

HIGHER CRIMINAL COURTS

AUSTRALIA

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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 July 1996 – 30 June 1997.

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.

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

This issue for the financial year 1996–97 is the first one to present statistics on a financial year basis. The previous two issues presented statistics on a calendar year basis.

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 Statistics Unit (NCCSU), the NCCSU Advisory Group and the State and Territory agencies responsible for courts administration.

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

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 July 1996 to 30 June 1997. 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 the States with both a Supreme and Intermediate Court, the majority of defendants are dealt with in the Intermediate Court as the Supreme Court is reserved to hear the most serious offences.

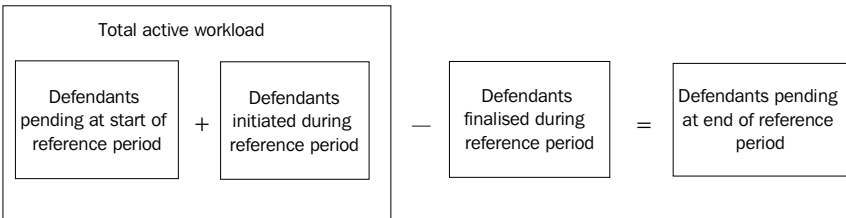
In order to make valid comparisons between all the States and Territories, this commentary focuses on the combined workload of the Supreme and Intermediate Courts. Nevertheless, it should be noted that there are some significant differences in the nature of the work dealt with at each court level.

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 a criminal offence(s) 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 in 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 during the reference period);
- the *total finalised workload* defined as the number of defendants who were finalised in the Higher Courts during the reference period and measured as a proportion of the active workload completed;
- 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 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 1996–97, there were 15,706 defendants initiated in the Higher Courts across Australia. There was a similar number of defendants who had their charges finalised in the Higher Courts in 1996–97 with 15,657 defendants finalised. (See table 1.)

TOTAL ACTIVE WORKLOAD

Information on the number of defendants pending at the start of the reference period was not available for Queensland. Excluding Queensland, the total active workload of the Higher Courts during 1996–97 was 16,495 defendants. Of the active workload, 6,477 or almost 40% of defendants had been initiated prior to the reference period, and 10,018 defendants were initiated during 1996–97. Nationally, the total active workload of 1996–97 remained steady from 1995–96 (16,413 defendants). However, there was variation across the States and Territories with the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory recording the largest increases in the active workload of 22.7% and 22.5% respectively whilst South Australia recorded the largest decrease of 7.0%.

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 Courts in each State and Territory.

Excluding Queensland, the number of defendants initiated (10,018) was slightly more than the number of defendants finalised (9,393) which contributed to an increase in the pending workload of the Higher Courts during 1996–97. (See table 1.)

Of the 16,495 defendants with charges active in the Higher Courts during 1996–97 (excluding Queensland) there were 9,393 defendants who had their charges finalised, representing a completion rate of 56.9%. The completion rate of defendants with charges active during 1995–96 was 60.5%.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

DEFENDANTS WITH CHARGES ACTIVE IN THE HIGHER COURTS AND PROPORTION FINALISED

	1995–96.....			1996–97.....		
	<i>Total active</i>	<i>Total finalised</i>	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Total active</i>	<i>Total finalised</i>	<i>Completed</i>
<i>States and Territories</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>%</i>
NSW	7 312	4 116	56.3	7 204	3 449	47.9
Vic.	2 657	1 627	61.2	2 680	1 665	62.1
Qld(a)	n.a.	6 216	n.a.	n.a.	6 264	n.a.
SA	1 926	1 239	64.3	1 791	1 288	71.9
WA	3 514	2 295	65.3	3 693	2 291	62.0
Tas.	447	324	72.5	444	324	73.0
NT	348	207	59.5	427	226	52.9
ACT	209	128	61.2	256	150	58.6
Aust.(a)	n.a.	16 152	n.a.	n.a.	15 657	n.a.

(a) Data on defendants with charges active in Queensland were not available and the number of defendants finalised for Queensland excludes those finalised by a bench warrant being issued.

PENDING WORKLOAD

The pending workload of the Higher Courts is represented by the number of defendants unfinalised at a point in time. This publication presents data on the number of defendants pending at the start of the reference period and the number of defendants pending at the end of the reference period. This information was not available for Queensland. For the other States and Territories, there were 7,102 defendants pending at the end of 1996–97, an increase of 625 defendants (9.6%) from the 6,477 defendants pending at the start of 1996–97. New South Wales, with an increase of 559 (17.5%) contributed most to the increase in the national pending workload. (See table 1.)

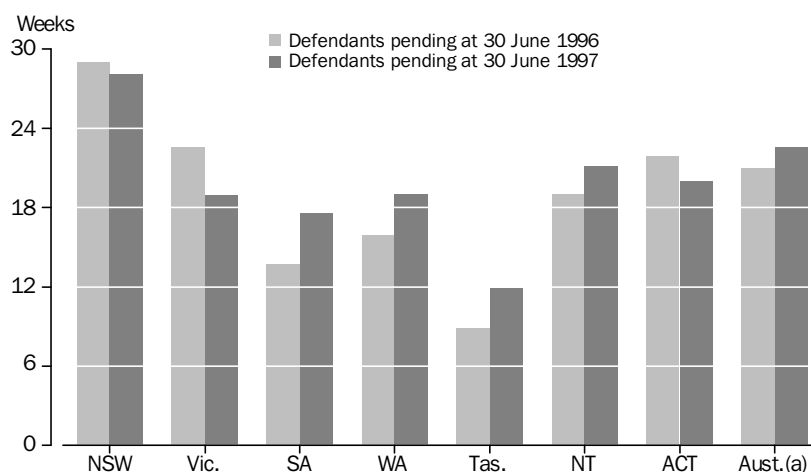
Across the States and Territories, the largest proportional increase in pending workload over 1996–97 was recorded in the Northern Territory, with an increase of 42.6% (60 defendants). South Australia had the largest proportional decrease (26.8% or 184 defendants) in the pending workload over the reference period. (See table 1.)

Elapsed time since initiation

For defendants pending on 30 June 1997, the national median elapsed time since initiation was 22.6 weeks (excluding Queensland where data were not available). The median elapsed time since initiation ranged from 11.9 weeks for Tasmanian defendants to 28.1 weeks for New South Wales defendants. (See table 12.)

Over the reference period, New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory had a decrease in the median elapsed time since initiation for pending defendants. The largest decrease was recorded in Victoria, where the median fell from 22.6 weeks at the start of 1996–97 to 18.9 weeks at the end of 1996–97. The remaining four States and Territories had increases in the median elapsed time, influencing the national increase in median elapsed time. The largest rise in the median elapsed time since initiation was recorded in South Australia, increasing from 13.7 weeks at the start of 1996–97 to 17.6 weeks at the end of 1996–97.

MEDIAN ELAPSED TIME SINCE INITIATION—1996–97



(a) Excludes Queensland where data on the number of defendants pending were not available.

FINALISED WORKLOAD

There were 15,657 defendants finalised in the Higher Courts in 1996–97, a decrease of 495 (3.1%) from the 16,152 defendants finalised during 1995–96. The national decrease in the number of defendants finalised was mainly influenced by New South Wales where there was a decline of 667 (16.2%) defendants finalised. Most of the other States and Territories recorded rises in the number of defendants finalised in 1996–97.

Of the 15,657 Higher Court finalisations in 1996–97, there were 2,007 defendants (12.8%) finalised in a Supreme Court. The majority of these defendants were finalised in Queensland (743 defendants), Tasmania (324 defendants) and Western Australia (296 defendants) which together accounted for more than two-thirds of all defendants finalised in the Supreme Courts in Australia. In the Intermediate Courts there were 13,650 defendants finalised in Australia in 1996–97, with Queensland and New South Wales accounting for 5,521 and 3,371 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 1996–97 there was a national rate of 111.9 defendants finalised in the Higher Courts per 100,000 adult persons in Australia.

Queensland had the highest rate of defendants finalised in 1996–97 at 247.2 per 100,000 adults, more than double the national rate. The Northern Territory and Western Australia, with rates of 173.9 and 171.5 respectively, were also higher than the national rate. Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory had relatively low rates of defendants finalised at 47.5 and 64.6 respectively. (See table 1.)

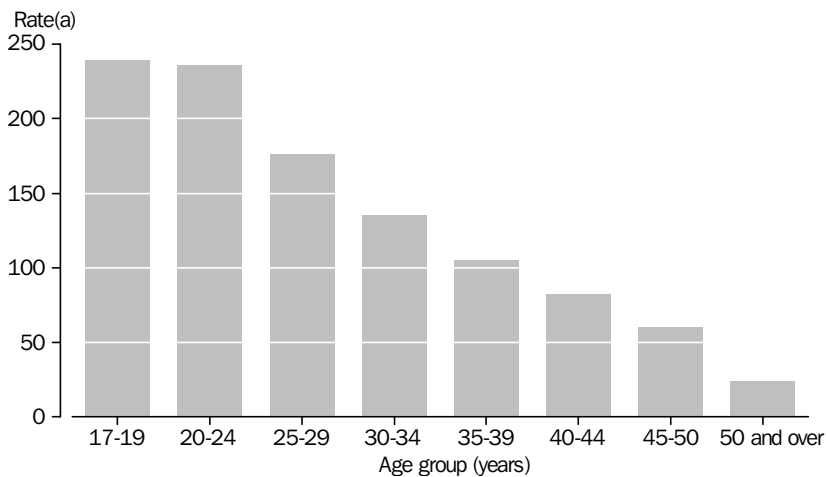
Rates of finalisation *continued*

It should be noted that the types of charges dealt with in each court level are determined by legislation and procedures and that these vary across the States and Territories. 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

Over 60% of defendants finalised in the Higher Courts during 1996–97 were aged between 17–34 years. One in five defendants (20.8%) fell within the 20–24 year age group, which had the second highest rate of defendants finalised at 235.8 per 100,000 persons. Defendants aged 17–19 had the highest rate, with 238.9 defendants finalised per 100,000 persons in that age group. Both these groups had a rate which was double that of the national rate of 111.9 defendants finalised per 100,000 adult persons. For older age groups, the rate of defendants finalised declined consistently as the age of the group increased.

DEFENDANTS FINALISED, Rate by Age Group—1996–97



(a) Rate per 100,000 adult persons.

The majority (88.5%) of finalised defendants were male. The Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of female defendants with 16.0% of all defendants finalised, while the Northern Territory had the lowest with 6.2%.

Generally the distribution pattern of the age groups was similar for male and female defendants, with the highest rate per 100,000 adult persons recorded in the 20–24 year age group for females and the 17–19 year age group for males. The median age of female defendants at 29.4 years was higher than for males at 28.7 years. Across the States and Territories, the median age of defendants was lowest in Tasmania at 25.8 years of age and highest in Victoria at 31.7 years of age. (See table 5.)

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 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.

Adjudicated finalisations refer to defendants whose charge(s) are resolved through a trial or sentence hearing before a judge. The adjudication involves a judgement by the court as to whether the defendant is guilty of the charge(s) against them and/or a determination of the penalty to be applied where a defendant is proven guilty. Defendants finalised by an adjudicated method of finalisation totalled 13,538 (86.5%) of the total finalisations. (See table 3.)

Non-adjudicated methods of finalisation include those where charges were withdrawn by the prosecution, the defendant died, a bench warrant was issued for a defendant who absconded or an indefinite stay of proceedings was ordered. Defendants finalised by non-adjudicated methods totalled 2,119, accounting for 13.5% of the total finalised population in 1996–97.

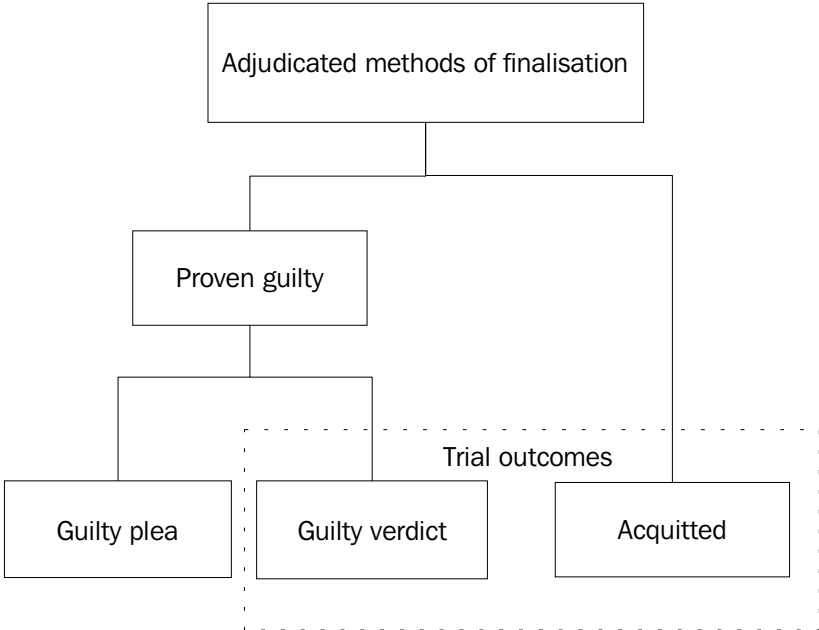
Adjudicated finalisations

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 can be sentenced by the court.

Of the 13,538 defendants with an adjudicated method of finalisation in the Higher Courts across Australia, there were 12,186 (90.0%) defendants who were proven guilty while the remaining 1,352 (10.0%) 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 guilt.

ADJUDICATED METHODS OF FINALISATION



Trial outcomes

Of the 2,215 defendants finalised with a trial outcome (excluding Queensland), 1,017 defendants (45.9%) were acquitted of all charges and 1,198 defendants (54.1%) received a guilty verdict. There was variation across the States and Territories in the proportion of defendants who were acquitted at trial, ranging from 30.5% in Tasmania to 54.6% in New South Wales.

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.

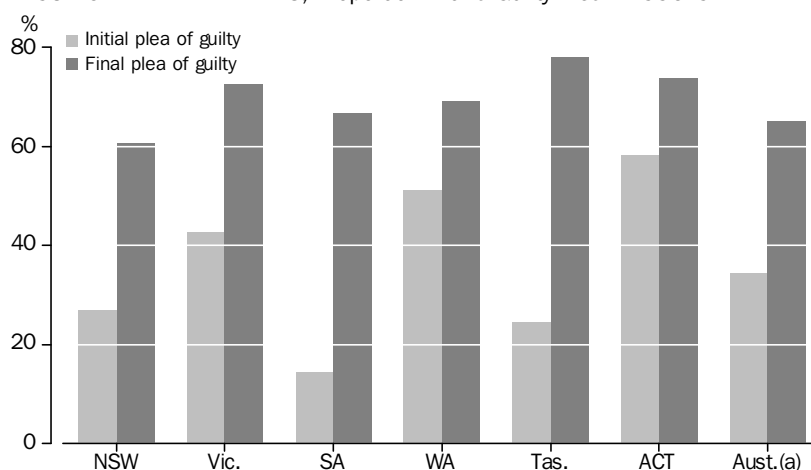
Information on the plea(s) initially entered by defendants gives an indication of the potential need for trials in the Higher Courts, while information on the final plea(s) entered by defendants provides an indication of the trials that actually took place. Data on both initial and final pleas was not available for Queensland and the Northern Territory. Of the 7,844 defendants finalised by adjudication in the remaining States and Territories, 5,051 entered the Higher Courts with a not guilty plea and were therefore expected to go to trial. Of these defendants, 2,562 (50.7%) maintained a not guilty plea and went through trial while the remaining 2,489 (49.3%) defendants changed their plea from not guilty to guilty during proceedings in the Higher Courts.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Change in plea *continued*

Across Australia the majority of adjudicated defendants had a final plea of guilty, ranging from 60.7% in New South Wales to 78.2% in Tasmania. However, there was variation across States and Territories in the proportion of guilty pleas identified at initiation and those identified during proceedings in the Higher Courts. In the States and Territories where there was a low proportion of defendants who pleaded guilty at initiation (South Australia 14.5% and Tasmania 24.6%), there was a large proportion who changed their plea to guilty at finalisation (South Australia 52.2% and Tasmania 53.6%). Conversely, in the States and Territories with the highest proportions of defendants who initially pleaded guilty (Australian Capital Territory 58.2% and Western Australia 51.1%), there were smaller proportions of defendants who changed their plea from not guilty to guilty (15.6% in the Australian Capital Territory and 18.6% in Western Australia). This indicates that whilst there are large differences between States and Territories in the proportions of defendants who initially plead guilty, the differences in the proportions of defendants with a final plea of guilty are smaller. (See table 4.)

ADJUDICATED DEFENDANTS, Proportion with a Guilty Plea—1996–97



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

DURATION OF DEFENDANTS FINALISED

For all the defendants finalised in the Higher Courts in 1996–97 duration statistics are presented. These figures measure the total time taken to finalise all charges for a defendant from the date the defendant was initiated. The total duration for a finalised 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 taken for any hearings. Typically, hearing time occupies only a small proportion of the overall case duration.

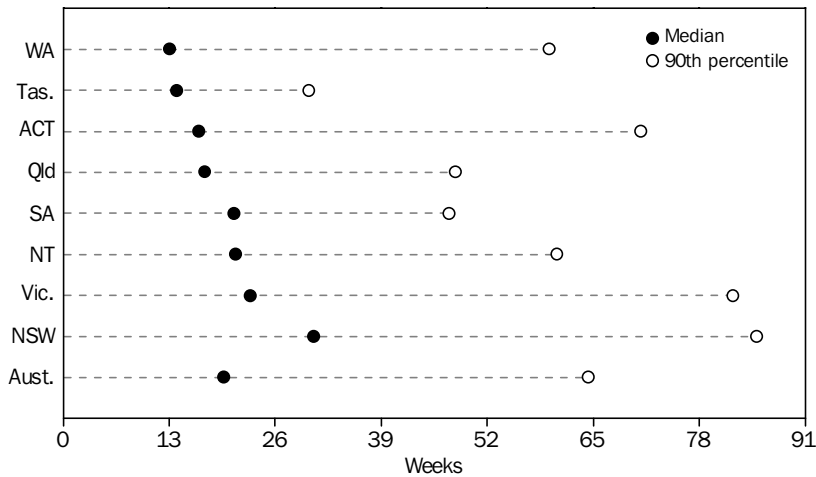
Initiation to finalisation

For the 15,657 defendants finalised in the Higher Courts during 1996–97, the median duration from initiation to finalisation was 19.7 weeks. The median duration was longest in New South Wales at 30.7 weeks, followed by Victoria at 22.9 weeks. Western Australia and Tasmania had the shortest median durations (13.0 weeks and 13.9 weeks respectively). (See table 6.)

Initiation to finalisation *continued*

The finalisation of 90% of defendants was fastest in Tasmania, where it took 30.1 weeks from initiation, while New South Wales was slowest taking 85.0 weeks. Nationally, the majority (84.7% or 13,262) of Higher Court defendants finalised during 1996–97 had all their charges completed within a year of initiation. (See table 7.)

DEFENDANTS FINALISED, Duration from Initiation to Finalisation—1996–97



The median duration from initiation to finalisation varied for different methods of finalisation. In general, defendants who went to trial took much longer to finalise than those that were dealt with through a sentence hearing. Defendants finalised in 1996–97 by a trial outcome of guilty verdict or acquitted had the longest median duration times, at 43.8 weeks and 38.8 weeks respectively, while defendants finalised by guilty plea had the shortest median duration at 15.3 weeks. (See table 6.)

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									
July 1996									
Initiated	6	7	n.a.	15	40	32	23	23	n.a.
Finalised	6	8	86	16	31	34	15	10	206
August 1996									
Initiated	8	8	n.a.	2	38	26	19	15	n.a.
Finalised	8	13	39	12	33	27	14	13	159
September 1996									
Initiated	14	6	n.a.	5	27	15	13	15	n.a.
Finalised	4	5	43	15	23	25	19	7	141
October 1996									
Initiated	9	2	n.a.	5	29	35	23	12	n.a.
Finalised	9	4	84	10	36	55	11	25	234
November 1996									
Initiated	11	14	n.a.	3	11	37	44	18	n.a.
Finalised	6	8	71	12	30	14	28	6	175
December 1996									
Initiated	7	5	n.a.	2	14	20	26	10	n.a.
Finalised	9	3	64	8	17	23	31	16	171
January 1997									
Initiated	9	4	n.a.	4	8	20	21	5	n.a.
Finalised	—	1	19	6	13	2	7	2	50
February 1997									
Initiated	10	10	n.a.	2	20	26	29	15	n.a.
Finalised	2	3	70	8	23	42	20	17	185
March 1997									
Initiated	5	9	n.a.	12	17	30	17	11	n.a.
Finalised	9	3	60	7	7	8	26	11	131
April 1997									
Initiated	10	6	n.a.	7	12	26	30	15	n.a.
Finalised	4	6	58	14	31	26	17	17	173
May 1997									
Initiated	15	11	n.a.	4	20	27	22	12	n.a.
Finalised	10	11	83	9	16	44	20	9	202
June 1997									
Initiated	8	7	n.a.	6	18	27	19	24	n.a.
Finalised	11	3	66	5	36	24	18	17	180
July to June 1996/97									
Pending at start	156	51	n.a.	87	204	123	141	81	n.a.
Total initiated	112	89	n.a.	67	254	321	286	175	n.a.
Total transferred in	—	2	n.a.	53	24	. .	. .	. .	n.a.
Total transferred out	3	5	n.a.	21	52	. .	. .	. .	n.a.
Total finalised	78	68	743	122	296	324	226	150	2 007
Pending at end	187	69	n.a.	64	134	120	201	106	n.a.

(a) Counts of defendants initiated, pending and transferred are not available for the Qld Supreme Court. Finalisation 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)									
July 1996									
Initiated	294	152	n.a.	108	172	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	169	151	468	123	144	..	..	..	1 055
August 1996									
Initiated	351	162	n.a.	132	191	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	409	107	514	112	217	..	..	..	1 359
September 1996									
Initiated	340	103	n.a.	73	140	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	283	141	432	79	166	..	..	..	1 101
October 1996									
Initiated	275	156	n.a.	89	189	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	335	157	488	110	151	..	..	..	1 241
November 1996									
Initiated	293	117	n.a.	95	164	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	393	161	525	112	175	..	..	..	1 366
December 1996									
Initiated	290	113	n.a.	89	140	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	335	120	362	82	135	..	..	..	1 034
January 1997									
Initiated	280	114	n.a.	73	157	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	80	87	373	65	113	..	..	..	718
February 1997									
Initiated	301	116	n.a.	84	201	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	286	167	498	85	160	..	..	..	1 196
March 1997									
Initiated	345	121	n.a.	78	193	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	269	120	375	104	143	..	..	..	1 011
April 1997									
Initiated	358	127	n.a.	74	203	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	256	133	518	102	173	..	..	..	1 182
May 1997									
Initiated	405	153	n.a.	79	226	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	311	130	548	94	205	..	..	..	1 288
June 1997									
Initiated	364	127	n.a.	63	244	..	..	..	n.a.
Finalised	245	123	420	98	213	..	..	..	1 099
July to June 1996/97									
Pending at start	3 040	979	n.a.	600	1 015	..	..	..	n.a.
Total initiated	3 896	1 561	n.a.	1 037	2 220	..	..	..	n.a.
Total transferred in	3	5	n.a.	21	52	..	..	..	n.a.
Total transferred out	—	2	n.a.	53	24	..	..	..	n.a.
Total finalised	3 371	1 597	5 521	1 166	1 995	..	..	..	13 650
Pending at end	3 568	946	n.a.	439	1 268	..	..	..	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)									
July 1996									
Initiated	300	159	583	123	212	32	23	23	1 455
Finalised	175	159	554	139	175	34	15	10	1 261
August 1996									
Initiated	359	170	492	134	229	26	19	15	1 444
Finalised	417	120	553	124	250	27	14	13	1 518
September 1996									
Initiated	354	109	466	78	167	15	13	15	1 217
Finalised	287	146	475	94	189	25	19	7	1 242
October 1996									
Initiated	284	158	495	94	218	35	23	12	1 319
Finalised	344	161	572	120	187	55	11	25	1 475
November 1996									
Initiated	304	131	363	98	175	37	44	18	1 170
Finalised	399	169	596	124	205	14	28	6	1 541
December 1996									
Initiated	297	118	369	91	154	20	26	10	1 085
Finalised	344	123	426	90	152	23	31	16	1 205
January 1997									
Initiated	289	118	437	77	165	20	21	5	1 132
Finalised	80	88	392	71	126	2	7	2	768
February 1997									
Initiated	311	126	431	86	221	26	29	15	1 245
Finalised	288	170	568	93	183	42	20	17	1 381
March 1997									
Initiated	350	130	484	90	210	30	17	11	1 322
Finalised	278	123	435	111	150	8	26	11	1 142
April 1997									
Initiated	368	133	522	81	215	26	30	15	1 390
Finalised	260	139	576	116	204	26	17	17	1 355
May 1997									
Initiated	420	164	545	83	246	27	22	12	1 519
Finalised	321	141	631	103	221	44	20	9	1 490
June 1997									
Initiated	372	134	501	69	262	27	19	24	1 408
Finalised	256	126	486	103	249	24	18	17	1 279
July to June 1996/97									
Pending at start	3 196	1 030	n.a.	687	1 219	123	141	81	n.a.
Total initiated	4 008	1 650	5 688	1 104	2 474	321	286	175	15 706
Total transferred in	3	7	n.a.	74	76	—	—	—	n.a.
Total transferred out	3	7	n.a.	74	76	—	—	—	n.a.
Total finalised	3 449	1 665	6 264	1 288	2 291	324	226	150	15 657
Pending at end	3 755	1 015	n.a.	503	1 402	120	201	106	n.a.
RATE PER 100,000 ADULT PERSONS									
Pending at start	67.2	29.4	n.a.	60.4	91.2	34.7	108.5	34.9	n.a.
Total initiated	84.3	47.0	224.5	97.0	185.2	90.5	220.1	75.4	112.3
Total transferred in	0.1	0.2	n.a.	6.5	5.7	. .	. .	. .	n.a.
Total transferred out	0.1	0.2	n.a.	6.5	5.7	. .	. .	. .	n.a.
Total finalised	72.6	47.5	247.2	113.2	171.5	91.4	173.9	64.6	111.9
Pending at end	79.0	28.9	n.a.	44.2	104.9	33.8	154.7	45.7	n.a.

(a) Initiation data for Qld only include defendants committed, 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	110	77	n.a.	50	178	251	—	90	n.a.
Committed for sentence	—	5	n.a.	2	67	65	—	82	n.a.
Committed n.f.d.(c)	—	—	n.a.	—	—	—	256	—	n.a.
Total	110	82	n.a.	52	245	316	256	172	n.a.
Ex-officio	1	2	n.a.	6	—	1	18	1	n.a.
Bench warrant executed	—	1	n.a.	7	9	4	12	2	n.a.
Other initiation(d)	1	4	n.a.	2	—	—	—	—	n.a.
Total	112	89	n.a.	67	254	321	286	175	n.a.
PROPORTION IN SUPREME COURT (%)									
Committed									
Committed for trial	98.2	86.5	n.a.	74.6	70.1	78.2	—	51.4	n.a.
Committed for sentence	—	5.6	n.a.	3.0	26.4	20.2	—	46.9	n.a.
Committed n.f.d.(c)	—	—	n.a.	—	—	—	89.5	—	n.a.
Total	98.2	92.1	n.a.	77.6	96.5	98.4	89.5	98.3	n.a.
Ex-officio	0.9	2.2	n.a.	9.0	—	0.3	6.3	0.6	n.a.
Bench warrant executed	—	1.1	n.a.	10.4	3.5	1.2	4.2	1.1	n.a.
Other initiation(d)	0.9	4.5	n.a.	3.0	—	—	—	—	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	2 810	864	n.a.	816	1 285	..	..	..	n.a.
Committed for sentence	923	648	n.a.	124	875	..	..	..	n.a.
Committed n.f.d.(c)	—	—	n.a.	—	—	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	3 733	1 512	n.a.	940	2 160	..	..	..	n.a.
Ex-officio	13	10	n.a.	3	2	..	..	..	n.a.
Bench warrant executed	127	24	n.a.	73	58	..	..	..	n.a.
Other initiation(d)	23	15	n.a.	21	—	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	3 896	1 561	n.a.	1 037	2 220	..	..	..	n.a.
PROPORTION IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (%) (e)									
Committed									
Committed for trial	72.1	55.4	n.a.	78.7	57.9	..	..	..	n.a.
Committed for sentence	23.7	41.5	n.a.	12.0	39.4	..	..	..	n.a.
Committed n.f.d.(c)	—	—	n.a.	—	—	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	95.8	96.9	n.a.	90.6	97.3	..	..	..	n.a.
Ex-officio	0.3	0.6	n.a.	0.3	0.1	..	..	..	n.a.
Bench warrant executed	3.3	1.5	n.a.	7.0	2.6	..	..	..	n.a.
Other initiation(d)	0.6	1.0	n.a.	2.0	—	..	..	..	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 the 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	2 920	941	5 002	866	1 463	251	—	90	11 533
Committed for sentence	923	653	686	126	942	65	—	82	3 477
Committed n.f.d.(c)	—	—	—	—	—	—	256	—	256
<i>Total</i>	3 843	1 594	5 688	992	2 405	316	256	172	15 266
Ex-officio	14	12	n.a.	9	2	1	18	1	(d)57
Bench warrant executed	127	25	n.a.	80	67	4	12	2	(d)317
Other initiation(e)	24	19	n.a.	23	—	—	—	—	(d)66
Total	4 008	1 650	(d)5 688	1 104	2 474	321	286	175	(d)15 706
PROPORTION IN HIGHER COURTS (%) (b)									
Committed									
Committed for trial	72.9	57.1	87.9	78.4	59.1	78.2	—	51.4	73.4
Committed for sentence	23.0	39.6	12.1	11.4	38.1	20.2	—	46.9	22.1
Committed n.f.d.(c)	—	—	—	—	—	—	89.5	—	1.6
<i>Total</i>	95.9	96.7	100.0	89.9	97.2	98.4	89.5	98.3	97.1
Ex-officio	0.3	0.7	n.a.	0.8	0.1	0.3	6.3	0.6	(d)0.4
Bench warrant executed	3.2	1.5	n.a.	7.2	2.7	1.2	4.2	1.1	(d)2.0
Other initiation(e)	0.6	1.2	n.a.	2.1	—	—	—	—	(d)0.4
Total	100.0	100.0	(d)100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(d)100.0

(a) Committal 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.

3

DEFENDANTS FINALISED, Method of Finalisation

Method of finalisation	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT									
Adjudicated									
Acquitted	12	12	22	24	24	18	18	11	141
Proven guilty									
Guilty verdict	24	28	46	33	79	41	24	21	296
Guilty plea	40	25	599	43	167	217	145	90	1 326
Total	64	53	645	76	246	258	169	111	1 622
Total	76	65	667	100	270	276	187	122	1 763
Non-adjudicated									
Bench warrant issued	—	1	n.a.	5	10	10	22	4	(a)52
Withdrawn	2	2	75	16	15	34	15	15	174
Other finalisation(b)	—	—	1	1	1	4	2	9	18
Total	2	3	(a)76	22	26	48	39	28	(a)244
Total	78	68	(a)743	122	296	324	226	150	(a)2 007
PROPORTION IN SUPREME COURT (%)									
Adjudicated									
Acquitted	15.4	17.6	3.0	19.7	8.1	5.6	8.0	7.3	7.0
Proven guilty									
Guilty verdict	30.8	41.2	6.2	27.0	26.7	12.7	10.6	14.0	14.7
Guilty plea	51.3	36.8	80.6	35.2	56.4	67.0	64.2	60.0	66.1
Total	82.1	77.9	86.8	62.3	83.1	79.6	74.8	74.0	80.8
Total	97.4	95.6	89.8	82.0	91.2	85.2	82.7	81.3	87.8
Non-adjudicated									
Bench warrant issued	—	1.5	n.a.	4.1	3.4	3.1	9.7	2.7	(a)2.6
Withdrawn	2.6	2.9	10.1	13.1	5.1	10.5	6.6	10.0	8.7
Other finalisation(b)	—	—	0.1	0.8	0.3	1.2	0.9	6.0	0.9
Total	2.6	4.4	(a)10.2	18.0	8.8	14.8	17.3	18.7	(a)12.2
Total	100.0	100.0	(a)100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(a)100.0

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

(b) Includes defendants who were withdrawn by the 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	436	184	313	96	182	..	..	..	1 211
Proven guilty									
Guilty verdict	348	190	152	113	297	..	..	..	1 100
Guilty plea	2 067	1 071	3 820	669	1 282	..	..	..	8 909
Proven guilty n.f.d.(b)	—	—	555	—	—	..	..	..	555
Total	2 415	1 261	4 527	782	1 579	..	..	..	10 564
Total	2 851	1 445	4 840	878	1 761	..	..	..	11 775
Non-adjudicated									
Bench warrant issued	182	29	n.a.	64	76	..	..	..	(c)351
Withdrawn	315	121	681	212	144	..	..	..	1 473
Other finalisation(d)	23	2	—	12	14	..	..	..	51
Total	520	152	(c)681	288	234	..	..	..	(c)1 875
Total	3 371	1 597	(c)5 521	1 166	1 995	..	..	..	(c)13 650
PROPORTION IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (%) (a)									
Adjudicated									
Acquitted	12.9	11.5	5.7	8.2	9.1	..	..	..	8.9
Proven guilty									
Guilty verdict	10.3	11.9	2.8	9.7	14.9	..	..	..	8.1
Guilty plea	61.3	67.1	69.2	57.4	64.3	..	..	..	65.3
Proven guilty n.f.d.(b)	—	—	10.1	—	—	..	..	..	4.1
Total	71.6	79.0	82.0	67.1	79.1	..	..	..	77.4
Total	84.6	90.5	87.7	75.3	88.3	..	..	..	86.3
Non-adjudicated									
Bench warrant issued	5.4	1.8	n.a.	5.5	3.8	..	..	..	(c)2.6
Withdrawn	9.3	7.6	12.3	18.2	7.2	..	..	..	10.8
Other finalisation(d)	0.7	0.1	—	1.0	0.7	..	..	..	0.4
Total	15.4	9.5	(c)12.3	24.7	11.7	..	..	..	(c)13.7
Total	100.0	100.0	(c)100.0	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	(c)100.0

(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 the 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	448	196	335	120	206	18	18	11	1 352
Proven guilty									
Guilty verdict	372	218	198	146	376	41	24	21	1 396
Guilty plea	2 107	1 096	4 419	712	1 449	217	145	90	10 235
Proven guilty n.f.d.(b)	—	—	555	—	—	—	—	—	555
Total	2 479	1 314	5 172	858	1 825	258	169	111	12 186
Total	2 927	1 510	5 507	978	2 031	276	187	122	13 538
Non-adjudicated									
Bench warrant issued	182	30	n.a.	69	86	10	22	4	(c)403
Withdrawn	317	123	756	228	159	34	15	15	1 647
Other finalisation(d)	23	2	1	13	15	4	2	9	69
Total	522	155	(c)757	310	260	48	39	28	(c)2 119
Total	3 449	1 665	(c)6 264	1 288	2 291	324	226	150	(c)15 657
PROPORTION IN HIGHER COURTS (%) (a)									
Adjudicated									
Acquitted	13.0	11.8	5.3	9.3	9.0	5.6	8.0	7.3	8.6
Proven guilty									
Guilty verdict	10.8	13.1	3.2	11.3	16.4	12.7	10.6	14.0	8.9
Guilty plea	61.1	65.8	70.5	55.3	63.2	67.0	64.2	60.0	65.4
Proven guilty n.f.d.(b)	—	—	8.9	—	—	—	—	—	3.5
Total	71.9	78.9	82.6	66.6	79.7	79.6	74.8	74.0	77.8
Total	84.9	90.7	87.9	75.9	88.7	85.2	82.7	81.3	86.5
Non-adjudicated									
Bench warrant issued	5.3	1.8	n.a.	5.4	3.8	3.1	9.7	2.7	(c)2.6
Withdrawn	9.2	7.4	12.1	17.7	6.9	10.5	6.6	10.0	10.5
Other finalisation(dc)	0.7	0.1	—	1.0	0.7	1.2	0.9	6.0	0.4
Total	15.1	9.3	(c)12.1	24.1	11.3	14.8	17.3	18.7	(c)13.5
Total	100.0	100.0	(c)100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(c)100.0

(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.

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

Initial and final plea status	NSW	Vic.	Qld(b)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT(b)	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT									
No change in plea									
Not guilty	51	40	n.a.	73	103	59	n.a.	32	n.a.
Guilty	4	4	n.a.	—	87	68	n.a.	71	n.a.
Total	55	44	n.a.	73	190	127	n.a.	103	n.a.
Change in plea									
Not guilty to guilty	21	21	n.a.	25	64	148	n.a.	19	n.a.
Guilty to not guilty	—	—	n.a.	—	3	—	n.a.	—	n.a.
Total	21	21	n.a.	25	67	148	n.a.	19	n.a.
Initial/final plea unknown	—	—	n.a.	2	13	1	n.a.	—	n.a.
Total	76	65	667	100	270	276	187	122	1 763
PROPORTION IN SUPREME COURT (%)									
No change in plea									
Not guilty	67.1	61.5	n.a.	73.0	38.1	21.4	n.a.	26.2	n.a.
Guilty	5.3	6.2	n.a.	—	32.2	24.6	n.a.	58.2	n.a.
Total	72.4	67.7	n.a.	73.0	70.4	46.0	n.a.	84.4	n.a.
Change in plea									
Not guilty to guilty	27.6	32.3	n.a.	25.0	23.7	53.6	n.a.	15.6	n.a.
Guilty to not guilty	—	—	n.a.	—	1.1	—	n.a.	—	n.a.
Total	27.6	32.3	n.a.	25.0	24.8	53.6	n.a.	15.6	n.a.
Initial/final plea unknown	—	—	n.a.	2.0	4.8	0.4	n.a.	—	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT(c)									
No change in plea									
Not guilty	1 099	373	n.a.	237	495	..	..	..	n.a.
Guilty	788	642	n.a.	142	942	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	1 887	1 015	n.a.	379	1 437	..	..	..	n.a.
Change in plea									
Not guilty to guilty	963	428	n.a.	486	314	..	..	..	n.a.
Guilty to not guilty	1	—	n.a.	—	5	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	964	428	n.a.	486	319	..	..	..	n.a.
Initial/final plea unknown	—	2	n.a.	13	5	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	2 851	1 445	4 840	878	1 761	..	..	..	11 775
PROPORTION IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (%) (c)									
No change in plea									
Not guilty	38.6	25.8	n.a.	27.0	28.1	..	..	..	n.a.
Guilty	27.6	44.4	n.a.	16.2	53.5	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	66.2	70.2	n.a.	43.2	81.6	..	..	..	n.a.
Change in plea									
Not guilty to guilty	33.8	29.6	n.a.	55.4	17.8	..	..	..	n.a.
Guilty to not guilty	—	—	n.a.	—	0.3	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	33.8	29.6	n.a.	55.4	18.1	..	..	..	n.a.
Initial/final plea unknown	—	0.1	n.a.	1.5	0.3	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	100.0

(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.

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DEFENDANTS FINALISED BY ADJUDICATION(a), Initial and Final Plea Status *continued*

<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	1 150	413	n.a.	310	598	59	n.a.	32	n.a.
Guilty	792	646	n.a.	142	1 029	68	n.a.	71	n.a.
<i>Total</i>	<i>1 942</i>	<i>1 059</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>452</i>	<i>1 627</i>	<i>127</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>103</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
Change in plea									
Not guilty to guilty	984	449	n.a.	511	378	148	n.a.	19	n.a.
Guilty to not guilty	1	—	n.a.	—	8	—	n.a.	—	n.a.
<i>Total</i>	<i>985</i>	<i>449</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>511</i>	<i>386</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
Initial/final plea unknown	—	2	n.a.	15	18	1	n.a.	—	n.a.
Total	2 927	1 510	5 507	978	2 031	276	187	122	13 538
PROPORTION IN HIGHER COURTS (%) (c)									
No change in plea									
Not guilty	39.3	27.4	n.a.	31.7	29.4	21.4	n.a.	26.2	n.a.
Guilty	27.1	42.8	n.a.	14.5	50.7	24.6	n.a.	58.2	n.a.
<i>Total</i>	<i>66.3</i>	<i>70.1</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>46.2</i>	<i>80.1</i>	<i>46.0</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>84.4</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
Change in plea									
Not guilty to guilty	33.6	29.7	n.a.	52.2	18.6	53.6	n.a.	15.6	n.a.
Guilty to not guilty	—	—	n.a.	—	0.4	—	n.a.	—	n.a.
<i>Total</i>	<i>33.7</i>	<i>29.7</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>52.2</i>	<i>19.0</i>	<i>53.6</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>15.6</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
Initial/final plea unknown	—	0.1	n.a.	1.5	0.9	0.4	n.a.	—	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(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	35	—	28	—	3	8	5	4	83
17–19	234	112	925	59	245	43	27	16	1 661
20–24	691	260	1 048	253	498	83	50	24	2 907
25–29	593	265	717	186	385	41	29	27	2 243
30–34	447	193	546	194	246	27	33	15	1 701
35–39	361	168	399	150	206	33	14	12	1 343
40–44	277	143	274	114	155	16	12	8	999
45–49	193	103	202	75	103	10	4	7	697
50 and over	304	186	267	106	181	23	11	8	1 086
Unknown	45	66	952	15	27	—	27	5	1 137
Total	3 180	1 496	5 358	1 152	2 049	284	212	126	13 857
Median age	30.1	31.7	26.2	31.6	28.2	25.7	27.0	28.0	28.7
Female									
Under 17	1	1	4	—	—	2	—	2	10
17–19	19	10	105	8	24	6	1	1	174
20–24	64	28	158	23	64	10	1	4	352
25–29	48	29	133	33	43	6	—	2	294
30–34	39	29	108	20	41	7	3	4	251
35–39	39	18	92	22	24	3	2	5	205
40–44	15	15	63	14	20	2	4	2	135
45–49	21	9	28	4	15	1	2	1	81
50 and over	17	18	26	9	9	3	1	1	84
Unknown	5	10	189	1	2	—	—	2	209
Total	268	167	906	134	242	40	14	24	1 795
Median age	29.9	31.3	28.2	30.2	28.4	28.8	38.9	32.9	29.4
Persons									
Under 17	36	1	32	—	3	10	5	6	93
17–19	253	122	1 030	67	269	49	28	17	1 835
20–24	755	288	1 206	276	562	93	51	28	3 259
25–29	641	294	850	219	428	47	29	29	2 537
30–34	486	222	654	214	287	34	36	19	1 952
35–39	400	186	491	172	230	36	16	17	1 548
40–44	292	158	337	128	175	18	16	10	1 134
45–49	214	112	230	79	118	11	6	8	778
50 and over	321	204	293	115	190	26	12	9	1 170
Unknown	50	76	1 141	16	29	—	27	7	1 346
Total	3 448	1 663	6 264	1 286	2 291	324	226	150	15 652
Median age	30.1	31.7	26.4	31.5	28.2	25.8	27.9	28.4	28.8
Organisations	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	5
Total	3 449	1 665	6 264	1 288	2 291	324	226	150	15 657

(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 not 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)									
Male									
Under 17	1.1	—	0.5	—	0.1	2.8	2.4	3.2	0.6
17–19	7.4	7.5	17.3	5.1	12.0	15.1	12.7	12.7	12.0
20–24	21.7	17.4	19.6	22.0	24.3	29.2	23.6	19.0	21.0
25–29	18.6	17.7	13.4	16.1	18.8	14.4	13.7	21.4	16.2
30–34	14.1	12.9	10.2	16.8	12.0	9.5	15.6	11.9	12.3
35–39	11.4	11.2	7.4	13.0	10.1	11.6	6.6	9.5	9.7
40–44	8.7	9.6	5.1	9.9	7.6	5.6	5.7	6.3	7.2
45–49	6.1	6.9	3.8	6.5	5.0	3.5	1.9	5.6	5.0
50 and over	9.6	12.4	5.0	9.2	8.8	8.1	5.2	6.3	7.8
Unknown	1.4	4.4	17.8	1.3	1.3	—	12.7	4.0	8.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Female									
Under 17	0.4	0.6	0.4	—	—	5.0	—	8.3	0.6
17–19	7.1	6.0	11.6	6.0	9.9	15.0	7.1	4.2	9.7
20–24	23.9	16.8	17.4	17.2	26.4	25.0	7.1	16.7	19.6
25–29	17.9	17.4	14.7	24.6	17.8	15.0	—	8.3	16.4
30–34	14.6	17.4	11.9	14.9	16.9	17.5	21.4	16.7	14.0
35–39	14.6	10.8	10.2	16.4	9.9	7.5	14.3	20.8	11.4
40–44	5.6	9.0	7.0	10.4	8.3	5.0	28.6	8.3	7.5
45–49	7.8	5.4	3.1	3.0	6.2	2.5	14.3	4.2	4.5
50 and over	6.3	10.8	2.9	6.7	3.7	7.5	7.1	4.2	4.7
Unknown	1.9	6.0	20.9	0.7	0.8	—	—	8.3	11.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Persons									
Under 17	1.0	0.1	0.5	—	0.1	3.1	2.2	4.0	0.6
17–19	7.3	7.3	16.4	5.2	11.7	15.1	12.4	11.3	11.7
20–24	21.9	17.3	19.3	21.5	24.5	28.7	22.6	18.7	20.8
25–29	18.6	17.7	13.6	17.0	18.7	14.5	12.8	19.3	16.2
30–34	14.1	13.3	10.4	16.6	12.5	10.5	15.9	12.7	12.5
35–39	11.6	11.2	7.8	13.4	10.0	11.1	7.1	11.3	9.9
40–44	8.5	9.5	5.4	10.0	7.6	5.6	7.1	6.7	7.2
45–49	6.2	6.7	3.7	6.1	5.2	3.4	2.7	5.3	5.0
50 and over	9.3	12.3	4.7	8.9	8.3	8.0	5.3	6.0	7.5
Unknown	1.5	4.6	18.2	1.2	1.3	—	11.9	4.7	8.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Defendants									
Male	92.2	89.8	85.5	89.4	89.4	87.7	93.8	84.0	88.5
Female	7.8	10.0	14.5	10.4	10.6	12.3	6.2	16.0	11.5
Organisations	—	0.1	—	0.2	—	—	—	—	—
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(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	4.6	—	6.5	—	1.3	13.1	17.5	10.3	3.7
17–19	181.0	114.9	1 239.8	197.6	616.9	427.7	612.1	201.9	422.2
20–24	299.2	150.0	785.0	475.7	710.2	515.5	542.5	167.2	414.7
25–29	248.5	146.3	536.7	335.9	535.7	252.0	292.2	204.7	311.5
30–34	182.7	108.4	424.5	347.9	346.6	160.9	362.5	121.0	237.4
35–39	145.1	93.0	301.3	257.8	283.0	177.8	163.5	96.3	183.3
40–44	120.7	85.1	219.8	209.6	223.8	90.7	161.6	67.7	146.3
45–49	88.2	65.1	166.4	142.9	156.6	59.9	59.9	58.6	106.9
50 and over	38.2	32.3	65.2	53.7	87.7	37.8	80.2	26.6	47.4
Total	136.1	87.3	425.7	207.0	307.2	164.1	307.1	110.4	201.2
Female									
Under 17	0.1	0.2	1.0	—	—	3.4	—	5.3	0.5
17–19	15.4	10.8	147.2	28.1	63.8	62.2	25.6	13.0	46.5
20–24	28.4	16.5	121.9	45.4	96.3	63.2	12.0	28.4	51.7
25–29	20.0	15.8	101.1	61.6	62.1	36.2	—	15.1	40.9
30–34	16.0	16.0	83.1	35.9	58.4	39.9	35.7	31.3	34.9
35–39	15.7	9.8	69.0	37.6	33.2	15.7	26.0	38.5	27.9
40–44	6.5	8.8	50.8	25.4	29.0	11.3	59.6	15.9	19.7
45–49	9.8	5.6	23.9	7.6	24.0	6.1	35.5	8.1	12.7
50 and over	1.9	2.8	5.9	4.0	4.1	4.4	9.2	3.1	3.3
Total	11.1	9.3	71.0	23.0	36.2	22.0	23.0	20.3	25.3
Persons									
Under 17	2.4	0.1	3.8	—	0.7	8.4	9.0	7.9	2.1
17–19	100.0	64.3	705.7	114.8	347.9	248.8	336.8	108.9	238.9
20–24	165.3	83.9	458.3	265.7	411.6	291.4	290.5	98.4	235.8
25–29	133.8	80.5	320.5	201.0	303.4	143.0	150.6	109.5	176.4
30–34	99.5	61.7	252.9	192.1	203.3	99.0	205.6	75.5	135.9
35–39	80.4	51.1	184.8	147.5	158.5	95.5	98.4	66.8	105.4
40–44	63.6	46.6	135.5	116.9	126.5	50.9	113.2	41.0	82.8
45–49	49.5	35.2	96.5	75.1	92.0	33.2	48.8	33.0	60.2
50 and over	19.0	16.6	34.6	27.1	44.4	20.1	48.8	14.4	24.2
Total	72.5	47.4	247.2	113.0	171.5	91.4	173.9	64.6	111.9

(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	81.7	49.4	41.9	31.2	45.6	21.5	45.5	46.7	42.9
10th percentile	39.8	9.4	18.5	8.6	16.2	8.3	27.7	10.7	11.4
25th percentile	63.7	22.8	26.4	20.2	35.4	12.1	32.8	13.3	25.1
Median	95.8	49.6	41.1	31.9	51.0	20.9	42.0	55.3	36.7
75th percentile	101.9	83.7	56.9	36.2	57.2	28.7	55.8	63.3	58.1
90th percentile	112.2	88.1	60.6	49.9	64.4	30.7	73.8	93.3	82.3
Guilty verdict									
Mean	72.7	39.6	42.7	51.5	47.5	22.3	43.2	52.8	45.0
10th percentile	37.3	25.0	17.8	24.3	16.1	8.4	14.8	16.0	15.3
25th percentile	63.7	29.0	23.1	37.0	30.1	13.7	26.3	21.3	24.3
Median	73.1	34.6	33.5	46.7	51.7	18.1	36.9	61.1	40.0
75th percentile	90.0	39.9	61.1	58.9	60.6	25.1	53.2	70.6	62.5
90th percentile	93.7	53.0	83.3	89.8	71.1	38.9	83.1	73.6	83.3
Guilty plea									
Mean	74.7	22.5	29.8	33.7	15.7	15.7	22.0	19.9	25.5
10th percentile	44.9	5.5	2.0	11.7	6.9	4.9	2.4	6.4	5.0
25th percentile	59.4	12.1	13.6	24.0	9.3	7.0	9.0	8.0	10.3
Median	69.3	22.7	22.6	32.7	11.9	12.0	17.0	12.6	17.8
75th percentile	85.4	28.7	37.9	40.8	16.4	20.1	30.1	20.5	32.5
90th percentile	108.0	40.7	58.5	56.9	27.5	28.1	44.6	52.6	56.8
Other finalisation(a)									
Mean	123.9	30.3	45.5	47.4	36.6	21.3	30.5	40.1	37.4
10th percentile	59.9	17.9	15.1	10.1	8.9	5.5	6.5	4.1	7.0
25th percentile	83.9	18.1	26.1	20.3	10.6	9.8	11.8	9.9	14.0
Median	123.9	18.3	35.4	32.2	18.8	15.9	21.7	37.3	27.1
75th percentile	164.0	36.5	53.0	45.0	42.2	25.7	46.3	64.8	46.3
90th percentile	188.0	47.4	90.7	145.8	49.2	38.1	63.2	82.8	79.7
Total defendants finalised									
Mean	76.4	34.6	32.6	40.5	28.5	17.7	27.6	30.2	31.1
10th percentile	37.1	10.7	4.6	10.8	8.0	5.2	4.1	6.4	6.0
25th percentile	59.6	21.5	14.9	24.0	10.7	8.1	11.0	9.1	11.9
Median	71.1	28.9	26.0	35.6	16.4	13.9	21.1	16.6	22.3
75th percentile	92.2	41.8	40.7	47.0	43.0	23.0	38.7	53.6	41.6
90th percentile	107.7	65.6	63.3	74.5	60.4	30.1	60.5	70.8	66.6

(a) Includes defendants who were withdrawn 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	54.6	48.2	30.8	33.1	50.3	..	..	..	45.1
10th percentile	18.4	13.0	9.7	14.2	26.6	..	..	..	14.3
25th percentile	26.5	24.2	17.6	21.5	40.6	..	..	..	23.9
Median	48.2	37.8	27.0	32.9	50.1	..	..	..	39.0
75th percentile	73.0	65.0	39.3	42.2	61.4	..	..	..	58.7
90th percentile	98.5	98.7	55.2	48.4	71.8	..	..	..	80.7
Guilty verdict									
Mean	66.5	52.8	36.2	42.2	50.7	..	..	..	53.2
10th percentile	23.3	15.5	12.1	20.5	20.7	..	..	..	18.6
25th percentile	36.1	28.1	21.8	26.0	33.6	..	..	..	29.3
Median	60.1	38.9	32.7	34.1	48.1	..	..	..	44.6
75th percentile	85.0	72.9	44.1	47.4	62.3	..	..	..	67.9
90th percentile	120.3	99.3	60.3	77.6	80.2	..	..	..	96.4
Guilty plea									
Mean	33.0	27.4	18.8	22.0	13.8	..	..	..	22.6
10th percentile	7.4	7.7	0.1	6.1	4.6	..	..	..	3.1
25th percentile	13.3	10.7	5.7	10.3	5.7	..	..	..	8.1
Median	24.1	15.9	14.1	17.7	8.6	..	..	..	15.0
75th percentile	42.6	31.1	23.0	29.1	13.8	..	..	..	27.6
90th percentile	70.5	61.6	35.7	43.1	31.5	..	..	..	48.9
Proven guilty n.f.d(b)									
Mean	—	—	30.2	—	—	..	..	..	30.2
10th percentile	—	—	8.9	—	—	..	..	..	8.9
25th percentile	—	—	13.5	—	—	..	..	..	13.5
Median	—	—	22.1	—	—	..	..	..	22.1
75th percentile	—	—	35.3	—	—	..	..	..	35.3
90th percentile	—	—	64.1	—	—	..	..	..	64.1
Other finalisation(c)									
Mean	40.1	53.7	32.9	20.2	27.5	..	..	..	34.0
10th percentile	7.0	11.6	9.4	4.2	6.9	..	..	..	7.1
25th percentile	15.8	16.5	14.7	7.7	9.2	..	..	..	13.0
Median	29.8	32.7	24.9	16.1	17.4	..	..	..	24.1
75th percentile	53.7	76.0	37.4	27.1	36.4	..	..	..	41.1
90th percentile	88.5	135.0	58.6	38.4	55.3	..	..	..	69.1
Total defendants finalised									
Mean	40.4	35.3	22.8	24.4	24.2	..	..	..	29.0
10th percentile	9.0	8.7	0.1	5.8	4.9	..	..	..	4.7
25th percentile	16.0	12.0	8.9	11.1	6.9	..	..	..	10.3
Median	30.0	22.0	16.4	20.1	12.4	..	..	..	19.3
75th percentile	55.0	45.0	28.1	32.3	38.1	..	..	..	36.7
90th percentile	83.3	82.6	45.1	46.0	59.3	..	..	..	63.7

(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 were withdrawn 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>
TOTAL HIGHER COURTS (a)									
Acquitted									
Mean	55.3	48.3	31.5	32.8	49.8	21.5	45.5	46.7	44.9
10th percentile	18.5	13.0	10.2	13.9	25.9	8.3	27.7	10.7	14.1
25th percentile	26.7	24.2	17.9	21.4	40.1	12.1	32.8	13.3	24.0
Median	49.3	38.2	27.7	32.7	50.1	20.9	42.0	55.3	38.8
75th percentile	73.6	67.6	40.1	41.5	61.2	28.7	55.8	63.3	58.6
90th percentile	100.1	94.8	56.6	49.3	70.9	30.7	73.8	93.3	81.0
Guilty verdict									
Mean	66.9	51.1	37.7	44.3	50.0	22.3	43.2	52.8	51.4
10th percentile	23.4	16.0	13.7	20.8	19.0	8.4	14.8	16.0	17.4
25th percentile	36.3	28.2	22.2	27.1	33.1	13.7	26.3	21.3	28.2
Median	60.8	37.1	33.3	36.8	48.6	18.1	36.9	61.1	43.8
75th percentile	85.4	70.0	47.1	51.7	61.5	25.1	53.2	70.6	66.3
90th percentile	119.2	97.6	67.7	79.9	79.1	38.9	83.1	73.6	93.4
Guilty plea									
Mean	33.8	27.3	20.3	22.7	14.0	15.7	22.0	19.9	23.0
10th percentile	7.4	7.7	0.1	6.2	4.7	4.9	2.4	6.4	3.4
25th percentile	13.4	10.7	6.7	10.9	5.9	7.0	9.0	8.0	8.3
Median	24.6	15.9	15.0	18.6	9.1	12.0	17.0	12.6	15.3
75th percentile	44.2	31.0	24.7	30.0	14.1	20.1	30.1	20.5	28.3
90th percentile	72.0	60.9	39.3	44.1	31.0	28.1	44.6	52.6	50.0
Proven guilty n.f.d(b)									
Mean	—	—	30.2	—	—	—	—	—	30.2
10th percentile	—	—	8.9	—	—	—	—	—	8.9
25th percentile	—	—	13.5	—	—	—	—	—	13.5
Median	—	—	22.1	—	—	—	—	—	22.1
75th percentile	—	—	35.3	—	—	—	—	—	35.3
90th percentile	—	—	64.1	—	—	—	—	—	64.1
Other finalisation(c)									
Mean	40.5	53.2	34.2	22.2	28.4	21.3	30.5	40.1	34.4
10th percentile	7.0	11.6	10.0	4.3	6.9	5.5	6.5	4.1	7.0
25th percentile	15.9	16.9	15.4	7.9	9.3	9.8	11.8	9.9	13.1
Median	29.9	32.4	25.6	16.4	17.4	15.9	21.7	37.3	24.4
75th percentile	54.0	74.5	38.7	29.0	37.8	25.7	46.3	64.8	41.9
90th percentile	88.9	133.9	65.3	41.7	54.5	38.1	63.2	82.8	71.4
Total defendants finalised									
Mean	41.2	35.3	24.0	25.9	24.8	17.7	27.6	30.2	29.2
10th percentile	9.1	8.7	0.1	6.0	5.0	5.2	4.1	6.4	4.9
25th percentile	16.1	12.1	9.3	11.6	7.2	8.1	11.0	9.1	10.6
Median	30.7	22.9	17.3	20.9	13.0	13.9	21.1	16.6	19.7
75th percentile	56.9	44.7	29.9	34.4	39.6	23.0	38.7	53.6	37.4
90th percentile	85.0	82.2	48.1	47.3	59.6	30.1	60.5	70.8	64.4

(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 were withdrawn 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	—	2	—	4	1	5	1	2	15
13 and under 26	1	2	5	4	3	6	—	2	23
26 and under 39	1	1	6	12	3	6	7	1	37
39 and under 52	—	2	4	1	7	—	4	—	18
52 and under 65	2	—	5	2	8	1	2	3	23
65 and under 78	1	1	1	—	2	—	3	1	9
78 and over	7	4	1	1	—	—	1	2	16
Total	12	12	22	24	24	18	18	11	141
Guilty verdict									
Under 13	—	—	2	1	3	10	2	—	18
13 and under 26	—	4	11	4	14	21	4	7	65
26 and under 39	3	15	14	4	11	6	6	—	59
39 and under 52	2	6	5	13	13	2	6	1	48
52 and under 65	1	1	4	4	25	1	1	3	40
65 and under 78	8	—	2	3	5	—	2	9	29
78 and over	10	2	8	4	8	1	3	1	37
Total	24	28	46	33	79	41	24	21	296
Guilty plea									
Under 13	—	7	142	7	98	121	53	47	475
13 and under 26	2	7	190	7	50	68	48	24	396
26 and under 39	2	8	127	16	8	19	22	7	209
39 and under 52	3	2	63	7	5	3	11	2	96
52 and under 65	7	1	33	3	3	—	5	5	57
65 and under 78	13	—	13	2	2	2	4	3	39
78 and over	13	—	31	1	1	4	2	2	54
Total	40	25	599	43	167	217	145	90	1 326
Other finalisation(a)									
Under 13	—	—	3	4	9	17	12	10	55
13 and under 26	—	2	16	3	8	19	9	3	60
26 and under 39	—	—	26	8	—	7	6	2	49
39 and under 52	1	—	10	3	6	2	4	2	28
52 and under 65	—	1	5	—	2	—	4	4	16
65 and under 78	—	—	3	—	—	1	2	4	10
78 and over	1	—	13	4	1	2	2	3	26
Total	2	3	(b)76	22	26	48	39	28	(b)244
Total defendants finalised									
Under 13	—	9	147	16	111	153	68	59	563
13 and under 26	3	15	222	18	75	114	61	36	544
26 and under 39	6	24	173	40	22	38	41	10	354
39 and under 52	6	10	82	24	31	7	25	5	190
52 and under 65	10	3	47	9	38	2	12	15	136
65 and under 78	22	1	19	5	9	3	11	17	87
78 and over	31	6	53	10	10	7	8	8	133
Total	78	68	(b)743	122	296	324	226	150	(b)2 007

(a) Includes defendants who were withdrawn 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.
PROPORTION IN SUPREME COURT (%)									
Acquitted									
Under 13	—	16.7	—	16.7	4.2	27.8	5.6	18.2	10.6
13 and under 26	8.3	16.7	22.7	16.7	12.5	33.3	—	18.2	16.3
26 and under 39	8.3	8.3	27.3	50.0	12.5	33.3	38.9	9.1	26.2
39 and under 52	—	16.7	18.2	4.2	29.2	—	22.2	—	12.8
52 and under 65	16.7	—	22.7	8.3	33.3	5.6	11.1	27.3	16.3
65 and under 78	8.3	8.3	4.5	—	8.3	—	16.7	9.1	6.4
78 and over	58.3	33.3	4.5	4.2	—	—	5.6	18.2	11.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Guilty verdict									
Under 13	—	—	4.3	3.0	3.8	24.4	8.3	—	6.1
13 and under 26	—	14.3	23.9	12.1	17.7	51.2	16.7	33.3	22.0
26 and under 39	12.5	53.6	30.4	12.1	13.9	14.6	25.0	—	19.9
39 and under 52	8.3	21.4	10.9	39.4	16.5	4.9	25.0	4.8	16.2
52 and under 65	4.2	3.6	8.7	12.1	31.6	2.4	4.2	14.3	13.5
65 and under 78	33.3	—	4.3	9.1	6.3	—	8.3	42.9	9.8
78 and over	41.7	7.1	17.4	12.1	10.1	2.4	12.5	4.8	12.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Guilty plea									
Under 13	—	28.0	23.7	16.3	58.7	55.8	36.6	52.2	35.8
13 and under 26	5.0	28.0	31.7	16.3	29.9	31.3	33.1	26.7	29.9
26 and under 39	5.0	32.0	21.2	37.2	4.8	8.8	15.2	7.8	15.8
39 and under 52	7.5	8.0	10.5	16.3	3.0	1.4	7.6	2.2	7.2
52 and under 65	17.5	4.0	5.5	7.0	1.8	—	3.4	5.6	4.3
65 and under 78	32.5	—	2.2	4.7	1.2	0.9	2.8	3.3	2.9
78 and over	32.5	—	5.2	2.3	0.6	1.8	1.4	2.2	4.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Other finalisation(a)									
Under 13	—	—	3.9	18.2	34.6	35.4	30.8	35.7	22.5
13 and under 26	—	66.7	21.1	13.6	30.8	39.6	23.1	10.7	24.6
26 and under 39	—	—	34.2	36.4	—	14.6	15.4	7.1	20.1
39 and under 52	50.0	—	13.2	13.6	23.1	4.2	10.3	7.1	11.5
52 and under 65	—	33.3	6.6	—	7.7	—	10.3	14.3	6.6
65 and under 78	—	—	3.9	—	—	2.1	5.1	14.3	4.1
78 and over	50.0	—	17.1	18.2	3.8	4.2	5.1	10.7	10.7
Total	100.0	100.0	(b)100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(b)100.0
Total defendants finalised									
Under 13	—	13.2	19.8	13.1	37.5	47.2	30.1	39.3	28.1
13 and under 26	3.8	22.1	29.9	14.8	25.3	35.2	27.0	24.0	27.1
26 and under 39	7.7	35.3	23.3	32.8	7.4	11.7	18.1	6.7	17.6
39 and under 52	7.7	14.7	11.0	19.7	10.5	2.2	11.1	3.3	9.5
52 and under 65	12.8	4.4	6.3	7.4	12.8	0.6	5.3	10.0	6.8
65 and under 78	28.2	1.5	2.6	4.1	3.0	0.9	4.9	11.3	4.3
78 and over	39.7	8.8	7.1	8.2	3.4	2.2	3.5	5.3	6.6
Total	100.0	100.0	(b)100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(b)100.0

(a) Includes defendants who were withdrawn 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>
NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT(a)									
Acquitted									
Under 13	14	16	52	6	2	..	..	..	90
13 and under 26	91	34	96	26	15	..	..	..	262
26 and under 39	69	44	83	33	23	..	..	..	252
39 and under 52	63	27	41	22	56	..	..	..	209
52 and under 65	62	17	28	6	56	..	..	..	169
65 and under 78	47	15	4	3	21	..	..	..	90
78 and over	90	31	9	—	9	..	..	..	139
<i>Total</i>	436	184	313	96	182	..	..	..	1 211
Guilty verdict									
Under 13	7	10	16	3	10	..	..	..	46
13 and under 26	41	33	35	24	40	..	..	..	173
26 and under 39	56	52	46	44	48	..	..	..	246
39 and under 52	42	21	30	17	76	..	..	..	186
52 and under 65	54	16	14	8	57	..	..	..	149
65 and under 78	37	16	—	5	34	..	..	..	92
78 and over	111	42	11	12	32	..	..	..	208
<i>Total</i>	348	190	152	113	297	..	..	..	1 100
Guilty plea									
Under 13	489	427	1 717	228	916	..	..	..	3 777
13 and under 26	618	308	1 345	236	209	..	..	..	2 716
26 and under 39	369	122	444	119	61	..	..	..	1 115
39 and under 52	214	67	128	58	42	..	..	..	509
52 and under 65	123	46	68	16	33	..	..	..	286
65 and under 78	112	25	31	5	11	..	..	..	184
78 and over	142	76	87	7	10	..	..	..	322
<i>Total</i>	2 067	1 071	3 820	669	1 282	..	..	..	8 909
Proven guilty n.f.d.(b)									
Under 13	—	—	129	—	—	..	..	..	129
13 and under 26	—	—	197	—	—	..	..	..	197
26 and under 39	—	—	109	—	—	..	..	..	109
39 and under 52	—	—	42	—	—	..	..	..	42
52 and under 65	—	—	25	—	—	..	..	..	25
65 and under 78	—	—	16	—	—	..	..	..	16
78 and over	—	—	37	—	—	..	..	..	37
<i>Total</i>	—	—	555	—	—	..	..	..	555
Other finalisation(c)									
Under 13	106	22	125	119	95	..	..	..	467
13 and under 26	120	41	238	91	47	..	..	..	537
26 and under 39	95	18	161	49	37	..	..	..	360
39 and under 52	65	19	67	15	23	..	..	..	189
52 and under 65	34	8	29	8	17	..	..	..	96
65 and under 78	30	8	22	1	5	..	..	..	66
78 and over	70	36	39	5	10	..	..	..	160
<i>Total</i>	520	152	(d) 681	288	234	..	..	..	(d) 1 875
Total defendants finalised									
Under 13	616	475	2 039	356	1 023	..	..	..	4 509
13 and under 26	870	416	1 911	377	311	..	..	..	3 885
26 and under 39	589	236	843	245	169	..	..	..	2 082
39 and under 52	384	134	308	112	197	..	..	..	1 135
52 and under 65	273	87	164	38	163	..	..	..	725
65 and under 78	226	64	73	14	71	..	..	..	448
78 and over	413	185	183	24	61	..	..	..	866
Total	3 371	1 597	(d) 5 521	1 166	1 995	..	..	..	(d) 13 650

(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 were withdrawn 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>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 INTERMEDIATE COURT (%) (a)									
Acquitted									
Under 13	3.2	8.7	16.6	6.3	1.1	..	..	..	7.4
13 and under 26	20.9	18.5	30.7	27.1	8.2	..	..	..	21.6
26 and under 39	15.8	23.9	26.5	34.4	12.6	..	..	..	20.8
39 and under 52	14.4	14.7	13.1	22.9	30.8	..	..	..	17.3
52 and under 65	14.2	9.2	8.9	6.3	30.8	..	..	..	14.0
65 and under 78	10.8	8.2	1.3	3.1	11.5	..	..	..	7.4
78 and over	20.6	16.8	2.9	—	4.9	..	..	..	11.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	100.0
Guilty verdict									
Under 13	2.0	5.3	10.5	2.7	3.4	..	..	..	4.2
13 and under 26	11.8	17.4	23.0	21.2	13.5	..	..	..	15.7
26 and under 39	16.1	27.4	30.3	38.9	16.2	..	..	..	22.4
39 and under 52	12.1	11.1	19.7	15.0	25.6	..	..	..	16.9
52 and under 65	15.5	8.4	9.2	7.1	19.2	..	..	..	13.5
65 and under 78	10.6	8.4	—	4.4	11.4	..	..	..	8.4
78 and over	31.9	22.1	7.2	10.6	10.8	..	..	..	18.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	100.0
Guilty plea									
Under 13	23.7	39.9	44.9	34.1	71.5	..	..	..	42.4
13 and under 26	29.9	28.8	35.2	35.3	16.3	..	..	..	30.5
26 and under 39	17.9	11.4	11.6	17.8	4.8	..	..	..	12.5
39 and under 52	10.4	6.3	3.4	8.7	3.3	..	..	..	5.7
52 and under 65	6.0	4.3	1.8	2.4	2.6	..	..	..	3.2
65 and under 78	5.4	2.3	0.8	0.7	0.9	..	..	..	2.1
78 and over	6.9	7.1	2.3	1.0	0.8	..	..	..	3.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	100.0
Proven guilty n.f.d.(b)									
Under 13	—	—	23.2	—	—	..	..	..	23.2
13 and under 26	—	—	35.5	—	—	..	..	..	35.5
26 and under 39	—	—	19.6	—	—	..	..	..	19.6
39 and under 52	—	—	7.6	—	—	..	..	..	7.6
52 and under 65	—	—	4.5	—	—	..	..	..	4.5
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	20.4	14.5	18.4	41.3	40.6	..	..	..	24.9
13 and under 26	23.1	27.0	34.9	31.6	20.1	..	..	..	28.6
26 and under 39	18.3	11.8	23.6	17.0	15.8	..	..	..	19.2
39 and under 52	12.5	12.5	9.8	5.2	9.8	..	..	..	10.1
52 and under 65	6.5	5.3	4.3	2.8	7.3	..	..	..	5.1
65 and under 78	5.8	5.3	3.2	0.3	2.1	..	..	..	3.5
78 and over	13.5	23.7	5.7	1.7	4.3	..	..	..	8.5
Total	100.0	100.0	(d)100.0	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	(d)100.0
Total defendants finalised									
Under 13	18.3	29.7	36.9	30.5	51.3	..	..	..	33.0
13 and under 26	25.8	26.0	34.6	32.3	15.6	..	..	..	28.5
26 and under 39	17.5	14.8	15.3	21.0	8.5	..	..	..	15.3
39 and under 52	11.4	8.4	5.6	9.6	9.9	..	..	..	8.3
52 and under 65	8.1	5.4	3.0	3.3	8.2	..	..	..	5.3
65 and under 78	6.7	4.0	1.3	1.2	3.6	..	..	..	3.3
78 and over	12.3	11.6	3.3	2.1	3.1	..	..	..	6.3
Total	100.0	100.0	(d)100.0	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	(d)100.0

(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 were withdrawn 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>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>
TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS(a)									
Acquitted									
Under 13	14	18	52	10	3	5	1	2	105
13 and under 26	92	36	101	30	18	6	—	2	285
26 and under 39	70	45	89	45	26	6	7	1	289
39 and under 52	63	29	45	23	63	—	4	—	227
52 and under 65	64	17	33	8	64	1	2	3	192
65 and under 78	48	16	5	3	23	—	3	1	99
78 and over	97	35	10	1	9	—	1	2	155
<i>Total</i>	<i>448</i>	<i>196</i>	<i>335</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>206</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>1 352</i>
Guilty verdict									
Under 13	7	10	18	4	13	10	2	—	64
13 and under 26	41	37	46	28	54	21	4	7	238
26 and under 39	59	67	60	48	59	6	6	—	305
39 and under 52	44	27	35	30	89	2	6	1	234
52 and under 65	55	17	18	12	82	1	1	3	189
65 and under 78	45	16	2	8	39	—	2	9	121
78 and over	121	44	19	16	40	1	3	1	245
<i>Total</i>	<i>372</i>	<i>218</i>	<i>198</i>	<i>146</i>	<i>376</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>1 396</i>
Guilty plea									
Under 13	489	434	1 859	235	1 014	121	53	47	4 252
13 and under 26	620	315	1 535	243	259	68	48	24	3 112
26 and under 39	371	130	571	135	69	19	22	7	1 324
39 and under 52	217	69	191	65	47	3	11	2	605
52 and under 65	130	47	101	19	36	—	5	5	343
65 and under 78	125	25	44	7	13	2	4	3	223
78 and over	155	76	118	8	11	4	2	2	376
<i>Total</i>	<i>2 107</i>	<i>1 096</i>	<i>4 419</i>	<i>712</i>	<i>1 449</i>	<i>217</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>10 235</i>
Proven guilty n.f.d.(b)									
Under 13	—	—	129	—	—	—	—	—	129
13 and under 26	—	—	197	—	—	—	—	—	197
26 and under 39	—	—	109	—	—	—	—	—	109
39 and under 52	—	—	42	—	—	—	—	—	42
52 and under 65	—	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	25
65 and under 78	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	16
78 and over	—	—	37	—	—	—	—	—	37
<i>Total</i>	—	—	<i>555</i>	—	—	—	—	—	<i>555</i>
Other finalisation(c)									
Under 13	106	22	128	123	104	17	12	10	522
13 and under 26	120	43	254	94	55	19	9	3	597
26 and under 39	95	18	187	57	37	7	6	2	409
39 and under 52	66	19	77	18	29	2	4	2	217
52 and under 65	34	9	34	8	19	—	4	4	112
65 and under 78	30	8	25	1	5	1	2	4	76
78 and over	71	36	52	9	11	2	2	3	186
<i>Total</i>	<i>522</i>	<i>155</i>	<i>(d) 757</i>	<i>310</i>	<i>260</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>(d) 2 119</i>
Total defendants finalised									
Under 13	616	484	2 186	372	1 134	153	68	59	5 072
13 and under 26	873	431	2 133	395	386	114	61	36	4 429
26 and under 39	595	260	1 016	285	191	38	41	10	2 436
39 and under 52	390	144	390	136	228	7	25	5	1 325
52 and under 65	283	90	211	47	201	2	12	15	861
65 and under 78	248	65	92	19	80	3	11	17	535
78 and over	444	191	236	34	71	7	8	8	999
Total	3 449	1 665	(d) 6 264	1 288	2 291	324	226	150	(d) 15 657

(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 were withdrawn 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 (%) ^(a)									
Acquitted									
Under 13	3.1	9.2	15.5	8.3	1.5	27.8	5.6	18.2	7.8
13 and under 26	20.5	18.4	30.1	25.0	8.7	33.3	—	18.2	21.1
26 and under 39	15.6	23.0	26.6	37.5	12.6	33.3	38.9	9.1	21.4
39 and under 52	14.1	14.8	13.4	19.2	30.6	—	22.2	—	16.8
52 and under 65	14.3	8.7	9.9	6.7	31.1	5.6	11.1	27.3	14.2
65 and under 78	10.7	8.2	1.5	2.5	11.2	—	16.7	9.1	7.3
78 and over	21.7	17.9	3.0	0.8	4.4	—	5.6	18.2	11.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Guilty verdict									
Under 13	1.9	4.6	9.1	2.7	3.5	24.4	8.3	—	4.6
13 and under 26	11.0	17.0	23.2	19.2	14.4	51.2	16.7	33.3	17.0
26 and under 39	15.9	30.7	30.3	32.9	15.7	14.6	25.0	—	21.8
39 and under 52	11.8	12.4	17.7	20.5	23.7	4.9	25.0	4.8	16.8
52 and under 65	14.8	7.8	9.1	8.2	21.8	2.4	4.2	14.3	13.5
65 and under 78	12.1	7.3	1.0	5.5	10.4	—	8.3	42.9	8.7
78 and over	32.5	20.2	9.6	11.0	10.6	2.4	12.5	4.8	17.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Guilty plea									
Under 13	23.2	39.6	42.1	33.0	70.0	55.8	36.6	52.2	41.5
13 and under 26	29.4	28.7	34.7	34.1	17.9	31.3	33.1	26.7	30.4
26 and under 39	17.6	11.9	12.9	19.0	4.8	8.8	15.2	7.8	12.9
39 and under 52	10.3	6.3	4.3	9.1	3.2	1.4	7.6	2.2	5.9
52 and under 65	6.2	4.3	2.3	2.7	2.5	—	3.4	5.6	3.4
65 and under 78	5.9	2.3	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	2.8	3.3	2.2
78 and over	7.4	6.9	2.7	1.1	0.8	1.8	1.4	2.2	3.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Proven guilty n.f.d. ^(b)									
Under 13	—	—	23.2	—	—	—	—	—	23.2
13 and under 26	—	—	35.5	—	—	—	—	—	35.5
26 and under 39	—	—	19.6	—	—	—	—	—	19.6
39 and under 52	—	—	7.6	—	—	—	—	—	7.6
52 and under 65	—	—	4.5	—	—	—	—	—	4.5
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	20.3	14.2	16.9	39.7	40.0	35.4	30.8	35.7	24.6
13 and under 26	23.0	27.7	33.6	30.3	21.2	39.6	23.1	10.7	28.2
26 and under 39	18.2	11.6	24.7	18.4	14.2	14.6	15.4	7.1	19.3
39 and under 52	12.6	12.3	10.2	5.8	11.2	4.2	10.3	7.1	10.2
52 and under 65	6.5	5.8	4.5	2.6	7.3	—	10.3	14.3	5.3
65 and under 78	5.7	5.2	3.3	0.3	1.9	2.1	5.1	14.3	3.6
78 and over	13.6	23.2	6.9	2.9	4.2	4.2	5.1	10.7	8.8
Total	100.0	100.0	^(d) 100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	^(d) 100.0
Total defendants finalised									
Under 13	17.9	29.1	34.9	28.9	49.5	47.2	30.1	39.3	32.4
13 and under 26	25.3	25.9	34.1	30.7	16.8	35.2	27.0	24.0	28.3
26 and under 39	17.3	15.6	16.2	22.1	8.3	11.7	18.1	6.7	15.6
39 and under 52	11.3	8.6	6.2	10.6	10.0	2.2	11.1	3.3	8.5
52 and under 65	8.2	5.4	3.4	3.6	8.8	0.6	5.3	10.0	5.5
65 and under 78	7.2	3.9	1.5	1.5	3.5	0.9	4.9	11.3	3.4
78 and over	12.9	11.5	3.8	2.6	3.1	2.2	3.5	5.3	6.4
Total	100.0	100.0	^(d)100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	^(d)100.0

(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 were withdrawn 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>
SUPREME COURT									
Initiation to verdict									
Mean	65.4	37.9	n.a.	39.5	44.3	20.7	40.4	49.5	n.a.
10th percentile	32.6	24.2	n.a.	20.1	14.7	6.9	7.3	14.9	n.a.
25th percentile	45.0	27.4	n.a.	25.9	28.1	10.9	24.4	16.4	n.a.
Median	67.9	33.2	n.a.	34.3	47.1	17.9	35.7	59.6	n.a.
75th percentile	84.5	39.4	n.a.	45.3	57.3	24.3	52.7	70.1	n.a.
90th percentile	86.8	50.0	n.a.	55.4	64.8	39.3	72.9	73.3	n.a.
Verdict to finalisation									
Mean	7.5	1.9	n.a.	12.1	3.4	1.5	3.0	3.4	n.a.
10th percentile	0.1	0.1	n.a.	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	n.a.
25th percentile	1.1	0.1	n.a.	1.4	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	n.a.
Median	2.7	0.3	n.a.	4.9	0.9	0.4	1.2	2.4	n.a.
75th percentile	10.0	2.2	n.a.	15.1	3.6	1.0	2.6	5.3	n.a.
90th percentile	12.6	4.4	n.a.	46.1	5.9	4.9	6.2	8.3	n.a.
INTERMEDIATE COURT(b)									
Initiation to verdict									
Mean	59.8	51.3	n.a.	35.5	49.1	..	..	..	n.a.
10th percentile	18.2	14.6	n.a.	16.7	20.0	..	..	..	n.a.
25th percentile	30.0	25.0	n.a.	22.7	32.6	..	..	..	n.a.
Median	51.2	36.9	n.a.	28.7	47.3	..	..	..	n.a.
75th percentile	76.2	72.7	n.a.	39.9	60.0	..	..	..	n.a.
90th percentile	115.2	98.6	n.a.	60.7	74.4	..	..	..	n.a.
Verdict to finalisation									
Mean	6.8	1.7	n.a.	6.9	1.8	..	..	..	n.a.
10th percentile	0.1	0.1	n.a.	0.1	0.1	..	..	..	n.a.
25th percentile	0.6	0.1	n.a.	0.9	0.1	..	..	..	n.a.
Median	5.0	0.1	n.a.	4.0	0.1	..	..	..	n.a.
75th percentile	9.3	1.1	n.a.	7.9	1.1	..	..	..	n.a.
90th percentile	16.1	5.4	n.a.	16.0	4.3	..	..	..	n.a.
TOTAL HIGHER COURTS(b)									
Initiation to verdict									
Mean	60.2	49.5	n.a.	36.4	48.1	20.7	40.4	49.5	n.a.
10th percentile	18.6	15.0	n.a.	17.0	19.0	6.9	7.3	14.9	n.a.
25th percentile	30.6	25.8	n.a.	23.0	31.9	10.9	24.4	16.4	n.a.
Median	52.6	36.0	n.a.	29.4	47.2	17.9	35.7	59.6	n.a.
75th percentile	77.4	69.1	n.a.	41.8	59.4	24.3	52.7	70.1	n.a.
90th percentile	113.9	97.1	n.a.	59.8	73.4	39.3	72.9	73.3	n.a.
Verdict to finalisation									
Mean	6.8	1.7	n.a.	8.0	2.1	1.5	3.0	3.4	n.a.
10th percentile	0.1	0.1	n.a.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	n.a.
25th percentile	0.7	0.1	n.a.	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	n.a.
Median	5.0	0.1	n.a.	4.1	0.1	0.4	1.2	2.4	n.a.
75th percentile	9.4	1.3	n.a.	8.1	1.7	1.0	2.6	5.3	n.a.
90th percentile	16.1	5.1	n.a.	20.4	5.2	4.9	6.2	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	7	12	4	2	n.a.
13 and under 26	1	4	n.a.	8	12	20	3	5	n.a.
26 and under 39	3	16	n.a.	11	11	5	8	—	n.a.
39 and under 52	3	5	n.a.	9	17	2	3	3	n.a.
52 and under 65	2	1	n.a.	1	24	1	1	1	n.a.
65 and under 78	6	1	n.a.	—	2	—	3	9	n.a.
78 and over	9	1	n.a.	3	6	1	2	1	n.a.
Total	24	28	46	33	79	41	24	21	296

PROPORTION IN SUPREME COURT (%)

Under 13	—	—	n.a.	3.0	8.9	29.3	16.7	9.5	n.a.
13 and under 26	4.2	14.3	n.a.	24.2	15.2	48.8	12.5	23.8	n.a.
26 and under 39	12.5	57.1	n.a.	33.3	13.9	12.2	33.3	—	n.a.
39 and under 52	12.5	17.9	n.a.	27.3	21.5	4.9	12.5	14.3	n.a.
52 and under 65	8.3	3.6	n.a.	3.0	30.4	2.4	4.2	4.8	n.a.
65 and under 78	25.0	3.6	n.a.	—	2.5	—	12.5	42.9	n.a.
78 and over	37.5	3.6	n.a.	9.1	7.6	2.4	8.3	4.8	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT(b)

Under 13	12	15	n.a.	7	10	..	..	..	n.a.
13 and under 26	54	37	n.a.	35	43	..	..	..	n.a.
26 and under 39	65	46	n.a.	41	51	..	..	..	n.a.
39 and under 52	45	19	n.a.	15	76	..	..	..	n.a.
52 and under 65	50	16	n.a.	4	62	..	..	..	n.a.
65 and under 78	38	17	n.a.	6	29	..	..	..	n.a.
78 and over	84	40	n.a.	5	26	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	348	190	n.a.	113	297	..	..	..	n.a.

PROPORTION IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (%) (b)

Under 13	3.4	7.9	n.a.	6.2	3.4	..	..	..	n.a.
13 and under 26	15.5	19.5	n.a.	31.0	14.5	..	..	..	n.a.
26 and under 39	18.7	24.2	n.a.	36.3	17.2	..	..	..	n.a.
39 and under 52	12.9	10.0	n.a.	13.3	25.6	..	..	..	n.a.
52 and under 65	14.4	8.4	n.a.	3.5	20.9	..	..	..	n.a.
65 and under 78	10.9	8.9	n.a.	5.3	9.8	..	..	..	n.a.
78 and over	24.1	21.1	n.a.	4.4	8.8	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	n.a.	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	n.a.

TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS(b)

Under 13	12	15	n.a.	8	17	12	4	2	n.a.
13 and under 26	55	41	n.a.	43	55	20	3	5	n.a.
26 and under 39	68	62	n.a.	52	62	5	8	—	n.a.
39 and under 52	48	24	n.a.	24	93	2	3	3	n.a.
52 and under 65	52	17	n.a.	5	86	1	1	1	n.a.
65 and under 78	44	18	n.a.	6	31	—	3	9	n.a.
78 and over	93	41	n.a.	8	32	1	2	1	n.a.
Total	372	218	n.a.	146	376	41	24	21	n.a.

PROPORTION IN HIGHER COURTS (%) (b)

Under 13	3.2	6.9	n.a.	5.5	4.5	29.3	16.7	9.5	n.a.
13 and under 26	14.8	18.8	n.a.	29.5	14.6	48.8	12.5	23.8	n.a.
26 and under 39	18.3	28.4	n.a.	35.6	16.5	12.2	33.3	—	n.a.
39 and under 52	12.9	11.0	n.a.	16.4	24.7	4.9	12.5	14.3	n.a.
52 and under 65	14.0	7.8	n.a.	3.4	22.9	2.4	4.2	4.8	n.a.
65 and under 78	11.8	8.3	n.a.	4.1	8.2	—	12.5	42.9	n.a.
78 and over	25.0	18.8	n.a.	5.5	8.5	2.4	8.3	4.8	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	n.a.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	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)
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NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT

Under 1	5	16	n.a.	4	42	27	11	8	n.a.
1 and under 4	9	8	n.a.	11	18	8	9	4	n.a.
4 and under 8	2	3	n.a.	7	12	5	2	5	n.a.
8 and under 12	4	—	n.a.	1	3	—	—	4	n.a.
12 and over	4	1	n.a.	10	4	1	2	—	n.a.
Total	24	28	46	33	79	41	24	21	296

PROPORTION IN SUPREME COURT(%)

Under 1	20.8	57.1	n.a.	12.1	53.2	65.9	45.8	38.1	n.a.
1 and under 4	37.5	28.6	n.a.	33.3	22.8	19.5	37.5	19.0	n.a.
4 and under 8	8.3	10.7	n.a.	21.2	15.2	12.2	8.3	23.8	n.a.
8 and under 12	16.7	—	n.a.	3.0	3.8	—	—	19.0	n.a.
12 and over	16.7	3.6	n.a.	30.3	5.1	2.4	8.3	—	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(b)

Under 1	103	140	n.a.	29	210	..	..	..	n.a.
1 and under 4	46	27	n.a.	27	53	..	..	..	n.a.
4 and under 8	89	10	n.a.	30	18	..	..	..	n.a.
8 and under 12	56	6	n.a.	13	13	..	..	..	n.a.
12 and over	54	7	n.a.	14	3	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	348	190	n.a.	113	297	..	..	..	n.a.

PROPORTION IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (%) (b)

Under 1	29.6	73.7	n.a.	25.7	70.7	..	..	..	n.a.
1 and under 4	13.2	14.2	n.a.	23.9	17.8	..	..	..	n.a.
4 and under 8	25.6	5.3	n.a.	26.5	6.1	..	..	..	n.a.
8 and under 12	16.1	3.2	n.a.	11.5	4.4	..	..	..	n.a.
12 and over	15.5	3.7	n.a.	12.4	1.0	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	n.a.	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	n.a.

TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS(b)

Under 1	108	156	n.a.	33	252	27	11	8	n.a.
1 and under 4	55	35	n.a.	38	71	8	9	4	n.a.
4 and under 8	91	13	n.a.	37	30	5	2	5	n.a.
8 and under 12	60	6	n.a.	14	16	—	—	4	n.a.
12 and over	58	8	n.a.	24	7	1	2	—	n.a.
Total	372	218	n.a.	146	376	41	24	21	n.a.

PROPORTION IN HIGHER COURTS (%) (b)

Under 1	29.0	71.6	n.a.	22.6	67.0	65.9	45.8	38.1	n.a.
1 and under 4	14.8	16.1	n.a.	26.0	18.9	19.5	37.5	19.0	n.a.
4 and under 8	24.5	6.0	n.a.	25.3	8.0	12.2	8.3	23.8	n.a.
8 and under 12	16.1	2.8	n.a.	9.6	4.3	—	—	19.0	n.a.
12 and over	15.6	3.7	n.a.	16.4	1.9	2.4	8.3	—	n.a.
Total	100.0	100.0	n.a.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	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.

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

Under 13	29	15	n.a.	23	82	82	47	20	n.a.
13 and under 26	20	14	n.a.	17	50	21	35	23	n.a.
26 and under 39	27	9	n.a.	20	26	8	36	17	n.a.
39 and under 52	33	7	n.a.	13	28	5	9	5	n.a.
52 and under 65	16	—	n.a.	1	13	6	7	7	n.a.
65 and under 78	10	—	n.a.	6	4	—	3	5	n.a.
78 and over	21	6	n.a.	7	1	1	4	4	n.a.
Total	156	51	n.a.	87	204	123	141	81	n.a.
Median elapsed time	40.6	22.3	n.a.	27.9	15.9	8.9	19.0	21.9	n.a.

NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT(b)

Under 13	896	367	n.a.	302	418	..	..	..	n.a.
13 and under 26	570	158	n.a.	165	246	..	..	..	n.a.
26 and under 39	419	108	n.a.	73	137	..	..	..	n.a.
39 and under 52	343	92	n.a.	24	75	..	..	..	n.a.
52 and under 65	279	83	n.a.	10	70	..	..	..	n.a.
65 and under 78	134	45	n.a.	10	29	..	..	..	n.a.
78 and over	399	126	n.a.	16	40	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	3 040	979	n.a.	600	1 015	..	..	..	n.a.
Median elapsed time	28.6	22.6	n.a.	12.9	15.9	..	..	..	n.a.

TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS(b)

Under 13	925	382	n.a.	325	500	82	47	20	n.a.
13 and under 26	590	172	n.a.	182	296	21	35	23	n.a.
26 and under 39	446	117	n.a.	93	163	8	36	17	n.a.
39 and under 52	376	99	n.a.	37	103	5	9	5	n.a.
52 and under 65	295	83	n.a.	11	83	6	7	7	n.a.
65 and under 78	144	45	n.a.	16	33	—	3	5	n.a.
78 and over	420	132	n.a.	23	41	1	4	4	n.a.
Total	3 196	1 030	n.a.	687	1 219	123	141	81	n.a.
Median elapsed time	29.0	22.6	n.a.	13.7	15.9	8.9	19.0	21.9	(a)21.0

(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	31	23	n.a.	15	38	67	65	42	n.a.
13 and under 26	24	18	n.a.	16	16	25	46	17	n.a.
26 and under 39	25	15	n.a.	8	15	13	37	18	n.a.
39 and under 52	23	1	n.a.	11	17	6	10	12	n.a.
52 and under 65	24	4	n.a.	2	20	4	16	6	n.a.
65 and under 78	14	3	n.a.	3	15	2	6	4	n.a.
78 and over	46	5	n.a.	9	13	3	21	7	n.a.
Total	187	69	n.a.	64	134	120	201	106	n.a.
Median elapsed time	45.9	18.0	n.a.	27.8	37.6	11.9	21.1	20.0	n.a.

NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT(b)

Under 13	1 053	370	n.a.	171	516	..	..	..	n.a.
13 and under 26	700	222	n.a.	111	236	..	..	..	n.a.
26 and under 39	456	99	n.a.	63	197	..	..	..	n.a.
39 and under 52	343	86	n.a.	43	134	..	..	..	n.a.
52 and under 65	273	51	n.a.	24	72	..	..	..	n.a.
65 and under 78	151	23	n.a.	14	37	..	..	..	n.a.
78 and over	592	95	n.a.	13	76	..	..	..	n.a.
Total	3 568	946	n.a.	439	1 268	..	..	..	n.a.
Median elapsed time	27.9	18.9	n.a.	17.0	18.1	..	..	..	n.a.

TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS(b)

Under 13	1 084	393	n.a.	186	554	67	65	42	n.a.
13 and under 26	724	240	n.a.	127	252	25	46	17	n.a.
26 and under 39	481	114	n.a.	71	212	13	37	18	n.a.
39 and under 52	366	87	n.a.	54	151	6	10	12	n.a.
52 and under 65	297	55	n.a.	26	92	4	16	6	n.a.
65 and under 78	165	26	n.a.	17	52	2	6	4	n.a.
78 and over	638	100	n.a.	22	89	3	21	7	n.a.
Total	3 755	1 015	n.a.	503	1 402	120	201	106	n.a.
Median elapsed time	28.1	18.9	n.a.	17.6	19.0	11.9	21.1	20.0	(b)22.6

(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 July 1996 to 30 June 1997. 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 July 1996 to 30 June 1997.

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 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).

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.

Plea *continued*

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, December 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 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 have been calculated on the basis of the December 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.

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, *Measuring Trial Court Performance: Indicators for Trial Case Processing*, 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

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

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

Acquitted	<p>An outcome of criminal proceedings in which a court determines that a charge laid against a defendant has not been proven. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a determination of not guilty on the grounds that the charge against the defendant has not been proven; and ▪ a finding of not guilty on the grounds of insanity/unsoundness of mind at the time the defendant committed the offence. <p>For the purposes of this collection, an acquitted outcome is regarded as an adjudicated method of finalisation.</p>
Active workload	<p>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.</p>
Adjudicated finalisation	<p>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.)</p>
Bench warrant executed	<p>The apprehension of an absconder who is brought back before the court to answer outstanding (and new) charges. For the purposes of these statistics, this process is regarded as a method of initiation and results in a person being counted as a new defendant initiated.</p>
Bench warrant issued	<p>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.</p>
Case	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The charge(s) relate to the same criminal incident. ▪ The charge(s) relate to one defendant or one group of defendants. ▪ The charge(s) appear together on the one indictment.
Caseload	<p>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.</p>
Charge	<p>An allegation laid before a court by the police or other prosecuting agency that a person or corporation has committed a criminal offence.</p>
Committal	<p>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.</p>
Committal plea	<p>The plea to a charge which is entered by a defendant at the end of committal proceedings in a Court of Summary Jurisdiction.</p>
Committed for sentence	<p>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.</p>

Committed for trial	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.
County Court	See Intermediate Court.
Court level	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.
Court of Petty Sessions	See Court of Summary Jurisdiction.
Court of Summary Jurisdiction	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.
Date of committal	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.
Date of finalisation	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.
Date of initiation	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.
Date of registration	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.
Date of verdict	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.
Defendant	<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>

District Court	See Intermediate Court.
Duration	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"> ▪ date of initiation and date of finalisation; ▪ date of initiation and date of verdict; and ▪ date of verdict and date of finalisation.
Elapsed time since initiation	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.
Ex-officio	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.
Final plea	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.)
Finalised defendant	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.)
Guilty plea	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).
Guilty verdict	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.
Higher Court	An Intermediate Court or Supreme Court, both of which hear serious criminal charges relating to indictable offences. (See Intermediate Court, Supreme Court.)
Indictable offence	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.
Initial plea	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.)

Initiated defendant	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.)
Intermediate Court	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. 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.
Jurisdiction	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.
Local Court	See Court of Summary Jurisdiction.
Lower Court	See Court of Summary Jurisdiction.
Magistrates Court	See Court of Summary Jurisdiction.
Mean	The average of a set of population values.
Median	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.
Method of finalisation	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.)
Method of initiation	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 publication provides statistics on the aggregated method of initiation for a defendant. (See paragraph 19 of the Explanatory Notes.)
Non-adjudicated finalisation	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.)

Not guilty plea	<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>
Not guilty verdict	See Acquitted.
Original jurisdiction	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.)
Other initiation	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.
Pending defendant	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.
Percentile	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.
Plea	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.
Proven guilty	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.
Sentence	A penalty or punishment imposed by a court upon a defendant who is proven guilty of a criminal offence.
Sentence hearing	A hearing in which a judge imposes a sentence upon a convicted defendant in a particular court. (See Sentence.)
Summary offence	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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.)</p> <p>Note: A transfer between court levels does not include the transfer of a defendant to another geographical court location within the same court level.</p>
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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