



# HIGHER CRIMINAL COURTS AUSTRALIA

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- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information Service on 1300 135 070 or Tracey Bloxsome on Melbourne 03 9615 7489.

# NOTES

- ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION** The statistics in this publication provide measures of the volume and flow of criminal work through the Higher (Supreme and Intermediate) Courts across Australia. These measures include the number of defendants pending, initiated and finalised in each State and Territory for the period 1 July 1998 – 30 June 1999.
- 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, Appendices 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** Table 1 has been modified since the previous issue. The monthly statistics are no longer included; instead 1997–98 summary statistics are shown as a comparison to 1998–99 data. In addition, Tables 6 and 7 have been changed to include data on initial plea for those defendants finalised by a guilty plea.
- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS** Many individuals and groups contributed to 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.
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## ABBREVIATIONS

- ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics
- n.e.c. not elsewhere classified
- n.f.d. not further defined
- NCCSU National Criminal Courts Statistics Unit
- r Revised

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# 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 1998 to 30 June 1999. The Higher Criminal 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 and the Supreme Court is reserved to hear the most serious offences.

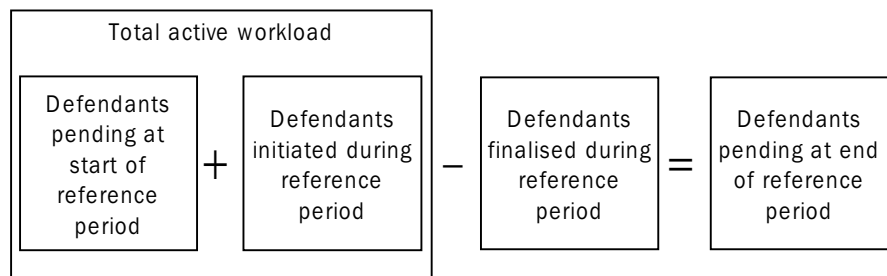
There are some significant differences in the nature of the work dealt with at each court level. In order to make valid comparisons between all the States and Territories, this commentary focuses on the combined workload of the Supreme and Intermediate Courts.

The measure of criminal workload presented in this publication is the count of defendants processed by the Higher Courts. A defendant is a person or corporation 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



## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### 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 dealt with by 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 in 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 expressed 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 1998–99, there were 18,426 defendants finalised in the Higher Courts (see table 1). This represented an increase of 10.4% on 1997–98, when 16,683 defendants were finalised. The median duration since initiation of finalised defendants remained constant over 1997–98 and 1998–99 at 21.3 weeks. There were also 17,574 defendants initiated in 1998–99 compared to 17,039 in 1997–98, representing an increase of 3.1%.

While year to year comparisons of initiations are valid, it is not possible to assess the relativity between initiations and finalisations at the national level and their impact on the pending counts at the end of the period. This is a consequence of full initiation data not being available for Queensland. Initiation data for Queensland only contain those defendants committed to the higher court and exclude initiations by ex-officio, bench warrant and transfers from other courts (see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 12). The calculation of cases pending at the end of the reference period — i.e. cases pending at the start of the reference period, plus initiations, less finalisations equals cases pending at the end of the reference period — is valid for all other jurisdictions other than QLD.

Excluding Queensland, where pending data are not available, there were 7,877 defendants pending at the end of 1998–99 (see table 12). This represents a 2.6% increase on the 7,679 defendants pending at the start of 1998–99 (see table 11). The median elapsed time since initiation of defendants pending at the end of 1998–99 remained relatively stable at 23.9 weeks compared to 22.9 weeks at the beginning of 1998–99.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

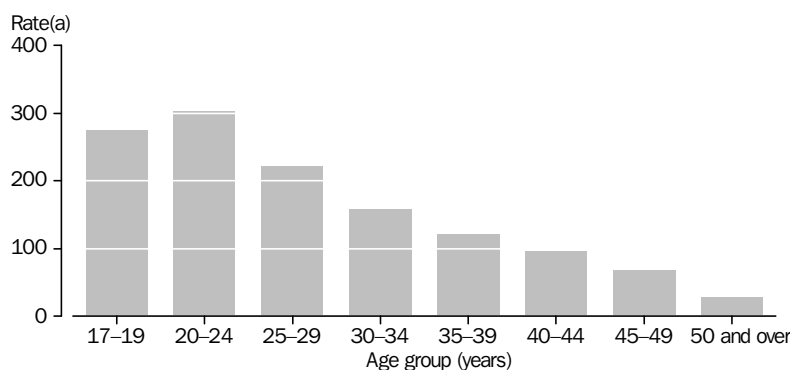
### DEFENDANT CHARACTERISTICS

Just over half (51.8%) of the defendants finalised in the Higher Courts during 1998–99 were in the 17–29 year age group (see table 5). More than one in five defendants (22.3%) fell within the 20–24 year age group, which had the highest rate of defendants finalised at 303.1 per 100,000 persons. Defendants aged between 17–19 years had the second highest rate, with 275.1 defendants finalised per 100,000 persons in that age group. Both these groups had a rate that was more than double that of the national rate of 128.0 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.

The majority (87.9%) of finalised defendants were male. Queensland had the highest proportion of female defendants with 14.9% of all defendants finalised, while the Northern Territory had the lowest with 6.5%.

Generally, the distribution pattern of the age groups was very similar for male and female defendants, with the highest rate per 100,000 persons recorded in the 20–24 year age group for both males and females. The median age of male and female defendants was almost the same at 28.4 and 28.2 years respectively. Across the States and Territories, the median age of defendants was the lowest in Tasmania at 24.4 years of age and the highest in Victoria at 31.1 years of age (see table 5).

DEFENDANTS FINALISED, RATE BY AGE GROUP



(a) Rate per 100,000 persons in each age group.

### 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 1998–99 was 18,708 defendants. Of the active workload 7,679 or 41.0% of defendants had been initiated before the start of the reference period, and 11,029 defendants were initiated during 1998–99. Nationally, the total active workload for 1998–99 increased by 823 (4.6%) from the 17,885 defendants reported in 1997–98. Contributors to this increase were Western Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory which rose by 476, 345, 311 and 89 defendants respectively. The active workload in New South Wales, South Australia and Northern Territory decreased by 288, 80 and 30 defendants respectively.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### TOTAL ACTIVE WORKLOAD *continued*

Any comparison of data across States and Territories should take into account the differences that exist in court procedures and legislation, as these affect the relative workload of the Higher Courts in each State and Territory.

Excluding Queensland, there were more defendants initiated (11,029) than the number of defendants finalised (10,831) which contributed to an increase in the pending workload of the Higher Courts during 1998–99 (see table 1).

Of the 18,708 defendants with charges active in the Higher Courts during 1998–99 (excluding Queensland) there were 10,831 defendants who had their charges finalised, representing a completion rate of 57.9%. In 1997–98 the completion rate of defendants with charges active was slightly lower at 55.5%.

### DEFENDANTS WITH CHARGES ACTIVE & PROPORTION FINALISED

	1997–98(a)			1998–99		
	Total active	Total finalised	Completed	Total active	Total finalised	Completed
<i>States and Territories</i>	no.	no.	%	no.	no.	%
NSW	7 818	3 961	50.7	7 530	4 015	53.3
Vic.	3 038	1 737	57.2	3 383	1 893	56.0
Qld.(b)	na	6 477	na	na	7 595	na
SA	1 473	1 004	68.2	1 393	936	67.2
WA	4 254	2 718	63.9	4 730	2 889	61.1
Tas.	577	337	58.4	888	642	72.3
NT	471	311	66.0	441	292	66.2
ACT	254	138	54.3	343	164	47.8
Aust.(b)	na	16 683	na	na	18 426	na

na not available

(a) Data for 1996–97 have been revised, see paragraph 27 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Data on defendants with charges active in Qld were not available and the number of defendants finalised for Qld 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 7,877 defendants pending at the end of 1998–99, an increase of 198 defendants (2.6%) from the 7,679 defendants pending at the start of 1998–99. Western Australia and Victoria recorded increases in pending workload of 305 (19.9%) and 189 (14.5%) respectively. New South Wales recorded a significant decrease of 342 (8.9%).

### *Elapsed time since initiation*

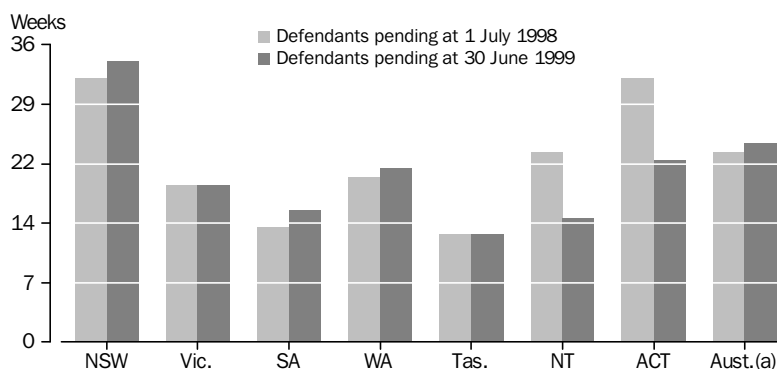
For defendants pending on 30 June 1999, the national median elapsed time since initiation was 23.9 weeks (excluding Queensland where data were not available) compared with 22.9 weeks at the beginning of 1998–99. The median elapsed time since initiation for defendants pending on 30 June 1999 ranged from 13.4 weeks in Tasmania to 34.0 weeks in New South Wales (see table 12).

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### *Elapsed time since initiation continued*

Over the reference period, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory recorded a decrease in the median elapsed time since initiation for pending defendants, falling from 23.2 weeks to 15.1 weeks and from 31.9 weeks to 22.4 weeks respectively. The remaining States and Territories reported increases in the median elapsed time. The highest increases were found in New South Wales and South Australia each with an increase of 2.1 weeks.

MEDIAN ELAPSED TIME SINCE INITIATION



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

### FINALISED WORKLOAD

There were 18,426 defendants finalised in the Higher Courts in 1998–99, an increase of 1,743 (10.4%) from the 16,653 defendants finalised during 1997–98. The largest contributor to the national increase was Queensland where there was an increase of 1,118 (17.3%) defendants finalised. Tasmania had the largest relative increase at 90.5%. Most of the other States and Territories recorded rises in the number of defendants finalised in 1998–99. Of the 18,426 Higher Court finalisations in 1998–99, there were 2,392 defendants (13.0%) finalised in the Supreme Courts and 16,034 (87.0%) defendants finalised in the Intermediate Courts.

### *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 number of defendants finalised per 100,000 adult persons. In 1998–99, there was a national rate of 128.0 defendants finalised per 100,000 adult persons, increasing from 115.7 per 100,000 adult persons recorded in 1997–98.

Queensland had the highest rate of defendants finalised in 1998–99 at 288.6 per 100,000 adults, which was more than double the national rate. The Northern Territory, Western Australia and Tasmania with rates of 216.4, 207.3 and 180.6 per 100,000 adult persons respectively, were also higher than the national rate. Victoria had relatively lower rates of defendants finalised with a rate of 53.2 per 100,000 adults (see table 5).

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 have an impact on the variations observed.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### *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. The method of finalisation for a defendant can be broadly classified into two groups: adjudicated finalisations and non-adjudicated finalisations (see paragraph 23 of the Explanatory Notes for the counting methodology).

Adjudicated finalisations refer to defendants whose charge(s) are resolved through a trial or sentence hearing. 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. The total number of defendants finalised by adjudication in 1998–99 was 15,608 (see table 3). This amounted to 84.7% of the total finalisations, which remained constant with the proportions reported in 1997–98.

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 2,818. This accounted for 15.3% of the total finalised population in 1998–99, remaining constant with the proportion reported in 1997–98 (15.0%).

### *Adjudicated finalisations*

The process involved in adjudicating criminal charges depends on how a defendant pleads to the charges. Defendants who plead guilty to all charges have a sentence hearing to determine the penalty. Defendants who plead not guilty to at least one charge are typically subject to a trial by jury that 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. Trials typically take longer and require greater court resources than sentence hearings.

Adjudicated finalisations are divided on 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 at least one charge is proven guilty then the defendant can be sentenced by the court.

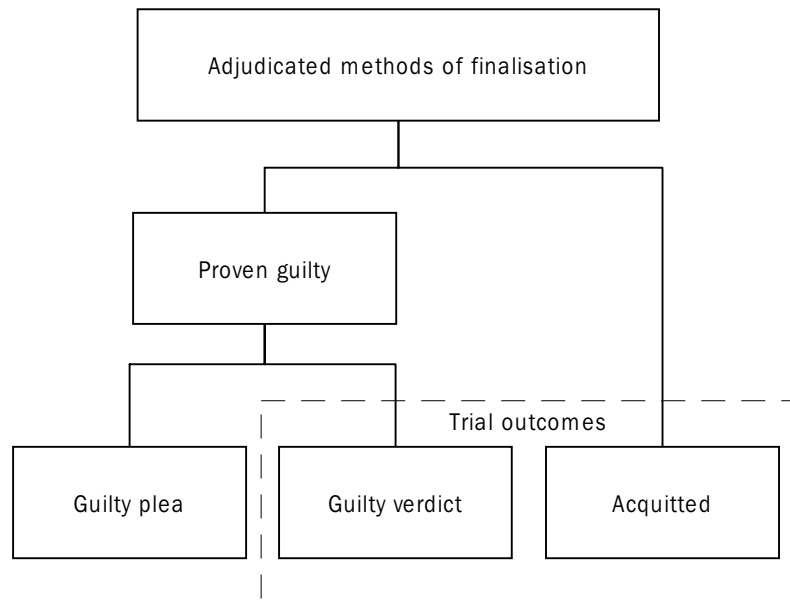
Of the 15,608 defendants with an adjudicated method of finalisation in the Higher Courts across Australia, there were 14,100 (90.3%) defendants who were proven guilty while the remaining 1,508 (9.7%) defendants were acquitted (see table 3). Similar proportions of defendants finalised as proven guilty and as acquitted were reported in 1997–98 at 90.1% and 9.9% respectively.

Defendants proven guilty are differentiated according to 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.



## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### ADJUDICATED METHODS OF FINALISATION



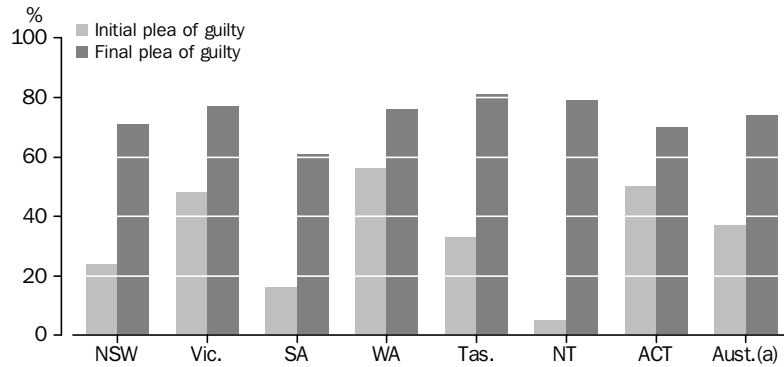
#### *Change in plea*

Information on the plea(s) initially entered by defendants gives an indication of the potential demand 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 are not available for Queensland. Of the 9,244 defendants finalised by adjudication in the remaining States and Territories, 5,790 entered the Higher Courts with a not guilty plea and were therefore expected to go to trial (see table 4). Of these defendants, 2,416 (41.7%) maintained a not guilty plea and went through trial while the remaining 3,374 (58.3%) defendants changed their plea from not guilty to guilty during proceedings in the Higher Courts.

Of the defendants who were finalised by adjudication, the proportion with an initial plea of guilty varied considerably amongst the States and Territories ranging from 4.7% in the Northern Territory to 56.5% in Western Australia. The proportion of defendants changing their plea from not guilty to guilty was the highest in the Northern Territory (74.5%) and the lowest in the Australian Capital Territory and Western Australia with 19.5% and 20.0% respectively. As a result of the change in plea, the proportion with a final plea of guilty ranged from 60.6% in South Australia to 81.3% in Tasmania (see table 4). The proportion of defendants with a final plea of guilty decreased in South Australia from 69.8% in 1997–98 to 60.6% in 1998–99, while all other States and Territories remained relatively constant.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

ADJUDICATED DEFENDANTS, PROPORTION WITH A GUILTY PLEA



(a) Excludes Qld where data on both initial and final pleas were not available.

### *Trial outcomes*

Of the 3,037 defendants finalised with a trial outcome, 1,508 defendants (49.7%) were acquitted of all charges and 1,529 defendants (50.3%) received a guilty verdict. There was variation across the States and Territories in the proportion of defendants who went to trial and were acquitted, ranging from 26.6% in Tasmania to 56.7% in New South Wales.

### DURATION OF DEFENDANTS FINALISED

Duration statistics are presented for all the defendants finalised in the Higher Courts in 1998–99. 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 a case and the time taken for any hearings. Actual hearing time typically occupies only a small proportion of the overall case duration.

A major factor governing the processing time required for a case is whether or not a trial or defended hearing is required. In general, a defended case will require significantly greater amounts of court hearing time than will a hearing of a guilty plea. In addition, the timing of a guilty plea, at initiation or later in the case, will effect the time taken to finalise the case.

### *Initiation to finalisation*

For the 18,426 defendants finalised in the Higher Courts during 1998–99, the median duration from initiation to finalisation was 21.3 weeks. This was the same as that recorded in 1997–98. The median duration was the shortest in Western Australia at 13.0 weeks, followed by Tasmania at 15.1 weeks. New South Wales had the longest median duration at 35.3 weeks (see table 6).

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### *Initiation to finalisation continued*

The Northern Territory was the only State or Territory to record a decrease in the median duration from 1997–98 to 1998–99 which fell by 10.4 weeks (from 31.8 weeks in 1997–98 to 21.4 weeks in 1998–99). Queensland's median duration remained stable. The median duration rose in all the other States and Territories with the largest increase recorded in the Australian Capital Territory (increasing from 21.8 weeks in 1997–98 to 26.9 weeks in 1998–99).

### DEFENDANTS FINALISED, MEDIAN DURATION FROM INITIATION TO FINALISATION

	1997– 98	1998– 99	Change
<i>States and Territories</i>	<i>weeks</i>	<i>weeks</i>	<i>%</i>
NSW	32.3	35.3	9.3
Vic.	21.4	23.3	8.9
Qld.	19.1	19.0	-0.5
SA	20.3	21.0	3.4
WA	12.6	13.0	3.2
Tas.	14.1	15.1	7.1
NT	31.8	21.4	-32.7
ACT	21.8	26.9	23.4
<b>Aust.</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>21.3</b>	—

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

The median duration from initiation to finalisation varied for different methods of finalisation. Generally defendants who went to trial took much longer to finalise than those who were dealt with through a sentence hearing. Defendants finalised in 1998–99 by a trial outcome of guilty verdict or acquitted had the longest median duration times, at 43.3 and 38.5 weeks respectively, while defendants finalised by guilty plea had a shorter median duration of 16.9 weeks (see table 6).

### *Finalised by Guilty Plea*

Nationally, defendants finalised by guilty plea had a median duration of 16.9 weeks, ranging from 11.1 weeks in Western Australia to 28.1 weeks in New South Wales.

Defendants finalised by guilty plea are divided into those with an initial plea of guilty (i.e. initiated for sentence) and those with an initial plea of not guilty (i.e. initiated for trial).

Data on initial plea was not available for Queensland. In most other States and Territories, the median duration of defendants with a method of finalisation of 'guilty plea', where the defendant had an initial plea of not guilty, was at least double that of defendants with an initial plea of guilty. The Northern Territory was the exception, where the duration for defendants with an initial plea of not guilty was 18.3 weeks, compared with 12.3 weeks for defendants with an initial plea of guilty (see table 6).

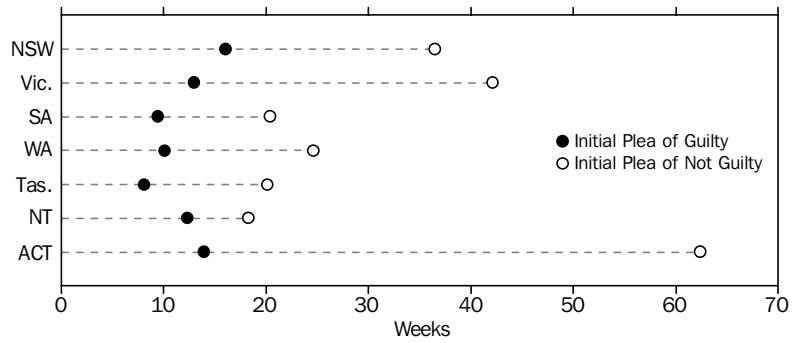
Where the defendant had an initial plea of guilty, the median duration from initiation to finalisation ranged from 8.1 weeks in Tasmania to a high of 16.1 weeks in New South Wales. In contrast, where the defendant had an initial plea of not guilty, the median duration varied from a low of 18.3 weeks in the Northern Territory to 62.4 weeks in the Australian Capital Territory.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

*Finalised by Guilty Plea  
continued*

The duration from initiation to finalisation was generally less than 26 weeks where the defendant had an initial plea of guilty. Defendants in South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania were most likely to have cases completed within 26 weeks at 97.5%, 98.3% and 99.5% respectively (see table 7). For the other states the proportion of defendants with an initial plea of guilty finalised within 26 weeks ranged from 63.6% in the Northern Territory to 88.2% in Victoria. This compares with the proportion of defendants with an initial plea of not guilty being finalised within 26 weeks ranging from 15.3% in the Australian Capital Territory to 67.9% in Tasmania.

DEFENDANTS FINALISED BY GUILTY PLEA,  
Median Duration from Initiation to Finalisation (a)



(a) Information on both initial and final pleas was not available in Qld.

DEFENDANTS INITIATED, FINALISED AND PENDING, 1997-98 and 1998-99

Status	NSW	Vic.	Qld(a)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
1998-1999									
<b>SUPREME COURT</b>									
Pending at start	210	91	na	47	78	240	160	116	na
Total initiated	108	88	na	38	243	648	281	227	na
Total Transferred in	1	—	na	36	11	..	..	..	na
Total Transferred out	3	2	na	12	8	..	..	..	na
Total finalised	115	95	776	70	238	642	292	164	2 392
Pending at end	201	82	na	39	86	246	149	179	na
<b>INTERMEDIATE COURT(b)</b>									
Pending at start	3 647	1 210	na	422	1 458	..	..	..	na
Total initiated	3 565	1 994	na	886	2 951	..	..	..	na
Total Transferred in	3	2	na	12	8	..	..	..	na
Total Transferred out	1	—	na	36	11	..	..	..	na
Total finalised	3 900	1 798	6 819	866	2 651	..	..	..	16 034
Pending at end	3 314	1 408	na	418	1 755	..	..	..	na
<b>TOTAL SUPREME AND INTERMEDIATE COURTS(b)</b>									
Pending at start	3 857	1 301	na	469	1 536	240	160	116	na
Total initiated	3 673	2 082	6 545	924	3 194	648	281	227	17 574
Total Transferred in	4	2	na	48	19	..	..	..	na
Total Transferred out	4	2	na	48	19	..	..	..	na
Total finalised	4 015	1 893	7 595	936	2 889	642	292	164	18 426
Pending at end	3 515	1 490	na	457	1 841	246	149	179	na
1997-1998									
<b>SUPREME COURT</b>									
Pending at start	175	65	na	65	132	122	221	106	na
Total initiated	125	100	na	64	218	455	250	148	na
Total Transferred in	—	3	na	52	15	..	..	..	na
Total Transferred out	5	2	na	20	24	..	..	..	na
Total finalised r	85	75	813	114	263	337	311	138	2 136
Pending at end r	210	91	na	47	78	240	160	116	na
<b>INTERMEDIATE COURT(b)</b>									
Pending at start	3 445	984	na	427	1 333	..	..	..	na
Total initiated	4 073	1 889	na	917	2 571	..	..	..	na
Total Transferred in	5	2	na	20	24	..	..	..	na
Total Transferred out	—	3	na	52	15	..	..	..	na
Total finalised r	3 876	1 662	5 664	890	2 455	..	..	..	14 547
Pending at end r	3 647	1 210	na	422	1 458	..	..	..	na
<b>TOTAL SUPREME AND INTERMEDIATE COURTS(b)</b>									
Pending at start	3 620	1 049	na	492	1 465	122	221	106	na
Total initiated	4 198	1 989	6 229	981	2 789	455	250	148	17 039
Total Transferred in	5	5	na	72	39	..	..	..	na
Total Transferred out	5	5	na	72	39	..	..	..	na
Total finalised r	3 961	1 737	6 477	1 004	2 718	337	311	138	16 683
Pending at end r	3 857	1 301	na	469	1 536	240	160	116	na

na not available

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

.. not applicable

(a) Data for defendants initiated in Qld are only available for the Supreme Courts combined, see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 12. The finalised data for Qld excludes bench warrants being issued. Counts of defendants pending and transferred are not available for Qld.

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

DEFENDANTS INITIATED, FINALISED AND PENDING, 1997-98 and 1998-99 *continued*

Status	NSW	Vic.	Qld(a)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
CHANGE FROM 1997-1998 TO 1998-1999 (%)									
<b>SUPREME COURT</b>									
Pending at start	20.0	40.0	na	-27.7	-40.9	96.7	-27.6	9.4	na
Total initiated	-13.6	-12.0	na	-40.6	11.5	42.4	12.4	53.4	na
Total finalised	35.3	26.7	-4.6	-38.6	-9.5	90.5	-6.1	18.8	12.0
Pending at end	-4.3	-9.9	na	-17.0	10.3	2.5	-6.9	54.3	na
<b>INTERMEDIATE COURT(b)</b>									
Pending at start	5.9	23.0	na	-1.2	9.4	..	..	..	na
Total initiated	-12.5	5.6	na	-3.4	14.8	..	..	..	na
Total finalised	0.6	8.2	20.4	-2.7	8.0	..	..	..	10.2
Pending at end	-9.1	16.4	na	-0.9	20.4	..	..	..	na
<b>TOTAL SUPREME AND INTERMEDIATE COURTS(b)</b>									
Pending at start	6.5	24.0	na	-4.7	4.8	96.7	-27.6	9.4	na
Total initiated	-12.5	4.7	5.1	-5.8	14.5	42.4	12.4	53.4	3.1
Total finalised	1.4	9.0	17.3	-6.8	6.3	90.5	-6.1	18.8	10.4
Pending at end	-8.9	14.5	na	-2.6	19.9	2.5	-6.9	54.3	na

na not available

.. not applicable

(a) Data for defendants initiated in Qld are only available for the Supreme Courts combined, see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 12. The finalised data for Qld excludes bench warrants being issued. Counts of defendants pending and transferred are not available for Qld.

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

## DEFENDANTS INITIATED, Method of Initiation

Method of initiation NSW Vic. Qld(a) SA WA Tas. NT ACT Aust.(a)

## NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT

Committed									
Committed for trial	96	76	na	30	126	445	234	139	na
Committed for sentence	3	10	na	—	113	181	5	88	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>86</b>	na	<b>30</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>227</b>	na
Ex-officio	5	1	na	5	—	3	14	—	na
Bench warrant executed	—	—	na	3	4	18	28	—	na
Other initiation(b)	4	1	na	—	—	1	—	—	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>88</b>	na	<b>38</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>227</b>	na

## PROPORTION IN SUPREME COURT (%)

Committed									
Committed for trial	88.9	86.4	na	78.9	51.9	68.7	83.3	61.2	na
Committed for sentence	2.8	11.4	na	—	46.5	27.9	1.8	38.8	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>91.7</b>	<b>97.7</b>	na	<b>78.9</b>	<b>98.4</b>	<b>96.6</b>	<b>85.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	na
Ex-officio	4.6	1.1	na	13.2	—	0.5	5.0	—	na
Bench warrant executed	—	—	na	7.9	1.6	2.8	10.0	—	na
Other initiation(b)	3.7	1.1	na	—	—	0.2	—	—	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	na	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	na

## NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (c)

Committed									
Committed for trial	2 485	1 017	na	738	1 468	..	..	..	na
Committed for sentence	894	930	na	101	1 376	..	..	..	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 379</b>	<b>1 947</b>	na	<b>839</b>	<b>2 844</b>	..	..	..	na
Ex-officio	9	19	na	10	—	..	..	..	na
Bench warrant executed	154	19	na	36	105	..	..	..	na
Other initiation(b)	23	9	na	1	2	..	..	..	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 565</b>	<b>1 994</b>	na	<b>886</b>	<b>2 951</b>	..	..	..	na

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

Committed									
Committed for trial	69.7	51.0	na	83.3	49.7	..	..	..	na
Committed for sentence	25.1	46.6	na	11.4	46.6	..	..	..	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>94.8</b>	<b>97.6</b>	na	<b>94.7</b>	<b>96.4</b>	..	..	..	na
Ex-officio	0.3	1.0	na	1.1	—	..	..	..	na
Bench warrant executed	4.3	1.0	na	4.1	3.6	..	..	..	na
Other initiation(b)	0.6	0.5	na	0.1	0.1	..	..	..	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	na	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	..	..	..	na

na not available

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

.. not applicable

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

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

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

DEFENDANTS INITIATED, Method of Initiation *continued*

Method of initiation	NSW	Vic.	Qld(a)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS (b)									
Committed									
Committed for trial	2 581	1 093	5 860	768	1 594	445	234	139	12 714
Committed for sentence	897	940	685	101	1 489	181	5	88	4 386
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 478</b>	<b>2 033</b>	<b>6 545</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>3 083</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>17 100</b>
Ex-officio	14	20	na	15	—	3	14	—	(c)66
Bench warrant executed	154	19	na	39	109	18	28	—	(c)367
Other initiation(d)	27	10	na	1	2	1	—	—	(c)41
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 673</b>	<b>2 082</b>	<b>(c)6 545</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>3 194</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>(c)17 574</b>

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

Committed									
Committed for trial	70.3	52.5	89.5	83.1	49.9	68.7	83.3	61.2	72.3
Committed for sentence	24.4	45.1	10.5	10.9	46.6	27.9	1.8	38.8	25.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>94.7</b>	<b>97.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>94.0</b>	<b>96.5</b>	<b>96.6</b>	<b>85.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>97.3</b>
Ex-officio	0.4	1.0	na	1.6	—	0.5	5.0	—	(c)0.4
Bench warrant executed	4.2	0.9	na	4.2	3.4	2.8	10.0	—	(c)2.1
Other initiation(d)	0.7	0.5	na	0.1	0.1	0.2	—	—	(c)0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(c)100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(c)100.0</b>

na not available

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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

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

(c) 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.

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



## DEFENDANTS FINALISED, Method of Finalisation

<i>Method of finalisation</i>	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT									
Adjudicated									
Acquitted	28	16	22	23	16	25	23	15	168
Proven guilty									
Guilty verdict	36	38	44	26	50	69	25	25	313
Guilty plea	36	40	623	16	161	414	187	93	1 570
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>1 883</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>2 051</b>
Non-adjudicated									
Bench warrant issued	—	—	na	1	3	34	32	4	(a)74
Withdrawn	12	1	87	4	8	86	25	23	246
Other finalisation(b)	3	—	—	—	—	14	—	4	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(a)87</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>(a)341</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>(a)776</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>(a)2 392</b>

PROPORTION IN SUPREME COURT (%)									
Adjudicated									
Acquitted	24.3	16.8	2.8	32.9	6.7	3.9	7.9	9.1	7.0
Proven guilty									
Guilty verdict	31.3	40.0	5.7	37.1	21.0	10.7	8.6	15.2	13.1
Guilty plea	31.3	42.1	80.3	22.9	67.6	64.5	64.0	56.7	65.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>62.6</b>	<b>82.1</b>	<b>86.0</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>88.7</b>	<b>75.2</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>72.0</b>	<b>78.7</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>87.0</b>	<b>98.9</b>	<b>88.8</b>	<b>92.9</b>	<b>95.4</b>	<b>79.1</b>	<b>80.5</b>	<b>81.1</b>	<b>85.7</b>
Non-adjudicated									
Bench warrant issued	—	—	na	1.4	1.3	5.3	11.0	2.4	(a)3.1
Withdrawn	10.4	1.1	11.2	5.7	3.4	13.4	8.6	14.0	10.3
Other finalisation(b)	2.6	—	—	—	—	2.2	—	2.4	0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>(a)11.2</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>(a)14.3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(a)100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(a)100.0</b>

NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (c)									
Adjudicated									
Acquitted	484	181	374	73	228	..	..	..	1 340
Proven guilty									
Guilty verdict	355	157	321	118	265	..	..	..	1 216
Guilty plea	2 392	1 345	4 980	474	1 810	..	..	..	11 001
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 747</b>	<b>1 502</b>	<b>5 301</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>2 075</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>12 217</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 231</b>	<b>1 683</b>	<b>5 675</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>2 303</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>13 557</b>
Non-adjudicated									
Bench warrant issued	189	23	na	49	128	..	..	..	(a)389
Withdrawn	429	90	1 143	132	202	..	..	..	1 996
Other finalisation(b)	51	2	1	20	18	..	..	..	92
<b>Total</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>(a)1 144</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>(a)2 477</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 900</b>	<b>1 798</b>	<b>(a)6 819</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>2 651</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>(a)16 034</b>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

.. not applicable

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

(b) Includes defendants who were remitted to the Magistrates Court or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

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

DEFENDANTS FINALISED, Method of Finalisation *continued*

Method of finalisation	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
PROPORTION IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (a) (%)									
<b>Adjudicated</b>									
Acquitted	12.4	10.1	5.5	8.4	8.6	..	..	..	8.4
<b>Proven guilty</b>									
Guilty verdict	9.1	8.7	4.7	13.6	10.0	..	..	..	7.6
Guilty plea	61.3	74.8	73.0	54.7	68.3	..	..	..	68.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>70.4</b>	<b>83.5</b>	<b>77.7</b>	<b>68.4</b>	<b>78.3</b>	..	..	..	<b>76.2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>82.8</b>	<b>93.6</b>	<b>83.2</b>	<b>76.8</b>	<b>86.9</b>	..	..	..	<b>84.6</b>
<b>Non-adjudicated</b>									
Bench warrant issued	4.8	1.3	na	5.7	4.8	..	..	..	(b)2.4
Withdrawn	11.0	5.0	16.8	15.2	7.6	..	..	..	12.4
Other finalisation(c)	1.3	0.1	—	2.3	0.7	..	..	..	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>(b)16.8</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>13.1</b>	..	..	..	<b>(b)15.4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(b)100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	..	..	..	<b>(b)100.0</b>

TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS (a)									
<b>Adjudicated</b>									
Acquitted	512	197	396	96	244	25	23	15	1 508
<b>Proven guilty</b>									
Guilty verdict	391	195	365	144	315	69	25	25	1 529
Guilty plea	2 428	1 385	5 603	490	1 971	414	187	93	12 571
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 819</b>	<b>1 580</b>	<b>5 968</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>2 286</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>14 100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 331</b>	<b>1 777</b>	<b>6 364</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>2 530</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>15 608</b>
<b>Non-adjudicated</b>									
Bench warrant issued	189	23	na	50	131	34	32	4	(b)463
Withdrawn	441	91	1 230	136	210	86	25	23	2 242
Other finalisation(c)	54	2	1	20	18	14	—	4	113
<b>Total</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>(b)1 231</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>(b)2 818</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 015</b>	<b>1 893</b>	<b>(b)7 595</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>2 889</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>(b)18 426</b>

PROPORTION IN HIGHER COURTS (a) (%)									
<b>Adjudicated</b>									
Acquitted	12.8	10.4	5.2	10.3	8.4	3.9	7.9	9.1	8.2
<b>Proven guilty</b>									
Guilty verdict	9.7	10.3	4.8	15.4	10.9	10.7	8.6	15.2	8.3
Guilty plea	60.5	73.2	73.8	52.4	68.2	64.5	64.0	56.7	68.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>70.2</b>	<b>83.5</b>	<b>78.6</b>	<b>67.7</b>	<b>79.1</b>	<b>75.2</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>72.0</b>	<b>76.5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>83.0</b>	<b>93.9</b>	<b>83.8</b>	<b>78.0</b>	<b>87.6</b>	<b>79.1</b>	<b>80.5</b>	<b>81.1</b>	<b>84.7</b>
<b>Non-adjudicated</b>									
Bench warrant issued	4.7	1.2	na	5.3	4.5	5.3	11.0	2.4	(b)2.5
Withdrawn	11.0	4.8	16.2	14.5	7.3	13.4	8.6	14.0	12.2
Other finalisation(c)	1.3	0.1	—	2.1	0.6	2.2	—	2.4	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>(b)16.2</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>(b)15.3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(b)100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(b)100.0</b>

.. not applicable

na not available

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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

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

(c) Includes defendants who were remitted to the Magistrates Court or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

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

*Initial and final plea status*

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

No change in plea									
Not guilty	70	54	na	53	77	94	48	40	na
Guilty	2	8	na	2	117	168	11	67	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>na</b>
Change in plea									
Not guilty to guilty	28	32	na	10	33	245	175	26	na
Guilty to not guilty	—	—	na	—	—	1	1	—	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>na</b>
Initial/final plea unknown	—	—	na	—	—	—	—	—	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>2 051</b>

## PROPORTION IN SUPREME COURT (%)

No change in plea									
Not guilty	70.0	57.4	na	81.5	33.9	18.5	20.4	30.1	na
Guilty	2.0	8.5	na	3.1	51.5	33.1	4.7	50.4	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>72.0</b>	<b>66.0</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>84.6</b>	<b>85.5</b>	<b>51.6</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>80.5</b>	<b>na</b>
Change in plea									
Not guilty to guilty	28.0	34.0	na	15.4	14.5	48.2	74.5	19.5	na
Guilty to not guilty	—	—	na	—	—	0.2	0.4	—	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>74.9</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>na</b>
Initial/final plea unknown	—	—	na	—	—	—	—	—	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (c)

<i>No change in plea</i>									
Not guilty	895	352	na	233	500	..	..	..	na
Guilty	784	844	na	114	1 312	..	..	..	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 679</b>	<b>1 196</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>1 812</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>na</b>
<i>Change in plea</i>									
Not guilty to guilty	1 551	484	na	316	474	..	..	..	na
Guilty to not guilty	1	3	na	2	17	..	..	..	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 552</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>na</b>
Initial/final plea unknown	—	—	na	—	—	..	..	..	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 231</b>	<b>1 683</b>	<b>5 675</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>2 303</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>13 557</b>

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

No change in plea									
Not guilty	27.7	20.9	na	35.0	21.7	..	..	..	na
Guilty	24.3	50.1	na	17.1	57.0	..	..	..	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>71.1</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>52.2</b>	<b>78.7</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>na</b>
Change in plea									
Not guilty to guilty	48.0	28.8	na	47.5	20.6	..	..	..	na
Guilty to not guilty	—	0.2	na	0.3	0.7	..	..	..	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>48.0</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>na</b>
Initial/final plea unknown	—	—	na	—	—	..	..	..	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>100.0</b>

na not available

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

.. not applicable

(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.

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

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

<i>Initial and final plea status</i>	NSW	Vic.	Qld(b)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(b)
TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS (c)									
No change in plea									
Not guilty	965	406	na	286	577	94	48	40	na
Guilty	786	852	na	116	1 429	168	11	67	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 751</b>	<b>1 258</b>	na	<b>402</b>	<b>2 006</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>107</b>	na
Change in plea									
Not guilty to guilty	1 579	516	na	326	507	245	175	26	na
Guilty to not guilty	1	3	na	2	17	1	1	—	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 580</b>	<b>519</b>	na	<b>328</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>26</b>	na
Initial/final plea unknown	—	—	na	—	—	—	—	—	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 331</b>	<b>1 777</b>	<b>6 364</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>2 530</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>15 608</b>
PROPORTION IN HIGHER COURTS (c) (%)									
<i>No change in plea</i>									
Not guilty	29.0	22.8	na	39.2	22.8	18.5	20.4	30.1	na
Guilty	23.6	47.9	na	15.9	56.5	33.1	4.7	50.4	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>70.8</b>	na	<b>55.1</b>	<b>79.3</b>	<b>51.6</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>80.5</b>	na
<i>Change in plea</i>									
Not guilty to guilty	47.4	29.0	na	44.7	20.0	48.2	74.5	19.5	na
Guilty to not guilty	—	0.2	na	0.3	0.7	0.2	0.4	—	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>29.2</b>	na	<b>44.9</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>74.9</b>	<b>19.5</b>	na
Initial/final plea unknown	—	—	na	—	—	—	—	—	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

na not available

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(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.

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

## DEFENDANTS FINALISED(a), Sex and Age Group

Sex and age group (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld(b)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(b)
TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS (c)									
<b>Male</b>									
Under 17	20	1	—	5	—	11	11	1	49
17–19	262	129	955	55	310	153	44	7	1 915
20–24	786	346	1 334	155	740	152	62	42	3 617
25–29	715	291	1 028	178	485	93	43	34	2 867
30–34	485	237	734	123	278	54	35	22	1 968
35–39	415	182	545	99	239	40	31	18	1 569
40–44	331	160	394	74	193	21	18	9	1 200
45–49	217	119	274	43	102	29	12	6	802
50 and over	414	204	402	68	146	35	17	9	1 295
Unknown	27	18	798	16	46	3	—	2	910
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 672</b>	<b>1 687</b>	<b>6 464</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>2 539</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>16 192</b>
Median age (years)	30.3	31.2	27.5	30.2	26.7	23.8	27.9	28.3	28.4
Mean age (years)	33.5	34.2	30.6	32.8	30.2	27.9	30.2	31.1	31.6
<b>Female</b>									
Under 17	6	—	—	—	3	4	1	—	14
17–19	30	26	143	6	45	5	—	3	258
20–24	75	28	237	30	113	11	—	1	495
25–29	56	46	189	18	79	5	6	3	402
30–34	43	25	143	17	30	5	1	1	265
35–39	54	27	113	13	31	8	7	2	255
40–44	23	22	79	9	24	5	3	2	167
45–49	19	7	40	8	11	7	—	1	93
50 and over	33	19	49	10	6	1	1	1	120
Unknown	4	3	137	5	8	—	—	—	157
<b>Total</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>1 130</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2 226</b>
Median age (years)	30.1	30.0	28.1	30.4	25.5	31.3	35.9	29.6	28.2
Mean age (years)	33.0	33.1	30.2	33.2	28.0	31.5	34.3	32.1	30.8
<b>Persons</b>									
Under 17	26	1	—	5	3	15	12	1	63
17–19	292	155	1 098	61	355	158	44	10	2 173
20–24	861	374	1 571	185	853	163	62	43	4 112
25–29	771	337	1 217	196	564	98	49	37	3 269
30–34	528	262	877	140	308	59	36	23	2 233
35–39	469	209	658	112	270	48	38	20	1 824
40–44	354	182	473	83	217	26	21	11	1 367
45–49	236	126	314	51	113	36	12	7	895
50 and over	447	223	451	78	152	36	18	10	1 415
Unknown	31	21	935	21	54	3	—	2	1 067
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 015</b>	<b>1 890</b>	<b>7 594</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>2 889</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>18 418</b>
Median age (years)	30.3	31.1	27.6	30.3	26.5	24.4	28.2	28.3	28.4
Mean age (years)	33.4	34.1	30.5	32.9	29.9	28.2	30.4	31.1	31.5
Organisations	—	3	1	4	—	—	—	—	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 015</b>	<b>1 893</b>	<b>7 595</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>2 889</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>18 426</b>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(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.

DEFENDANTS FINALISED (a), Sex and Age Group *continued*

Sex and age group (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld(b)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(b)
PROPORTION IN HIGHER COURTS (c) (%)									
<b>Male</b>									
Under 17	0.5	0.1	—	0.6	—	1.9	4.0	0.7	0.3
17–19	7.1	7.6	14.8	6.7	12.2	25.9	16.1	4.7	11.8
20–24	21.4	20.5	20.6	19.0	29.1	25.7	22.7	28.0	22.3
25–29	19.5	17.2	15.9	21.8	19.1	15.7	15.8	22.7	17.7
30–34	13.2	14.0	11.4	15.1	10.9	9.1	12.8	14.7	12.2
35–39	11.3	10.8	8.4	12.1	9.4	6.8	11.4	12.0	9.7
40–44	9.0	9.5	6.1	9.1	7.6	3.6	6.6	6.0	7.4
45–49	5.9	7.1	4.2	5.3	4.0	4.9	4.4	4.0	5.0
50 and over	11.3	12.1	6.2	8.3	5.8	5.9	6.2	6.0	8.0
Unknown	0.7	1.1	12.3	2.0	1.8	0.5	—	1.3	5.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Female</b>									
Under 17	1.7	—	—	—	0.9	7.8	5.3	—	0.6
17–19	8.7	12.8	12.7	5.2	12.9	9.8	—	21.4	11.6
20–24	21.9	13.8	21.0	25.9	32.3	21.6	—	7.1	22.2
25–29	16.3	22.7	16.7	15.5	22.6	9.8	31.6	21.4	18.1
30–34	12.5	12.3	12.7	14.7	8.6	9.8	5.3	7.1	11.9
35–39	15.7	13.3	10.0	11.2	8.9	15.7	36.8	14.3	11.5
40–44	6.7	10.8	7.0	7.8	6.9	9.8	15.8	14.3	7.5
45–49	5.5	3.4	3.5	6.9	3.1	13.7	—	7.1	4.2
50 and over	9.6	9.4	4.3	8.6	1.7	2.0	5.3	7.1	5.4
Unknown	1.2	1.5	12.1	4.3	2.3	—	—	—	7.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Persons</b>									
Under 17	0.6	0.1	—	0.5	0.1	2.3	4.1	0.6	0.3
17–19	7.3	8.2	14.5	6.5	12.3	24.6	15.1	6.1	11.8
20–24	21.4	19.8	20.7	19.8	29.5	25.4	21.2	26.2	22.3
25–29	19.2	17.8	16.0	21.0	19.5	15.3	16.8	22.6	17.7
30–34	13.2	13.9	11.5	15.0	10.7	9.2	12.3	14.0	12.1
35–39	11.7	11.1	8.7	12.0	9.3	7.5	13.0	12.2	9.9
40–44	8.8	9.6	6.2	8.9	7.5	4.0	7.2	6.7	7.4
45–49	5.9	6.7	4.1	5.5	3.9	5.6	4.1	4.3	4.9
50 and over	11.1	11.8	5.9	8.4	5.3	5.6	6.2	6.1	7.7
Unknown	0.8	1.1	12.3	2.3	1.9	0.5	—	1.2	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Defendants</b>									
Male	91.5	89.1	85.1	87.2	87.9	92.1	93.5	91.5	87.9
Female	8.5	10.7	14.9	12.4	12.1	7.9	6.5	8.5	12.1
Organisations	—	0.2	—	0.4	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(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.

DEFENDANTS FINALISED (a), Sex and Age Group *continued*

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 (c)									
<b>Male</b>									
Under 17	2.6	0.2	—	2.9	—	18.6	37.8	2.6	2.1
17–19	194.7	130.2	1 229.5	182.4	756.7	1 492.4	979.3	87.6	472.6
20–24	347.0	199.0	1 030.6	301.1	1 036.1	993.7	692.2	294.4	523.1
25–29	289.5	156.1	744.2	324.9	646.9	590.5	409.6	259.6	387.0
30–34	204.3	133.6	573.4	227.4	392.8	348.8	378.4	186.4	279.4
35–39	162.5	98.8	398.2	170.4	317.4	222.2	347.3	147.1	209.4
40–44	139.2	92.6	304.9	133.8	269.1	119.4	236.5	77.6	170.5
45–49	98.2	74.3	221.3	81.9	151.2	174.4	173.9	51.7	121.5
50 and over	49.1	33.5	90.7	32.7	65.2	54.6	111.3	27.3	53.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>152.9</b>	<b>95.7</b>	<b>494.7</b>	<b>144.6</b>	<b>364.5</b>	<b>341.4</b>	<b>379.6</b>	<b>129.8</b>	<b>228.2</b>
<b>Female</b>									
Under 17	0.8	—	—	—	1.4	7.1	3.7	—	0.6
17–19	23.6	27.4	194.5	20.8	115.4	50.9	—	41.4	67.1
25–29	22.5	24.6	138.3	33.9	110.3	30.8	63.3	22.8	54.6
30–34	18.1	13.8	111.2	31.8	43.1	30.6	11.7	8.2	37.4
35–39	21.2	14.5	81.6	22.1	41.7	42.6	87.7	15.7	33.9
40–44	9.7	12.5	60.9	16.1	33.6	27.9	42.8	16.2	23.6
45–49	8.7	4.3	33.0	15.0	16.8	42.2	—	8.2	14.2
50 and over	3.5	2.8	10.4	4.2	2.5	1.4	8.2	2.8	4.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>85.3</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>50.2</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>30.5</b>
<b>Persons</b>									
Under 17	1.7	0.1	—	1.5	0.7	13.0	21.3	1.3	1.4
17–19	111.5	79.9	726.2	103.4	444.0	786.9	516.7	65.6	275.1
20–24	192.9	109.6	615.7	184.6	612.4	539.9	367.8	156.8	303.1
25–29	155.6	90.3	442.9	181.7	383.7	306.5	245.3	140.8	221.4
30–34	111.1	73.1	341.8	130.2	219.4	185.3	202.2	96.0	158.1
35–39	92.0	56.4	238.9	95.9	180.4	130.5	224.7	80.2	121.5
40–44	74.5	52.2	182.7	74.7	151.6	73.2	143.7	46.0	96.9
45–49	53.7	39.0	128.2	48.2	85.0	108.3	93.7	29.5	68.0
50 and over	25.1	17.2	49.3	17.5	32.9	26.5	65.6	14.6	27.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>82.3</b>	<b>53.2</b>	<b>288.6</b>	<b>80.8</b>	<b>207.3</b>	<b>180.6</b>	<b>216.4</b>	<b>70.1</b>	<b>128.0</b>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(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.

## DEFENDANTS FINALISED, Initiation to Finalisation

Method of finalisation and  
summary duration  
measures

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
..... SUPREME COURT .....									
<b>Acquitted</b>									
Mean (weeks)	74.0	45.4	39.7	40.0	35.7	35.9	42.2	52.4	46.5
Median (weeks)	61.4	43.0	36.4	37.6	24.4	36.0	35.1	49.6	40.0
Total Defendants	28	16	22	23	16	25	23	15	168
<b>Guilty verdict</b>									
Mean (weeks)	91.3	53.5	39.3	48.3	35.2	29.2	43.1	42.1	45.4
Median (weeks)	85.4	47.6	30.0	39.2	31.0	22.1	30.3	38.0	37.4
Total Defendants	36	38	44	26	50	69	25	25	313
<b>Guilty Plea</b>									
Mean (weeks)	75.9	44.0	22.1	33.5	15.7	16.6	26.2	29.2	22.8
Median (weeks)	68.3	35.1	17.1	31.3	12.6	12.3	18.3	16.1	15.6
Total Defendants	36	40	623	16	161	414	187	93	1 570
Initial Plea of Not Guilty(a)									
Mean (weeks)	78.4	52.7	na	38.1	22.8	22.2	26.2	60.5	na
Median (weeks)	69.9	37.4	na	31.3	17.1	20.1	18.3	62.4	na
Total Defendants	34	32	na	14	44	246	176	26	na
Initial Plea of Guilty(a)									
Mean (weeks)	33.4	9.1	na	1.8	13.0	8.5	26.6	17.0	na
Median (weeks)	33.4	7.4	na	1.8	12.1	8.1	12.3	13.9	na
Total Defendants	2	8	na	2	117	168	11	67	na
<b>Other finalisation(b)</b>									
Mean (weeks)	105.2	53.6	39.7	25.9	23.8	23.5	34.6	46.4	35.3
Median (weeks)	111.1	53.6	29.1	21.1	26.0	18.0	22.7	49.3	24.6
Total Defendants	15	1	(c)87	5	11	134	57	31	(c)341
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>									
Mean (weeks)	84.1	48.1	25.5	40.6	21.5	20.2	30.6	36.5	29.2
Median (weeks)	77.1	40.1	19.4	34.9	14.9	15.1	21.4	26.9	20.3
<b>Total Defendants</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>(c)776</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>(c)2 392</b>

na not available

. . not applicable

(a) Information on both initial and final pleas was not available in Qld.

(b) Includes defendants who were withdrawn by the prosecution, remitted to the Magistrates Court or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

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



DEFENDANTS FINALISED, Initiation to Finalisation *continued*

Method of finalisation and  
summary duration  
measures

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
INTERMEDIATE COURT (a)									
<b>Acquitted</b>									
Mean (weeks)	61.7	43.2	30.9	38.0	56.5	..	..	..	48.4
Median (weeks)	49.3	38.1	28.0	28.3	60.1	..	..	..	38.2
Total Defendants	484	181	374	73	228	..	..	..	1 340
<b>Guilty verdict</b>									
Mean (weeks)	79.7	53.8	35.4	30.6	56.6	..	..	..	54.9
Median (weeks)	65.0	46.3	31.0	27.9	58.1	..	..	..	44.6
Total Defendants	355	157	321	118	265	..	..	..	1 216
<b>Guilty Plea</b>									
Mean (weeks)	38.6	29.0	23.2	20.1	17.5	..	..	..	26.2
Median (weeks)	27.7	17.7	17.0	17.0	10.9	..	..	..	17.1
Total Defendants	2 392	1 345	4 980	474	1 810	..	..	..	11 001
Initial Plea of Not Guilty(b)									
Mean (weeks)	47.4	48.8	na	22.8	35.1	..	..	..	na
Median (weeks)	36.1	42.7	na	19.6	25.6	..	..	..	na
Total Defendants	1 608	501	na	359	497	..	..	..	na
Initial Plea of Guilty(b)									
Mean (weeks)	20.5	17.3	na	11.5	10.8	..	..	..	na
Median (weeks)	16.1	13.0	na	9.4	10.0	..	..	..	na
Total Defendants	784	844	na	115	1 313	..	..	..	na
<b>Other finalisation(c)</b>									
Mean (weeks)	55.4	38.8	33.3	20.7	30.6	..	..	..	38.1
Median (weeks)	40.9	30.1	23.6	17.3	18.2	..	..	..	25.9
Total Defendants	669	115	(d)1 144	201	348	..	..	..	(d)2 477
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>									
Mean (weeks)	48.1	33.2	25.9	23.2	26.5	..	..	..	32.1
Median (weeks)	34.3	22.3	19.0	19.9	12.7	..	..	..	21.4
<b>Total Defendants</b>	<b>3 900</b>	<b>1 798</b>	<b>(d)6 819</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>2 651</b>	..	..	..	<b>(d)16 034</b>

.. not applicable

na not available

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

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

(c) Includes defendants who were withdrawn by the prosecution, remitted to the Magistrates Court or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

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

DEFENDANTS FINALISED, Initiation to Finalisation *continued*

Method of finalisation and  
summary duration  
measures

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
TOTAL HIGHER COURTS (a)									
<b>Acquitted</b>									
Mean (weeks)	62.4	43.4	31.4	38.5	55.1	35.9	42.2	52.4	48.2
Median (weeks)	51.0	38.4	28.1	31.4	58.6	36.0	35.1	49.6	38.5
Total Defendants	512	197	396	96	244	25	23	15	1 508
<b>Guilty verdict</b>									
Mean (weeks)	80.8	53.7	35.8	33.8	53.2	29.2	43.1	42.1	52.9
Median (weeks)	67.3	46.3	30.4	30.0	53.4	22.1	30.3	38.0	43.3
Total Defendants	391	195	365	144	315	69	25	25	1 529
<b>Guilty Plea</b>									
Mean (weeks)	39.2	29.5	23.1	20.5	17.3	16.6	26.2	29.2	25.8
Median (weeks)	28.1	18.0	17.0	17.0	11.1	12.3	18.3	16.1	16.9
Total Defendants	2 428	1 385	5 603	490	1 971	414	187	93	12 571
Initial Plea of Not Guilty(b)									
Mean (weeks)	48.1	49.1	na	23.4	34.1	22.2	26.2	60.5	na
Median (weeks)	36.5	42.1	na	20.4	24.6	20.1	18.3	62.4	na
Total Defendants	1 642	533	na	373	541	246	176	26	na
Initial Plea of Guilty(b)									
Mean (weeks)	20.6	17.2	na	11.3	11.0	8.5	26.6	17.0	na
Median (weeks)	16.1	13.0	na	9.4	10.1	8.1	12.3	13.9	na
Total Defendants	786	852	na	117	1 430	168	11	67	na
<b>Other finalisation(c)</b>									
Mean (weeks)	56.5	38.9	33.8	20.8	30.4	23.5	34.6	46.4	37.8
Median (weeks)	41.4	30.2	24.0	17.4	18.6	18.0	22.7	49.3	25.6
Total Defendants	684	116	(b)1 231	206	359	134	57	31	(b)2 818
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>									
Mean (weeks)	49.1	34.0	25.9	24.5	26.0	20.2	30.6	36.5	31.7
Median (weeks)	35.3	23.3	19.0	21.0	13.0	15.1	21.4	26.9	21.3
<b>Total Defendants</b>	<b>4 015</b>	<b>1 893</b>	<b>(b)7 595</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>2 889</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>(b)18 426</b>

na not available

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

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

(c) Includes defendants who were withdrawn by the prosecution, remitted to the Magistrates Court or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

## DEFENDANTS FINALISED, Duration from Initiation to Finalisation

Method of  
finalisation/duration  
(weeks)

NSW Vic. Qld SA WA Tas. NT ACT Aust.

## NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT

## Acquitted

Under 13	—	1	3	1	2	1	2	—	10
13 and under 26	1	2	5	2	7	7	2	3	29
26 and under 39	2	2	4	10	4	10	9	1	42
39 and under 52	5	6	3	5	1	3	2	4	29
52 or more	20	5	7	5	2	4	8	7	58
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>168</b>

## Guilty verdict

Under 13	1	—	9	—	—	18	4	1	33
13 and under 26	1	—	9	6	22	22	5	6	71
26 and under 39	—	11	8	7	10	14	4	6	60
39 and under 52	1	11	6	2	12	6	3	1	42
52 or more	33	16	12	11	6	9	9	11	107
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>313</b>

## Guilty plea

Under 13	1	11	226	3	87	211	69	29	637
13 and under 26	1	4	234	1	56	123	52	32	503
26 and under 39	3	10	76	7	10	46	31	11	194
39 and under 52	5	9	33	1	7	22	9	4	90
52 or more	26	6	54	4	1	12	26	17	146
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>1 570</b>

## Initial Plea of Not Guilty(a)

Under 13	1	4	na	1	14	75	63	1	na
13 and under 26	—	3	na	1	15	92	51	3	na
26 and under 39	3	10	na	7	8	45	30	4	na
39 and under 52	4	9	na	1	6	22	8	3	na
52 or more	26	6	na	4	1	12	24	15	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>32</b>	na	<b>14</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>26</b>	na

## Initial Plea of Guilty(a)

Under 13	—	7	na	2	73	136	6	28	na
13 and under 26	1	1	na	—	41	31	1	29	na
26 and under 39	—	—	na	—	2	1	1	7	na
39 and under 52	1	—	na	—	1	—	1	1	na
52 or more	—	—	na	—	—	—	2	2	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	na	<b>2</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>67</b>	na

## Other finalisation(b)

Under 13	—	—	9	1	4	41	20	4	79
13 and under 26	1	—	28	2	1	49	11	6	98
26 and under 39	4	—	22	1	5	23	5	2	62
39 and under 52	—	—	13	—	1	9	5	5	33
52 or more	10	1	15	1	—	12	16	14	69
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(c)87</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>(c)341</b>

## Total defendants finalised

Under 13	2	12	247	5	93	271	95	34	759
13 and under 26	4	6	276	11	86	201	70	47	701
26 and under 39	9	23	110	25	29	93	49	20	358
39 and under 52	11	26	55	8	21	40	19	14	194
52 or more	89	28	88	21	9	37	59	49	380
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>(c)776</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>(c)2 392</b>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

(a) Information on both initial and final pleas was not available in Qld.

(b) Includes defendants who were withdrawn by the prosecution, remitted to the Magistrates Court or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

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

DEFENDANTS FINALISED, Duration from Initiation to Finalisation *continued*

<i>Method of finalisation/duration (weeks)</i>	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
PROPORTION IN SUPREME COURT (%)									
<b>Acquitted</b>									
Under 13	—	6.3	13.6	4.3	12.5	4.0	8.7	—	6.0
13 and under 26	3.6	12.5	22.7	8.7	43.8	28.0	8.7	20.0	17.3
26 and under 39	7.1	12.5	18.2	43.5	25.0	40.0	39.1	6.7	25.0
39 and under 52	17.9	37.5	13.6	21.7	6.3	12.0	8.7	26.7	17.3
52 or more	71.4	31.3	31.8	21.7	12.5	16.0	34.8	46.7	34.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Guilty verdict</b>									
Under 13	2.8	—	20.5	—	—	26.1	16.0	4.0	10.5
13 and under 26	2.8	—	20.5	23.1	44.0	31.9	20.0	24.0	22.7
26 and under 39	—	28.9	18.2	26.9	20.0	20.3	16.0	24.0	19.2
39 and under 52	2.8	28.9	13.6	7.7	24.0	8.7	12.0	4.0	13.4
52 or more	91.7	42.1	27.3	42.3	12.0	13.0	36.0	44.0	34.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Guilty plea</b>									
Under 13	2.8	27.5	36.3	18.8	54.0	51.0	36.9	31.2	40.6
13 and under 26	2.8	10.0	37.6	6.3	34.8	29.7	27.8	34.4	32.0
26 and under 39	8.3	25.0	12.2	43.8	6.2	11.1	16.6	11.8	12.4
39 and under 52	13.9	22.5	5.3	6.3	4.3	5.3	4.8	4.3	5.7
52 or more	72.2	15.0	8.7	25.0	0.6	2.9	13.9	18.3	9.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Initial Plea of Not Guilty(a)									
Under 13	2.9	12.5	na	7.1	31.8	30.5	35.8	3.8	na
13 and under 26	—	9.4	na	7.1	34.1	37.4	29.0	11.5	na
26 and under 39	8.8	31.3	na	50.0	18.2	18.3	17.0	15.4	na
39 and under 52	11.8	28.1	na	7.1	13.6	8.9	4.5	11.5	na
52 or more	76.5	18.8	na	28.6	2.3	4.9	13.6	57.7	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	na	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	na
Initial Plea of Guilty(a)									
Under 13	—	87.5	na	100.0	62.4	81.0	54.5	41.8	na
13 and under 26	50.0	12.5	na	—	35.0	18.5	9.1	43.3	na
26 and under 39	—	—	na	—	1.7	0.6	9.1	10.4	na
39 and under 52	50.0	—	na	—	0.9	—	9.1	1.5	na
52 or more	—	—	na	—	—	—	18.2	3.0	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	na	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	na
<b>Other finalisation(b)</b>									
Under 13	—	—	10.3	20.0	36.4	30.6	35.1	12.9	23.2
13 and under 26	6.7	—	32.2	40.0	9.1	36.6	19.3	19.4	28.7
26 and under 39	26.7	—	25.3	20.0	45.5	17.2	8.8	6.5	18.2
39 and under 52	—	—	14.9	—	9.1	6.7	8.8	16.1	9.7
52 or more	66.7	100.0	17.2	20.0	—	9.0	28.1	45.2	20.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	(c)100.0	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	(c)100.0
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>									
Under 13	1.7	12.6	31.8	7.1	39.1	42.2	32.5	20.7	31.7
13 and under 26	3.5	6.3	35.6	15.7	36.1	31.3	24.0	28.7	29.3
26 and under 39	7.8	24.2	14.2	35.7	12.2	14.5	16.8	12.2	15.0
39 and under 52	9.6	27.4	7.1	11.4	8.8	6.2	6.5	8.5	8.1
52 or more	77.4	29.5	11.3	30.0	3.8	5.8	20.2	29.9	15.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	(c)100.0	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	(c)100.0

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

(a) Information on both initial and final pleas was not available in Qld.

(b) Includes defendants who were withdrawn by the prosecution, remitted to the Magistrates Court or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

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

DEFENDANTS FINALISED, Duration from Initiation to Finalisation *continued*

Method of  
finalisation/duration  
(weeks)

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (d)									
<b>Acquitted</b>									
13 and under 26	97	41	115	23	20	..	..	..	296
26 and under 39	78	36	121	24	33	..	..	..	292
39 and under 52	69	18	50	10	25	..	..	..	172
52 or more	229	68	36	11	145	..	..	..	489
<b>Total</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>228</b>	..	..	..	<b>1 340</b>
<b>Guilty verdict</b>									
Under 13	4	1	43	9	12	..	..	..	69
13 and under 26	26	29	81	39	26	..	..	..	201
26 and under 39	38	34	96	42	31	..	..	..	241
39 and under 52	56	29	41	19	41	..	..	..	186
52 or more	231	64	60	9	155	..	..	..	519
<b>Total</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>265</b>	..	..	..	<b>1 216</b>
<b>Guilty plea</b>									
Under 13	437	433	1 902	172	1 191	..	..	..	4 135
13 and under 26	666	423	1 554	188	352	..	..	..	3 183
26 and under 39	476	164	821	76	62	..	..	..	1 599
39 and under 52	253	92	325	22	65	..	..	..	757
52 or more	560	233	378	16	140	..	..	..	1 327
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 392</b>	<b>1 345</b>	<b>4 980</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>1 810</b>	..	..	..	<b>11 001</b>
Initial Plea of Not Guilty(a)									
Under 13	143	24	na	96	137	..	..	..	na
13 and under 26	372	88	na	152	114	..	..	..	na
26 and under 39	360	114	na	74	43	..	..	..	na
39 and under 52	217	68	na	21	64	..	..	..	na
52 or more	516	207	na	16	139	..	..	..	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 608</b>	<b>501</b>	na	<b>359</b>	<b>497</b>	..	..	..	na
Initial Plea of Guilty(a)									
Under 13	294	409	na	76	1 054	..	..	..	na
13 and under 26	294	335	na	36	238	..	..	..	na
26 and under 39	116	50	na	2	19	..	..	..	na
39 and under 52	36	24	na	1	1	..	..	..	na
52 or more	44	26	na	—	1	..	..	..	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>844</b>	na	<b>115</b>	<b>1 313</b>	..	..	..	na
<b>Other finalisation(b)</b>									
Under 13	91	20	285	83	137	..	..	..	616
13 and under 26	120	31	344	55	73	..	..	..	623
26 and under 39	109	23	218	35	41	..	..	..	426
39 and under 52	83	8	123	20	28	..	..	..	262
52 or more	266	33	174	8	69	..	..	..	550
<b>Total</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>115</b>	(c)1 144	<b>201</b>	<b>348</b>	..	..	..	(c)2 477
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>									
Under 13	543	472	2 282	269	1 345	..	..	..	4 911
13 and under 26	909	524	2 094	305	471	..	..	..	4 303
26 and under 39	701	257	1 256	177	167	..	..	..	2 558
39 and under 52	461	147	539	71	159	..	..	..	1 377
52 or more	1 286	398	648	44	509	..	..	..	2 885
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 900</b>	<b>1 798</b>	(c)6 819	<b>866</b>	<b>2 651</b>	..	..	..	(c)16 034

.. not applicable

na not available

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(a) Information on both initial and final pleas was not available in Qld.

(b) Includes defendants who were withdrawn by the prosecution, remitted to the Magistrates Court or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

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

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

DEFENDANTS FINALISED, Duration from Initiation to Finalisation *continued*

Method of  
finalisation/duration  
(weeks)

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
PROPORTION IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (d) (%)									
<b>Acquitted</b>									
Under 13	2.3	9.9	13.9	6.8	2.2	..	..	..	6.8
13 and under 26	20.0	22.7	30.7	31.5	8.8	..	..	..	22.1
26 and under 39	16.1	19.9	32.4	32.9	14.5	..	..	..	21.8
39 and under 52	14.3	9.9	13.4	13.7	11.0	..	..	..	12.8
52 or more	47.3	37.6	9.6	15.1	63.6	..	..	..	36.5
<b>Guilty verdict</b>									
Under 13	1.1	0.6	13.4	7.6	4.5	..	..	..	5.7
13 and under 26	7.3	18.5	25.2	33.1	9.8	..	..	..	16.5
26 and under 39	10.7	21.7	29.9	35.6	11.7	..	..	..	19.8
39 and under 52	15.8	18.5	12.8	16.1	15.5	..	..	..	15.3
52 or more	65.1	40.8	18.7	7.6	58.5	..	..	..	42.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	..	..	..	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Guilty plea</b>									
Under 13	18.3	32.2	38.2	36.3	65.8	..	..	..	37.6
13 and under 26	27.8	31.4	31.2	39.7	19.4	..	..	..	28.9
26 and under 39	19.9	12.2	16.5	16.0	3.4	..	..	..	14.5
39 and under 52	10.6	6.8	6.5	4.6	3.6	..	..	..	6.9
52 or more	23.4	17.3	7.6	3.4	7.7	..	..	..	12.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	..	..	..	<b>100.0</b>
Initial Plea of Not Guilty(a)									
Under 13	8.9	4.8	na	26.7	27.6	..	..	..	na
13 and under 26	23.1	17.6	na	42.3	22.9	..	..	..	na
26 and under 39	22.4	22.8	na	20.6	8.7	..	..	..	na
39 and under 52	13.5	13.6	na	5.8	12.9	..	..	..	na
52 or more	32.1	41.3	na	4.5	28.0	..	..	..	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	na	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	..	..	..	na
Initial Plea of Guilty(a)									
Under 13	37.5	48.5	na	66.1	80.3	..	..	..	na
13 and under 26	37.5	39.7	na	31.3	18.1	..	..	..	na
26 and under 39	14.8	5.9	na	1.7	1.4	..	..	..	na
39 and under 52	4.6	2.8	na	0.9	0.1	..	..	..	na
52 or more	5.6	3.1	na	—	0.1	..	..	..	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	na	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	..	..	..	na
<b>Other finalisation(b)</b>									
Under 13	13.6	17.4	24.9	41.3	39.4	..	..	..	24.9
13 and under 26	17.9	27.0	30.1	27.4	21.0	..	..	..	25.2
26 and under 39	16.3	20.0	19.1	17.4	11.8	..	..	..	17.2
39 and under 52	12.4	7.0	10.8	10.0	8.0	..	..	..	10.6
52 or more	39.8	28.7	15.2	4.0	19.8	..	..	..	22.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	(c) <b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	..	..	..	(c) <b>100.0</b>
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>									
Under 13	13.9	26.3	33.5	31.1	50.7	..	..	..	30.6
13 and under 26	23.3	29.1	30.7	35.2	17.8	..	..	..	26.8
26 and under 39	18.0	14.3	18.4	20.4	6.3	..	..	..	16.0
39 and under 52	11.8	8.2	7.9	8.2	6.0	..	..	..	8.6
52 or more	33.0	22.1	9.5	5.1	19.2	..	..	..	18.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	(c) <b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	..	..	..	(c) <b>100.0</b>

.. not applicable

na not available

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Information on both initial and final pleas was not available in Qld.

(b) Includes defendants who were withdrawn by the prosecution, remitted to the Magistrates Court or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

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

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

DEFENDANTS FINALISED, Duration from Initiation to Finalisation *continued*

Method of  
finalisation/duration  
(weeks)

NSW Vic. Qld SA WA Tas. NT ACT Aust.

## TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS (d)

**Acquitted**

Under 13	11	19	55	6	7	1	2	—	101
13 and under 26	98	43	120	25	27	7	2	3	325
26 and under 39	80	38	125	34	37	10	9	1	334
39 and under 52	74	24	53	15	26	3	2	4	201
52 or more	249	73	43	16	147	4	8	7	547
<b>Total</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1 508</b>

**Guilty verdict**

Under 13	5	1	52	9	12	18	4	1	102
13 and under 26	27	29	90	45	48	22	5	6	272
39 and under 52	57	40	47	21	53	6	3	1	228
52 or more	264	80	72	20	161	9	9	11	626
<b>Total</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1 529</b>

**Guilty plea**

Under 13	438	444	2 128	175	1 278	211	69	29	4 772
13 and under 26	667	427	1 788	189	408	123	52	32	3 686
26 and under 39	479	174	897	83	72	46	31	11	1 793
39 and under 52	258	101	358	23	72	22	9	4	847
52 or more	586	239	432	20	141	12	26	17	1 473
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 428</b>	<b>1 385</b>	<b>5 603</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>1 971</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>12 571</b>

## Initial Plea of Not Guilty(a)

Under 13	144	28	..	97	151	75	63	1	na
13 and under 26	372	91	na	153	129	92	51	3	na
26 and under 39	363	124	na	81	51	45	30	4	na
39 and under 52	221	77	na	22	70	22	8	3	na
52 or more	542	213	na	20	140	12	24	15	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 642</b>	<b>533</b>	na	<b>373</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>26</b>	na

## Initial Plea of Guilty(a)

Under 13	294	416	na	78	1 127	136	6	28	na
13 and under 26	295	336	na	36	279	31	1	29	na
26 and under 39	116	50	na	2	21	1	1	7	na
39 and under 52	37	24	na	1	2	—	1	1	na
52 or more	44	26	na	—	1	—	2	2	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>852</b>	na	<b>117</b>	<b>1 430</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>67</b>	na

**Other finalisation(b)**

Under 13	91	20	294	84	141	41	20	4	695
13 and under 26	121	31	372	57	74	49	11	6	721
26 and under 39	113	23	240	36	46	23	5	2	488
39 and under 52	83	8	136	20	29	9	5	5	295
52 or more	276	34	189	9	69	12	16	14	619
<b>Total</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>116</b>	(c)1 231	<b>206</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>31</b>	(c)2 818

**Total defendants finalised**

Under 13	545	484	2 529	274	1 438	271	95	34	5 670
13 and under 26	913	530	2 370	316	557	201	70	47	5 004
26 and under 39	710	280	1 366	202	196	93	49	20	2 916
39 and under 52	472	173	594	79	180	40	19	14	1 571
52 or more	1 375	426	736	65	518	37	59	49	3 265
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 015</b>	<b>1 893</b>	(c)7 595	<b>936</b>	<b>2 889</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>164</b>	(c)18 426

.. not applicable

na not available

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Information on both initial and final pleas was not available in Qld.

(b) Includes defendants who were withdrawn by the prosecution, remitted to the Magistrates Court or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

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

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

DEFENDANTS FINALISED, Duration from Initiation to Finalisation *continued*

Method of  
finalisation/duration  
(weeks)

NSW Vic. Qld SA WA Tas. NT ACT Aust.

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

<b>Acquitted</b>									
Under 13	2.1	9.6	13.9	6.3	2.9	4.0	8.7	—	6.7
13 and under 26	19.1	21.8	30.3	26.0	11.1	28.0	8.7	20.0	21.6
26 and under 39	15.6	19.3	31.6	35.4	15.2	40.0	39.1	6.7	22.1
39 and under 52	14.5	12.2	13.4	15.6	10.7	12.0	8.7	26.7	13.3
52 or more	48.6	37.1	10.9	16.7	60.2	16.0	34.8	46.7	36.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Guilty verdict</b>									
Under 13	1.3	0.5	14.2	6.3	3.8	26.1	16.0	4.0	6.7
13 and under 26	6.9	14.9	24.7	31.3	15.2	31.9	20.0	24.0	17.8
26 and under 39	9.7	23.1	28.5	34.0	13.0	20.3	16.0	24.0	19.7
39 and under 52	14.6	20.5	12.9	14.6	16.8	8.7	12.0	4.0	14.9
52 or more	67.5	41.0	19.7	13.9	51.1	13.0	36.0	44.0	40.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Guilty plea</b>									
Under 13	18.0	32.1	38.0	35.7	64.8	51.0	36.9	31.2	38.0
13 and under 26	27.5	30.8	31.9	38.6	20.7	29.7	27.8	34.4	29.3
26 and under 39	19.7	12.6	16.0	16.9	3.7	11.1	16.6	11.8	14.3
39 and under 52	10.6	7.3	6.4	4.7	3.7	5.3	4.8	4.3	6.7
52 or more	24.1	17.3	7.7	4.1	7.2	2.9	13.9	18.3	11.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Initial Plea of Not Guilty(a)									
Under 13	8.8	5.3	na	26.0	27.9	30.5	35.8	3.8	na
13 and under 26	22.7	17.1	na	41.0	23.8	37.4	29.0	11.5	na
26 and under 39	22.1	23.3	na	21.7	9.4	18.3	17.0	15.4	na
39 and under 52	13.5	14.4	na	5.9	12.9	8.9	4.5	11.5	na
52 or more	33.0	40.0	na	5.4	25.9	4.9	13.6	57.7	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	na	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	na
Initial Plea of Guilty(a)									
Under 13	37.4	48.8	na	66.7	78.8	81.0	54.5	41.8	na
13 and under 26	37.5	39.4	na	30.8	19.5	18.5	9.1	43.3	na
26 and under 39	14.8	5.9	na	1.7	1.5	0.6	9.1	10.4	na
39 and under 52	4.7	2.8	na	0.9	0.1	—	9.1	1.5	na
52 or more	5.6	3.1	na	—	0.1	—	18.2	3.0	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	na	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	na
<b>Other finalisation(b)</b>									
Under 13	13.3	17.2	23.9	40.8	39.3	30.6	35.1	12.9	24.7
13 and under 26	17.7	26.7	30.2	27.7	20.6	36.6	19.3	19.4	25.6
26 and under 39	16.5	19.8	19.5	17.5	12.8	17.2	8.8	6.5	17.3
39 and under 52	12.1	6.9	11.0	9.7	8.1	6.7	8.8	16.1	10.5
52 or more	40.4	29.3	15.4	4.4	19.2	9.0	28.1	45.2	22.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	(c) <b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	(c) <b>100.0</b>
<b>Total defendants finalised</b>									
Under 13	13.6	25.6	33.3	29.3	49.8	42.2	32.5	20.7	30.8
13 and under 26	22.7	28.0	31.2	33.8	19.3	31.3	24.0	28.7	27.2
26 and under 39	17.7	14.8	18.0	21.6	6.8	14.5	16.8	12.2	15.8
39 and under 52	11.8	9.1	7.8	8.4	6.2	6.2	6.5	8.5	8.5
52 or more	34.2	22.5	9.7	6.9	17.9	5.8	20.2	29.9	17.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	(c) <b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	(c) <b>100.0</b>

na not available

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Information on both initial and final pleas was not available in Qld.

(b) Includes defendants who were withdrawn by the prosecution, remitted to the Magistrates Court or finalised by another non-adjudicated method.

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

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



Duration period  
and summary  
duration  
measures (weeks)

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

SUPREME COURT

Initiation to verdict

Mean	82.9	48.4	na	39.0	32.5	28.5	41.4	36.6	na
10th percentile	50.1	31.0	na	15.1	15.8	6.3	11.3	10.9	na
25th percentile	62.8	34.6	na	24.7	19.9	11.4	16.0	21.7	na
Median	77.0	42.0	na	33.5	26.9	21.3	28.3	38.0	na
75th percentile	112.6	58.0	na	59.9	41.5	34.4	59.4	53.3	na
90th percentile	128.4	73.7	na	63.3	50.4	55.3	78.3	57.8	na

Verdict to finalisation

Mean	8.6	5.2	na	9.4	2.8	0.9	1.9	5.6	na
10th percentile	0.3	0.6	na	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	na
25th percentile	1.1	1.6	na	2.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	na
Median	6.3	2.6	na	5.6	2.6	0.3	0.3	2.6	na
75th percentile	13.0	6.3	na	8.0	4.1	1.1	2.0	9.0	na
90th percentile	20.5	13.9	na	10.5	6.3	2.3	5.5	14.1	na

INTERMEDIATE COURT (b)

Initiation to verdict

Mean	69.6	50.3	na	25.2	55.6	..	..	..	na
10th percentile	19.5	14.4	na	9.9	21.1	..	..	..	na
25th percentile	32.9	26.7	na	15.9	34.7	..	..	..	na
Median	55.9	42.0	na	23.1	56.7	..	..	..	na
75th percentile	86.4	59.7	na	32.4	70.4	..	..	..	na
90th percentile	145.3	95.0	na	42.4	90.4	..	..	..	na

Verdict to finalisation

Mean	10.2	3.7	na	5.5	1.2	..	..	..	na
10th percentile	0.3	0.1	na	0.1	0.1	..	..	..	na
25th percentile	1.9	0.1	na	0.1	0.1	..	..	..	na
Median	7.1	1.0	na	2.6	0.1	..	..	..	na
75th percentile	11.7	2.6	na	7.2	0.9	..	..	..	na
90th percentile	20.6	7.5	na	13.7	3.6	..	..	..	na

TOTAL HIGHER COURTS (b)

Initiation to verdict

Mean	70.9	49.9	na	27.7	51.9	28.5	41.4	36.6	na
10th percentile	20.3	17.1	na	11.5	18.6	6.3	11.3	10.9	na
25th percentile	35.4	29.7	na	16.4	29.8	11.4	16.0	21.7	na
Median	58.9	42.0	na	25.1	51.3	21.3	28.3	38.0	na
75th percentile	87.9	59.7	na	34.6	67.0	34.4	59.4	53.3	na
90th percentile	138.6	91.3	na	50.5	85.5	55.3	78.3	57.8	na

Verdict to finalisation

Mean	10.1	4.0	na	6.2	1.4	0.9	1.9	5.6	na
10th percentile	0.3	0.1	na	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	na
25th percentile	1.6	0.3	na	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	na
Median	6.9	1.1	na	3.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	2.6	na
75th percentile	11.9	3.1	na	7.4	1.6	1.1	2.0	9.0	na
90th percentile	20.6	8.0	na	13.2	4.1	2.3	5.5	14.1	na

na not available

.. not applicable

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

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

## DEFENDANTS FINALISED BY A GUILTY VERDICT, Duration from Initiation to Verdict

<i>Duration (weeks)</i>	NSW	Vic.	Qld(a)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT									
Under 13	1	—	na	1	1	19	4	4	na
13 and under 26	1	1	na	6	24	24	7	5	na
26 and under 39	—	17	na	8	9	11	2	4	na
39 and under 52	2	8	na	2	12	7	3	3	na
52 and over	32	12	na	9	4	8	9	9	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>313</b>
PROPORTION IN SUPREME COURT (%)									
Under 13	2.8	—	na	3.8	2.0	27.5	16.0	16.0	na
13 and under 26	2.8	2.6	na	23.1	48.0	34.8	28.0	20.0	na
26 and under 39	—	44.7	na	30.8	18.0	15.9	8.0	16.0	na
39 and under 52	5.6	21.1	na	7.7	24.0	10.1	12.0	12.0	na
52 and over	88.9	31.6	na	34.6	8.0	11.6	36.0	36.0	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	na	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	na
NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (b)									
Under 13	11	3	na	16	13	..	..	..	na
13 and under 26	45	35	na	51	27	..	..	..	na
26 and under 39	54	34	na	33	32	..	..	..	na
39 and under 52	52	25	na	13	40	..	..	..	na
52 and over	193	60	na	5	153	..	..	..	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>265</b>	..	..	..	<b>1 526</b>
PROPORTION IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (b) (%)									
Under 13	3.1	1.9	na	13.6	4.9	..	..	..	na
13 and under 26	12.7	22.3	na	43.2	10.2	..	..	..	na
26 and under 39	15.2	21.7	na	28.0	12.1	..	..	..	na
39 and under 52	14.6	15.9	na	11.0	15.1	..	..	..	na
52 and over	54.4	38.2	na	4.2	57.7	..	..	..	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	na	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	..	..	..	na
TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS (b)									
Under 13	12	3	na	17	14	19	4	4	na
13 and under 26	46	36	na	57	51	24	7	5	na
26 and under 39	54	51	na	41	41	11	2	4	na
39 and under 52	54	33	na	15	52	7	3	3	na
52 and over	225	72	na	14	157	8	9	9	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1 529</b>
PROPORTION IN HIGHER COURTS (b) (%)									
Under 13	3.1	1.5	na	11.8	4.4	27.5	16.0	16.0	na
13 and under 26	11.8	18.5	na	39.6	16.2	34.8	28.0	20.0	na
26 and under 39	13.8	26.2	na	28.5	13.0	15.9	8.0	16.0	na
39 and under 52	13.8	16.9	na	10.4	16.5	10.1	12.0	12.0	na
52 and over	57.5	36.9	na	9.7	49.8	11.6	36.0	36.0	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	na	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	na

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

.. not applicable

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

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

<i>Duration (weeks)</i>	NSW	Vic.	Qld(a)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT									
Under 1	8	6	na	4	19	49	17	9	na
1 and under 4	7	19	na	7	17	16	4	6	na
4 and under 8	7	8	na	8	11	4	2	2	na
8 and under 12	4	—	na	4	2	—	1	3	na
12 and over	10	5	na	3	1	—	1	5	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>313</b>
PROPORTION IN SUPREME COURT (%)									
Under 1	22.2	15.8	na	15.4	38.0	71.0	68.0	36.0	na
1 and under 4	19.4	50.0	na	26.9	34.0	23.2	16.0	24.0	na
4 and under 8	19.4	21.1	na	30.8	22.0	5.8	8.0	8.0	na
8 and under 12	11.1	—	na	15.4	4.0	—	4.0	12.0	na
12 and over	27.8	13.2	na	11.5	2.0	—	4.0	20.0	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	na	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	na
NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (b)									
Under 1	66	73	na	39	202	..	..	..	na
1 and under 4	48	54	na	28	41	..	..	..	na
4 and under 8	89	15	na	24	20	..	..	..	na
8 and under 12	64	7	na	13	1	..	..	..	na
12 and over	88	8	na	14	1	..	..	..	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>265</b>	..	..	..	<b>1 216</b>
PROPORTION IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (b) (%)									
Under 1	18.6	46.5	na	33.1	76.2	..	..	..	na
1 and under 4	13.5	34.4	na	23.7	15.5	..	..	..	na
4 and under 8	25.1	9.6	na	20.3	7.5	..	..	..	na
8 and under 12	18.0	4.5	na	11.0	0.4	..	..	..	na
12 and over	24.8	5.1	na	11.9	0.4	..	..	..	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	na	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	..	..	..	na
TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS (b)									
Under 1	74	79	na	43	221	49	17	9	na
1 and under 4	55	73	na	35	58	16	4	6	na
4 and under 8	96	23	na	32	31	4	2	2	na
8 and under 12	68	7	na	17	3	—	1	3	na
12 and over	98	13	na	17	2	—	1	5	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1 529</b>
PROPORTION IN HIGHER COURTS (b) (%)									
Under 1	18.9	40.5	na	29.9	70.2	71.0	68.0	36.0	na
1 and under 4	14.1	37.4	na	24.3	18.4	23.2	16.0	24.0	na
4 and under 8	24.6	11.8	na	22.2	9.8	5.8	8.0	8.0	na
8 and under 12	17.4	3.6	na	11.8	1.0	—	4.0	12.0	na
12 and over	25.1	6.7	na	11.8	0.6	—	4.0	20.0	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	na	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	na

na not available

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

.. not applicable

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

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

<i>Elapsed time (weeks)</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld(b)</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.(b)</i>
NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT									
Under 13	40	31	na	9	51	125	53	29	na
13 and under 26	30	24	na	13	12	60	31	18	na
26 and under 39	25	19	na	9	11	29	19	18	na
39 and under 52	23	9	na	3	—	16	17	26	na
52 and over	92	8	na	13	4	10	40	25	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>91</b>	na	<b>47</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>116</b>	na
Median elapsed time ( <i>weeks</i> )	46.4	19.0	na	28.9	8.3	12.7	23.2	31.9	na
Mean elapsed time ( <i>weeks</i> )	50.0	29.2	na	49.9	15.8	18.2	32.1	34.0	na

## NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (c)

Under 13	932	476	na	206	565	..	..	..	na
13 and under 26	678	257	na	130	255	..	..	..	na
26 and under 39	523	171	na	36	213	..	..	..	na
39 and under 52	439	113	na	18	154	..	..	..	na
52 and over	1 075	193	na	32	271	..	..	..	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 647</b>	<b>1 210</b>	na	<b>422</b>	<b>1 458</b>	..	..	..	na
Median elapsed time ( <i>weeks</i> )	31.1	18.7	na	13.0	20.5	..	..	..	na
Mean elapsed time ( <i>weeks</i> )	44.9	29.1	na	19.9	28.5	..	..	..	na

## TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS (c)

Under 13	972	507	na	215	616	125	53	29	na
13 and under 26	708	281	na	143	267	60	31	18	na
26 and under 39	548	190	na	45	224	29	19	18	na
39 and under 52	462	122	na	21	154	16	17	26	na
52 and over	1 167	201	na	45	275	10	40	25	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 857</b>	<b>1 301</b>	na	<b>469</b>	<b>1 536</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>116</b>	na
Median elapsed time ( <i>weeks</i> )	31.9	18.7	na	14.0	19.8	12.7	23.2	31.9	(b)22.9
Mean elapsed time ( <i>weeks</i> )	45.2	29.1	na	22.9	27.9	18.2	32.1	34.0	(b)36.3

na not available

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

.. not applicable

(a) As the pending data are measured at a point in time, previously released pending data will differ. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 25-28.

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

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

## DEFENDANTS PENDING AS AT 30 JUNE 1999, Elapsed Time Since Initiation

<i>Elapsed time (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>
NUMBER IN SUPREME COURT									
Under 13	16	19	na	7	52	118	65	53	na
13 and under 26	31	18	na	5	19	74	26	42	na
26 and under 39	34	13	na	5	9	17	19	29	na
39 and under 52	19	11	na	11	2	18	12	25	na
52 and over	101	21	na	11	4	19	27	30	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>82</b>	na	<b>39</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>179</b>	na
Median elapsed time (weeks)	52.4	28.6	na	44.0	9.9	13.4	15.1	22.4	na
Mean elapsed time (weeks)	54.9	33.6	na	61.0	14.5	19.6	29.0	32.7	na

## NUMBER IN INTERMEDIATE COURT (b)

Under 13	817	557	na	182	626	..	..	..	na
13 and under 26	598	279	na	121	323	..	..	..	na
26 and under 39	445	173	na	47	255	..	..	..	na
39 and under 52	349	150	na	20	211	..	..	..	na
52 and over	1 105	249	na	48	340	..	..	..	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 314</b>	<b>1 408</b>	na	<b>418</b>	<b>1 755</b>	..	..	..	na
Median elapsed time (weeks)	33.3	18.9	na	15.1	22.1	..	..	..	na
Mean elapsed time (weeks)	47.7	29.5	na	23.5	32.0	..	..	..	na

## TOTAL NUMBER IN HIGHER COURTS (b)

Under 13	833	576	na	189	678	118	65	53	na
13 and under 26	629	297	na	126	342	74	26	42	na
26 and under 39	479	186	na	52	264	17	19	29	na
39 and under 52	368	161	na	31	213	18	12	25	na
52 and over	1 206	270	na	59	344	19	27	30	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 515</b>	<b>1 490</b>	na	<b>457</b>	<b>1 841</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>179</b>	na
Median elapsed time (weeks)	34.0	19.1	na	16.1	21.1	13.4	15.1	22.4	(a)23.9
Mean elapsed time (weeks)	48.1	29.8	na	26.7	31.2	19.6	29.0	32.7	(a)37.8

na not available

.. not applicable

(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** This publication presents information, relating to the criminal jurisdiction of the Higher Courts (Supreme and Intermediate Courts) in each State and Territory, which is sourced from the national Higher Criminal Courts collection. 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 high quality statistics for the States and Territories and for Australia as a whole on the management of court workloads. The data presented provide indicators of the volume and flow of defendants through the courts and 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 NCCSU is jointly funded by State and Territory courts agencies, the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and the ABS. It reports to a Board of Management consisting of representatives of the funding parties, and receives technical advice from an Advisory Group of expert users of criminal justice statistics.

**5** The statistics presented in this publication may be different from those published in individual States and Territories due to variations between the NCCSU definitions and counting rules and those used by individual States and Territories.

**6** Given 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 for the development and conduct of the Higher Criminal Courts collection.

**7** This publication presents results from the first stage of the collection. This information relates to criminal cases heard in the Supreme and Intermediate Courts. Data on defendants are reported separately for each distinct court level. The publication includes statistics on the number of defendants pending, initiated and finalised in each State and Territory as well as information on the characteristics of defendants.

**8** Subsequent stages 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 Qstats) and Tasmania (where it is supplied via the State and Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions).

### SCOPE

**10** The scope of the data in this publication consists of all defendants with charges before the original jurisdiction (see Glossary) of the Supreme and Intermediate Courts in Australia during the reference period 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999. 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

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### SCOPE *continued*

applications to amend sentence or penalty. 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. The total figure for defendants initiated in Queensland only includes defendants initiated by committal to the Higher Courts and excludes other forms of initiation such as ex-officio indictment, bench warrants executed and transfers from other courts. Total figures for defendants finalised exclude defendants finalised by the issue of a bench warrant. In order to address these issues Queensland has developed a new computerised courts administration system. This new system will be implemented initially in the lower courts from July 2000. It is expected that implementation in the higher courts will commence in 2001.

**13** Stage 1 of the Higher Criminal Courts collection primarily focuses on obtaining caseflow information on the number of defendants pending, initiated and finalised within the Higher Courts during the reference period. Details of initiation and finalisation for all defendants who enter Higher Courts are presented. The details of initiation include the date of committal, plea at committal, date of registration and method of initiation. The details of finalisation include the date of verdict, date of finalisation, method of finalisation and the defendant's final plea.

### 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 1998 to 30 June 1999. For comparison a summary of initiations, finalisations and pending at the start and end of 1997–98 is also included in table 1. Since the previous edition of this publication there have been revisions made to the pending at end and finalised figures for 1997–98. These revisions are due to updates to the relevant jurisdictions' databases after the previous year's data was processed.

### 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 as the one unit of work by a court at a particular level. It should be noted that the Higher Criminal Courts collection does not enumerate individual 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).

**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. 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 which ensure that the counting of information is consistent across the States and Territories.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### 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 is 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
- committed 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** The date of committal is used as the date of initiation for defendants who are committed for trial or sentence from a Court of Summary Jurisdiction. For defendants who have any other method of initiation (e.g. ex-officio or bench warrant executed), the date of registration (see Glossary) 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 on each charge is entered during a court hearing (often called a committal) and may change during the course of criminal proceedings. If a defendant has multiple charges, there may be different pleas for each charge. This collection presents an aggregated plea in which only one plea code is applied to the defendant. The rules for recording a plea are:

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

**22** The collection records plea information at the initiation and finalisation of the case. Initial plea (in most instances the committal plea) determines the judicial process (i.e. trial or sentence) for the defendant. The final plea is the last plea to be entered in the court level and determines the method of finalisation for the defendant.



## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### *Method of finalisation*

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

- defendant 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 the prosecution
- other non-adjudicated finalisation

### *Date of finalisation*

**24** The date of finalisation is the date on which the last charge for the defendant was finalised by the court. Finalisation will only occur when there are no further hearings scheduled for the defendant at that court level.

### *Pending workload*

**25** The pending workload at a given point in time is represented by the number of defendants who have at least one unfinalised charge and is reported at the start and end of the reference period. The Higher Criminal Courts collection provides a measure of duration since initiation (in weeks) for defendants pending at the start and end of each reference period.

### *Merging counting units*

**26** Where a person/corporation is a defendant in more than one case and their cases are finalised on the same date, in the same court level and in the same court location, their defendant records will be merged and counted as a single defendant record. 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).

## DATA COMPARABILITY

**27** The merging of defendant records will result in adjustments to the counts of defendants pending, initiated, and finalised. Where the defendants with merged records 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 whose records are 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). This will have an impact on elapsed time for pending cases and the duration of finalised cases. 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 compile the figures.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### DATA COMPARABILITY *continued*

**28** The Higher Criminal Courts collection has been designed in order to facilitate comparisons of States and Territories through the application of common national statistical standards. However, some remaining legislative and processing differences may limit the degree to which the statistics reflect the performance of State and Territory courts.

### DATA QUALITY

**29** To ensure that the statistics are as reliable as possible the ABS has employed a number of measures. For example, a range of edit checks identify any erroneous data and these are queried and resolved by the ABS in consultation with the relevant State or Territory representative. The final data are also checked against other available data sources, such as State and Territory court statistics and annual reports by the court administration agencies and the Offices of the Directors of Public Prosecutions.

**30** Data quality control checks will continue to be reviewed and modified as the Higher Criminal Courts collection evolves. Data availability will also improve as the States and Territories further develop and improve their court operational systems.

### RATES

**31** Defendant rates report the number of defendants per adult person and enable comparisons of the criminal court workloads of States and Territories. Defendant rates are expressed per 100,000 adult persons aged 17 years or more.

**32** The Supreme and Intermediate Courts in Australia generally deal with adult defendants aged over 17 or 18 years (depending on the State or Territory). Defendants aged under 17 or 18 years are generally dealt with in a Juvenile or Children's Court unless the charges relate to a serious indictable offence such as murder.

**33** For the purposes of this publication, the population figures used in the calculation of rates are the estimated resident population for each of the States and Territories. Refer *Australian Demographic Statistics, December Quarter 1998* (Cat. no. 3101.0). As the population changes over time, the estimated resident population for the midpoint of the reference period is used as the denominator to calculate the rates. Rates for the period 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 have been calculated on the basis of the December quarter 1998 estimate.

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

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

#### *ABS publications*

- 35** ABS publications which may be of interest include:
- Australian Demographic Statistics* (Cat. no. 3101.0)—issued quarterly
  - Australian Social Trends* (Cat. no. 4102.0)—issued annually
  - Australian Standard Offence Classification* (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
  - Measuring Social Wellbeing* (Cat. no. 4160.0)—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
  - Prisoners in Australia*, A Report prepared for the Corrective Services Ministers' Council by the National Corrective Services Statistics Unit—issued annually
  - Recorded Crime, Australia* (Cat. no. 4510.0)—issued annually
- 36** Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (Cat. no. 1101.0) and the list is available on the ABS internet site <http://www.abs.gov.au>. 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. The National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics releases a biannual newsletter that is published on the ABS internet site. The Centre can be contacted by email through [crime.justice@abs.gov.au](mailto:crime.justice@abs.gov.au).

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### Non-ABS publications

**37** 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, *Crime and Justice Statistics for Western Australia: 1998*, The University of Western Australia, Nedlands
- Department of Justice, Tasmania, *Annual Report 1997–98*, Government Printer, Tasmania
- Department of Justice, Victoria, *Sentencing Statistics for Higher Criminal Courts Victoria 1996*, Department of Justice, Victoria
- Director of Public Prosecutions, *Annual Report 1998–99*, all State, Territory and Commonwealth Offices of the Director of Public Prosecutions
- District Court of Queensland, *Annual Report 1998–99*, The District Court of Queensland, Brisbane
- Government Statistician's Office, *Crime and Justice Statistics 1997*, Queensland Government, Brisbane
- Government Statistician's Office 1999, *Imprisonment in Sentencing*, Queensland Government, Brisbane
- Government Statistician's Office 1999, *Sentencing in Queensland Criminal Courts 1997–98*, Queensland Government, Brisbane
- Ministry of Justice 1998, *Sentencing Statistics for Western Australian Higher Courts* (<http://www.justice.wa.gov.au>), Ministry of Justice, Perth
- NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research 1998, *Are the courts becoming more lenient? Recent trends in convictions and penalties in NSW Higher and Local courts*, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Sydney
- NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *New South Wales Criminal Courts Statistics 1998*, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Sydney
- NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research 1996, *Measuring Trial Court Performance: Indicators for Trial Case Processing*, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Sydney
- Office of Courts Administration, *Annual Report 1998–99*, Northern Territory Attorney General's Department, Darwin
- Office of Crime Statistics, South Australia, *Crime and Justice in South Australia 1998*, South Australian Attorney-General's Department, Adelaide
- South Australia Courts Administration Authority, *1998–99 Annual Report*, South Australia Courts Administration Authority, Adelaide
- Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision, *Report on Government Service Provision, 2000*, Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision, Melbourne
- Supreme Court of Queensland, *Annual Report 1998–99*, The Supreme Court of Queensland, Brisbane

# APPENDIX 1 METHOD OF INITIATION CLASSIFICATION

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<i>Division</i>	<i>Subdivision</i>	<i>Item</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Direct Laying of Charges</b>	
	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
<b>2</b>	<b>Transfer of Charges Between Court Levels</b>	
	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
<b>3</b>	<b>Re-Registration of Criminal Charges</b>	
	30	Re-registration of criminal charges n.f.d.
	31	Bench warrant executed
	39	Other re-registration of criminal charges
<b>9</b>	<b>Method of Initiation Unknown/Not Stated</b>	

## APPENDIX 2 METHOD OF FINALISATION CLASSIFICATION

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<i>Division</i>	<i>Subdivision</i>	<i>Item</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Adjudicated Finalisation</b>	
	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.
<b>2</b>	<b>Finalisation by transfer between court levels n.f.d.</b>	
	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
<b>3</b>	<b>Non-Adjudicated Finalisation</b>	
	30	Non-adjudicated finalisation n.f.d.
	31	Defendant deceased
	32	Bench warrant issued
	33	Unfit to plead
	34	Withdrawn by the prosecution
	39	Other non-adjudicated finalisation
<b>9</b>	<b>Method of Initiation Unknown/Not Stated</b>	

## GLOSSARY

<b>Acquitted</b>	<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"><li>■ a determination of not guilty on the grounds that the charge against the defendant has not been proven; and</li><li>■ a finding of not guilty on the grounds of insanity/unsoundness of mind at the time the defendant committed the offence.</li></ul> <p>For the purposes of this collection, an acquitted outcome is regarded as an adjudicated method of finalisation.</p>
<b>Active workload</b>	<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>
<b>Adjudicated finalisation</b>	<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>
<b>Bench warrant executed</b>	<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>
<b>Bench warrant issued</b>	<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>
<b>Case</b>	<p>One or more defendants against whom one or more charges have been laid and which are heard together by a court as one unit of work. The charge(s) usually relate to the same criminal incident and appear together on one indictment.</p>
<b>Caseflow</b>	<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>
<b>Charge</b>	<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>
<b>Committal</b>	<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>
<b>Committal plea</b>	<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>
<b>Committed for sentence</b>	<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>
<b>Committed for trial</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>County Court</b>	<p>See Intermediate Court.</p>

## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Court level</b>	A separate tier of the court system, each of which is established under legislation and has certain prescribed powers. Court levels can be distinguished from one another on the basis of the extent of their legal powers (see Jurisdiction). Court levels include Court of Summary Jurisdiction, Intermediate Court and Supreme Court. The names assigned to each of these court levels may vary across Australia.
<b>Court of Petty Sessions</b>	See Court of Summary Jurisdiction.
<b>Court of Summary Jurisdiction</b>	A lower court level (also referred to as Magistrates' Court, Local Court or Court of Petty Sessions) which deals with relatively less serious charges and has the most limited legal powers of all the State and Territory court levels. A Court of Summary Jurisdiction is presided over by a magistrate and has jurisdiction to hear trial and sentence matters relating to summary offences. Under some circumstances, this court level may also deal with the less serious indictable offences known as 'minor indictable' or 'triable either way' offences. Courts of Summary Jurisdiction are also responsible for conducting preliminary (committal) hearings for indictable offences.
<b>Date of committal</b>	The date at the end of a committal hearing which results in a defendant being transferred to a Higher Court for a trial or sentence hearing.
<b>Date of finalisation</b>	The date on which all charges laid against a defendant are regarded as formally completed by the Higher Courts and the defendant ceases to be an active unit of work to be dealt with by the Higher Courts.
<b>Date of initiation</b>	The date on which a defendant is regarded as having started within the Higher Courts as a new item of work. For defendants who were committed for trial or sentence from a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, the date of committal is used as the date of initiation. For defendants who have any other method of initiation (e.g. ex-officio, bench warrant executed), the date of registration for that court level is used as the date of initiation. Where there are multiple dates of initiation for charges for a defendant, the earliest date is used.
<b>Date of registration</b>	The date on which a defendant first enters a particular court level and is recorded as a new item of work to be dealt with by the court. This refers to the date when formal notification for a defendant is first received and a new case or file is created by the registry/listing area of the court.
<b>Date of verdict</b>	The date at the conclusion of a trial when a Higher Court announces its finding as to whether the alleged criminal charge(s) laid against a defendant are proven.
<b>Defendant</b>	<p>A person or corporation against whom one or more criminal charges have been laid and which are heard together as the one unit of work by a court level.</p> <p>It should be noted that the Higher Criminal Courts collection does not enumerate distinct persons or corporations. If a person or corporation is a defendant in a number of criminal cases active within the courts during the reference period, such a person or corporation will be counted more than once in this statistical collection.</p>
<b>District Court</b>	See Intermediate Court.
<b>Duration</b>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ date of initiation and date of finalisation;</li><li>■ date of initiation and date of verdict; and</li><li>■ date of verdict and date of finalisation.</li></ul>
<b>Elapsed time since initiation</b>	The time elapsed since the date of initiation for a defendant who has at least one charge that has not been finalised. This collection provides statistics on the



## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Elapsed time since initiation</b> <i>continued</i>	elapsed time since initiation for defendants pending at the start of the reference period and for defendants pending at the end of the reference period.
<b>Ex-officio</b>	The laying of charges against a defendant directly in a Higher Court, by the Director of Public Prosecutions or the Attorney-General. This process is regarded as a method of initiation into the Higher Courts.
<b>Final plea</b>	The last plea entered by a defendant in relation to a criminal charge that is laid against him/her in a Higher Court. This publication presents statistics on the aggregated final plea to charges for a defendant. (See paragraph 21 of the Explanatory Notes.)
<b>Finalised defendant</b>	A defendant for whom all charges have been formally completed so that the defendant ceases to be an item of work to be dealt with by the Higher Courts. For the purposes of these statistics, a defendant is regarded as finalised on the date that the last charge was finalised. (See Date of finalisation.)
<b>Guilty plea</b>	The formal statement by a defendant admitting culpability in relation to a criminal charge. By pleading guilty, a defendant indicates to the court that they do not intend to contest the charge. If the guilty plea is accepted by the court, the charge will be considered to be proven and the guilty plea will be regarded as an adjudicated method of finalisation. This process is regarded as an adjudicated method of finalisation. A guilty plea to committal proceedings in the Court of Summary Jurisdiction also determines the method of initiation into the Higher Courts (i.e. Committed for sentence).
<b>Guilty verdict</b>	An outcome of a trial in which a court determines that the criminal charge against a defendant has been proven. This process is regarded as an adjudicated method of finalisation.
<b>Higher Court</b>	An Intermediate Court or Supreme Court, both of which hear serious criminal charges relating to indictable offences. (See Intermediate Court, Supreme Court.)
<b>Indictable offence</b>	A serious criminal offence which generally requires a trial and/or sentence hearing in a Higher Court. Under some circumstances, a defendant can elect to have charges relating to certain indictable offences dealt with in a Court of Summary Jurisdiction.
<b>Initial plea</b>	The first plea entered by a defendant in relation to a criminal charge that is laid against him or her in a Higher Court. For charges that were committed from a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, this corresponds to the plea at committal. For charges initiated by any other method, this corresponds to the first plea entered in the Higher Court. This publication presents statistics on the aggregated plea to charges for a defendant. (See paragraph 21 of the Explanatory Notes.)
<b>Initiated defendant</b>	A person or corporation for whom at least one criminal charge has been formally started within a Higher Court so that the defendant is regarded as a new item of work to be dealt with by that court. For the purposes of this collection, a defendant is regarded as initiated on the earliest date that a charge was initiated. (See Date of initiation.)
<b>Intermediate Court</b>	<p>A Higher Court level (known either as the District Court or County Court) which has legal powers that are intermediate between those of the Court of Summary Jurisdiction and the Supreme Court and deals with the majority of cases involving serious criminal offences. An Intermediate Court is presided over by a judge, and has original jurisdiction to hear trial and sentence matters relating to most indictable offences. In some States, the Intermediate Court may have appellate jurisdiction over decisions made in the Court of Summary Jurisdiction.</p> <p>Note: Since Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory do not have an Intermediate Court, all indictable offences are heard in the Supreme Court.</p>

## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	The legal power or authority which may be exercised by a particular court level and within which the judgements or orders of the court can be enforced or executed. The criminal jurisdiction of a court includes the original and appellate jurisdictions. Each court level has its own defined jurisdictional limits and these vary across States and Territories.
<b>Local Court</b>	See Court of Summary Jurisdiction.
<b>Lower Court</b>	See Court of Summary Jurisdiction.
<b>Magistrates Court</b>	See Court of Summary Jurisdiction.
<b>Mean</b>	The average of a set of population values.
<b>Median</b>	The middle value of a population when values are sorted into order of size. Below and above this point lie values with equal total frequencies.
<b>Method of finalisation</b>	The process which leads to the completion of a criminal charge within a Higher Court so that it ceases to be an item of work in that court. There are different methods by which a charge may be finalised (see Appendix 2). This publication provides statistics on the aggregated method of finalisation for a defendant. (See paragraph 23 of the Explanatory Notes.)
<b>Method of initiation</b>	The process which leads to the introduction of a criminal charge within a Higher Court so that it becomes a new item of work to be dealt with by that court. There are different methods by which a charge may be initiated (see Appendix 1). This publication provides statistics on the aggregated method of initiation for a defendant. (See paragraph 19 of the Explanatory Notes.)
<b>Non-adjudicated finalisation</b>	A method of finalisation whereby a charge is considered completed and ceases to be active in any Higher Court even though that charge has not been adjudicated. (See Method of finalisation, Bench warrant issued, Unfit to plead, and Withdrawn by prosecution.)
<b>Not guilty plea</b>	<p>The formal statement by a defendant denying culpability in relation to a charge. A not guilty plea to committal proceedings in the lower court determines the method of initiation into the Higher Courts. (See Committed for trial.)</p> <p>For the purposes of this collection, a plea of 'not guilty' also includes 'no plea', 'plea reserved' and 'other defended plea'. This publication presents statistics on the aggregated plea to charges for a defendant. (See paragraph 21 of the Explanatory Notes.)</p>
<b>Not guilty verdict</b>	See Acquitted.
<b>Original jurisdiction</b>	The power of a court to hear criminal charges and determine whether or not a defendant is proven guilty and/or to sentence defendants where a charge has been proven. (See Jurisdiction.)
<b>Other initiation</b>	All methods of initiation other than committed for trial, committed for sentence, ex-officio indictment of charges and bench warrant executed. This includes a re-trial ordered as a result of an appeal and the transfer of charges involving summary offences from a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to a Higher Court.
<b>Pending defendant</b>	A defendant who has been initiated in a Higher Court and has at least one charge that has not been finalised at a particular date. This publication provides statistics on the number of defendants that were pending at the start of the reference period and the number of defendants that were pending at the end of the reference period.
<b>Percentile</b>	A measure of location that is linked to the median. The pth 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.

## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Plea</b>	The formal statement by, or on behalf of, the defendant in response to a criminal charge that has been laid in a court. The nature of this response indicates whether or not the defendant intends to contest that charge.
<b>Proven guilty</b>	An outcome of criminal proceedings in which a court accepts a guilty plea entered by a defendant or arrives at a guilty verdict following a trial. (See Guilty plea and Guilty verdict.) A proven guilty outcome is regarded as an adjudicated method of finalisation.
<b>Sentence</b>	A penalty or punishment imposed by a court upon a defendant who is proven guilty of a criminal offence.
<b>Sentence hearing</b>	A hearing in which a judge imposes a sentence upon a convicted defendant in a particular court. (See Sentence.)
<b>Summary offence</b>	A criminal offence which is generally dealt with by a Court of Summary Jurisdiction and does not require a trial by jury in a Higher Court. In some States and Territories, a defendant against whom summary charges are laid may be transferred to a Higher Court for sentencing, e.g. if the Magistrate wants to impose a penalty which exceeds his/her jurisdictional powers.
<b>Supreme Court</b>	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 usually 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.
<b>Transfer between court levels</b>	<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).</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>
<b>Trial</b>	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 a Higher 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.
<b>Unfit to plead</b>	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.
<b>Withdrawn by prosecution</b>	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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