australia (2,492 or 15.8%). Together these three States accounted for more than three-quarters of the total criminal workload initiated in the Higher Courts. There was a similar number of defendants who had their charges finalised in the Higher Courts in 1996, with 15,938 defendants finalised. The highest numbers of defendants finalised were in Queensland (6,030), New South Wales (3,857) and Western Australia (2,358). (See table 1.)

It should be noted that any comparison of data across States and Territories should take into account the differences that exist in court procedures and legislation, as these impact on the workload of the Higher Court(s) in each State and Territory.

Information on the number of defendants pending was not available for Queensland. Across the other States and Territories, there were 6,196 defendants pending in the Higher Courts on 1 January 1996, while an additional 10,045 defendants entered the Higher Courts during 1996. This resulted in a total active workload of 16,241 defendants with charges active in the Higher Courts at some time during 1996, an overall 3.3% decrease on the 16,794 defendants recorded in 1995. The number of defendants initiated (10,045), was slightly more than the number of defendants finalised (9,908), which led to an increase in the pending workload of the Higher Courts during 1996. (See table 1.) In addition to the rise in the pending workload of 137 (2.2%) defendants over the year, there was also an increase in 1996 in the median elapsed time (from 21.9 to 23.7 weeks) that defendants had been waiting for their charges to be finalised. (See tables 11 and 12.)

### INITIATED WORKLOAD

During 1996 there were 15,727 defendants initiated in the Higher Courts in Australia. Statistics on initiated workload for Queensland were not available in 1995. For the remaining States and Territories, there was a total of 10,045 defendants initiated in 1996 which represents a decline of 325 (3.1%) defendants in comparison to the 10,370 defendants initiated in 1995. New South Wales was the main contributor to the decrease, falling from 4,458 defendants in 1995 to 3,835 defendants in 1996. Most States and Territories recorded increases, the largest being in Western Australia which rose from 2,278 defendants in 1995 to 2,492 defendants in 1996.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### DEFENDANTS INITIATED IN THE HIGHER COURTS

<i>States and Territories</i>	<i>r 1995(a)</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>% change</i>
NUMBER			
New South Wales	4 458	3 835	-14.0
Victoria	1 563	1 622	3.8
Queensland(b)	n.a.	5 682	n.a.
South Australia	1 406	1 324	-5.8
Western Australia	2 278	2 492	9.4
Tasmania	307	345	12.4
Northern Territory	239	272	13.8
Australian Capital Territory(c)	119	155	30.3
Australia(b)	n.a.	15 727	n.a.

(a) Data for 1995 has been revised, see paragraph 18 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Data on initiated defendants in Queensland was not available in 1995.

(c) Some of the apparent increase in the Australian Capital Territory between 1995 and 1996 is attributable to changes in the collection methodology, see paragraph 28 of the Explanatory Notes.

#### Method of Initiation

Excluding Queensland, where data were not available for all methods of initiation, the majority of defendants initiated (9,544 or 95.0%) in the Higher Courts in 1996 were committed from a Court of Summary Jurisdiction (i.e. Magistrates' Court/Court of Petty Sessions/Local Court). The remaining 501 or 5.0% defendants entered the Higher Courts as a result of a bench warrant being executed, an ex-officio indictment being presented, a re-trial being ordered by a Court of Appeal, or summary charges being transferred for sentencing from the Court of Summary Jurisdiction. (See table 2.)

#### Committal plea

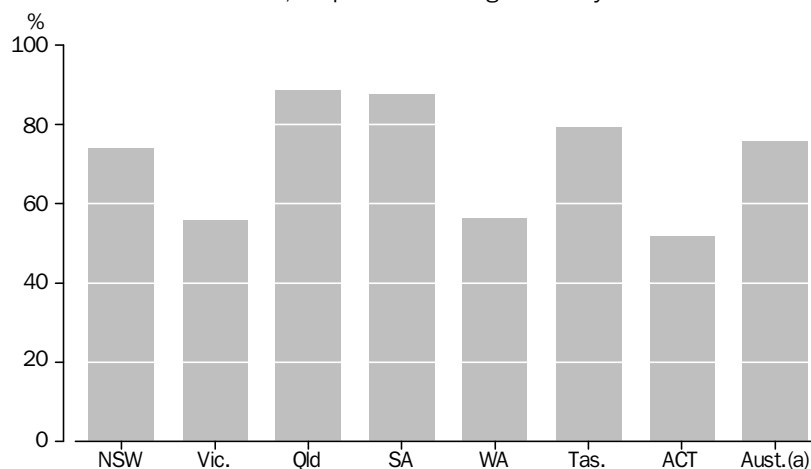
At their committal hearing in the lower court, defendants are given the opportunity to plead to the charges against them. If a defendant pleads guilty to all the charges against him/her, the defendant is committed to a Higher Court for a sentence hearing. If a plea of not guilty is entered in relation to one or more charges, then he/she is committed for trial.

A major factor governing the processing time required to finalise the charges for a defendant is whether or not a trial is required. In general, a trial will require a greater amount of court time than a sentence hearing for a guilty plea.

Information on the pleas entered by defendants at committal was not available for the Northern Territory. Across the other States and Territories, three-quarters (75.8%) of defendants committed from a Court of Summary Jurisdiction pleaded not guilty and were committed for trial. This proportion varied across the States and Territories, ranging from 51.9% in the Australian Capital Territory to 88.7% in Queensland. (See table 2.)

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

COMMITTED DEFENDANTS, Proportion Pleading Not Guilty—1996



(a) Excludes Northern Territory where committal plea data were not available.

### FINALISED WORKLOAD

The number of defendants finalised in the Higher Courts in 1996 fell by 1,066 (6.3%), decreasing from 17,004 defendants in 1995 to 15,938 defendants in 1996. The largest falls in the number of defendants finalised were in Queensland (down 525 defendants or 8.0%) and New South Wales (down 451 defendants or 10.5%). Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia recorded smaller decreases, which were partly offset by rises in the remaining State and Territories.

#### DEFENDANTS FINALISED IN THE HIGHER COURTS

States and Territories	r 1995(a)	1996	% change
NUMBER			
New South Wales	4 308	3 857	-10.5
Victoria	1 685	1 662	-1.4
Queensland(b)	6 555	6 030	-8
South Australia	1 370	1 334	-2.6
Western Australia	2 463	2 358	-4.3
Tasmania	312	333	6.7
Northern Territory	210	217	3.3
Australian Capital Territory(c)	101	147	45.5
Australia(b)	17 004	15 938	-6.3
RATE PER 100,000 ADULT PERSONS			
Australia(b)	124.3	114.8	-7.6

(a) Data for 1995 has been revised, see paragraph 18 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) The number of defendants finalised for Queensland excludes defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

(c) Some of the apparent increase in the Australian Capital Territory between 1995 and 1996 is attributable to changes in the collection methodology, see paragraph 28 of the Explanatory Notes.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

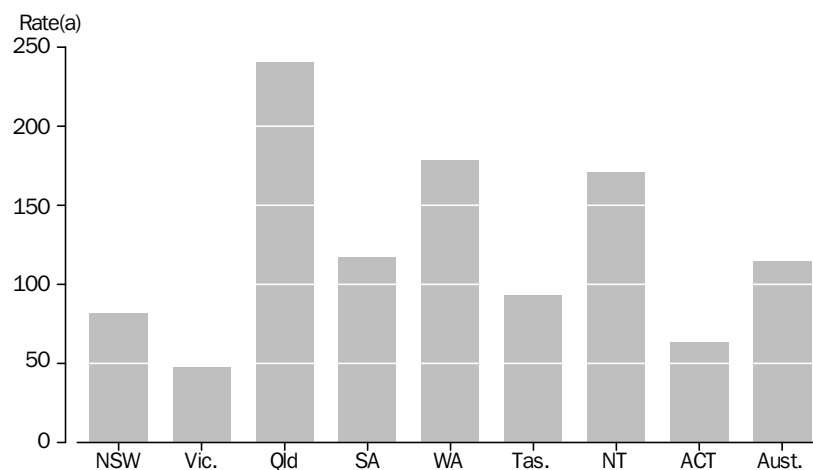
### FINALISED WORKLOAD *continued*

Of the 15,938 Higher Court finalisations in 1996, there were 2,093 defendants (13.1%) finalised in a Supreme Court. The majority of these defendants were finalised in Queensland (725 defendants), Western Australia (336 defendants) and Tasmania (333 defendants) which together accounted for two-thirds of all defendants finalised in the Supreme Court. In the Intermediate Court there were 13,845 defendants finalised in Australia in 1996, with Queensland and New South Wales accounting for 5,305 and 3,784 defendants finalised respectively. (See table 1.)

### Rates of finalisation

To enable comparisons across States and Territories and with other national criminal justice statistics, figures are provided that show finalisation rates calculated as the number of defendants finalised per 100,000 adult persons. In 1996 there was a national rate of 114.8 defendants finalised in the Higher Courts per 100,000 adult persons in Australia, a decline on the rate of 124.3 per 100,000 adult persons recorded in 1995. Queensland had the highest rate of defendants finalised in 1996 at 240.7 per 100,000 adults, more than double the national rate. Western Australia and the Northern Territory, with rates of 178.5 and 170.8 respectively, were also higher than the national rate. New South Wales and Victoria, with the largest resident adult populations in Australia, had relatively low rates of defendants finalised, 81.7 and 47.6 respectively. (See table 1.)

RATE OF DEFENDANTS FINALISED—1996



(a) Rate per 100,000 adult persons.

It should be noted that State and Territory legislation and procedures determine the types of charges heard in each court level. These differences should be taken into account when comparing rates across Australia as they impact on the variations observed. For instance, relative to the other States and Territories, the Higher Courts in Queensland have a wider jurisdiction in terms of the range of offences that can be heard.

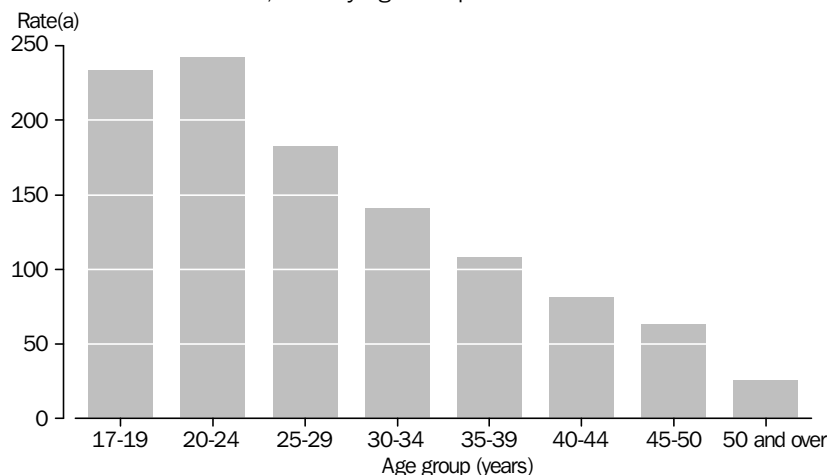
## Age and sex

Data on the age and sex of defendants finalised in the Higher Courts were available for the first time in 1996. Over 60% of defendants finalised in Australia were aged between 17–34 years. One in five defendants (21.3%) fell within the 20–24 year age group which had the highest rate of defendants finalised, at 242.5 per 100,000 adult persons. Persons aged 17–19 also had a high rate, with 234.1 defendants finalised per 100,000 adult persons in that age group. For older age groups, the rate of defendants finalised declined steadily as the age of the group increased.

The majority (88.4%) of finalised defendants were male. The Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of female defendants, with 17.0% of all defendants finalised, and the Northern Territory had the lowest with 5.1%.

Generally the distribution pattern of the age groups was the same for males and females, with the highest rate per 100,000 adult persons recorded in the 20–24 year age group. The median age of male and female defendants was very similar, at 28.7 years and 28.8 years respectively. Across the States and Territories, the median age of defendants was lowest in the Australian Capital Territory at 25.5 years of age, and highest in Victoria at 32.1 years of age. (See table 5.)

DEFENDANTS FINALISED, Rate by Age Group—1996



(a) Rate per 100,000 adult persons.

## Method of Finalisation

Defendants who were finalised by the Higher Courts may have had more than one charge laid against them and these may have had different outcomes. This publication presents statistics on the main method of finalisation for a defendant (see paragraph 23 of the Explanatory Notes for the counting methodology). The method of finalisation for a defendant can be broadly classified into two groups: adjudicated finalisations and non-adjudicated finalisations.



Method of Finalisation *continued*

Adjudicated finalisations refer to defendants whose charge(s) are resolved through a trial or sentence hearing before a judge and which involve a judgement by the court as to whether the defendant is guilty of the charge(s) against them. Defendants finalised by an adjudicated method of finalisation totalled 13,787 or 86.5% of the total finalisations. (See table 3.)

Non-adjudicated methods of finalisation include those where charges are withdrawn by the prosecution, the defendant died, the defendant absconded or there was an indefinite stay of proceedings. Defendants finalised by non-adjudicated methods totalled 2,151, accounting for 13.5% of the total finalised population in 1996.

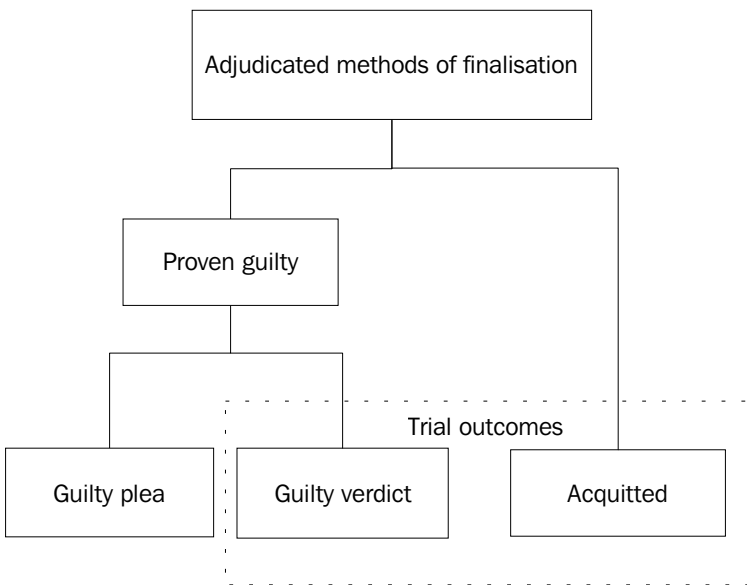
Adjudicated finalisations

Adjudicated finalisations are subdivided on the basis of whether or not the defendant was proven guilty. If none of the charges for a defendant are proven, the defendant is acquitted of all charges. If the defendant is proven guilty of at least one charge then he or she may be sentenced by the court.

Of the 13,787 defendants with an adjudicated method of finalisation in the Higher Courts across Australia, there were 12,424 (90.1%) defendants who were proven guilty, while the remaining 1,363 (9.9%) defendants were acquitted. (See table 3.)

Defendants proven guilty are differentiated on the basis of the process by which the charge(s) were adjudicated: 'guilty verdict' refers to defendants who went through a trial and were found guilty by the court while 'guilty plea' refers to defendants who admitted culpability. Nationally, 10,333 (83.2%) defendants proven guilty had admitted their guilty.

ADJUDICATED METHODS OF FINALISATION

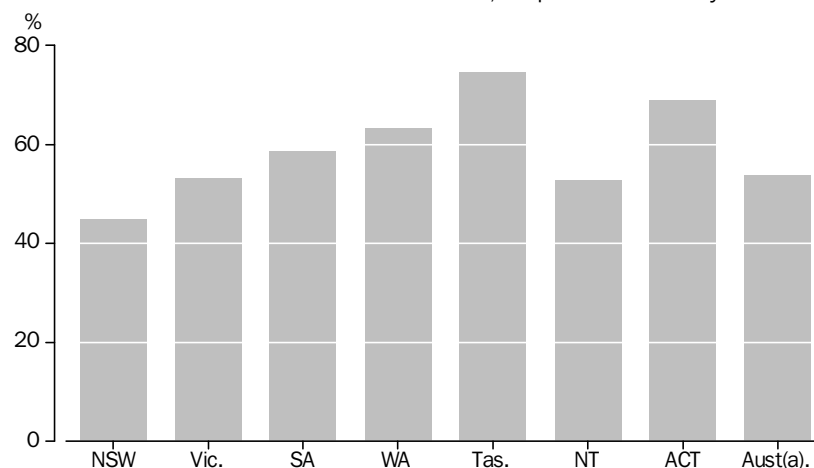


## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### Trial outcomes

Of the defendants finalised with a trial outcome, excluding Queensland, there were 1,243 defendants who received a guilty verdict, and 1,068 who were acquitted of all charges. There was variation across the States and Territories in the proportion of defendants with a guilty verdict at trial, ranging from 44.8% in New South Wales to 74.5% in Tasmania.

DEFENDANTS FINALISED BY TRIAL OUTCOMES, Proportion with Guilty Verdict—1996



(a) Excludes Queensland where data were not available.

### Change in plea

The process involved in adjudicating criminal charges depends on how a defendant pleads to the charges laid against him or her. Defendants who plead guilty to all charges are not subject to a jury trial and go through a sentence hearing to determine the penalty. In contrast, defendants who plead not guilty to at least one charge are typically subject to a trial by jury which determines whether they are acquitted or found guilty. Whether or not a trial is required to adjudicate a defendant's charge(s) is important for assessing Higher Court workload, as trials typically take longer and require greater court resources than sentence hearings.

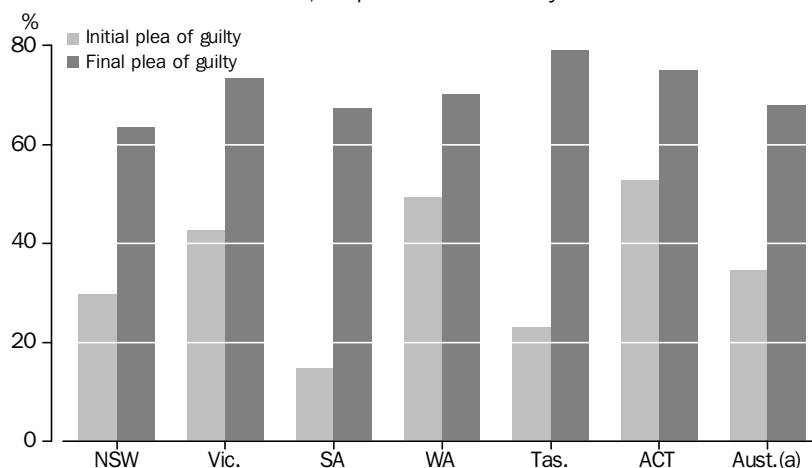
Information on the plea(s) initially entered by defendants gives an indication of the potential need for court resources. Information on the final plea(s) entered by defendants provides some indication of the actual need for court resources. While the majority of defendants are committed for trial, a minority of defendants are actually finalised by trial. Nationally, 72.2% of defendants were committed for trial, while only 17.6% were finalised by a trial outcome. (See tables 2 and 3.) The most important factor contributing to this difference was the tendency for defendants to change their plea(s) from not guilty to guilty during the course of proceedings in the Higher Courts.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### Change in plea *continued*

In the States and Territories with a low proportion of defendants who initially pleaded guilty, there was a high proportion of defendants initially pleading not guilty who changed their final plea to guilty. South Australia and Tasmania recorded the lowest proportions of adjudicated defendants who maintained a guilty plea to all charges (14.5% and 22.9% respectively), and the highest proportions of defendants who changed their initial plea of not guilty to a final plea of guilty during proceedings in the Higher Courts (56.1% in Tasmania and 52.7% in South Australia). In contrast, the highest proportions of defendants who pleaded guilty throughout their case were recorded in the Australian Capital Territory (52.6%) and Western Australia (48.6%). The lowest proportions of defendants who changed their final plea to guilty were also recorded in Western Australia (21.5%) and the Australian Capital Territory 22.4%). (See table 4.)

ADJUDICATED DEFENDANTS, Proportion with a Guilty Plea—1996



(a) Excludes Queensland and the Northern Territory where information on both initial and final pleas was not available.

For defendants finalised by an adjudicated method, information on both initial and final pleas was not available for Queensland and the Northern Territory. For the remaining States and Territories, the overall number of adjudicated defendants who had a final plea of guilty was 5,694 or 68.1%. This proportion varied across States and Territories ranging from a low of 63.4% in New South Wales to a high of 79.0% in Tasmania. (See table 4.)

### DURATION OF DEFENDANTS FINALISED

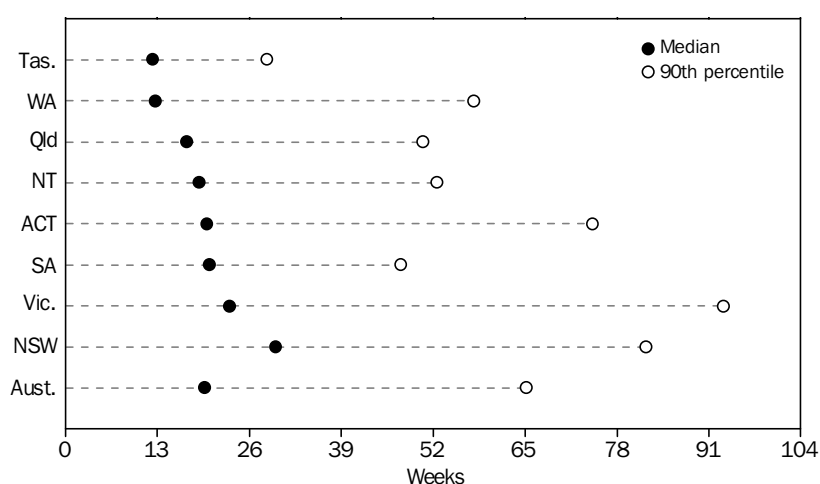
For all defendants finalised in the Higher Courts in 1996, duration figures are presented. These figures measure the total time taken to finalise all charges for a defendant from the date the case against the defendant was initiated. The total duration for a defendant includes the time taken by the defence and prosecution to prepare their cases, the time required to list the case and the actual time occupied by any hearings. Typically, hearing time occupies only a small proportion of the total case duration.

## Initiation to finalisation

For the 15,938 defendants finalised in the Higher Courts during 1996, the median duration from initiation to finalisation was 19.7 weeks. The median duration was longest in New South Wales at 29.7 weeks, followed by Victoria at 23.2 weeks. Tasmania and Western Australia had the shortest median duration (12.4 weeks and 12.7 weeks respectively). (See table 6.)

The finalisation of 90% of defendants was fastest in Tasmania, where it took 28.5 weeks from initiation, while Victoria was the slowest to finalise 90% of defendants, taking 93.0 weeks.

DEFENDANTS FINALISED, Duration from Initiation to Finalisation—1996



Nationally, the majority (84.3% or 13,440) of Higher Court defendants finalised during 1996 had all their charges completed within a year of initiation. All States and Territories had over 90% of defendants finalised within 18 months of initiation except for Victoria and New South Wales (86.1% and 88.5% respectively). (See table 7.)

The median duration from initiation to finalisation varied for different methods of finalisation. In general, defendants that went to trial took much longer to finalise than those that were dealt with through a sentence hearing. Defendants finalised in 1996 by a trial outcome of guilty verdict, or acquitted, had the longest median duration times at 41.9 weeks and 38.6 weeks respectively, while defendants finalised by guilty plea had the shortest median duration at 15.1 weeks. (See table 6.)

The median duration from initiation to finalisation for defendants who were acquitted was highest in Victoria (50.1 weeks) and lowest in Tasmania (14.6 weeks). For defendants finalised by a guilty verdict, the median duration was longest in New South Wales, taking 54.9 weeks, and shortest in Tasmania at 17.7 weeks. New South Wales also had the highest median duration for defendants finalised by a guilty plea (24.1 weeks), while Western Australia had the shortest median duration at 9.0 weeks.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### Initiation to guilty verdict

Duration figures which measure the time from initiation to verdict, and from verdict to sentencing, are presented for defendants finalised by a guilty verdict. This information was not available for Queensland. For all other States and Territories, the median duration from initiation to the handing down of a guilty verdict was less than a year in 1996, with the longest median duration of 47.3 weeks recorded in New South Wales.

The median duration from the date a guilty verdict was delivered to the date of sentencing was less than a month in all States and Territories except New South Wales where it was 5.1 weeks. (See table 8.)

### PENDING WORKLOAD

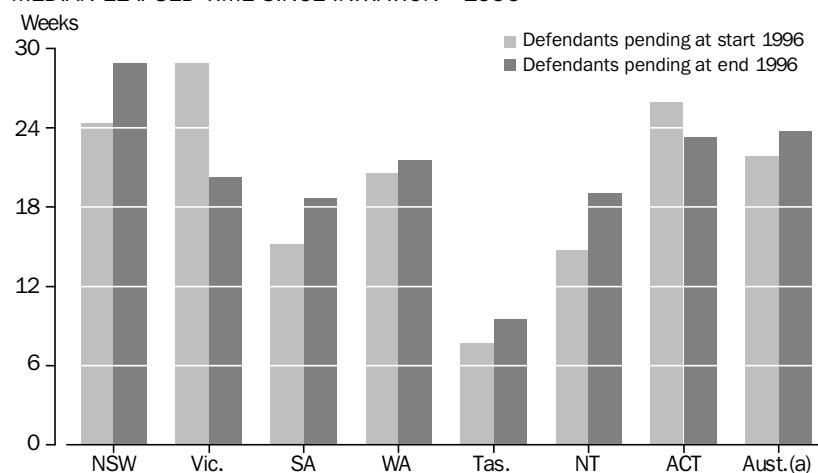
The pending workload of the Higher Courts is represented by the number of defendants unfinalised at a given point in time. This information was not available for Queensland. For the other States and Territories there were 6,333 defendants pending at the end of 1996 which was an increase of 2.2% from the 6,196 defendants pending at the start of 1996. (See table 1.)

The Northern Territory had the largest proportional increase (47.4%) in its pending workload during 1996, rising from 116 defendants on 1 January to 171 defendants on 31 December. All the other States and Territories showed relatively small proportional changes in their pending workloads. (See table 1.)

### Elapsed time since initiation

The national median elapsed time for which unfinalised defendants had been pending at the end of 1996 was 23.7 weeks (excluding Queensland where data were not available). The median elapsed time ranged from 9.5 weeks for Tasmanian defendants to a high of 28.9 weeks for New South Wales defendants. All the other States and Territories had median elapsed times for pending defendants at the end of 1996 that were relatively close to the national median elapsed time. (See table 12.)

#### MEDIAN ELAPSED TIME SINCE INITIATION—1996



(a) Excludes Queensland where data were not available.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### Elapsed time since initiation *continued*

Victoria had the largest decrease in median elapsed time since initiation, declining from 28.9 weeks at the start of 1996, to 20.3 weeks at the end of 1996. The Australian Capital Territory also recorded a drop in the median elapsed time since initiation, decreasing from 25.9 weeks at the start of 1996 to 23.3 weeks at the end of 1996. The largest rise in the median elapsed time since initiation was recorded in New South Wales, increasing from 24.4 weeks at the start of 1996 to 28.9 weeks at the end of 1996. (See tables 11 and 12.)

# 1

## DEFENDANTS INITIATED AND FINALISED, Status by Month

Month and status	NSW	Vic.	Qld(a)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT									
January									
Initiated	3	2	n.a.	5	30	26	12	6	n.a.
Finalised	—	2	49	6	32	1	2	—	92
February									
Initiated	12	6	n.a.	6	18	35	23	16	n.a.
Finalised	2	4	63	23	31	38	19	15	195
March									
Initiated	6	5	n.a.	19	38	18	31	15	n.a.
Finalised	8	8	70	19	27	27	19	18	196
April									
Initiated	9	4	n.a.	8	26	34	16	6	n.a.
Finalised	7	11	32	20	31	35	17	12	165
May									
Initiated	10	7	n.a.	14	37	36	23	10	n.a.
Finalised	9	11	83	22	18	36	22	14	215
June									
Initiated	10	7	n.a.	3	27	31	19	9	n.a.
Finalised	5	11	41	11	27	18	20	11	144
July									
Initiated	6	7	n.a.	15	40	32	23	23	n.a.
Finalised	6	8	86	16	31	34	15	10	206
August									
Initiated	8	8	n.a.	2	38	26	19	15	n.a.
Finalised	8	13	39	12	33	27	14	13	159
September									
Initiated	14	6	n.a.	5	27	15	13	15	n.a.
Finalised	4	5	43	15	23	25	19	7	141
October									
Initiated	9	2	n.a.	5	29	35	23	12	n.a.
Finalised	9	4	84	10	36	55	11	25	234
November									
Initiated	11	14	n.a.	3	11	37	44	18	n.a.
Finalised	6	8	71	12	30	14	28	6	175
December									
Initiated	7	5	n.a.	2	14	20	26	10	n.a.
Finalised	9	3	64	8	17	23	31	16	171
January to December									
Pending at start	137	64	n.a.	78	188	98	116	89	n.a.
Total initiated	105	73	n.a.	87	335	345	272	155	n.a.
Total transferred in	—	6	n.a.	106	36	. .	. .	. .	n.a.
Total transferred out	1	6	n.a.	38	63	. .	. .	. .	n.a.
Total finalised	73	88	725	174	336	333	217	147	2 093
Pending at end	168	49	n.a.	59	160	110	171	97	n.a.

(a) Counts of defendants initiated, pending and transferred are not available for the Qld Supreme Court. The finalised data for Qld exclude bench warrants being issued, see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 12.

Month and status	NSW	Vic.	Qld(a)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT(b)									
January									
Initiated	255	95	n.a.	84	178	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	81	105	254	72	116	..	..	..	628
February									
Initiated	327	128	n.a.	93	194	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	399	87	533	82	180	..	..	..	1 281
March									
Initiated	298	114	n.a.	117	215	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	350	138	459	109	209	..	..	..	1 265
April									
Initiated	315	95	n.a.	139	200	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	321	156	408	108	147	..	..	..	1 140
May									
Initiated	391	179	n.a.	115	199	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	377	139	505	73	191	..	..	..	1 285
June									
Initiated	301	135	n.a.	103	175	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	332	112	357	98	191	..	..	..	1 090
July									
Initiated	294	152	n.a.	108	172	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	169	151	468	123	144	..	..	..	1 055
August									
Initiated	351	162	n.a.	132	191	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	409	107	514	112	217	..	..	..	1 359
September									
Initiated	340	103	n.a.	73	140	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	283	141	432	79	166	..	..	..	1 101
October									
Initiated	275	156	n.a.	89	189	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	335	157	488	110	151	..	..	..	1 241
November									
Initiated	293	117	n.a.	95	164	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	393	161	525	112	175	..	..	..	1 366
December									
Initiated	290	113	n.a.	89	140	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	335	120	362	82	135	..	..	..	1 034
January to December									
Pending at start	3 013	973	n.a.	546	894	..	..	..	n.a.
Total initiated	3 730	1 549	n.a.	1 237	2 157	..	..	..	n.a.
Total transferred in	1	6	n.a.	38	63	..	..	..	n.a.
Total transferred out	—	6	n.a.	106	36	..	..	..	n.a.
Total finalised	3 784	1 574	5 305	1 160	2 022	..	..	..	13 845
Pending at end	2 960	948	n.a.	555	1 056	..	..	..	n.a.

(a) Counts of defendants initiated, pending and transferred are not available for the Qld Intermediate Court. Finalisation data for Qld exclude bench warrants being issued, see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 12.

(b) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.



Month and status	NSW	Vic.	Qld(a)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS(b)									
January									
Initiated	258	97	350	89	208	26	12	6	1 046
Finalised	81	107	303	78	148	1	2	—	720
February									
Initiated	339	134	487	99	212	35	23	16	1 345
Finalised	401	91	596	105	211	38	19	15	1 476
March									
Initiated	304	119	558	136	253	18	31	15	1 434
Finalised	358	146	529	128	236	27	19	18	1 461
April									
Initiated	324	99	492	147	226	34	16	6	1 344
Finalised	328	167	440	128	178	35	17	12	1 305
May									
Initiated	401	186	522	129	236	36	23	10	1 543
Finalised	386	150	588	95	209	36	22	14	1 500
June									
Initiated	311	142	505	106	202	31	19	9	1 325
Finalised	337	123	398	109	218	18	20	11	1 234
July									
Initiated	300	159	583	123	212	32	23	23	1 455
Finalised	175	159	554	139	175	34	15	10	1 261
August									
Initiated	359	170	492	134	229	26	19	15	1 444
Finalised	417	120	553	124	250	27	14	13	1 518
September									
Initiated	354	109	466	78	167	15	13	15	1 217
Finalised	287	146	475	94	189	25	19	7	1 242
October									
Initiated	284	158	495	94	218	35	23	12	1 319
Finalised	344	161	572	120	187	55	11	25	1 475
November									
Initiated	304	131	363	98	175	37	44	18	1 170
Finalised	399	169	596	124	205	14	28	6	1 541
December									
Initiated	297	118	369	91	154	20	26	10	1 085
Finalised	344	123	426	90	152	23	31	16	1 205
January to December									
Pending at start	3 150	1 037	n.a.	624	1 082	98	116	89	n.a.
Total initiated	3 835	1 622	5 682	1 324	2 492	345	272	155	15 727
Total transferred in	1	12	n.a.	144	99	. .	. .	. .	n.a.
Total transferred out	1	12	n.a.	144	99	. .	. .	. .	n.a.
Total finalised	3 857	1 662	6 030	1 334	2 358	333	217	147	15 938
Pending at end	3 128	997	n.a.	614	1 216	110	171	97	n.a.
RATE PER 100,000 ADULT PERSONS									
Pending at start	66.7	29.7	n.a.	54.9	81.9	27.6	91.3	38.5	n.a.
Total initiated	81.2	46.5	226.8	116.6	188.6	97.3	214.0	67.1	113.2
Total transferred in	—	0.3	n.a.	12.7	7.5	—	. .	. .	n.a.
Total transferred out	—	0.3	n.a.	12.7	7.5	—	. .	. .	n.a.
Total finalised	81.7	47.6	240.7	117.5	178.5	93.9	170.8	63.6	114.8
Pending at end	66.2	28.6	n.a.	54.1	92.0	31.0	134.6	42.0	n.a.

(a) Initiation data for Qld include defendants committed only, data for other methods of initiation are not currently available, see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 12. The finalised data for Qld exclude bench warrants being issued. Counts of defendants pending and defendants transferred are not currently available for Qld.

(b) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

Method of initiation	NSW	Vic.	Qld(a)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT(b)	ACT	Aust.(a)
NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT									
Committed									
Committed for trial	100	64	n.a.	56	241	266	—	80	n.a.
Committed for sentence	2	4	n.a.	—	85	70	—	74	n.a.
Committed n.f.d.(c)	—	—	n.a.	—	—	—	251	—	n.a.
Total	102	68	n.a.	56	326	336	251	154	n.a.
Ex-officio	2	1	n.a.	11	—	2	12	—	n.a.
Bench warrant executed	—	3	n.a.	11	9	7	9	1	n.a.
Other initiation(d)	1	1	n.a.	9	—	—	—	—	n.a.
Total	105	73	n.a.	87	335	345	272	155	n.a.
PROPORTION IN SUPREME COURT (%)									
Committed									
Committed for trial	95.2	87.7	n.a.	64.4	71.9	77.1	—	51.6	n.a.
Committed for sentence	1.9	5.5	n.a.	—	25.4	20.3	—	47.7	n.a.
Committed n.f.d.(c)	—	—	n.a.	—	—	—	92.3	—	n.a.
Total	97.1	93.2	n.a.	64.4	97.3	97.4	92.3	99.4	n.a.
Ex-officio	1.9	1.4	n.a.	12.6	—	0.6	4.4	—	n.a.
Bench warrant executed	—	4.1	n.a.	12.6	2.7	2.0	3.3	0.6	n.a.
Other initiation(d)	1.0	1.4	n.a.	10.3	—	—	—	—	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	n.a.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	n.a.
NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT(e)									
Committed									
Committed for trial	2 575	813	n.a.	999	1 121	..	..	..	n.a.
Committed for sentence	935	691	n.a.	146	971	..	..	..	n.a.
Committed n.f.d.(c)	—	—	n.a.	—	—	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	3 510	1 504	n.a.	1 145	2 092	..	..	..	n.a.
Ex-officio	9	11	n.a.	3	2	..	..	..	n.a.
Bench warrant executed	180	18	n.a.	72	63	..	..	..	n.a.
Other initiation(d)	31	16	n.a.	17	—	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	3 730	1 549	n.a.	1 237	2 157	..	..	..	n.a.
PROPORTION IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (%) (e)									
Committed									
Committed for trial	69.0	52.5	n.a.	80.8	52.0	..	..	..	n.a.
Committed for sentence	25.1	44.6	n.a.	11.8	45.0	..	..	..	n.a.
Committed n.f.d.(c)	—	—	n.a.	—	—	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	94.1	97.1	n.a.	92.6	97.0	..	..	..	n.a.
Ex-officio	0.2	0.7	n.a.	0.2	0.1	..	..	..	n.a.
Bench warrant executed	4.8	1.2	n.a.	5.8	2.9	..	..	..	n.a.
Other initiation(d)	0.8	1.0	n.a.	1.4	—	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	n.a.	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	n.a.

(a) Data for defendants initiated in Qld are only available for the Supreme and Intermediate Courts combined, see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 12.

(b) Committal details for NT are currently not available.

(c) Where the distinction between committed for trial and committed for sentence is unavailable, data are classified to committed n.f.d.

(d) Includes defendants initiated as a result of a re-trial being ordered or by a transfer from another court.

(e) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

Method of initiation	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT(a)	ACT	Aust.
TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS(b)									
Committed									
Committed for trial	2 675	877	5 040	1 055	1 362	266	—	80	11 355
Committed for sentence	937	695	642	146	1 056	70	—	74	3 620
Committed n.f.d.(c)	—	—	—	—	—	—	251	—	251
<i>Total</i>	3 612	1 572	5 682	1 201	2 418	336	251	154	15 226
Ex-officio	11	12	n.a.	14	2	2	12	—	(d)53
Bench warrant executed	180	21	n.a.	83	72	7	9	1	(d)373
Other initiation(e)	32	17	n.a.	26	—	—	—	—	(d)75
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 835</b>	<b>1 622</b>	<b>(d)5 682</b>	<b>1 324</b>	<b>2 492</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>(d)15 727</b>
PROPORTION IN HIGHER COURTS (%) (b)									
Committed									
Committed for trial	69.8	54.1	88.7	79.7	54.7	77.1	—	51.6	72.2
Committed for sentence	24.4	42.8	11.3	11.0	42.4	20.3	—	47.7	23.0
Committed n.f.d.(c)	—	—	—	—	—	—	92.3	—	1.6
<i>Total</i>	94.2	96.9	n.a.	90.7	97.0	97.4	92.3	99.4	96.8
Ex-officio	0.3	0.7	n.a.	1.1	0.1	0.6	4.4	—	(d)0.3
Bench warrant executed	4.7	1.3	n.a.	6.3	2.9	2.0	3.3	0.6	(d)2.3
Other initiation(e)	0.8	1.0	n.a.	2.0	—	—	—	—	(d)0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(d)100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(d)100.0</b>

(a) Committed details for the NT are currently not available.

(b) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

(c) Where the distinction between committed for trial and committed for sentence is unavailable, data are classified to committed n.f.d.

(d) Data on defendants initiated by ex-officio, bench warrant executed or other initiation methods are currently not available for Qld, see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 12.

(e) Includes defendants initiated as a result of a re-trial being ordered by a transfer from another court.

Method of finalisation	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT									
Adjudicated									
Acquitted	16	21	20	33	39	14	17	9	169
Proven guilty									
Guilty verdict	19	26	49	41	78	41	19	20	293
Guilty plea	37	40	584	68	188	216	152	87	1 372
Total	56	66	633	109	266	257	171	107	1 665
Total	72	87	653	142	305	271	188	116	1 834
Non-adjudicated									
Bench warrant issued	—	1	n.a.	5	12	10	17	4	(a)49
Withdrawn	1	—	70	26	17	50	12	16	192
Other finalisation(b)	—	—	2	1	2	2	—	11	18
Total	1	1	(a)72	32	31	62	29	31	(a)259
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>(a)725</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>(a)2 093</b>
PROPORTION IN SUPREME COURT (%)									
Adjudicated									
Acquitted	21.9	23.9	2.8	19.0	11.6	4.2	7.8	6.1	8.1
Proven guilty									
Guilty verdict	26.0	29.5	6.8	23.6	23.2	12.3	8.8	13.6	14.0
Guilty plea	50.7	45.5	80.6	39.1	56.0	64.9	70.0	59.2	65.6
Total	76.7	75.0	87.3	62.6	79.2	77.2	78.8	72.8	79.6
Total	98.6	98.9	90.1	81.6	90.8	81.4	86.6	78.9	87.6
Non-adjudicated									
Bench warrant issued	—	1.1	n.a.	2.9	3.6	3.0	7.8	2.7	(a)2.3
Withdrawn	1.4	—	9.7	14.9	5.1	15.0	5.5	10.9	9.2
Other finalisation(b)	—	—	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.6	—	7.5	0.9
Total	1.4	1.1	(a)9.9	18.4	9.2	18.6	13.4	21.1	(a)12.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(a)100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(a)100.0</b>

(a) These totals exclude Qld defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

(b) Includes defendants who were withdrawn by prosecution, transferred to another court level or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

Method of finalisation	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT(a)									
Adjudicated									
Acquitted	485	169	275	85	180	..	..	..	1 194
Proven guilty									
Guilty verdict	387	189	139	125	298	..	..	..	1 138
Guilty plea	2 371	1 086	3 505	689	1 310	..	..	..	8 961
Proven guilty n.f.d.(b)	—	—	660	—	—	..	..	..	660
Total	2 758	1 275	4 304	814	1 608	..	..	..	10 759
Total	3 243	1 444	4 579	899	1 788	..	..	..	11 953
Non-adjudicated									
Bench warrant issued	163	23	n.a.	77	74	..	..	..	(c)337
Withdrawn	349	106	726	167	137	..	..	..	1 485
Other finalisation(d)	29	1	—	17	23	..	..	..	70
Total	541	130	(c)726	261	234	..	..	..	(c)1 892
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 784</b>	<b>1 574</b>	<b>(c)5 305</b>	<b>1 160</b>	<b>2 022</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>(c)13 845</b>
PROPORTION IN INTERMEDIATE COURT(%) (a)									
Adjudicated									
Acquitted	12.8	10.7	5.2	7.3	8.9	..	..	..	8.6
Proven guilty									
Guilty verdict	10.2	12.0	2.6	10.8	14.7	..	..	..	8.2
Guilty plea	62.7	69.0	66.1	59.4	64.8	..	..	..	64.7
Proven guilty n.f.d.(b)	—	—	12.4	—	—	..	..	..	4.8
Total	72.9	81.0	81.1	70.2	79.5	..	..	..	77.7
Total	85.7	91.7	86.3	77.5	88.4	..	..	..	86.3
Non-adjudicated									
Bench warrant issued	4.3	1.5	n.a.	6.6	3.7	..	..	..	(c)2.4
Withdrawn	9.2	6.7	13.7	14.4	6.8	..	..	..	10.7
Other finalisation(d)	0.8	0.1	—	1.5	1.1	..	..	..	0.5
Total	14.3	8.3	(c)13.7	22.5	11.6	..	..	..	(c)13.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(c)100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>(c)100.0</b>

(a) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

(b) Where the distinction between guilty verdict and guilty plea is unavailable, data are classified to proven guilty n.f.d.

(c) These totals exclude Qld defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

(d) Includes defendants who were withdrawn by prosecution, transferred to another court level or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

Method of finalisation	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS(a)									
Adjudicated									
Acquitted	501	190	295	118	219	14	17	9	1 363
Proven guilty									
Guilty verdict	406	215	188	166	376	41	19	20	1 431
Guilty plea	2 408	1 126	4 089	757	1 498	216	152	87	10 333
Proven guilty n.f.d.(b)	—	—	660	—	—	—	—	—	660
Total	2 814	1 341	4 937	923	1 874	257	171	107	12 424
Total	3 315	1 531	5 232	1 041	2 093	271	188	116	13 787
Non-adjudicated									
Bench warrant issued	163	24	n.a.	82	86	10	17	4	(c)386
Withdrawn	350	106	796	193	154	50	12	16	1 677
Other finalisation(d)	29	1	2	18	25	2	—	11	88
Total	542	131	(c)798	293	265	62	29	31	(c)2 151
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 857</b>	<b>1 662</b>	<b>(c)6 030</b>	<b>1 334</b>	<b>2 358</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>(c)15 938</b>
PROPORTION IN HIGHER COURTS (%) (a)									
Adjudicated									
Acquitted	13.0	11.4	4.9	8.8	9.3	4.2	7.8	6.1	8.6
Proven guilty									
Guilty verdict	10.5	12.9	3.1	12.4	15.9	12.3	8.8	13.6	9.0
Guilty plea	62.4	67.7	67.8	56.7	63.5	64.9	70.0	59.2	64.8
Proven guilty n.f.d.(b)	—	—	10.9	—	—	—	—	—	4.1
Total	73.0	80.7	81.9	69.2	79.5	77.2	78.8	72.8	78.0
Total	85.9	92.1	86.8	78.0	88.8	81.4	86.6	78.9	86.5
Non-adjudicated									
Bench warrant issued	4.2	1.4	n.a.	6.1	3.6	3.0	7.8	2.7	(c)2.4
Withdrawn	9.1	6.4	13.2	14.5	6.5	15.0	5.5	10.9	10.5
Other finalisation(d)	0.8	0.1	—	1.3	1.1	0.6	—	7.5	0.6
Total	14.1	7.9	(c)13.2	22.0	11.2	18.6	13.4	21.1	(c)13.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(c)100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(c)100.0</b>

(a) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

(b) Where the distinction between guilty verdict and guilty plea is unavailable, data are classified to proven guilty n.f.d.

(c) These totals exclude Qld defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

(d) Includes defendants who were withdrawn by prosecution, transferred to another court level or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

<i>Initial and final plea status</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld(b)</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT(b)</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT									
No change in plea									
Not guilty	42	47	n.a.	91	126	54	n.a.	29	n.a.
Guilty	4	10	n.a.	5	92	62	n.a.	61	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
Change in plea									
Not guilty to guilty	26	30	n.a.	44	84	152	n.a.	26	n.a.
Guilty to not guilty	—	—	n.a.	—	2	—	n.a.	—	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
Initial/final plea unknown	—	—	n.a.	2	1	3	n.a.	—	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>1 834</b>
PROPORTION IN SUPREME COURT (%)									
No change in plea									
Not guilty	58.3	54.0	n.a.	64.1	41.3	19.9	n.a.	25.0	n.a.
Guilty	5.6	11.5	n.a.	3.5	30.2	22.9	n.a.	52.6	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>63.9</b>	<b>65.5</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>67.6</b>	<b>71.5</b>	<b>42.8</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>77.6</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
Change in plea									
Not guilty to guilty	36.1	34.5	n.a.	31.0	27.5	56.1	n.a.	22.4	n.a.
Guilty to not guilty	—	—	n.a.	—	0.7	—	n.a.	—	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>36.1</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>56.1</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
Initial/final plea unknown	—	—	n.a.	1.4	0.3	1.1	n.a.	—	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT(c)									
No change in plea									
Not guilty	1 172	356	n.a.	231	489	..	..	..	n.a.
Guilty	980	646	n.a.	146	926	..	..	..	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 152</b>	<b>1 002</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>1 415</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
Change in plea									
Not guilty to guilty	1 090	439	n.a.	505	366	..	..	..	n.a.
Guilty to not guilty	1	—	n.a.	1	5	..	..	..	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 091</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
Initial/final plea unknown	—	3	n.a.	16	2	..	..	..	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 243</b>	<b>1 444</b>	<b>4 579</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>1 788</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>11 953</b>
PROPORTION IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (%) (c)									
No change in plea									
Not guilty	36.1	24.7	n.a.	25.7	27.3	..	..	..	n.a.
Guilty	30.2	44.7	n.a.	16.2	51.8	..	..	..	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>66.4</b>	<b>69.4</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>41.9</b>	<b>79.1</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
Change in plea									
Not guilty to guilty	33.6	30.4	n.a.	56.2	20.5	..	..	..	n.a.
Guilty to not guilty	—	—	n.a.	0.1	0.3	..	..	..	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>30.4</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
Initial/final plea unknown	—	0.2	n.a.	1.8	0.1	..	..	..	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Includes defendants who were acquitted, pleaded guilty or received a guilty verdict.

(b) Information on both initial and final pleas was not available in Qld and the NT.

(c) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

<i>Initial and final plea status</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld(b)</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT(b)</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS(c)									
No change in plea									
Not guilty	1 214	403	n.a.	322	615	54	n.a.	29	n.a.
Guilty	984	656	n.a.	151	1 018	62	n.a.	61	n.a.
<i>Total</i>	2 198	1 059	n.a.	473	1 633	116	n.a.	90	n.a.
Change in plea									
Not guilty to guilty	1 116	469	n.a.	549	450	152	n.a.	26	n.a.
Guilty to not guilty	1	—	n.a.	1	7	—	n.a.	—	n.a.
<i>Total</i>	1 117	469	n.a.	550	457	152	n.a.	26	n.a.
Initial/final plea unknown	—	3	n.a.	18	3	3	n.a.	—	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 315</b>	<b>1 531</b>	<b>5 232</b>	<b>1 041</b>	<b>2 093</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>13 787</b>
PROPORTION IN HIGHER COURTS (%) (c)									
No change in plea									
Not guilty	36.6	26.3	n.a.	30.9	29.4	19.9	n.a.	25.0	n.a.
Guilty	29.7	42.8	n.a.	14.5	48.6	22.9	n.a.	52.6	n.a.
<i>Total</i>	66.3	69.2	n.a.	45.4	78.0	42.8	n.a.	77.6	n.a.
Change in plea									
Not guilty to guilty	33.7	30.6	n.a.	52.7	21.5	56.1	n.a.	22.4	n.a.
Guilty to not guilty	—	—	n.a.	0.1	0.3	—	n.a.	—	n.a.
<i>Total</i>	33.7	30.6	n.a.	52.8	21.8	56.1	n.a.	22.4	n.a.
Initial/final plea unknown	—	0.2	n.a.	1.7	0.1	1.1	n.a.	—	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Includes defendants who were acquitted, pleaded guilty or received a guilty verdict.

(b) Information on both initial and final pleas was not available in Qld and the NT.

(c) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.



Sex and age group (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld(b)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(b)
TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS(c)									
Male									
Under 17	24	—	29	—	3	6	2	4	68
17–19	257	124	831	76	224	51	33	18	1 614
20–24	789	254	999	293	536	71	45	30	3 017
25–29	630	241	692	201	406	45	32	20	2 267
30–34	495	229	541	176	261	36	32	9	1 779
35–39	398	165	388	142	222	34	19	14	1 382
40–44	305	141	261	96	152	14	9	4	982
45–49	234	115	194	70	92	12	6	6	729
50 and over	349	182	278	93	178	22	7	5	1 114
Unknown	50	69	936	33	20	—	21	12	1 141
Total	3 531	1 520	5 149	1 180	2 094	291	206	122	14 093
Median age	30.3	32.2	26.5	30.1	28.1	26.2	27.3	25.4	28.7
Female									
Under 17	1	—	4	1	—	2	—	—	8
17–19	14	12	115	13	19	7	—	2	182
20–24	69	22	152	33	73	12	3	7	371
25–29	60	25	143	38	50	4	—	1	321
30–34	44	26	105	26	38	7	2	5	253
35–39	52	12	74	17	28	3	3	4	193
40–44	25	13	46	7	22	1	1	1	116
45–49	13	10	38	9	20	1	1	—	92
50 and over	34	10	28	5	9	5	—	—	91
Unknown	13	9	176	3	5	—	1	5	212
Total	325	139	881	152	264	42	11	25	1 839
Median age	31.3	30.6	27.5	29.0	28.4	25.3	35.5	27.9	28.8
Persons									
Under 17	25	—	33	1	3	8	2	4	76
17–19	271	136	946	89	243	58	33	20	1 796
20–24	858	276	1 151	326	609	83	48	37	3 388
25–29	690	266	835	239	456	49	32	21	2 588
30–34	539	255	646	202	299	43	34	14	2 032
35–39	450	177	462	159	250	37	22	18	1 575
40–44	330	154	307	103	174	15	10	5	1 098
45–49	247	125	232	79	112	13	7	6	821
50 and over	383	192	306	98	187	27	7	5	1 205
Unknown	63	78	1 112	36	25	—	22	17	1 353
Total	3 856	1 659	6 030	1 332	2 358	333	217	147	15 932
Median age	30.4	32.1	26.7	29.8	28.2	26.1	27.5	25.5	28.8
Organisations	1	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 857</b>	<b>1 662</b>	<b>6 030</b>	<b>1 334</b>	<b>2 358</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>15 938</b>

(a) Age is calculated at the defendant's date of finalisation.

(b) Excludes Qld defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

(c) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

Sex and age group (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld(b)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(b)
PROPORTION IN HIGHER COURTS (%) (c)									
<b>Male</b>									
Under 17	0.7	—	0.6	—	0.1	2.1	1.0	3.3	0.5
17–19	7.3	8.2	16.1	6.4	10.7	17.5	16.0	14.8	11.5
20–24	22.3	16.7	19.4	24.8	25.6	24.4	21.8	24.6	21.4
25–29	17.8	15.9	13.4	17.0	19.4	15.5	15.5	16.4	16.1
30–34	14.0	15.1	10.5	14.9	12.5	12.4	15.5	7.4	12.6
35–39	11.3	10.9	7.5	12.0	10.6	11.7	9.2	11.5	9.8
40–44	8.6	9.3	5.1	8.1	7.3	4.8	4.4	3.3	7.0
45–49	6.6	7.6	3.8	5.9	4.4	4.1	2.9	4.9	5.2
50 and over	9.9	12.0	5.4	7.9	8.5	7.6	3.4	4.1	7.9
Unknown	1.4	4.5	18.2	2.8	1.0	—	10.2	9.8	8.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Female</b>									
Under 17	0.3	—	0.5	0.7	—	4.8	—	—	0.4
17–19	4.3	8.6	13.1	8.6	7.2	16.7	—	8.0	9.9
20–24	21.2	15.8	17.3	21.7	27.7	28.6	27.3	28.0	20.2
25–29	18.5	18.0	16.2	25.0	18.9	9.5	—	4.0	17.5
30–34	13.5	18.7	11.9	17.1	14.4	16.7	18.2	20.0	13.8
35–39	16.0	8.6	8.4	11.2	10.6	7.1	27.3	16.0	10.5
40–44	7.7	9.4	5.2	4.6	8.3	2.4	9.1	4.0	6.3
45–49	4.0	7.2	4.3	5.9	7.6	2.4	9.1	—	5.0
50 and over	10.5	7.2	3.2	3.3	3.4	11.9	—	—	4.9
Unknown	4.0	6.5	20.0	2.0	1.9	—	9.1	20.0	11.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Persons</b>									
Under 17	0.6	—	0.5	0.1	0.1	2.4	0.9	2.7	0.5
17–19	7.0	8.2	15.7	6.7	10.3	17.4	15.2	13.6	11.3
20–24	22.3	16.6	19.1	24.5	25.8	24.9	22.1	25.2	21.3
25–29	17.9	16.0	13.8	17.9	19.3	14.7	14.7	14.3	16.2
30–34	14.0	15.4	10.7	15.2	12.7	12.9	15.7	9.5	12.8
35–39	11.7	10.7	7.7	11.9	10.6	11.1	10.1	12.2	9.9
40–44	8.6	9.3	5.1	7.7	7.4	4.5	4.6	3.4	6.9
45–49	6.4	7.5	3.8	5.9	4.7	3.9	3.2	4.1	5.2
50 and over	9.9	11.6	5.1	7.4	7.9	8.1	3.2	3.4	7.6
Unknown	1.6	4.7	18.4	2.7	1.1	—	10.1	11.6	8.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Defendants</b>									
Male	91.5	91.5	85.4	88.5	88.8	87.4	94.9	83.0	88.4
Female	8.4	8.4	14.6	11.4	11.2	12.6	5.1	17.0	11.5
Organisations	—	0.2	—	0.1	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Age is calculated at the defendant's date of finalisation.

(b) Excludes Qld defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

(c) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

Sex and age group (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld(b)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(b)
RATE OF HIGHER COURTS DEFENDANTS PER 100,000 ADULT PERSONS									
Male									
Under 17	3.2	—	6.8	—	1.3	9.8	7.1	10.2	3.0
17–19	199.7	127.0	1 119.6	252.0	564.4	508.4	757.4	224.7	410.9
20–24	336.3	144.6	742.5	542.9	762.4	430.7	504.1	209.3	425.6
25–29	267.0	134.6	528.0	365.4	577.2	276.7	334.6	153.6	319.1
30–34	200.7	128.0	419.1	312.8	368.2	209.5	356.0	71.5	246.8
35–39	161.5	91.9	296.8	244.2	307.6	183.7	225.0	112.2	190.2
40–44	134.5	84.7	211.5	177.4	222.0	79.5	123.7	33.7	145.2
45–49	106.5	72.4	159.9	132.2	140.1	71.4	90.0	49.6	111.4
50 and over	44.6	32.1	69.4	47.7	88.1	36.6	53.1	17.1	49.5
Total	152.1	89.2	413.6	212.4	317.5	168.2	305.6	107.4	206.0
Female									
Under 17	0.1	—	1.0	0.6	—	3.4	—	—	0.4
17–19	11.4	13.0	161.4	45.3	50.8	72.3	—	25.8	48.6
20–24	30.2	12.8	116.4	64.2	109.9	73.9	36.8	49.4	53.9
25–29	25.4	13.8	110.9	71.2	73.5	24.1	—	7.6	45.4
30–34	18.0	14.2	80.7	46.1	54.0	39.1	24.0	38.6	35.0
35–39	21.1	6.6	56.3	29.2	39.1	15.7	39.4	30.7	26.5
40–44	11.0	7.7	37.6	12.8	32.2	5.7	15.2	7.9	17.1
45–49	6.1	6.3	32.6	17.0	32.2	6.1	18.2	—	14.4
50 and over	3.9	1.6	6.5	2.2	4.1	7.4	—	—	3.6
Total	13.5	7.8	69.9	26.2	39.9	23.1	18.4	21.3	26.1
Persons									
Under 17	1.7	—	4.0	0.3	0.7	6.7	3.7	5.2	1.7
17–19	107.6	71.6	650.4	151.2	315.1	294.3	401.0	126.9	234.1
20–24	185.2	79.3	434.1	309.5	445.4	253.6	281.2	129.9	242.5
25–29	146.0	73.8	321.1	220.6	329.5	149.0	171.3	80.4	182.5
30–34	109.6	70.6	249.2	179.3	211.7	122.6	196.2	54.8	140.7
35–39	91.3	49.0	176.3	136.5	174.0	98.3	137.0	70.5	108.2
40–44	72.7	45.9	124.9	94.5	127.2	42.6	72.1	20.4	81.0
45–49	57.0	39.2	97.5	74.6	87.6	39.1	57.5	24.5	63.4
50 and over	23.0	15.8	36.9	23.4	44.6	21.1	29.6	8.2	25.3
Total	81.7	47.6	240.7	117.3	178.5	93.9	170.8	63.6	114.7

(a) Age is calculated at the defendant's date of finalisation.

(b) Excludes Qld defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

<i>Method of finalisation and summary duration measures (weeks)</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
SUPREME COURT									
Acquitted									
Mean	55.6	59.5	36.4	27.8	44.7	19.8	48.0	39.0	41.3
10th percentile	26.1	17.0	14.1	10.9	21.0	8.5	25.5	19.4	14.0
25th percentile	34.0	26.6	22.6	20.3	33.7	11.1	34.4	28.0	23.3
Median	53.0	49.6	31.4	24.3	48.9	14.6	42.9	42.7	37.1
75th percentile	66.4	88.1	45.6	36.4	53.6	25.3	73.0	49.4	53.1
90th percentile	96.4	105.9	61.6	47.6	61.6	29.9	73.0	58.1	73.0
Guilty verdict									
Mean	70.6	36.0	34.2	50.7	44.5	18.5	33.7	44.9	40.3
10th percentile	30.7	23.1	17.4	23.6	17.0	7.4	18.5	16.0	15.4
25th percentile	60.9	26.4	23.7	31.7	29.5	9.7	29.1	19.1	23.1
Median	73.0	32.1	30.6	45.0	46.8	17.7	34.0	52.0	35.6
75th percentile	87.5	38.6	39.7	58.9	54.4	25.0	43.4	70.1	53.0
90th percentile	92.7	47.7	56.9	89.1	64.7	35.9	44.4	73.3	73.1
Guilty plea									
Mean	63.0	24.6	27.7	31.0	16.6	14.7	22.2	24.7	24.4
10th percentile	33.9	6.8	0.1	11.7	8.0	5.0	3.4	6.3	4.9
25th percentile	49.7	18.5	11.1	23.1	9.7	7.3	9.4	8.2	10.0
Median	59.6	26.9	21.0	28.9	12.1	11.6	16.1	13.3	17.0
75th percentile	69.3	32.8	33.3	36.6	16.6	18.1	31.5	37.2	31.1
90th percentile	86.5	36.7	50.1	50.0	29.7	25.0	47.3	52.3	49.9
Other finalisation(a)									
Mean	96.0	17.9	49.1	40.8	33.3	16.3	22.1	50.5	35.5
10th percentile	96.0	17.9	17.7	1.0	8.0	4.9	3.8	3.7	5.1
25th percentile	96.0	17.9	26.3	10.0	10.1	7.9	6.7	9.7	10.0
Median	96.0	17.9	39.8	26.9	16.9	11.9	13.1	37.3	24.0
75th percentile	96.0	17.9	66.1	42.1	37.1	24.5	35.1	74.5	46.4
90th percentile	96.0	17.9	90.5	112.8	55.3	30.0	52.5	119.0	83.7
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>									
Mean	63.8	36.2	30.5	36.8	27.9	15.7	25.2	33.8	29.4
10th percentile	29.7	12.8	1.4	10.0	8.4	5.0	4.6	6.3	6.0
25th percentile	46.4	22.3	13.9	21.7	10.7	7.7	10.3	10.4	11.1
Median	64.4	29.3	23.7	29.1	16.9	12.4	18.9	20.0	21.4
75th percentile	78.1	38.5	38.0	44.9	44.2	19.9	37.1	51.6	38.6
90th percentile	93.5	65.6	56.9	66.9	56.0	28.5	52.5	74.5	59.1

(a) Includes defendants who werewithdrawn by the prosecution, transferred to another court level or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

<i>Method of finalisation and summary duration measures (weeks)</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
INTERMEDIATE COURT(a)									
Acquitted									
Mean	55.9	56.3	29.7	31.4	48.9	..	..	..	47.1
10th percentile	20.0	14.8	9.5	15.3	22.2	..	..	..	15.1
25th percentile	27.1	27.1	15.7	20.6	34.1	..	..	..	23.7
Median	45.9	50.7	24.0	26.3	48.0	..	..	..	38.7
75th percentile	72.0	73.0	38.7	40.0	60.2	..	..	..	60.1
90th percentile	106.6	121.6	58.4	47.5	73.7	..	..	..	88.9
Guilty verdict									
Mean	62.4	57.8	40.5	39.7	48.7	..	..	..	52.9
10th percentile	22.9	13.6	5.4	19.3	20.1	..	..	..	17.2
25th percentile	36.0	27.9	19.8	23.4	32.2	..	..	..	29.0
Median	53.9	43.9	30.7	33.0	45.6	..	..	..	43.2
75th percentile	80.8	78.4	50.9	42.0	62.2	..	..	..	67.7
90th percentile	109.9	126.9	88.5	69.5	77.1	..	..	..	98.1
Guilty plea									
Mean	31.5	29.2	18.3	21.9	13.8	..	..	..	22.7
10th percentile	7.0	6.6	0.1	6.0	4.3	..	..	..	2.6
25th percentile	12.7	9.8	4.3	10.1	5.1	..	..	..	7.6
Median	23.6	15.1	13.7	17.1	8.1	..	..	..	14.7
75th percentile	40.5	33.0	22.7	28.7	13.4	..	..	..	28.1
90th percentile	66.1	68.9	36.3	43.1	31.6	..	..	..	50.6
Proven guilty n.f.d.(b)									
Mean	—	—	29.7	—	—	..	..	..	29.7
10th percentile	—	—	10.4	—	—	..	..	..	10.4
25th percentile	—	—	14.5	—	—	..	..	..	14.5
Median	—	—	21.3	—	—	..	..	..	21.3
75th percentile	—	—	33.4	—	—	..	..	..	33.4
90th percentile	—	—	63.5	—	—	..	..	..	63.5
Other finalisation(c)									
Mean	41.2	67.2	37.2	18.8	25.5	..	..	..	36.4
10th percentile	8.3	11.5	10.0	4.1	6.2	..	..	..	6.9
25th percentile	16.4	20.1	15.5	6.6	9.1	..	..	..	13.1
Median	29.0	54.2	25.4	13.9	15.9	..	..	..	24.7
75th percentile	55.6	100.6	44.5	24.9	33.2	..	..	..	44.8
90th percentile	92.4	138.0	68.4	36.0	52.3	..	..	..	78.8
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>									
Mean	39.2	38.7	23.5	23.8	23.4	..	..	..	29.5
10th percentile	8.4	7.6	0.1	5.1	4.6	..	..	..	4.6
25th percentile	15.7	11.1	8.6	10.8	6.3	..	..	..	10.1
Median	29.3	22.1	16.6	19.3	12.0	..	..	..	19.4
75th percentile	51.7	54.1	28.1	31.0	34.2	..	..	..	37.4
90th percentile	81.6	94.7	49.1	45.0	58.6	..	..	..	66.1

(a) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

(b) Where the distinction between Guilty Verdict and Guilty Plea is unavailable, data are classified to Proven Guilty n.f.d.

(c) Includes defendants who werewithdrawn by the prosecution, transferred to another court level or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

<i>Method of finalisation and summary duration measures (weeks)</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
<b>TOTAL HIGHER COURTS(a)</b>									
Acquitted									
Mean	55.8	56.7	30.1	30.4	48.2	19.8	48.0	39.0	46.4
10th percentile	20.1	15.3	10.1	14.6	21.7	8.5	25.5	19.4	15.0
25th percentile	27.3	27.0	15.9	20.6	34.1	11.1	34.4	28.0	23.7
Median	46.3	50.1	24.7	26.1	48.0	14.6	42.9	42.7	38.6
75th percentile	72.0	77.1	38.9	38.5	59.6	25.3	73.0	49.4	59.2
90th percentile	105.3	121.5	59.0	47.6	72.8	29.9	73.0	58.1	84.8
Guilty verdict									
Mean	62.7	55.2	38.8	42.4	47.8	18.5	33.7	44.9	50.3
10th percentile	23.1	14.3	11.3	19.5	18.7	7.4	18.5	16.0	16.3
25th percentile	36.0	27.5	20.2	24.3	32.0	9.7	29.1	19.1	27.3
Median	54.9	39.3	30.6	34.1	45.8	17.7	34.0	52.0	41.9
75th percentile	82.1	72.1	45.3	47.0	60.1	25.0	43.4	70.1	64.7
90th percentile	108.8	123.7	78.5	76.8	74.7	35.9	44.4	73.3	94.1
Guilty plea									
Mean	32.0	29.0	19.6	22.7	14.2	14.7	22.2	24.7	22.9
10th percentile	7.0	6.6	0.1	6.1	4.4	5.0	3.4	6.3	3.0
25th percentile	12.8	9.9	5.1	11.0	5.3	7.3	9.4	8.2	7.9
Median	24.1	15.3	14.6	18.0	9.0	11.6	16.1	13.3	15.1
75th percentile	41.4	33.0	24.1	29.3	13.9	18.1	31.5	37.2	28.7
90th percentile	67.0	67.4	39.5	44.2	31.3	25.0	47.3	52.3	50.3
Proven guilty n.f.d.(b)									
Mean	—	—	29.7	—	—	—	—	—	29.7
10th percentile	—	—	10.4	—	—	—	—	—	10.4
25th percentile	—	—	14.5	—	—	—	—	—	14.5
Median	—	—	21.3	—	—	—	—	—	21.3
75th percentile	—	—	33.4	—	—	—	—	—	33.4
90th percentile	—	—	63.5	—	—	—	—	—	63.5
Other finalisation(c)									
Mean	41.3	66.9	38.3	21.2	26.4	16.3	22.1	50.5	36.3
10th percentile	8.3	11.6	10.2	3.9	6.5	4.9	3.8	3.7	6.7
25th percentile	16.4	19.7	16.1	6.6	9.1	7.9	6.7	9.7	12.7
Median	29.0	54.1	26.9	14.6	15.9	11.9	13.1	37.3	24.7
75th percentile	55.6	100.1	46.0	27.6	33.4	24.5	35.1	74.5	44.9
90th percentile	93.7	138.0	71.7	39.0	53.5	30.0	52.5	119.0	79.7
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>									
Mean	39.7	38.5	24.3	25.5	24.1	15.7	25.2	33.8	29.5
10th percentile	8.6	7.6	0.1	5.3	4.7	5.0	4.6	6.3	4.6
25th percentile	16.0	11.4	9.1	11.4	7.0	7.7	10.3	10.4	10.3
Median	29.7	23.2	17.1	20.3	12.7	12.4	18.9	20.0	19.7
75th percentile	53.0	53.3	29.7	32.3	36.1	19.9	37.1	51.6	37.4
90th percentile	82.1	93.0	50.6	47.5	57.7	28.5	52.5	74.5	65.1

(a) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

(b) Where the distinction between Guilty Verdict and Guilty Plea is unavailable, data are classified to Proven Guilty n.f.d.

(c) Includes defendants who werewithdrawn by the prosecution, transferred to another court level or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

Method of finalisation/duration (weeks)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT									
Acquitted									
Under 13	—	1	1	4	1	6	1	1	15
13 and under 26	2	3	5	13	5	5	1	1	35
26 and under 39	4	4	7	9	6	2	6	2	40
39 and under 52	1	4	3	5	13	—	1	3	30
52 and under 65	5	1	2	2	11	1	3	2	27
65 and under 78	—	1	—	—	3	—	5	—	9
78 and over	4	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>169</b>
Guilty verdict									
Under 13	—	—	1	—	2	14	1	—	18
13 and under 26	1	7	18	8	16	20	3	8	81
26 and under 39	2	13	17	7	10	5	8	1	63
39 and under 52	1	4	6	11	20	2	7	1	52
52 and under 65	1	1	4	7	22	—	—	4	39
65 and under 78	6	—	—	2	2	—	—	6	16
78 and over	8	1	3	6	6	—	—	—	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>293</b>
Guilty plea									
Under 13	—	8	158	10	109	121	59	40	505
13 and under 26	3	11	187	17	55	75	47	20	415
26 and under 39	4	19	125	25	8	12	20	7	220
39 and under 52	6	1	63	10	8	4	15	10	117
52 and under 65	8	1	21	2	4	1	5	3	45
65 and under 78	10	—	6	2	1	1	2	2	24
78 and over	6	—	24	2	3	2	4	5	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>1 372</b>
Other finalisation(a)									
Under 13	—	—	5	10	14	33	14	9	85
13 and under 26	—	1	13	4	7	16	5	5	51
26 and under 39	—	—	18	9	2	10	4	3	46
39 and under 52	—	—	12	3	4	2	2	—	23
52 and under 65	—	—	4	—	3	—	3	4	14
65 and under 78	—	—	4	—	—	1	—	3	8
78 and over	1	—	16	6	1	—	1	7	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(b)72</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>(b)259</b>
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>									
Under 13	—	9	165	24	126	174	75	50	623
13 and under 26	6	22	223	42	83	116	56	34	582
26 and under 39	10	36	167	50	26	29	38	13	369
39 and under 52	8	9	84	29	45	8	25	14	222
52 and under 65	14	3	31	11	40	2	11	13	125
65 and under 78	16	1	10	4	6	2	7	11	57
78 and over	19	8	45	14	10	2	5	12	115
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>(b)725</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>(b)2 093</b>

(a) Includes defendants who werewithdrawn by the prosecution, transferred to another court level or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

(b) Excludes Qld defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

<i>Method of finalisation/duration (weeks)</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
PROPORTION IN SUPREME COURT (%)									
Acquitted									
Under 13	—	4.8	5.0	12.1	2.6	42.9	5.9	11.1	8.9
13 and under 26	12.5	14.3	25.0	39.4	12.8	35.7	5.9	11.1	20.7
26 and under 39	25.0	19.0	35.0	27.3	15.4	14.3	35.3	22.2	23.7
39 and under 52	6.3	19.0	15.0	15.2	33.3	—	5.9	33.3	17.8
52 and under 65	31.3	4.8	10.0	6.1	28.2	7.1	17.6	22.2	16.0
65 and under 78	—	4.8	—	—	7.7	—	29.4	—	5.3
78 and over	25.0	33.3	10.0	—	—	—	—	—	7.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Guilty verdict									
Under 13	—	—	2.0	—	2.6	34.1	5.3	—	6.1
13 and under 26	5.3	26.9	36.7	19.5	20.5	48.8	15.8	40.0	27.6
26 and under 39	10.5	50.0	34.7	17.1	12.8	12.2	42.1	5.0	21.5
39 and under 52	5.3	15.4	12.2	26.8	25.6	4.9	36.8	5.0	17.7
52 and under 65	5.3	3.8	8.2	17.1	28.2	—	—	20.0	13.3
65 and under 78	31.6	—	—	4.9	2.6	—	—	30.0	5.5
78 and over	42.1	3.8	6.1	14.6	7.7	—	—	—	8.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Guilty plea									
Under 13	—	20.0	27.1	14.7	58.0	56.0	38.8	46.0	36.8
13 and under 26	8.1	27.5	32.0	25.0	29.3	34.7	30.9	23.0	30.2
26 and under 39	10.8	47.5	21.4	36.8	4.3	5.6	13.2	8.0	16.0
39 and under 52	16.2	2.5	10.8	14.7	4.3	1.9	9.9	11.5	8.5
52 and under 65	21.6	2.5	3.6	2.9	2.1	0.5	3.3	3.4	3.3
65 and under 78	27.0	—	1.0	2.9	0.5	0.5	1.3	2.3	1.7
78 and over	16.2	—	4.1	2.9	1.6	0.9	2.6	5.7	3.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Other finalisation(a)									
Under 13	—	—	6.9	31.3	45.2	53.2	48.3	29.0	32.8
13 and under 26	—	100.0	18.1	12.5	22.6	25.8	17.2	16.1	19.7
26 and under 39	—	—	25.0	28.1	6.5	16.1	13.8	9.7	17.8
39 and under 52	—	—	16.7	9.4	12.9	3.2	6.9	—	8.9
52 and under 65	—	—	5.6	—	9.7	—	10.3	12.9	5.4
65 and under 78	—	—	5.6	—	—	1.6	—	9.7	3.1
78 and over	100.0	—	22.2	18.8	3.2	—	3.4	22.6	12.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>(b)100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>(b)100.0</i>
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>									
Under 13	—	10.2	22.8	13.8	37.5	52.3	34.6	34.0	29.8
13 and under 26	8.2	25.0	30.8	24.1	24.7	34.8	25.8	23.1	27.8
26 and under 39	13.7	40.9	23.0	28.7	7.7	8.7	17.5	8.8	17.6
39 and under 52	11.0	10.2	11.6	16.7	13.4	2.4	11.5	9.5	10.6
52 and under 65	19.2	3.4	4.3	6.3	11.9	0.6	5.1	8.8	6.0
65 and under 78	21.9	1.1	1.4	2.3	1.8	0.6	3.2	7.5	2.7
78 and over	26.0	9.1	6.2	8.0	3.0	0.6	2.3	8.2	5.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(b)100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(b)100.0</b>

(a) Includes defendants who werewithdrawn by the prosecution, transferred to another court level or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

(b) Excludes Qld defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.



Method of finalisation/duration (weeks)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT(a)									
Acquitted									
Under 13	12	13	49	7	3	..	..	..	84
13 and under 26	91	24	100	35	19	..	..	..	269
26 and under 39	100	32	60	21	34	..	..	..	247
39 and under 52	66	19	25	15	52	..	..	..	177
52 and under 65	68	33	25	1	38	..	..	..	165
65 and under 78	53	10	11	4	21	..	..	..	99
78 and over	95	38	5	2	13	..	..	..	153
Total	485	169	275	85	180	..	..	..	1 194
Guilty verdict									
Under 13	8	17	21	4	12	..	..	..	62
13 and under 26	41	27	28	36	40	..	..	..	172
26 and under 39	75	43	33	42	67	..	..	..	260
39 and under 52	60	17	22	22	56	..	..	..	177
52 and under 65	50	24	14	6	60	..	..	..	154
65 and under 78	44	13	5	5	34	..	..	..	101
78 and over	109	48	16	10	29	..	..	..	212
Total	387	189	139	125	298	..	..	..	1 138
Guilty plea									
Under 13	605	467	1 627	239	955	..	..	..	3 893
13 and under 26	691	280	1 194	250	185	..	..	..	2 600
26 and under 39	444	99	374	115	73	..	..	..	1 105
39 and under 52	252	56	122	43	38	..	..	..	511
52 and under 65	128	68	63	25	32	..	..	..	316
65 and under 78	108	23	30	6	12	..	..	..	179
78 and over	143	93	95	11	15	..	..	..	357
Total	2 371	1 086	3 505	689	1 310	..	..	..	8 961
Proven guilty n.f.d.(b)									
Under 13	—	—	125	—	—	..	..	..	125
13 and under 26	—	—	290	—	—	..	..	..	290
26 and under 39	—	—	119	—	—	..	..	..	119
39 and under 52	—	—	39	—	—	..	..	..	39
52 and under 65	—	—	24	—	—	..	..	..	24
65 and under 78	—	—	19	—	—	..	..	..	19
78 and over	—	—	44	—	—	..	..	..	44
Total	—	—	660	—	—	..	..	..	660
Other finalisation(c)									
Under 13	105	16	125	123	95	..	..	..	464
13 and under 26	138	22	244	75	56	..	..	..	535
26 and under 39	96	14	140	42	41	..	..	..	333
39 and under 52	58	12	82	12	18	..	..	..	182
52 and under 65	35	11	48	2	12	..	..	..	108
65 and under 78	31	11	30	1	5	..	..	..	78
78 and over	78	44	57	6	7	..	..	..	192
Total	541	130	(d) 726	261	234	..	..	..	(d) 1 892
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>									
Under 13	730	513	1 947	373	1 065	..	..	..	4 628
13 and under 26	961	353	1 856	396	300	..	..	..	3 866
26 and under 39	715	188	726	220	215	..	..	..	2 064
39 and under 52	436	104	290	92	164	..	..	..	1 086
52 and under 65	281	136	174	34	142	..	..	..	767
65 and under 78	236	57	95	16	72	..	..	..	476
78 and over	425	223	217	29	64	..	..	..	958
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 784</b>	<b>1 574</b>	<b>(d) 5 305</b>	<b>1 160</b>	<b>2 022</b>	..	..	..	<b>(d) 13 845</b>

(a) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

(b) Where the distinction between Guilty Verdict and Guilty Plea is unavailable, data are classified to Proven Guilty n.f.d.

(c) Includes defendants who werewithdrawn by the prosecution, transferred to another court level or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

(d) Excludes Qld defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

Method of finalisation/duration (weeks)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
PROPORTION IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (%) (a)									
Acquitted									
Under 13	2.5	7.7	17.8	8.2	1.7	..	..	..	7.0
13 and under 26	18.8	14.2	36.4	41.2	10.6	..	..	..	22.5
26 and under 39	20.6	18.9	21.8	24.7	18.9	..	..	..	20.7
39 and under 52	13.6	11.2	9.1	17.6	28.9	..	..	..	14.8
52 and under 65	14.0	19.5	9.1	1.2	21.1	..	..	..	13.8
65 and under 78	10.9	5.9	4.0	4.7	11.7	..	..	..	8.3
78 and over	19.6	22.5	1.8	2.4	7.2	..	..	..	12.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	100.0
Guilty verdict									
Under 13	2.1	9.0	15.1	3.2	4.0	..	..	..	5.4
13 and under 26	10.6	14.3	20.1	28.8	13.4	..	..	..	15.1
26 and under 39	19.4	22.8	23.7	33.6	22.5	..	..	..	22.8
39 and under 52	15.5	9.0	15.8	17.6	18.8	..	..	..	15.6
52 and under 65	12.9	12.7	10.1	4.8	20.1	..	..	..	13.5
65 and under 78	11.4	6.9	3.6	4.0	11.4	..	..	..	8.9
78 and over	28.2	25.4	11.5	8.0	9.7	..	..	..	18.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	100.0
Guilty plea									
Under 13	25.5	43.0	46.4	34.7	72.9	..	..	..	43.4
13 and under 26	29.1	25.8	34.1	36.3	14.1	..	..	..	29.0
26 and under 39	18.7	9.1	10.7	16.7	5.6	..	..	..	12.3
39 and under 52	10.6	5.2	3.5	6.2	2.9	..	..	..	5.7
52 and under 65	5.4	6.3	1.8	3.6	2.4	..	..	..	3.5
65 and under 78	4.6	2.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	..	..	..	2.0
78 and over	6.0	8.6	2.7	1.6	1.1	..	..	..	4.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	100.0
Proven guilty n.f.d.(b)									
Under 13	—	—	18.9	—	—	..	..	..	18.9
13 and under 26	—	—	43.9	—	—	..	..	..	43.9
26 and under 39	—	—	18.0	—	—	..	..	..	18.0
39 and under 52	—	—	5.9	—	—	..	..	..	5.9
52 and under 65	—	—	3.6	—	—	..	..	..	3.6
65 and under 78	—	—	2.9	—	—	..	..	..	2.9
78 and over	—	—	6.7	—	—	..	..	..	6.7
Total	—	—	100.0	—	—	..	..	..	100.0
Other finalisation(c)									
Under 13	19.4	12.3	17.2	47.1	40.6	..	..	..	24.5
13 and under 26	25.5	16.9	33.6	28.7	23.9	..	..	..	28.3
26 and under 39	17.7	10.8	19.3	16.1	17.5	..	..	..	17.6
39 and under 52	10.7	9.2	11.3	4.6	7.7	..	..	..	9.6
52 and under 65	6.5	8.5	6.6	0.8	5.1	..	..	..	5.7
65 and under 78	5.7	8.5	4.1	0.4	2.1	..	..	..	4.1
78 and over	14.4	33.8	7.9	2.3	3.0	..	..	..	10.1
Total	100.0	100.0	(d)100.0	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	(d)100.0
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>									
Under 13	19.3	32.6	36.7	32.2	52.7	..	..	..	33.4
13 and under 26	25.4	22.4	35.0	34.1	14.8	..	..	..	27.9
26 and under 39	18.9	11.9	13.7	19.0	10.6	..	..	..	14.9
39 and under 52	11.5	6.6	5.5	7.9	8.1	..	..	..	7.8
52 and under 65	7.4	8.6	3.3	2.9	7.0	..	..	..	5.5
65 and under 78	6.2	3.6	1.8	1.4	3.6	..	..	..	3.4
78 and over	11.2	14.2	4.1	2.5	3.2	..	..	..	6.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(d)100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>(d)100.0</b>

(a) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

(b) Where the distinction between Guilty Verdict and Guilty Plea is unavailable, data are classified to Proven Guilty n.f.d.

(c) Includes defendants who werewithdrawn by the prosecution, transferred to another court level or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

(d) Excludes Qld defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

Method of finalisation/duration (weeks)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS(a)									
Acquitted									
Under 13	12	14	50	11	4	6	1	1	99
13 and under 26	93	27	105	48	24	5	1	1	304
26 and under 39	104	36	67	30	40	2	6	2	287
39 and under 52	67	23	28	20	65	—	1	3	207
52 and under 65	73	34	27	3	49	1	3	2	192
65 and under 78	53	11	11	4	24	—	5	—	108
78 and over	99	45	7	2	13	—	—	—	166
Total	501	190	295	118	219	14	17	9	1 363
Guilty verdict									
Under 13	8	17	22	4	14	14	1	—	80
13 and under 26	42	34	46	44	56	20	3	8	253
26 and under 39	77	56	50	49	77	5	8	1	323
39 and under 52	61	21	28	33	76	2	7	1	229
52 and under 65	51	25	18	13	82	—	—	4	193
65 and under 78	50	13	5	7	36	—	—	6	117
78 and over	117	49	19	16	35	—	—	—	236
Total	406	215	188	166	376	41	19	20	1 431
Guilty plea									
Under 13	605	475	1 785	249	1 064	121	59	40	4 398
13 and under 26	694	291	1 381	267	240	75	47	20	3 015
26 and under 39	448	118	499	140	81	12	20	7	1 325
39 and under 52	258	57	185	53	46	4	15	10	628
52 and under 65	136	69	84	27	36	1	5	3	361
65 and under 78	118	23	36	8	13	1	2	2	203
78 and over	149	93	119	13	18	2	4	5	403
Total	2 408	1 126	4 089	757	1 498	216	152	87	10 333
Proven guilty n.f.d.(b)									
Under 13	—	—	125	—	—	..	..	..	125
13 and under 26	—	—	290	—	—	..	..	..	290
26 and under 39	—	—	119	—	—	..	..	..	119
39 and under 52	—	—	39	—	—	..	..	..	39
52 and under 65	—	—	24	—	—	..	..	..	24
65 and under 78	—	—	19	—	—	..	..	..	19
78 and over	—	—	44	—	—	..	..	..	44
Total	—	—	660	—	—	..	..	..	660
Other finalisation(c)									
Under 13	105	16	130	133	109	33	14	9	549
13 and under 26	138	23	257	79	63	16	5	5	586
26 and under 39	96	14	158	51	43	10	4	3	379
39 and under 52	58	12	94	15	22	2	2	—	205
52 and under 65	35	11	52	2	15	—	3	4	122
65 and under 78	31	11	34	1	5	1	—	3	86
78 and over	79	44	73	12	8	—	1	7	224
Total	542	131	(d)798	293	265	62	29	31	(d)2 151
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>									
Under 13	730	522	2 112	397	1 191	174	75	50	5 251
13 and under 26	967	375	2 079	438	383	116	56	34	4 448
26 and under 39	725	224	893	270	241	29	38	13	2 433
39 and under 52	444	113	374	121	209	8	25	14	1 308
52 and under 65	295	139	205	45	182	2	11	13	892
65 and under 78	252	58	105	20	78	2	7	11	533
78 and over	444	231	262	43	74	2	5	12	1 073
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 857</b>	<b>1 662</b>	<b>(d)6 030</b>	<b>1 334</b>	<b>2 358</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>(d)15 938</b>

(a) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT

(b) Where the distinction between Guilty Verdict and Guilty Plea is unavailable, data are classified to Proven Guilty n.f.d.

(c) Includes defendants who werewithdrawn by the prosecution, transferred to another court level or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

(d) Excludes Qld defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

Method of finalisation/duration (weeks)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
PROPORTION IN HIGHER COURTS (%) <sup>(a)</sup>									
Acquitted									
Under 13	2.4	7.4	16.9	9.3	1.8	42.9	5.9	11.1	7.3
13 and under 26	18.6	14.2	35.6	40.7	11.0	35.7	5.9	11.1	22.3
26 and under 39	20.8	18.9	22.7	25.4	18.3	14.3	35.3	22.2	21.1
39 and under 52	13.4	12.1	9.5	16.9	29.7	—	5.9	33.3	15.2
52 and under 65	14.6	17.9	9.2	2.5	22.4	7.1	17.6	22.2	14.1
65 and under 78	10.6	5.8	3.7	3.4	11.0	—	29.4	—	7.9
78 and over	19.8	23.7	2.4	1.7	5.9	—	—	—	12.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Guilty verdict									
Under 13	2.0	7.9	11.7	2.4	3.7	34.1	5.3	—	5.6
13 and under 26	10.3	15.8	24.5	26.5	14.9	48.8	15.8	40.0	17.7
26 and under 39	19.0	26.0	26.6	29.5	20.5	12.2	42.1	5.0	22.6
39 and under 52	15.0	9.8	14.9	19.9	20.2	4.9	36.8	5.0	16.0
52 and under 65	12.6	11.6	9.6	7.8	21.8	—	—	20.0	13.5
65 and under 78	12.3	6.0	2.7	4.2	9.6	—	—	30.0	8.2
78 and over	28.8	22.8	10.1	9.6	9.3	—	—	—	16.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Guilty plea									
Under 13	25.1	42.2	43.6	32.9	71.0	56.0	38.8	46.0	42.6
13 and under 26	28.8	25.8	33.8	35.3	16.0	34.7	30.9	23.0	29.2
26 and under 39	18.6	10.5	12.2	18.5	5.4	5.6	13.2	8.0	12.8
39 and under 52	10.7	5.1	4.5	7.0	3.1	1.9	9.9	11.5	6.1
52 and under 65	5.6	6.1	2.1	3.6	2.4	0.5	3.3	3.4	3.5
65 and under 78	4.9	2.0	0.9	1.1	0.9	0.5	1.3	2.3	2.0
78 and over	6.2	8.3	2.9	1.7	1.2	0.9	2.6	5.7	3.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Proven guilty n.f.d. <sup>(b)</sup>									
Under 13	—	—	18.9	—	—	..	..	..	18.9
13 and under 26	—	—	43.9	—	—	..	..	..	43.9
26 and under 39	—	—	18.0	—	—	..	..	..	18.0
39 and under 52	—	—	5.9	—	—	..	..	..	5.9
52 and under 65	—	—	3.6	—	—	..	..	..	3.6
65 and under 78	—	—	2.9	—	—	..	..	..	2.9
78 and over	—	—	6.7	—	—	..	..	..	6.7
Total	—	—	100.0	—	—	..	..	..	100.0
Other finalisation <sup>(c)</sup>									
Under 13	19.4	12.2	16.3	45.4	41.1	53.2	48.3	29.0	25.5
13 and under 26	25.5	17.6	32.2	27.0	23.8	25.8	17.2	16.1	27.2
26 and under 39	17.7	10.7	19.8	17.4	16.2	16.1	13.8	9.7	17.6
39 and under 52	10.7	9.2	11.8	5.1	8.3	3.2	6.9	—	9.5
52 and under 65	6.5	8.4	6.5	0.7	5.7	—	10.3	12.9	5.7
65 and under 78	5.7	8.4	4.3	0.3	1.9	1.6	—	9.7	4.0
78 and over	14.6	33.6	9.1	4.1	3.0	—	3.4	22.6	10.4
Total	100.0	100.0	<sup>(d)</sup> 100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	<sup>(d)</sup> 100.0
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>									
Under 13	18.9	31.4	35.0	29.8	50.5	52.3	34.6	34.0	32.9
13 and under 26	25.1	22.6	34.5	32.8	16.2	34.8	25.8	23.1	27.9
26 and under 39	18.8	13.5	14.8	20.2	10.2	8.7	17.5	8.8	15.3
39 and under 52	11.5	6.8	6.2	9.1	8.9	2.4	11.5	9.5	8.2
52 and under 65	7.6	8.4	3.4	3.4	7.7	0.6	5.1	8.8	5.6
65 and under 78	6.5	3.5	1.7	1.5	3.3	0.6	3.2	7.5	3.3
78 and over	11.5	13.9	4.3	3.2	3.1	0.6	2.3	8.2	6.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b><sup>(d)</sup>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b><sup>(d)</sup>100.0</b>

(a) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

(b) Where the distinction between Guilty Verdict and Guilty Plea is unavailable, data are classified to Proven Guilty n.f.d.

(c) Includes defendants who werewithdrawn by the prosecution, transferred to another court level or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

(d) Excludes Qld defendants finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

<i>Duration period and summary duration measures (weeks)</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld(a)</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.(a)</i>
<b>SUPREME COURT</b>									
Initiation to verdict									
Mean	63.5	34.2	n.a.	41.7	41.5	16.1	31.9	42.3	n.a.
10th percentile	26.2	21.4	n.a.	17.4	16.5	6.4	16.8	15.2	n.a.
25th percentile	49.6	25.0	n.a.	25.9	26.3	9.1	27.7	15.7	n.a.
Median	66.7	31.8	n.a.	34.6	45.5	16.0	34.0	45.6	n.a.
75th percentile	82.8	38.4	n.a.	49.4	52.1	21.0	38.0	70.1	n.a.
90th percentile	87.9	46.3	n.a.	62.7	59.2	30.1	43.0	73.2	n.a.
Verdict to finalisation									
Mean	7.2	2.0	n.a.	9.1	3.1	2.3	1.9	2.7	n.a.
10th percentile	0.1	0.1	n.a.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	n.a.
25th percentile	0.2	0.1	n.a.	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	n.a.
Median	2.4	1.1	n.a.	3.6	0.7	0.9	0.7	1.0	n.a.
75th percentile	8.3	2.8	n.a.	14.1	3.0	3.1	2.5	3.8	n.a.
90th percentile	12.6	5.1	n.a.	25.4	6.1	10.7	6.7	8.3	n.a.
<b>INTERMEDIATE COURT(b)</b>									
Initiation to verdict									
Mean	55.6	56.6	n.a.	34.0	47.6	..	..	..	n.a.
10th percentile	18.3	12.7	n.a.	15.6	19.9	..	..	..	n.a.
25th percentile	29.8	26.1	n.a.	20.7	30.7	..	..	..	n.a.
Median	46.7	42.1	n.a.	27.3	43.7	..	..	..	n.a.
75th percentile	72.9	76.7	n.a.	36.9	59.9	..	..	..	n.a.
90th percentile	98.2	126.2	n.a.	54.8	72.1	..	..	..	n.a.
Verdict to finalisation									
Mean	6.9	1.4	n.a.	5.9	1.3	..	..	..	n.a.
10th percentile	0.1	0.1	n.a.	0.1	0.1	..	..	..	n.a.
25th percentile	0.6	0.1	n.a.	1.0	0.1	..	..	..	n.a.
Median	5.1	0.1	n.a.	2.4	0.2	..	..	..	n.a.
75th percentile	9.1	0.9	n.a.	8.1	1.1	..	..	..	n.a.
90th percentile	14.6	3.2	n.a.	14.0	4.1	..	..	..	n.a.
<b>TOTAL HIGHER COURTS(b)</b>									
Initiation to verdict									
Mean	56.0	53.9	n.a.	35.9	46.3	16.1	31.9	42.3	n.a.
10th percentile	18.3	13.7	n.a.	16.4	18.7	6.4	16.8	15.2	n.a.
25th percentile	30.3	25.8	n.a.	21.9	30.1	9.1	27.7	15.7	n.a.
Median	47.3	37.6	n.a.	28.1	44.0	16.0	34.0	45.6	n.a.
75th percentile	73.5	70.8	n.a.	39.2	58.2	21.0	38.0	70.1	n.a.
90th percentile	96.1	123.3	n.a.	61.8	70.9	30.1	43.0	73.2	n.a.
Verdict to finalisation									
Mean	6.9	1.4	n.a.	6.7	1.7	2.3	1.9	2.7	n.a.
10th percentile	0.1	0.1	n.a.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	n.a.
25th percentile	0.6	0.1	n.a.	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	n.a.
Median	5.1	0.1	n.a.	2.7	0.3	0.9	0.7	1.0	n.a.
75th percentile	9.1	1.1	n.a.	9.3	1.4	3.1	2.5	3.8	n.a.
90th percentile	14.6	3.3	n.a.	17.1	4.4	10.7	6.7	8.3	n.a.

(a) Date of Verdict data are not available for Qld.

(b) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

Duration (weeks)      NSW      Vic.      Qld(a)      SA      WA      Tas.      NT      ACT      Aust.(a)

NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT

Under 13	—	—	n.a.	1	3	16	2	2	n.a.
13 and under 26	2	8	n.a.	11	16	20	2	6	n.a.
26 and under 39	2	12	n.a.	11	11	4	11	1	n.a.
39 and under 52	1	4	n.a.	9	26	1	4	2	n.a.
52 and under 65	3	1	n.a.	5	17	—	—	3	n.a.
65 and under 78	4	—	n.a.	1	1	—	—	6	n.a.
78 and over	7	1	n.a.	3	4	—	—	—	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>293</b>

PROPORTION IN SUPREME COURT (%)

Under 13	—	—	n.a.	2.4	3.8	39.0	10.5	10.0	n.a.
13 and under 26	10.5	30.8	n.a.	26.8	20.5	48.8	10.5	30.0	n.a.
26 and under 39	10.5	46.2	n.a.	26.8	14.1	9.8	57.9	5.0	n.a.
39 and under 52	5.3	15.4	n.a.	22.0	33.3	2.4	21.1	10.0	n.a.
52 and under 65	15.8	3.8	n.a.	12.2	21.8	—	—	15.0	n.a.
65 and under 78	21.1	—	n.a.	2.4	1.3	—	—	30.0	n.a.
78 and over	36.8	3.8	n.a.	7.3	5.1	—	—	—	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100</b>

NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT(b)

Under 13	14	20	n.a.	9	12	..	..	..	n.a.
13 and under 26	59	27	n.a.	48	43	..	..	..	n.a.
26 and under 39	86	44	n.a.	42	73	..	..	..	n.a.
39 and under 52	52	14	n.a.	11	49	..	..	..	n.a.
52 and under 65	51	24	n.a.	3	67	..	..	..	n.a.
65 and under 78	39	14	n.a.	6	28	..	..	..	n.a.
78 and over	86	46	n.a.	6	26	..	..	..	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>n.a.</b>

PROPORTION IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (%) (b)

Under 13	3.6	10.6	n.a.	7.2	4.0	..	..	..	n.a.
13 and under 26	15.2	14.3	n.a.	38.4	14.4	..	..	..	n.a.
26 and under 39	22.2	23.3	n.a.	33.6	24.5	..	..	..	n.a.
39 and under 52	13.4	7.4	n.a.	8.8	16.4	..	..	..	n.a.
52 and under 65	13.2	12.7	n.a.	2.4	22.5	..	..	..	n.a.
65 and under 78	10.1	7.4	n.a.	4.8	9.4	..	..	..	n.a.
78 and over	22.2	24.3	n.a.	4.8	8.7	..	..	..	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>n.a.</b>

TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS(b)

Under 13	14	20	n.a.	10	15	16	2	2	n.a.
13 and under 26	61	35	n.a.	59	59	20	2	6	n.a.
26 and under 39	88	56	n.a.	53	84	4	11	1	n.a.
39 and under 52	53	18	n.a.	20	75	1	4	2	n.a.
52 and under 65	54	25	n.a.	8	84	—	—	3	n.a.
65 and under 78	43	14	n.a.	7	29	—	—	6	n.a.
78 and over	93	47	n.a.	9	30	—	—	—	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>n.a.</b>

PROPORTION IN HIGHER COURTS (%) (b)

Under 13	3.4	9.3	n.a.	6.0	4.0	39.0	10.5	10.0	n.a.
13 and under 26	15.0	16.3	n.a.	35.5	15.7	48.8	10.5	30.0	n.a.
26 and under 39	21.7	26.0	n.a.	31.9	22.3	9.8	57.9	5.0	n.a.
39 and under 52	13.1	8.4	n.a.	12.0	19.9	2.4	21.1	10.0	n.a.
52 and under 65	13.3	11.6	n.a.	4.8	22.3	—	—	15.0	n.a.
65 and under 78	10.6	6.5	n.a.	4.2	7.7	—	—	30.0	n.a.
78 and over	22.9	21.9	n.a.	5.4	8.0	—	—	—	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>n.a.</b>

(a) Date of Verdict data are not available for Qld.

(b) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

Duration (weeks)	NSW	Vic.	Qld(a)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
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## NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT

Under 1	6	13	n.a.	12	44	22	12	10	n.a.
1 and under 4	6	9	n.a.	10	17	12	4	5	n.a.
4 and under 8	2	3	n.a.	4	11	3	2	2	n.a.
8 and under 12	2	1	n.a.	2	3	2	1	3	n.a.
12 and over	3	—	n.a.	13	3	2	—	—	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>293</b>

## PROPORTION IN SUPREME COURT (%)

Under 1	31.6	50.0	n.a.	29.3	56.4	53.7	63.2	50.0	n.a.
1 and under 4	31.6	34.6	n.a.	24.4	21.8	29.3	21.1	25.0	n.a.
4 and under 8	10.5	11.5	n.a.	9.8	14.1	7.3	10.5	10.0	n.a.
8 and under 12	10.5	3.8	n.a.	4.9	3.8	4.9	5.3	15.0	n.a.
12 and over	15.8	—	n.a.	31.7	3.8	4.9	—	—	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT(b)

Under 1	112	145	n.a.	27	212	..	..	..	n.a.
1 and under 4	50	30	n.a.	41	53	..	..	..	n.a.
4 and under 8	106	5	n.a.	25	25	..	..	..	n.a.
8 and under 12	57	4	n.a.	14	6	..	..	..	n.a.
12 and over	62	5	n.a.	18	1	..	..	..	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>n.a.</b>

## PROPORTION IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (%) (b)

Under 1	28.9	76.7	n.a.	21.6	71.4	..	..	..	n.a.
1 and under 4	12.9	15.9	n.a.	32.8	17.8	..	..	..	n.a.
4 and under 8	27.4	2.6	n.a.	20.0	8.4	..	..	..	n.a.
8 and under 12	14.7	2.1	n.a.	11.2	2.0	..	..	..	n.a.
12 and over	16.0	2.6	n.a.	14.4	0.3	..	..	..	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>n.a.</b>

## TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS(b)

Under 1	118	158	n.a.	39	256	22	12	10	n.a.
1 and under 4	56	39	n.a.	51	70	12	4	5	n.a.
4 and under 8	108	8	n.a.	29	36	3	2	2	n.a.
8 and under 12	59	5	n.a.	16	9	2	1	3	n.a.
12 and over	65	5	n.a.	31	4	2	—	—	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>n.a.</b>

## PROPORTION IN HIGHER COURTS (%) (b)

Under 1	29.1	73.5	n.a.	23.5	68.3	53.7	63.2	50.0	n.a.
1 and under 4	13.8	18.1	n.a.	30.7	18.7	29.3	21.1	25.0	n.a.
4 and under 8	26.6	3.7	n.a.	17.5	9.6	7.3	10.5	10.0	n.a.
8 and under 12	14.5	2.3	n.a.	9.6	2.4	4.9	5.3	15.0	n.a.
12 and over	16.0	2.3	n.a.	18.7	1.1	4.9	—	—	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>n.a.</b>

(a) Date of Verdict data are not available for Qld.

(b) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

Elapsed time (weeks)      NSW      Vic.      Qld(a)      SA      WA      Tas.      NT      ACT      Aust.(a)

NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT

Under 13	31	28	n.a.	18	70	63	56	33	n.a.
13 and under 26	41	18	n.a.	22	50	21	23	12	n.a.
26 and under 39	27	8	n.a.	12	42	10	16	15	n.a.
39 and under 52	14	—	n.a.	11	19	2	10	14	n.a.
52 and under 65	16	5	n.a.	5	1	—	10	7	n.a.
65 and under 78	3	1	n.a.	3	2	2	—	3	n.a.
78 and over	5	4	n.a.	7	4	—	1	5	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
Median elapsed time	23.9	18.6	n.a.	16.9	19.9	7.7	14.7	25.9	n.a.

NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT(b)

Under 13	855	248	n.a.	268	360	..	..	..	n.a.
13 and under 26	716	187	n.a.	160	171	..	..	..	n.a.
26 and under 39	510	155	n.a.	47	154	..	..	..	n.a.
39 and under 52	264	109	n.a.	33	91	..	..	..	n.a.
52 and under 65	192	51	n.a.	7	59	..	..	..	n.a.
65 and under 78	142	46	n.a.	10	28	..	..	..	n.a.
78 and over	334	177	n.a.	21	31	..	..	..	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 013</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
Median elapsed time	24.4	30.6	n.a.	14.1	20.7	..	..	..	n.a.

TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS(b)

Under 13	886	276	n.a.	286	430	63	56	33	n.a.
13 and under 26	757	205	n.a.	182	221	21	23	12	n.a.
26 and under 39	537	163	n.a.	59	196	10	16	15	n.a.
39 and under 52	278	109	n.a.	44	110	2	10	14	n.a.
52 and under 65	208	56	n.a.	12	60	—	10	7	n.a.
65 and under 78	145	47	n.a.	13	30	2	—	3	n.a.
78 and over	339	181	n.a.	28	35	—	1	5	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 150</b>	<b>1 037</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>1 082</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
Median elapsed time	24.4	28.9	n.a.	15.2	20.6	7.7	14.7	25.9	(a)21.9

(a) Data on defendants pending are not available for Qld.

(b) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.



Elapsed time (weeks)      NSW      Vic.      Qld(a)      SA      WA      Tas.      NT      ACT      Aust.(a)

NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT

Under 13	26	21	n.a.	9	40	71	69	34	n.a.
13 and under 26	28	10	n.a.	16	37	16	33	22	n.a.
26 and under 39	28	7	n.a.	11	30	9	23	9	n.a.
39 and under 52	18	4	n.a.	5	32	3	11	16	n.a.
52 and under 65	23	3	n.a.	6	7	3	20	12	n.a.
65 and under 78	22	1	n.a.	6	5	4	6	—	n.a.
78 and over	23	3	n.a.	6	9	4	9	4	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
Median elapsed time	40.0	15.4	n.a.	30.8	28.0	9.5	19.1	23.3	n.a.

NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT(b)

Under 13	770	338	n.a.	234	391	..	..	..	n.a.
13 and under 26	627	208	n.a.	176	211	..	..	..	n.a.
26 and under 39	431	143	n.a.	79	182	..	..	..	n.a.
39 and under 52	279	53	n.a.	36	132	..	..	..	n.a.
52 and under 65	213	45	n.a.	11	59	..	..	..	n.a.
65 and under 78	188	53	n.a.	6	17	..	..	..	n.a.
78 and over	452	108	n.a.	13	64	..	..	..	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 960</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>1 056</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
Median elapsed time	28.0	20.9	n.a.	17.3	20.7	..	..	..	n.a.

TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS(b)

Under 13	796	359	n.a.	243	431	71	69	34	n.a.
13 and under 26	655	218	n.a.	192	248	16	33	22	n.a.
26 and under 39	459	150	n.a.	90	212	9	23	9	n.a.
39 and under 52	297	57	n.a.	41	164	3	11	16	n.a.
52 and under 65	236	48	n.a.	17	66	3	20	12	n.a.
65 and under 78	210	54	n.a.	12	22	4	6	—	n.a.
78 and over	475	111	n.a.	19	73	4	9	4	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 128</b>	<b>997</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>1 216</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
Median elapsed time	28.9	20.3	n.a.	18.7	21.5	9.5	19.1	23.3	(a)23.7

(a) Data on defendants pending are not available for Qld.

(b) There is no Intermediate Court in Tas., the NT or the ACT.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

**1** The statistics in this publication are sourced from the national Higher Criminal Courts collection. The publication presents information relating to the criminal jurisdiction of the courts in each State and Territory of Australia. The criminal jurisdiction of the courts is responsible for the trial and sentencing of persons or corporations charged with criminal offences.

**2** The aim of the collection is to provide criminal court statistics for the States and Territories that have been compiled on a consistent basis. The data presented provide indicators of the volume and flow of defendants through the courts and provide a basis for measuring changes over time.

**3** In order to ensure consistency between the States and Territories, the statistics have been compiled according to national standards and classifications. These have been developed by the National Criminal Courts Statistics Unit (NCCSU) of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

**4** The NCCSU was established in 1994 following an initiative of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General. The Unit is jointly funded by State and Territory courts agencies, the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and the ABS. The NCCSU reports to a Board of Management made up of representatives of these funding parties, and receives technical advice from an Advisory Group made up of expert users of criminal justice statistics.

**5** The definitions and counting rules used to compile national criminal courts statistics may vary from those used to compile individual State and Territory statistics. Hence, the statistics presented in this publication may be different from those published in individual States and Territories.

**6** Due to the high degree of conceptual complexity in the operation of the court systems in Australia, and the variation in the capacity of the States and Territories to supply statistical information, a staged approach has been adopted to the development and conduct of the Higher Criminal Courts collection.

**7** The first stage of the collection is reflected in the information presented in this publication. This information relates to criminal cases heard in the Supreme and Intermediate Courts and excludes appeal cases. Data on defendants are reported separately for each distinct level of court. The publication includes statistics on the number of defendants pending, initiated and finalised in each State and Territory. Information on the characteristics of these defendants is also presented.

**8** The subsequent stage of the collection will expand the dataset to include information on offences and penalties for proven charges.

### DATA SOURCE

**9** National statistics are derived from unit record data provided by the State and Territory agencies responsible for courts administration. The ABS receives the data directly from these agencies in all States and Territories except for Queensland (where it is supplied via the Government Statistician's Office) and Tasmania (where details of Commonwealth cases are supplied by the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions).

## SCOPE

**10** The scope of this publication consists of all defendants with charges before the original jurisdiction of the Supreme and Intermediate Courts in Australia during the reference period 1 January 1996 to 31 December 1996. Within a given reference period, the total population of defendants active in a particular court level consists of those pending at the start of the reference period together with those initiated during the reference period.

**11** The collection excludes cases heard in the criminal jurisdiction of the courts which do not require the adjudication of charges, e.g. bail reviews and interlocutory matters. Also excluded are breach of bond cases and appeal cases.

**12** The scope of the data collected and presented for Queensland is restricted. Figures for the number of pending defendants are currently not available. While total figures for defendants initiated have been included for Queensland, it should be noted that these only include Queensland defendants initiated by committal to the Higher Courts. Similarly, total figures for defendants finalised have been included for Queensland. However, these exclude Queensland defendants finalised by the issue of a bench warrant. A review of the information systems used by Queensland's courts is currently being undertaken. This review will address current data provision issues for Queensland.

**13** Stage 1 of the Higher Criminal Courts collection primarily focuses on presenting caseload information for the number of defendants pending, initiated and finalised within the Higher Courts during the reference period. In order to present this information, for all defendants who enter the Higher Court levels, a range of details (i.e. date of committal, plea at committal, date of registration, method of initiation) are collected. When a defendant exits the Higher Courts, details of finalisation (i.e. date of verdict, date of finalisation, method of finalisation, final plea) are also obtained.

## REFERENCE PERIOD

**14** This publication relates to defendants who had criminal charges active within the Higher Courts at any time during the reference period 1 January 1996 to 31 December 1996.

## COUNTING UNIT

**15** The principle counting unit for the collection is the defendant. A defendant is a person or corporation against whom one or more criminal charges have been laid and which are heard together by a court level as the one unit of work. It should be noted that the Higher Criminal Courts collection does not enumerate distinct persons or corporations. If a person or corporation is a defendant in a number of criminal cases active within the courts during the reference period, this person or corporation will be counted more than once within that reference period.

## CLASSIFICATIONS

**16** The national classifications used in the Higher Criminal Courts collection are:

- Method of initiation (see Appendix 1); and
- Method of finalisation (see Appendix 2).

### CLASSIFICATIONS *continued*

**17** These classifications provide a framework for classifying criminal court information for statistical purposes and ensuring that data are compiled on a consistent basis across the States and Territories of Australia. The classifications are hierarchical and allow for different levels of detail to be recorded depending on the level of detail in the source information. Associated with each classification are coding rules (see Counting Methodology) which ensure that the counting of information is consistent across the States and Territories of Australia.

### COUNTING METHODOLOGY

#### Transfer between Higher Court levels

**18** In the 1995 publication, defendants who transferred between the Supreme and Intermediate courts were considered finalised in the court level they transferred from and initiated in the court level they transferred to. For the 1996 publication, there has been a change in the counting rule. In this publication, defendants who transfer from one Higher Court level to another are considered as initiated only once (in the level they first entered) and finalised only once (from the level they finally left). In Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, where there is only a Supreme Court, the change in the coding rule has no effect. The greatest effect is evident in South Australia, where a large number of defendants transferred between the Intermediate and Supreme courts relative to the other States.

#### Method of initiation

**19** Method of initiation describes how a criminal charge was introduced to a court level (see Glossary). For the purposes of the Higher Criminal Courts collection, only one method of initiation code is applied to each defendant in the Higher Courts. Where a defendant has multiple charges and these have different method of initiation codes, the method of initiation code for the defendant is determined by applying the following order of precedence:

- bench warrant executed
- committed for trial
- transfer from a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to a Higher Court n.f.d.
- committed for sentence
- transfer from Court of Summary Jurisdiction to a Higher Court n.e.c.
- ex-officio indictment of charges to Higher Court for trial
- ex-officio indictment of charges to Higher Court n.f.d.
- ex-officio indictment of charges to Higher Court for sentence
- other transfer between court levels.

#### Date of initiation

**20** For defendants who were committed for trial or sentence from a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, the date of committal is used as the date of initiation. For defendants who have any other method of initiation, e.g. ex-officio or bench warrant executed, the date of registration for that court level is used as the date of initiation. Where there are multiple dates of initiation for charges for a defendant, the earliest date is used.

## Plea

**21** Plea describes a defendant's formal response to a specific charge (see Glossary). A defendant's plea for a charge is entered during a court hearing and may change during the course of criminal proceedings. If a defendant has multiple charges, there may be different pleas for these charges. This collection presents an aggregated plea for the defendant for the charges laid against him/her. This means that only one plea code may be applied to each defendant in a particular court level in relation to any point in time. The following outlines the rules for recording a plea for a defendant:

- The plea for a defendant is 'not guilty' whenever the plea to one or more charges is: not guilty, no plea, plea reserved, or other defended plea.
- The plea for a defendant is 'guilty' only when the plea to all charges is guilty.

**22** The Higher Criminal Courts collection uses plea information at two points in time — initiation and finalisation. Initial plea (in most instances the committal plea) determines the judicial process (i.e. trial or sentence), and final plea (the last plea to be entered in the Higher Courts) assists in determining the method of finalisation for a defendant.

## Method of finalisation

**23** Method of finalisation describes how a criminal charge exits a court level (see Glossary). For the purposes of the Higher Criminal Courts collection, only one method of finalisation code is applied to each defendant within the Higher Courts. Where a defendant has multiple charges and these have different method of finalisation codes, the method of finalisation code for the defendant is determined by applying the following order of precedence:

accused deceased  
 bench warrant issued  
 unfit to plead  
 not guilty on grounds of insanity  
 guilty finding by court  
 charge proven n.f.d.  
 guilty plea by defendant  
 acquitted by court  
 charge unproven  
 transfer from a Higher Court to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction  
 other transfer between court levels  
 withdrawn by prosecution  
 other non-adjudicated finalisation

## Date of finalisation

**24** For a defendant, the date of finalisation corresponds to the date when the last charge was finalised. Finalisation will only occur when there are no further hearings scheduled for any of the charges.

## Pending workload

**25** The pending workload is represented by the number of defendants who have at least one unfinalised charge at a given point in time and is usually reported at the start and end of a reference period. Of those defendants pending at any given point in time, it is possible to provide a measure of how long they have been pending. The Higher Criminal Courts collection provides a measure (in weeks) of duration since initiation for defendants pending at the start and end of each reference period.

### Merging counting units

**26** Where multiple defendants relate to the same person/corporation and these defendants are finalised on the same date, in the same court level and in the same court location, these counting units will be merged and counted as a single defendant. However, merging will only occur where at least two of the following conditions are also met:

- The date of initiation is the same.
- The method of initiation is the same.
- The method of finalisation is the same.

If one of these three conditions varies, the following coding rules apply:

- Where the date of initiation varies, the earliest date is retained.
- Where the method of initiation varies, the order of precedence rules for coding method of initiation are applied (see paragraph 19).
- Where the method of finalisation varies, the order of precedence rules for coding method of finalisation are applied (see paragraph 23).

**27** The merging of defendants will result in adjustments to the counts of defendants pending, initiated, and finalised. Where the defendants merged were initiated in one reference period and finalised in the next reference period, the number of pending defendants at the end of the first period (which will include the multiple defendants later merged into one) will be higher than the number of defendants pending at the start of the next period (where only each single 'merged' defendant is counted).

### DATA COMPARABILITY

**28** There may be slight variations in the statistics on defendants pending at the start and end of the different reporting periods. The merging of defendants (see paragraph 27) may impact on the comparison of pending figures from one reference period to the next. Differences may also arise as a result of other factors, including refinements in data quality procedures and modifications in the systems used to obtain and/or compile the figures.

**29** The Higher Criminal Courts collection has been compiled in order to facilitate comparability of statistics across the States and Territories. Although State and Territory differences have been mainly overcome through the application of national standards, some legislative and processing differences inevitably remain. Therefore, differences in the criminal court statistics do not necessarily imply differences in the efficiency of State and Territory courts.

### DATA QUALITY

**30** In compiling these statistics, the ABS has employed a variety of measures to ensure that the statistics are as reliable as possible. A range of edit checks are applied in order to identify any data that need to be queried. Erroneous data detected by the ABS have been corrected after consultation with the relevant State or Territory representative. The final data have also been checked against other available data sources, e.g. State and Territory court statistics and annual reports by the court administration agencies and the Offices of the Directors of Public Prosecutions.

**31** As the Higher Criminal Courts collection continues to evolve, the data quality control checks currently in place will continue to be reviewed and modified. Data availability will also improve as the States and Territories continue to develop court operational systems.

## RATES

**32** Defendant rates enable comparisons of criminal court workload across States and Territories. Defendant rates are expressed per 100,000 adult persons defined as persons aged 17 years or more.

**33** The Supreme and Intermediate Courts in Australia generally deal with adult defendants aged 17 or 18 years and over (depending on the State or Territory). Defendants under 17 or 18 years of age are generally dealt with in a Juvenile or Children's Court.

**34** For the purposes of this publication, the population figures used in the calculation of rates are the Estimated Resident Population (ERP) for each of the States and Territories. Refer *Australian Demographic Statistics, June Quarter 1996* (Cat. no. 3101.0). As the population changes over time, the ERP for the midpoint of the reference period is used as the denominator to calculate the rates. Rates for the period 1 January to 31 December 1996 have been calculated on the basis of the June quarter 1996 ERP.

**35** All population estimates and projections for Australia exclude the external Territories, Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

## RELATED PUBLICATIONS

### ABS publications

**36** ABS publications which may be of interest include:

*A Guide to Australian Social Statistics* (Cat. no. 4160.0)—irregular

*Australian Demographic Statistics* (Cat. no. 3101.0)—issued quarterly

*Australian Social Trends* (Cat. no. 4102.0)—issued annually

*Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC)* (Cat. no. 1234.0)—irregular

*Corrective Services, Australia* (Cat. no. 4512.0)—issued quarterly

*Courts of Petty Sessions, Western Australia* (Cat. no. 4502.5)—issued annually

*Crime and Safety, Australia* (Cat. no. 4509.0)—irregular

*Occasional Paper: Review of Social and Labour Statistics — Criminal Justice* (Cat. no. 4170.0)—irregular

*Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories* (Cat. no. 3201.0)—issued annually

*Recorded Crime, Australia* (Cat. no. 4510.0)—issued annually

**37** Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (Cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (Cat. no. 1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office.

# EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

## Non-ABS publications

**38** Non-ABS sources of criminal court statistics which may be of interest include:

Australian Institute of Criminology, *List of Publications* (<http://www.aic.gov.au>)

Crime Research Centre, University of Western Australia 1996, *Crime and Justice Statistics for Western Australia: 1996*, The University of Western Australia, Nedlands

Criminal Justice Commission, Queensland 1991, *Crime and Justice in Queensland*, Goprint, Brisbane

Department of Justice, Tasmania 1996, *Annual Report*, Government Printer, Tasmania

Department of Justice, Victoria 1995, *Sentencing Statistics for Higher Criminal Courts Victoria 1995*, Department of Justice, Victoria

Department of Justice, Victoria 1995, *Elapsed Times for Higher Criminal Courts 1995–1996*, Department of Justice, Melbourne

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research 1995, *Key Trends in Crime and Justice New South Wales*, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Sydney

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research 1996, *New South Wales Criminal Courts Statistics*, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Sydney

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research 1996, *Measuring Trial Court Performance: Indicators for Trial Case Processing*, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Sydney

Office of Courts Administration 1996/97, *Annual Report 1996/97*, Northern Territory Attorney General's Department, Darwin

Office of Crime Statistics, South Australia, *Crime and Justice in South Australia 1996*, South Australian Attorney-General's Department, Adelaide

South Australia Courts Administration Authority 1996, *1995/96 Annual Report*, South Australia Courts Administration Authority, Adelaide

Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision 1998, *Report on Government Service Provision*, Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision, Melbourne

## SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ERP	Estimated Resident Population
n.a.	not available
NCCSU	National Criminal Courts Statistics Unit
n.e.c.	not elsewhere classified
n.f.d.	not further defined
..	not applicable
—	nil or rounded to zero



## APPENDIX 1 Method of Initiation Classification

Division

Subdivision

Item

### 1 DIRECT LAYING OF CHARGES

10 Direct laying of charges n.f.d.

11 Charges laid before a Court of Summary Jurisdiction

12 Ex-officio indictment of charges to a Higher Court

121 Ex-officio indictment of charges to a Higher Court for trial

122 Ex-officio indictment of charges to a Higher Court for sentence

### 2 TRANSFER OF CHARGES BETWEEN COURT LEVELS

20 Transfer of charges between court levels n.f.d.

21 Transfer from a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to a Higher Court

211 Committed for trial

212 Committed for sentence

219 Transfer from a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to a Higher Court n.e.c.

29 Other transfers between court levels

### 3 RE-REGISTRATION OF CRIMINAL CHARGES

30 Re-registration of criminal charges n.f.d.

31 Bench warrant executed

39 Other re-registration of criminal charges

### 9 METHOD OF INITIATION UNKNOWN/NOT STATED

## APPENDIX 2 Method of Finalisation Classification

Division  
Subdivision  
Item

### 1 ADJUDICATED FINALISATION

10 Adjudicated finalisation n.f.d.

#### 11 Charge proven

111 Guilty finding by court

112 Guilty plea by defendant

#### 12 Acquitted

121 Acquitted by court

122 Not guilty on the grounds of insanity

123 No case to answer at committal

129 Charge unproven n.e.c.

### 2 FINALISATION BY TRANSFER BETWEEN COURT LEVELS

20 Finalisation by transfer between court levels n.f.d.

#### 21 Transfer from a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to a Higher Court

211 Committed for trial

212 Committed for sentence

219 Transfer from a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to a Higher Court n.e.c.

22 Transfer from a Higher Court to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction

29 Other transfers between court levels

### 3 NON-ADJUDICATED FINALISATION

30 Non-adjudicated finalisation n.f.d.

31 Accused deceased

32 Bench warrant issued

33 Unfit to plead

34 Withdrawn by the prosecution

39 Other non-adjudicated finalisation

### 9 METHOD OF FINALISATION UNKNOWN/NOT STATED

## GLOSSARY

<b>Acquitted</b>	An outcome of criminal proceedings in which a court determines that a charge laid against a defendant has not been proven. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a determination of not guilty on the grounds that the charge against the defendant has not been proven; and</li> <li>▪ a finding of not guilty on the grounds of insanity/unsoundness of mind at the time the defendant committed the offence.</li> </ul>
<b>Active Workload</b>	Defendants who have an unfinalised charge(s) in the Higher Courts at some point during a specified period. The active workload for a reference period consists of the number of defendants pending at the start of the reference period together with the number of defendants initiated during the reference period.  For the purposes of this collection, an acquitted outcome is regarded as an adjudicated method of finalisation.
<b>Adjudicated finalisation</b>	A method of finalisation based on a judgement or decision by the court as to whether or not the defendant is guilty of the charge laid against them. (See Method of finalisation, Acquitted, Guilty verdict, Guilty plea.)
<b>Bench warrant executed</b>	The apprehension of an absconder who is brought back before the court to answer outstanding (and new) charges. For the purposes of this collection, this process is regarded as a method of initiation and results in a person being counted as a new defendant initiated.
<b>Bench warrant issued</b>	A warrant signed by a judge or magistrate ordering a person to be arrested and brought back before the court. This process takes place when a defendant, who has at least one charge that has not been finalised by the court, absconds from criminal proceedings. For the purposes of these statistics, this process is regarded as a non-adjudicated method of finalisation.
<b>Case</b>	One or more defendants against whom one or more charges have been laid and which are heard together by a court as the one unit of work. Some features of a case include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The charge(s) relate to the same criminal incident.</li> <li>▪ The charge(s) relate to one defendant or one group of defendants.</li> <li>▪ The charge(s) appear together on the one indictment.</li> </ul>
<b>Caseload</b>	Measures of the flow of work through the courts over time. This publication presents statistics on the number of defendants initiated, finalised and pending in the Higher (Supreme and Intermediate) Courts in each State and Territory.
<b>Charge</b>	An allegation laid before a court by the police or other prosecuting agency that a person or corporation has committed a criminal offence.
<b>Committal</b>	A preliminary hearing of a charge relating to an indictable offence which is conducted by a magistrate in a Court of Summary Jurisdiction. The aim of this hearing is to decide whether there is sufficient evidence to warrant the defendant being committed to a Higher Court for trial or sentence.
<b>Committal plea</b>	The plea to a charge which is entered by a defendant at the end of committal proceedings in a Court of Summary Jurisdiction.
<b>Committed for sentence</b>	An outcome of a committal hearing where a defendant enters a guilty plea to all charges and is transferred to a Higher Court to be sentenced. This process is regarded as a method of initiation into a Higher Court level.

<b>Committed for trial</b>	An outcome of a committal hearing where a defendant enters a not guilty plea to at least one charge and is transferred to a Higher Court to stand trial. This process is regarded as a method of initiation into a Higher Court level.
<b>County Court</b>	See Intermediate Court.
<b>Court level</b>	A separate tier of the court system, each of which is established under legislation and has certain prescribed powers. Court levels can be distinguished from one another on the basis of the extent of their legal powers (see Jurisdiction). Court levels include Court of Summary Jurisdiction, Intermediate Court and Supreme Court. The names assigned to each of these court levels may vary across Australia.
<b>Court of Petty Sessions</b>	See Court of Summary Jurisdiction.
<b>Court of Summary Jurisdiction</b>	A lower court level (also referred to as Magistrates' Court, Local Court or Court of Petty Sessions) which deals with relatively less serious charges and has the most limited legal powers of all the State and Territory court levels. A Court of Summary Jurisdiction is presided over by a magistrate and has jurisdiction to hear trial and sentence matters relating to summary offences. Under some circumstances, this court level may also deal with the less serious indictable offences known as 'minor indictable' or 'triable either way' offences. Courts of Summary Jurisdiction are also responsible for conducting preliminary (committal) hearings for indictable offences.
<b>Date of committal</b>	The date at the end of a committal hearing which results in a defendant being transferred to an Intermediate or Supreme Court for a trial or sentence hearing.
<b>Date of finalisation</b>	The date on which all charges laid against a defendant are regarded as formally completed by the Higher Courts and the defendant ceases to be an active unit of work to be dealt with by the Higher Courts.
<b>Date of initiation</b>	The date on which a defendant is regarded as having started within the Higher Courts as a new item of work. For defendants who were committed for trial or sentence from a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, the date of committal is used as the date of initiation. For defendants who have any other method of initiation (e.g. ex-officio, bench warrant executed), the date of registration for that court level is used as the date of initiation. Where there are multiple dates of initiation for charges for a defendant, the earliest date is used.
<b>Date of registration</b>	The date on which a defendant first enters a particular court level and is recorded as a new item of work to be dealt with by the court. This refers to the date when formal notification for a defendant is first received and a new case or file is created by the registry/listing area of the court.
<b>Date of verdict</b>	The date at the conclusion of a trial when a Higher Court announces its finding as to whether the alleged criminal charge(s) laid against a defendant are proven.
<b>Defendant</b>	<p>A person or corporation against whom one or more criminal charges have been laid and which are heard together by a court level as the one unit of work.</p> <p>It should be noted that the Higher Criminal Courts collection does not enumerate distinct persons or corporations. If a person or corporation is a defendant in a number of criminal cases active within the courts during the reference period, such a person or corporation will be counted more than once in this statistical collection.</p>

<b>District Court</b>	See Intermediate Court.
<b>Duration</b>	The time elapsed between specified dates for a defendant that has been finalised. This collection provides statistics on the number of weeks elapsed between the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ date of initiation and date of finalisation;</li> <li>▪ date of initiation and date of verdict; and</li> <li>▪ date of verdict and date of finalisation.</li> </ul>
<b>Elapsed time since initiation</b>	The time elapsed since the date of initiation for a defendant who has at least one charge that has not been finalised. This collection provides statistics on the elapsed time since initiation for defendants pending at the start of the reference period and for defendants pending at the end of the reference period.
<b>Ex-officio</b>	The laying of charges against a defendant directly in a Higher Court, by the Director of Public Prosecutions or the Attorney-General. This process is regarded as a method of initiation into the Higher Courts.
<b>Final plea</b>	The last plea entered by a defendant in relation to a criminal charge that is laid against him/her in a Higher Court. This publication presents statistics on the aggregated final plea to charges for a defendant. (See paragraph 21 of the Explanatory Notes.)
<b>Finalised defendant</b>	A defendant for whom all charges have been formally completed so that the defendant ceases to be an item of work to be dealt with by the Higher Courts. For the purposes of these statistics, a defendant is regarded as finalised on the date that the last charge was finalised. (See Date of finalisation.)
<b>Guilty plea</b>	The formal statement by a defendant admitting culpability in relation to a criminal charge. By pleading guilty, a defendant indicates to the court that they do not intend to contest the charge. If the guilty plea is accepted by the court, the charge will be considered to be proven and the guilty plea will be regarded as an adjudicated method of finalisation. A guilty plea to committal proceedings in the Court of Summary Jurisdiction also determines the method of initiation into the Higher Courts (i.e. Committed for sentence).
<b>Guilty verdict</b>	An outcome of a trial in which a court determines that the criminal charge against a defendant has been proven. This process is regarded as an adjudicated method of finalisation.
<b>Higher Court</b>	An Intermediate Court or Supreme Court, both of which hear serious criminal charges relating to indictable offences. (See Intermediate Court, Supreme Court.)
<b>Indictable offence</b>	A serious criminal offence which generally requires a trial and/or sentence hearing in a Higher Court. Under some circumstances, a defendant can elect to have charges relating to certain indictable offences dealt with in a Court of Summary Jurisdiction.
<b>Initial plea</b>	The first plea entered by a defendant in relation to a criminal charge that is laid against him or her in a Higher Court. For charges that were committed from a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, this corresponds to the plea at committal. For charges initiated by any other method, this corresponds to the first plea entered in the Higher Court. This publication presents statistics on the aggregated plea to charges for a defendant. (See paragraph 21 of the Explanatory Notes.)

<b>Initiated defendant</b>	A person or corporation for whom at least one criminal charge has been formally started within a Higher Court so that the defendant is regarded as a new item of work to be dealt with by that court. For the purposes of this collection, a defendant is regarded as initiated on the earliest date that a charge was initiated. (See Date of initiation.)
<b>Intermediate Court</b>	<p>A Higher Court level (known either as the District Court or County Court) which has legal powers that are intermediate between those of the Court of Summary Jurisdiction and the Supreme Court and deals with the majority of cases involving serious criminal offences. An Intermediate Court is presided over by a judge, and has original jurisdiction to hear trial and sentence matters relating to most indictable offences. In some States, the Intermediate Court may have appellate jurisdiction over decisions made in the Court of Summary Jurisdiction.</p> <p>Note: Since Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory do not have an Intermediate Court, all indictable offences are heard in the Supreme Court.</p>
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	The legal power or authority which may be exercised by a particular court level and within which the judgements or orders of the court can be enforced or executed. The criminal jurisdiction of a court includes the original and appellate jurisdictions. Each court level has its own defined jurisdictional limits and these vary across States and Territories.
<b>Local Court</b>	See Court of Summary Jurisdiction.
<b>Lower Court</b>	See Court of Summary Jurisdiction.
<b>Magistrates Court</b>	See Court of Summary Jurisdiction.
<b>Mean</b>	The average of a set of population values.
<b>Median</b>	The middle value of a population when values are sorted into order of size. Below and above this point lie values with equal total frequencies.
<b>Method of finalisation</b>	The process which leads to the completion of a criminal charge within a Higher Court so that it ceases to be an item of work in that court. There are different methods by which a charge may be finalised (see Appendix 2). This publication provides statistics on the aggregated method of finalisation for a defendant. (See paragraph 23 of the Explanatory Notes.)
<b>Method of initiation</b>	The process which leads to the introduction of a criminal charge within a Higher Court so that it becomes a new item of work to be dealt with by that court. There are different methods by which a charge may be initiated (see Appendix 1). This collection provides statistics on the aggregated method of initiation for a defendant. (See paragraph 19 of the Explanatory Notes.)
<b>Non-adjudicated finalisation</b>	A method of finalisation whereby a charge is considered completed and ceases to be active in any Higher Court even though that charge has not been adjudicated. (See Method of finalisation, Bench warrant issued, Unfit to plead, and Withdrawn by prosecution.)

<b>Not guilty plea</b>	<p>The formal statement by a defendant denying culpability in relation to a charge. A not guilty plea to committal proceedings in the lower court determines the method of initiation into the Higher Courts. (See Committed for trial.)</p> <p>For the purposes of this collection, a plea of 'not guilty' also includes 'no plea', 'plea reserved' and 'other defended plea'. This publication presents statistics on the aggregated plea to charges for a defendant. (See paragraph 21 of the Explanatory Notes.)</p>
<b>Not guilty verdict</b>	See Acquitted.
<b>Original jurisdiction</b>	The power of a court to hear criminal charges and determine whether or not a defendant is proven guilty and/or to sentence defendants where a charge has been proven. (See Jurisdiction.)
<b>Other initiation</b>	All methods of initiation other than committed for trial, committed for sentence, ex-officio indictment of charges and bench warrant executed. This includes a re-trial ordered as a result of an appeal and the transfer of charges involving summary offences from a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to a Higher Court.
<b>Pending defendant</b>	A defendant who has been initiated in a Higher Court and has at least one charge that has not been finalised as at a particular date. This publication provides statistics on the number of defendants that were pending at the start of the reference period and the number of defendants that were pending at the end of the reference period.
<b>Percentile</b>	A measure of location that is linked to the median. The $p$ th percentile is the lowest value which exceeds $p\%$ of the observations. The fiftieth percentile is also the median as one-half of the population lies below it.
<b>Plea</b>	The formal statement by, or on behalf of, the defendant in response to a criminal charge that has been laid in a court. The nature of this response indicates whether or not the defendant intends to contest that charge.
<b>Proven guilty</b>	An outcome of criminal proceedings in which a court accepts a guilty plea entered by a defendant or arrives at a guilty verdict following a trial. (See Guilty plea and Guilty verdict.) A proven guilty outcome is regarded as an adjudicated method of finalisation.
<b>Sentence</b>	A penalty or punishment imposed by a court upon a defendant who is proven guilty of a criminal offence.
<b>Sentence hearing</b>	A hearing in which a judge imposes a sentence upon a convicted defendant in a particular court. (See Sentence.)
<b>Summary offence</b>	A criminal offence which is generally dealt with by a Court of Summary Jurisdiction and does not require a trial by jury in a Higher Court. In some States and Territories, a defendant against whom summary charges are laid may be transferred to a Higher Court for sentencing, e.g. if the Magistrate wants to impose a penalty which exceeds his/her jurisdictional powers.



**Supreme Court** A Higher Court level which deals with the most serious criminal charges and has the greatest legal powers of all the State and Territory court levels. A Supreme Court is presided over by a judge, and has jurisdiction to hear trial and sentence matters relating to all indictable offences. In States which have an Intermediate Court, the Supreme Court is reserved to deal with the most serious indictable offences, such as murder. The Supreme Court may also have appellate jurisdiction over decisions made in the Court of Summary Jurisdiction or the Intermediate Court.

**Transfer between court levels** A court outcome ordering that a criminal charge be transferred to another court level to be determined and/or sentenced. For all transfers, except those between Higher Court levels, this process is regarded as a method of finalisation for the court level ordering the transfer and a method of initiation for the court level to which the defendant's charge(s) were transferred.

Defendants who transfer from one Higher Court level to another will be considered as initiated only once (in the level they first entered) and finalised only once (from the level they finally left). (See paragraph 18 of the Explanatory Notes.)

Note: A transfer between court levels does not include the transfer of a defendant to another geographical court location within the same court level.

**Trial** The examination of, and decision on, a matter of law or fact by a court. Where a defendant enters a not guilty plea or other defended plea in the committal proceedings, they are committed to an Intermediate Court or Supreme Court for trial. In the Higher Courts, trials are usually conducted before a judge and jury whereby the judge rules on questions of law and the jury is responsible for determining whether or not the defendant is guilty. Some States and Territories also allow for a trial before a judge alone in the Higher Courts.

**Unfit to plead** An outcome of court proceedings in which a court determines that a defendant's mental status is such that he/she is unfit to plead in relation to the charge against him/her. For the purposes of this collection, this process is regarded as a non-adjudicated method of finalisation.

**Withdrawn by prosecution** The formal withdrawal of charges by the prosecution (e.g. Police, Director of Public Prosecutions, Attorney-General). This includes Nolle Prosequi and No True Bill. For the purposes of this collection, this process is regarded as a non-adjudicated method of finalisation.









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