



The District Court of New South Wales
Annual Review 2014

Contents

FOREWORD BY CHIEF JUDGE	2
<hr/>	
THE DISTRICT COURT	3
<hr/>	
History	4
Jurisdiction	5
Judiciary	5
Court Staff	8
STRATEGIC PLAN	9
<hr/>	
Civil Business Committee	10
Criminal Business Committee	11
Professional Development (Education) Committee	11
CIVIL JURISDICTION	14
<hr/>	
New South Wales	15
Caseload	15
Sydney	16
Caseload	16
Residual Jurisdiction	17
Alternative Dispute Resolution	18
Sydney West	18
Country	19
CRIMINAL JURISDICTION	20
<hr/>	
Trials	21
Caseload	21
Short Matters	25
JUDICIAL RESOURCES	27
<hr/>	
Allocated Sittings	28
Actual Sittings	28
ANNEXURES	31
<hr/>	
Annexure A – Civil Caseload	32
Annexure B – Criminal Caseload	34
Annexure C – Criminal Time Standards	38
Annexure D – Court Committees	44

FOREWORD BY CHIEF JUDGE

After 20 years as Chief Judge, the Honourable Justice R O Blanch AM retired in August 2014. Justice Blanch worked tirelessly to improve the efficiency of the District Court so as to provide just outcomes and better services to Court users. Indeed, in the *2007 Annual Review*, Justice Blanch was able to announce that during that year “the Court became the first and only trial Court in Australia to reach the Australian efficiency standard of not having more than 10 per cent of trials older than 12 months.”

However, Justice Blanch has been reporting in recent years a major increase in criminal trials being sent to the District Court which has impacted adversely upon the timeliness of their disposition. Delay in the hearing of criminal trials results in accused persons spending longer in custody, while on remand, and prolongs the ordeal for the victims of crime.

In the foreword to last year’s *Annual Review*, Justice Blanch observed that at the same time the increase in the Court’s workload had occurred, “cuts in funding have resulted in two Judges’ positions being lost with two more positions to be lost in the next two years.” Regrettably, a third Judge’s position was lost in 2014, despite the continuing increase in the Court’s criminal caseload.

The extent of that increase is demonstrated by a comparison with the Court’s criminal caseload at the end of 2007, when there were 952 trials pending. At the end of 2014, 1,716 trials were on hand. Eight per cent of trials were older than 12 months in 2007, whereas the figure was 18.9 per cent in 2014. Last year (2013), the criminal trial caseload stood at 1,515 trials and 10.9 per cent of cases exceeded 12 months.

This decline in performance will continue until the Court is sufficiently resourced to meet the vast increase in persons being committed for trial to the District Court. As Justice Blanch noted in last year’s *Annual Review*, “[I]t would appear that a significant cause of the increase in trials is an increase in police numbers and the number of police available for investigations.” Justice Blanch asked the Government to look at the funding arrangements for the whole justice system “including the effects on downstream agencies of the increase in police resources.” I strongly endorse my predecessor’s remarks.

The civil business of the Court continued at much the same level as in previous years, with just under 4,800 matters registered. In Sydney, where most of the work is finalised, there were only seven matters not reached. The Court continues to compare very favourably with other Australian Courts in the timely disposition of civil actions.

I wish to express my thanks to the Judges and the staff of the Court for their hard work and commitment to the provision of justice in New South Wales.

**The Honourable Justice D Price AM
Chief Judge**

THE DISTRICT COURT

- History
 - Jurisdiction
 - Judiciary
 - Court Staff
- 

History

By the middle of the 19th Century the Court system in New South Wales consisted of:

- The Supreme Court of New South Wales which, under the Third Charter of Justice sealed in 1823, had a criminal and civil jurisdiction similar to that of the superior Courts of England
- Courts of General and Quarter Sessions which could deal with “crimes and misdemeanours not punishable by death”
- Courts of Requests in Sydney and the County of Cumberland, with a civil jurisdiction not exceeding £30; and
- Courts of Petty Sessions, which dealt with criminal misdemeanours in a summary way and had a civil jurisdiction up to £10 (or £30 if the defendant consented).

With the discovery of gold in 1851 the Colony's population increased and became more dispersed. Litigation grew as the Colony prospered, and crime was not declining. The Supreme Court began to fall seriously into arrears, and this was not helped by the fact that it did not visit a lot of towns. Courts of Quarter Sessions were also few in number and had no civil jurisdiction.

By the mid 1850's there were calls for a revision of the court system, to meet the growing needs of the Colony. As a result, the *District Court Act 1858* (22 Vic No 18) was assented to on 12 November 1858.

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

It also provided for the appointment of a District Court judge as Chairman of any Court of Quarter Sessions or General Sessions, to be held within the limits of the District for which that judge was appointed.

The purpose of the Act was briefly described in *The Practice of the District Courts of NSW* by W.J. Foster and C.E.R. Murray (Sydney, 1870), as follows:

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

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

The *District Courts Act 1858* remained in force until 1973, although the jurisdiction of the Court was increased from time to time.

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

Jurisdiction

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

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

In its civil jurisdiction the Court may deal with:

- All motor accident cases, irrespective of the amount claimed, and
- Other claims to a maximum amount of \$750,000, although it may deal with matters exceeding this amount if the parties consent.

In addition, the Court may deal with equitable claims or demands for recovery of money or damages for amounts not exceeding \$750,000.

The Court is also empowered to deal with applications under the *De Facto Relationships Act 1984*, the *Family Provisions Act 1982* and the *Testator Family Maintenance and Guardianship of Infants Act 1916* that involve amounts, or property to the value of, not more than \$250,000.

Judiciary

CHIEF JUDGES

The Honourable Justice Reginald Oliver Blanch AM (until 7 August 2014)*

The Honourable Justice Derek Michael Price AM (from 8 August 2014)*

JUDGES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2014

His Honour Judge Garry William Neilson

His Honour Judge Christopher John Armitage

His Honour Judge Christopher John George Robison

Her Honour Judge Robyn Christine Tupman

His Honour Judge James Patrick Curtis*

Her Honour Judge Deborah June Payne

His Honour Judge Martin Langford Sides QC

His Honour Judge Gregory David Woods QC

Her Honour Judge Jennifer Anne English

Her Honour Judge Susan Jennifer Gibb

His Honour Judge Robert Arthur Sorby

His Honour Judge Stephen Ronald Norrish QC

Her Honour Judge Audrey Suzanne Balla

His Honour Judge Michael John Finnane

RFD QC*

Her Honour Judge Penelope Jane Hock

Her Honour Judge Judith Clare Gibson

His Honour Judge Anthony Martin Blackmore SC

His Honour Judge Peter Graeme Berman SC

His Honour Judge Raymond Patrick McLoughlin SC

His Honour Judge Colin David Charteris SC

His Honour Judge Roy David Ellis

His Honour Judge Brian John Knox SC

His Honour Judge John Roger Dive

Her Honour Judge Deborah Anne Sweeney

His Honour Judge James Leonard Alexandre Bennett SC

His Honour Judge Peter Lind Johnstone

His Honour Judge William Patrick Kearns SC*

His Honour Judge Paul Vincent Conlon SC

His Honour Judge Peter Raymond Zahra SC

His Honour Judge Richard Dominic Cogswell SC

Her Honour Judge Leonie Flannery SC
 His Honour Judge Robert Stephen Toner SC
 His Honour Judge Gregory Michael Keating
 His Honour Judge Paul Ivan Lakatos SC
 His Honour Judge Leonard Levy SC
 His Honour Judge Michael Elkaim SC
 His Honour Judge Michael King SC
 His Honour Judge David Clement Frearson SC
 His Honour Judge Andrew Michael Colefax SC
 Her Honour Judge Helen Syme
 His Honour Judge Michael Ivan Bozic SC
 His Honour Judge John North
 His Honour Judge Graham Leslie Henson
 Her Honour Judge Laura Kathleen Wells SC
 His Honour Judge Ross Victor Letherbarrow SC
 His Honour Judge Andrew Carl Haesler SC
 Her Honour Judge Donna Mary Lisa Woodburne SC
 Her Honour Judge Elizabeth Margaret Olsson SC
 His Honour Judge Clive Vaughan Jeffreys
 His Honour Judge David Ulric Arnott SC
 His Honour Judge Peter George Maiden SC
 His Honour Judge Phillip Gregory Mahony SC
 His Honour Judge Christopher Phillip Hoy SC
 His Honour Judge Phillip Thomas Taylor SC
 His Honour Judge Gordon Bruce Lerve
 His Honour Judge Ian Hartley McClintock SC
 His Honour Judge Christopher Bruce Craigie SC
 Her Honour Judge Sarah Jane Huggett
 His Honour Judge Antony Edward Townsden
 His Honour Judge Peter Raymond Whitford
 His Honour Judge Stephen Scott Hanley SC
 Her Honour Judge Sharron Norton SC
 His Honour Judge Mark Lloyd Williams SC
 Her Honour Judge Dina Yehia SC
 Her Honour Judge Julia Ann Baly SC
 The Honourable Judge John Hatzistergos
 Her Honour Judge Jane Ariane Culver

*denotes Member of the Dust Diseases Tribunal

APPOINTMENTS

The following Judges were appointed during 2014:

- Her Honour Judge Helen McLeod Wilson SC was appointed on 28 April 2014
- Her Honour Judge Dina Yehia SC was appointed on 5 May 2014
- Her Honour Judge Julia Ann Baly SC was appointed on 1 September 2014
- The Honourable Judge John Hatzistergos was appointed on 16 October 2014
- Her Honour Judge Jane Ariane Culver was appointed on 29 October 2014

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE APPOINTED TO THE SUPREME COURT OF NSW

- Her Honour Judge Helen McLeod Wilson SC was appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of NSW on 3 November 2014.

RETIREMENTS

The following Judges retired during 2014:

- His Honour Judge Mark Curtis Marien QC retired on 2 February 2014
- His Honour Judge Kevin Patrick O'Connor AM retired on 30 April 2014
- His Honour Judge Norman Edward Delaney retired on 3 July 2014
- The Honourable Justice Reginald Oliver Blanch AM retired on 7 August 2014
- Her Honour Judge Dianne Joy Truss retired on 29 August 2014
- Her Honour Judge Anne Mary Quirk retired on 5 September 2014

APPOINTMENTS HELD

- The Honourable Justice Reginald Oliver Blanch AM, held the appointment of President of the Dust Diseases Tribunal of NSW (until 7 August 2014).
- The Honourable Justice Derek Michael Price AM, held the appointment of President of the Dust Diseases Tribunal of NSW (from 8 August 2014).
- His Honour Acting Judge Kevin Patrick O'Connor AM, held the appointment of Deputy President of the NSW Civil & Administrative Tribunal.
- His Honour Judge John Roger Dive held the appointment of Senior Judge of the Drug Court of NSW.
- His Honour Judge Peter Lind Johnstone held the appointment of President of the Children's Court of NSW.
- His Honour Judge Gregory Michael Keating held the appointment of President of the Workers Compensation Commission of NSW.
- His Honour Judge Graeme Leslie Henson held the appointment of Chief Magistrate of the Local Court of NSW.

ACTING JUDGES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

- Ms Linda Margaret Ashford
- Mr Ian Barnett
- Mr James Walter Black QC
- Mr Grant Thomas Britton SC
- Mr Terence Joseph Christie QC
- Mr Paul Cloran
- Ms Elizabeth Corbett
- Mr Garry Spencer Forno QC
- Mr David James Freeman
- Mr Anthony Frederick Garling
- Mr Geoffrey John Graham
- Mr Gregory Scott Hosking SC
- Mr Luigi Maria Baliano Lamprati

- Mr Rodney Neville Madgwick QC
- The Honourable Francis Marks
- Mr John Cecil Nicholson SC
- Mr John Roscoe Nield
- Mr Colin Emmett O'Connor QC
- Mr Kevin Patrick O'Connor, AM
- Mr John Lawrence O'Meally AM RFD
- Mr Colin Phegan
- Ms Margaret Sidis
- Mr Ronald Herbert Solomon
- Mr Kenneth Victor Taylor AM RFD
- Mr Stephen Lewis Walmsley SC
- Mr Jonathan Steuart Williams

JUDICIAL REGISTRAR

Mr James Howard is the Judicial Registrar and exercises functions pursuant to s18FA of *the District Court Act 1973*.

VENUES

In 2014, the Court sat permanently in Sydney at the Downing Centre, 143-147 Liverpool Street, Sydney (in crime), where it occupies 18 courtrooms, and at the John Maddison Tower, 86 Goulburn Street, Sydney, where it occupies 23 courtrooms (mostly in civil).

In Sydney West, judges sat full-time in the Court Houses at Parramatta (8 courtrooms), Penrith (1 courtroom) and Campbelltown (2 courtrooms due to refurbishment at Wollongong and Penrith). In addition, continuous sittings were conducted at Gosford, Lismore and Newcastle.

Other places where the Court sat were:

Albury, Armidale, Bathurst, Bega, Bourke, Broken Hill, Coffs Harbour, Coonamble, Dubbo, Goulburn, Grafton, Griffith, Moree, Nowra, Orange, Parkes, Port Macquarie, Queanbeyan, Sutherland, Tamworth, Taree, and Wagga Wagga.

Court Staff

PRINCIPAL REGISTRAR

Mr Peter Ryan is the Acting Principal Registrar and exercises functions pursuant to s18H(3) of the *District Court Act 1973*.

CRIMINAL LISTINGS AND JUDICIAL ARRANGEMENTS

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

Mr Robert Fornito is the District Court Criminal Listing Director. Pursuant to s123 of the *Criminal Procedure Act 1986*, the Criminal Listing Director assists the Chief Judge in making arrangements for the listing of criminal proceedings.

CIVIL LISTINGS AND CASE MANAGEMENT

Implements civil case management and listing practices for the timely finalisation of cases, schedules cases, prepares lists and allocates courtrooms.

Ms Jane Dunn is the Civil List and Case Manager and works in conjunction with the Civil List Judge and the Judicial Registrar in making arrangements for the listing of civil proceedings.

STRATEGIC PLAN

- Civil Business Committee
 - Criminal Business Committee
 - Professional Development (Education) Committee
- 

Civil Business Committee Report

In 2012, the Court introduced its fourth Strategic Plan. The first such plan was adopted in 1995 and it provided a template for significant changes in the way the Court operated, as did the subsequent Strategic Plans released in 2000 and 2007.

The current Strategic Plan articulates the values of the Court and sets out the goals to be achieved over 2012-2017 in carrying out this role in line with these values.

The Court is committed to discharging its responsibilities to ensure:

- That the Court is accessible to the public and those who need to use its services
- The effective determination of cases in an orderly, cost effective and expeditious manner. The equal protection of the law to all
- The independence of the judges of the Court, and the Court as a branch of our system of government
- Accountability for the performance of the Court and its use of public funds, and
- The highest standard of excellence in the functioning of the Court.

The Court will continue to maintain a Policy and Planning Committee to provide advice to the Chief Judge on matters relating to the business of the Court. There are also three major committees that are accountable to the Policy and Planning Committee. Those Committees are:

- The Civil Business Committee
- The Criminal Business Committee, and
- The Professional Development (Education) Committee.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

To monitor, report and advise on any matter relating to the Court's objective of providing a system for the earliest, most effective and efficient resolution of civil disputes.

THE COMMITTEE

The Committee consists of judges of the Court, the Judicial Registrar, the Civil List and Case Manager and representatives of the Law Society of NSW, the Bar Association of NSW, the Insurance Council of Australia and the Motor Accidents Authority.

ACTIVITIES

The Committee met on three occasions during the year and matters considered included:

1. The Court's Operational Performance Report with up-to-date statistical information presented at each meeting.
2. Proposed amendments to the rules and practice notes.
3. Particular concerns of the various representatives and matters which the Court wished to bring to their attention.
4. The Committee considered a wide range of issues including:
 - The components of the caseload by cause of action
 - Judicial and listing arrangements
 - Current agenda matters of the UCPR Committee
 - The on-line registry
 - Issues arising under the *Motor Accidents Compensation Act* and the latest reforms
 - Development of an email protocol for the Court
 - Ascertaining the availability of experts
 - The Court's country circuits
 - Referrals by the Court to mediation
 - Revision of the Court's Defamation List Practice Note
 - Children's Court Appeals.

Criminal Business Committee Report

TERMS OF REFERENCE

To monitor, report and advise on any matter relating to the Court's goal of providing a system for the earliest, most effective and efficient resolution of criminal matters.

Consultation with court users is carried out through the Criminal Business Committee. The Committee consists of a judge of the Court, the Criminal Listing Director and representatives from the Law Society of NSW, Bar Association of NSW, Legal Aid, Commonwealth and State DPP's, Aboriginal Legal Service, Public Defenders and Crown Prosecutors.

ACTIVITIES

The Committee met on four occasions during the year.

1. The Court continues to target older pending cases throughout the state.
2. The Court continues to manage and list criminal trials in country circuits by way of telephone call over.
3. The average length of trials in Sydney rose to 12.71 days (compared to 11.41 days in 2013). The statewide trial average rose to 8.80 days (up from 8.51 days in 2013)
4. Criminal trial registrations have remained high since the start of 2012. On average during the past 3 years (2012, 2013 and 2014) an extra 200 trials per year have been registered compared to the previous 3 years (2009, 2010 and 2011).
5. There were 1,716 pending trials as at December 2014.
6. The finalisation time rose from 44 weeks in 2013 to 50 weeks in 2014.
7. The court conducted two special sittings, in the North Coast and in the Riverina with a view of obtaining early pleas in trial matters in those regions.
8. The Court continues to maintain a collaborative approach in its partnership with the Court's stakeholders in its criminal jurisdiction.

Professional Development (Education) Committee Report

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The District Court, in partnership with the Judicial Commission of New South Wales, provides a relevant and practical continuing judicial education program for all judges. The program aims to:

- enhance professional expertise
- facilitate the development of judicial knowledge and skills
- promote the pursuit of juristic excellence.

With a focus on interactive learning, the program is based on enhancing skills, attitudes and knowledge in a judicially relevant environment.

Sessions range from orientation programs for new judges and an annual conference, to specialist seminars on practical matters, social awareness issues and legislative changes. The focus in education for District Court judges is on sentencing, important legal developments, improving knowledge in difficult areas of legal practice and procedure, and the development of judicial skills.

The Professional Standards (Education) Committee, composed of judges and the Judicial Commission's Education Director, develops each education program based on the identified needs of judges. Judges are involved in the development and delivery of the education program to ensure its relevance to the judicial role. A member of the Committee is also a member of the Judicial Commission's Standing Advisory Committee on Judicial Education.

During 2014, judges:

- continued to receive focused and tailored training to meet their educational needs
- attended 144 days of face-to-face judicial education organised by the Judicial Commission, an average of 2.1 days of judicial education per judge.

ACTIVITIES

Annual Conference

The Annual Conference held in the Hunter Valley on 22–23 April 2014 was attended by 46 judges, 3 acting judges and the Judicial Registrar. The conference focused on providing challenging and interesting educational sessions, while also providing a valuable opportunity for discussion and debate. The program consisted primarily of sessions relevant to the day-to-day work of a judge. Topics for the conference were determined by the Education Committee based on previous evaluation reports, suggestions by colleagues and suggestions from the Judicial Commission. The sessions dealt with a variety of topics including substantive law and practice, sentencing issues and civil law. Topics included:

- “Juror Comprehension of Jury Directions”, Professor Jane Goodman-Delahunty, School of Psychology, Charles Sturt University
- “Recurring Issues in the NSW Court of Appeal”, The Honourable Justice Margaret Beazley AO, President, Court of Appeal
- “The Ngara Yura Program”, His Honour Judge Andrew Haesler SC and Ms Joanne Selfe, Aboriginal Project Officer, Judicial Commission
- “It’s a Weird World – Exercising the Powers of a Magistrate when hearing an appeal from the Local Court”, His Honour Judge Peter Berman SC

- “Available Programs for Offenders”, Dr Anne Marie Martin, Assistant Commissioner, Offender Management and Policy, Corrective Services
- “Court of Criminal Appeal Review”, The Honourable Justice Robert A Hulme, Supreme Court of NSW
- “Civil Issues A: Section 318 of the Workplace Injury Management Act”, His Honour Judge Garry Neilson
- “Civil Issues B: Preparation/Case Management of Personal Injury Topics”, Mr James Howard, Judicial Registrar
- “Civil Issues C: Commercial Law Issues in the District Court”, His Honour Judge Philip Taylor SC
- “Civil Issues D: District Court Costs Appeals”, Her Honour Judge Judith Gibson
- “Developments in Online Resources”, Mr Murali Sagi PSM, Director, Information Management and Corporate Services and Ms Joy Blunt, Senior Systems Officer – Training, Judicial Commission of NSW
- “The New Bail Act”, The Honourable Justice Richard Button, Supreme Court of NSW.

The Annual Conference received an 89% satisfaction rating from participants, exceeding the target of 85%.

Occasional Seminars

The Education Committee has continued to work with the Judicial Commission to organise a series of twilight education sessions for District Court judges. These seminars provide useful, informative and timely information on a range of topical matters relevant to the work of the District Court. They aim to enhance judicial performance and assist in the further development of judicial skills and knowledge. Seminars were held on the following topics:

- “Conducting Circuit Courts or Stress Free Circuits”, His Honour Judge Martin Blackmore SC, District Court of NSW, 25 March 2014
- “Sentencing Young People — Statutory Considerations”, His Honour Magistrate Paul Mulrone, Children’s Court of NSW, 21 May 2014
- “Social Media”, Ms Julia Virgo, Senior Counsel, Clayton Utz, 4 June 2014
- “Child Victims of Sexual Assault”, Ms Caroline Knight and Ms Calli Goninan, Child Protection Unit at the Children’s Hospital Westmead, 16 September 2014
- “Judicial Independence from the Executive”, Professor George Williams AO, Anthony Mason Professor, University of New South Wales, 3 December 2014.

Judges also attended the cross-jurisdictional seminar on “Stress and Vicarious Trauma for Judges” presented by Professor Stephen J Woods, Adjunct Associate Professor, Southern Cross University, on 18 March 2014.

Judicial Orientation

Two new judges of the Court attended the National Judicial Orientation Program at Broadbeach, Queensland in June 2014. This five-day orientation program assists newly appointed judicial officers with their transition to judicial office by facilitating the development and refinement of the skills and knowledge necessary for effective judging. It is conducted by the National Judicial College of Australia with the assistance of the Judicial Commission of New South Wales, the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration and the Judicial College of Victoria.

Ngara Yura Program

Judges continued to participate in the Judicial Commission’s Ngara Yura Program which aims to increase awareness among judicial officers about contemporary Aboriginal society, customs and traditions, and their effect on Aboriginal people in the justice system. Judges participated in the following Ngara Yura Program events:

- “The Impact of Bugmy and Munda on Sentencing Aboriginal and Other Offenders”, The Honourable Justice Stephen Rothman AM, Supreme Court of NSW, Twilight Seminar, 25 February 2014
- “Site Visit to the Aboriginal Heritage Office Museum and Keeping Place, Northbridge”, Mr David Watts, Aboriginal Heritage Manager, Aboriginal Heritage Office and Mr Phil Hunt, Archaeologist, Aboriginal Heritage Office, Field Trip, 22 March 2014
- “Ngara Yura Program: Community Visit to Walgett”, 13–14 September 2014.

CIVIL JURISDICTION

New South Wales

- Caseload

Sydney

- Caseload
- Residual Jurisdiction
- Alternative Dispute Resolution

Sydney West

Country

NEW SOUTH WALES

Full statistical data on the Court's civil operations is set out in Annexures A (1) and (2)

In 2014:

- Registrations fell by 5%
- Finalisations fell by 1%
- Pending cases remained steady
- Median finalisation time rose from 10.0 months to 12.6 months

Caseload

EXPLANATORY BACKGROUND

Comparing registrations and finalisations is not an exact science. For example, a matter in the course of its life may, for various reasons, be registered more than once. Multiple parties and cross actions can further affect the equation. Cases determined at arbitration can be re-heard. A matter previously dismissed can be restored or a retrial may be ordered. Registries also conduct stock-takes of cases on hand during the course of the year, with pending statistics being adjusted as necessary.

It is therefore important to view comparisons of registrations and finalisations against pending caseload with some caution, as it is often difficult to reconcile the figures. However, they are helpful in providing general trends concerning the incoming and outgoing work of the Court.

REGISTRATIONS

There were **4,737** matters registered in 2014, compared to **4,968** in 2013.

FINALISATIONS

There were **4,740** matters finalised in 2014, compared to **4,792** in 2013.

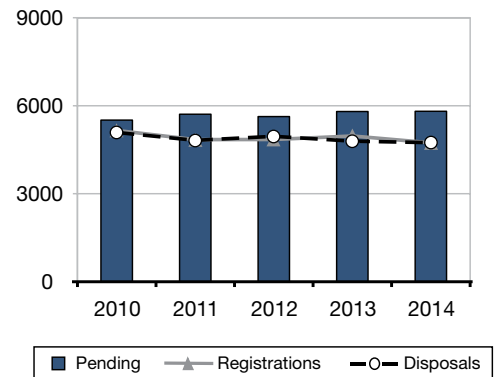
PENDING

At the end of 2014 the pending caseload was **5,809**, compared to **5,804** in 2013.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

Figure 1 below tracks the Court's caseload for the past 5 years.

Figure 1. NSW Civil Caseload



FINALISATION TIMES

In 2014, **60%** of all actions finalised were completed within 12 months, with **90%** being completed within 24 months. This compares to **51%** and **87%**, respectively, in 2013.

Of the pending caseload at the end of 2014, **24%** exceeded 12 months and not more than 24 months and **5%** more than 24 months.

SYDNEY

In 2014:

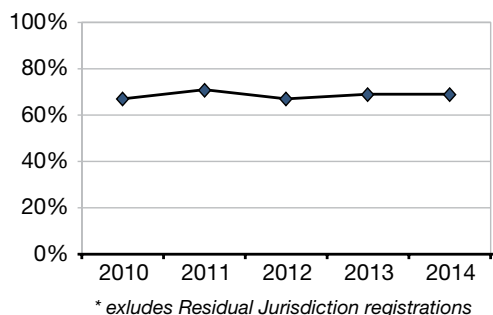
- Registrations fell by 4%
- Finalisations rose by 3%
- Pending cases rose by 0.5%
- Median finalisation time rose from 9.0 months to 12.4 months

Caseload

In 2014, Sydney civil case managed matters represented **69%** of the State's registrations and **71%** of the matters on hand.

Figure 2 below shows the ratio of new civil actions commencing in Sydney, as compared to the whole State for the past 5 years.

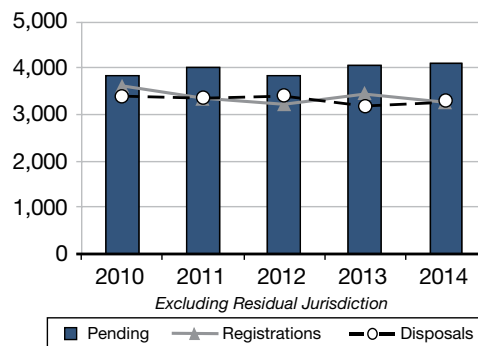
Figure 2. Sydney's % of NSW Registrations



REGISTRATIONS, FINALISATIONS AND PENDING

Excluding the Residual Jurisdiction, there were **3,286** new actions registered and **3,268** finalised in Sydney in 2014. At the end of the year there were **4,099** actions pending. Figure 3 tracks Sydney's caseload for the last five years.

Figure 3. Sydney Caseload



FINALISATION TIMES

The Court's ideal time standard for civil cases is to achieve a **90%** finalisation rate within 12 months of commencement, and **100%** within 2 years.

In 2014, **63%** of all actions finalised were completed within 12 months, with **91%** being completed within 24 months. This compares to **50%** and **87%**, respectively in 2013.

Of the pending caseload at the end of 2014, **24%** exceeded 12 months and not more than 24 months and **4%** exceeded 24 months.

HOW CASES ARE FINALISED

Table 1 below shows the break-up of how case managed list matters were finalised in 2014. The categories of "Dismissed" and "Discontinued" include matters that settled without judgment being entered and/or terms of settlement being filed.

Table 1. Finalisation Outcomes

Judgment following Trial	201
Default Judgment	14
Settlement Filed	2,180
Dismissed	398
Discontinued	390
Arbitration	0
Transferred	85
Total	3,268

Table 2 below compares two of the seven categories of finalised outcomes as against the total number of finalised outcomes. These two categories are selected because i. **“Finalised following trial”** represents the number of hearings to judgment before judges, and ii. **“Finalised by settlement filed”** includes matters that settled as a result of ADR.

Table 2. Judgments/Settlements

Year	Total Disposals	Disposed of by Judgment Following Trial	Disposed of by Settlement Filed
2010	3,416 (100%)	332 (10%)	1,695 (50%)
2011	3,369 (100%)	276 (8%)	1,802 (53%)
2012	3,393 (100%)	301 (9%)	2,010 (59%)
2013	3,188 (100%)	218 (7%)	2,175 (68%)
2014	3,286 (100%)	210 (6%)	2,180 (66%)

Residual Jurisdiction

The *Compensation Court Repeal Act 2002* abolished the Compensation Court, and transferred the Compensation Court’s jurisdiction to the Workers Compensation Commission or the District Court. The Act commenced on 1 January 2004.

The disputes that were transferred to the District Court are commonly referred as its **“Residual Jurisdiction”** and involve the following:

- *The Police Act 1990* concerning police officers “hurt on duty” and the *Police Regulation (Superannuation) Act 1906* concerning the payment of superannuation benefits to police officers
- *Payment under the Police Regulations (Superannuation) Act 1906*, paid to STC (the SAS Trustee Corporation continued under the *Superannuation Administration Act 1996*) and special risk benefits payable by the Commissioner of Police
- *The Workers’ Compensation Act 1987* concerning workers in or about a coal mine
- *The Workers Compensation (Dust Diseases) Act 1942*
- The Sporting Injuries Insurance Scheme, and
- *The Workers’ Compensation (Bush Fire, Emergency & Rescue Services) Act 1987*.

During 2014, **323** actions were commenced and **277** were finalised. There were a total of **219** matters on hand in the residual jurisdiction at the end of 2014.

SYDNEY WEST

Alternative Dispute Resolution

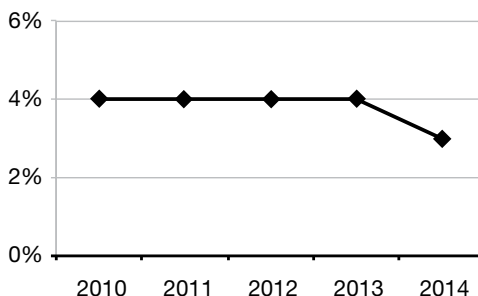
MEDIATION

Pursuant to Civil Practice Note 1, cases before the Sydney District Court are referred to mediation where appropriate. The referral may be either to private mediation or to court provided mediation. The Assistant Registrars in Sydney undertake the court provided mediation. In 2014 the Sydney District Court referred **543** matters to mediation (**460** were referred to private mediation and **83** to court provided mediation). Settlement conferences were ordered in **1,709** matters.

Approximately **54%** of matters referred to mediation by Assistant Registrars were settled. There are no available statistics in relation to settlement of matters referred to private mediators.

Sydney West had **3%** of the total number of new actions started in the State in 2014 (excluding the Court's residual jurisdiction). Figure 4 below tracks the variation in the proportional rate of registrations in Sydney West.

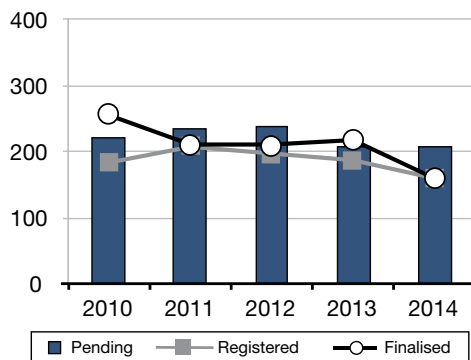
Figure 4. % of NSW Registrations



In Sydney West there were **159** matters registered and **159** finalisations throughout the year. At the end of 2014 the total pending caseload was **206**, as compared to **207** the previous year.

Figure 5 shows comparative registrations, finalisations and pending caseloads for the past 5 years.

Figure 5. Sydney West Caseload



Pending matters in Sydney West fell very slightly and the median finalisation time was **12.2** months.

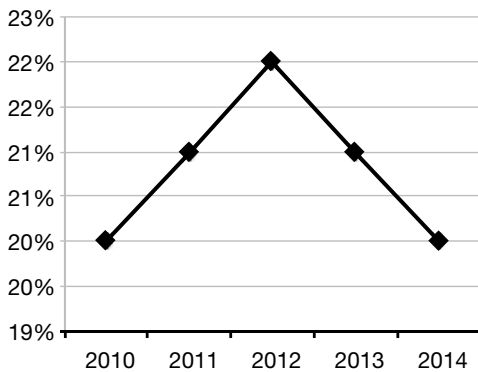
28% of pending cases exceeded 12 months and not more than 24 months and **3%** exceeded 24 months.

COUNTRY

Venues outside of Sydney and Sydney West had **20%** of the total number of new actions started in 2014 (excluding the Court's Residual Jurisdiction).

Figure 6 tracks the proportional rate of registrations for Country venues.

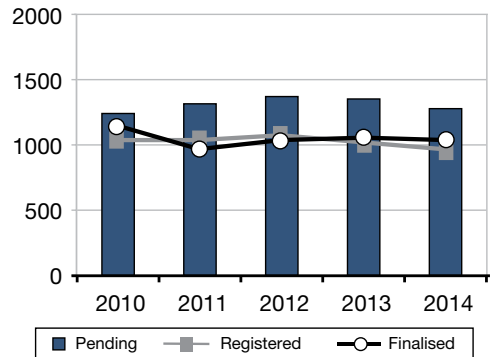
Figure 6. % of NSW Registrations



Outside of Sydney and Sydney West, there were **969** matters registered and **1,036** finalisations throughout the year. At the end of the year the total pending caseload was **1,285** as compared to **1,353** the previous year.

Figure 7 shows comparative registrations, finalisations and pending caseloads for the past 5 years.

Figure 7. Country Civil Caseload



Pending matters in the country fell by **5%** and the median finalisation time was **13.5** months.

24% of pending cases exceeded 12 months and not more than 24 months and **10%** exceeded 24 months.

CRIMINAL JURISDICTION

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

Trials

- Caseload

Short Matters

TRIALS

In 2014:

- Registrations fell by 1%
- Finalisations fell by 4%
- Pending trials rose by 13%
- Median finalisation time rose to 50 weeks
- Average length of trials rose from 8.51 days to 8.80 days

Caseload

There were **1,797** criminal trials registered during 2014, as compared to **1,814** in 2013 and **1,876** in 2012.

There were **1,595** trials finalised in 2014, as compared to **1,662** in 2013 and **1,532** in 2012.

There were **1,716** trials on hand at the end of 2014, as compared to **1,515** trials at the end of 2013.

The number of sexual assault trials registered has increased from **413** in 2012 and **434** in 2013 to **472** in 2014. Of these, **291** trials involved child sexual assault compared to **215** in 2012 and **232** in 2013.

Figure 8 tracks the statewide trends in the criminal trial caseload for the past 5 years.

Figure 8. Criminal Trial Caseload

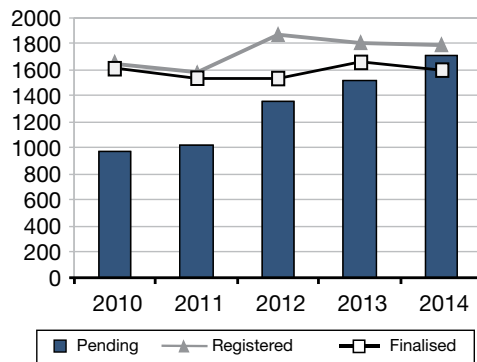
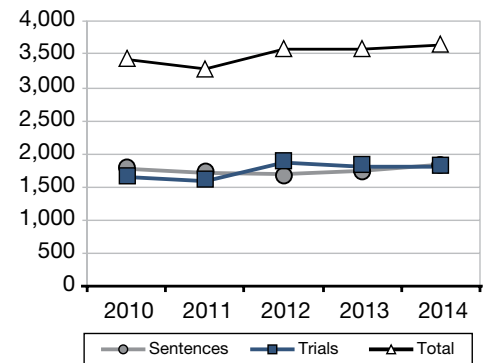


Figure 9 shows variation in trial and sentence registrations for the last 5 years.

Figure 9. Trial and Sentence Registrations



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

TIME STANDARDS

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

- **90%** of cases within 4 months of committal, or such other event which causes the proceedings; and
- **100%** of cases within 1 year.

In 2014, **16%** of trial finalisations where the accused was in custody were finalised within 4 months, and **19%** exceeded 12 months. Where the accused was on bail, **11%** of finalisations occurred within 4 months, with **31%** exceeding 12 months.

Figure 10 sets out comparative compliance rates with time standards for all trials finalised.

Figure 10. All Registered Trials Finalised – Time Standards Compliance Rate

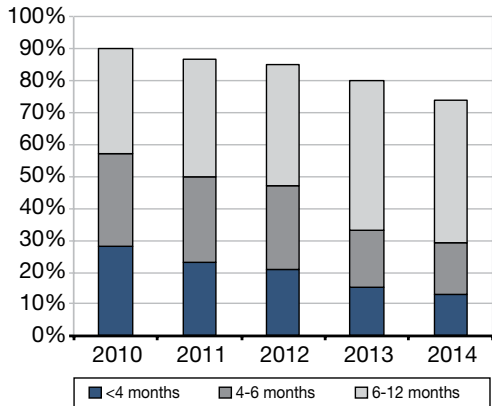


Figure 11 shows the age of all trials which were pending at the end of the year indicated.

Figure 11. All Registered Trials – Pending Matters

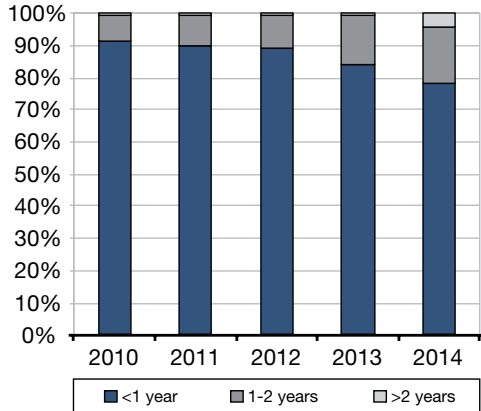
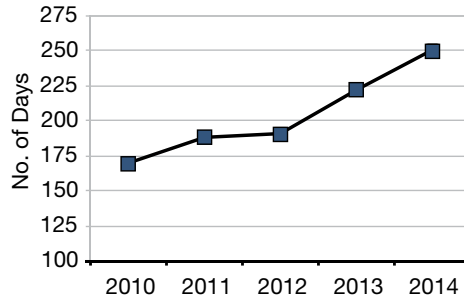


Figure 12 tracks the median finalisation times, from committal to commencement of the trial, for matters finalised during the year indicated.

Figure 12. Median Finalisation Times – Criminal Trials

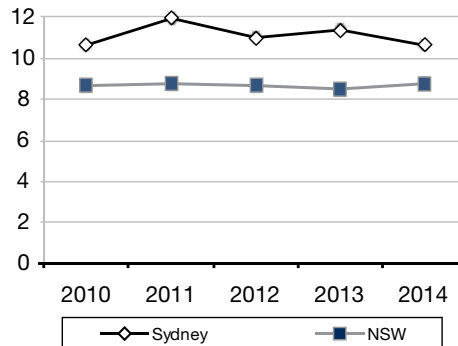


TRIAL DURATIONS

The statewide average length of criminal trials finalised in 2014 was **8.80** days, as compared to **8.51** days in 2013. In Sydney the average duration was **12.71** days in 2014, compared to **11.41** days in 2013.

Figure 13 illustrates the fluctuating rise in the average trial duration time.

Figure 13. Average Trial Length



TRIAL LISTING OUTCOMES

About **2,470** trials were listed for hearing in 2014.

Figure 14 shows the break-up of those matters not dealt with.

Figure 14. Trial Listings Not Dealt With

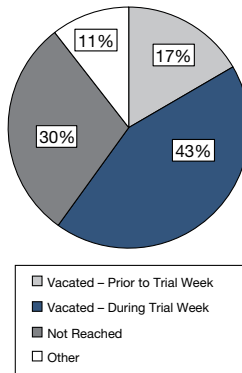


Figure 15 shows the break-up of those matters that were dealt with after being listed.

Figure 15. Trial Listings Dealt With

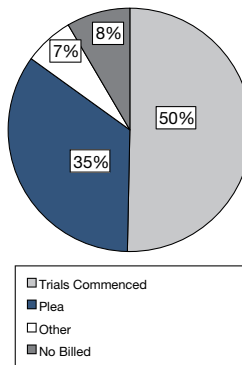


Figure 16 shows the outcome of those that commenced.

Figure 16. Trials Commenced

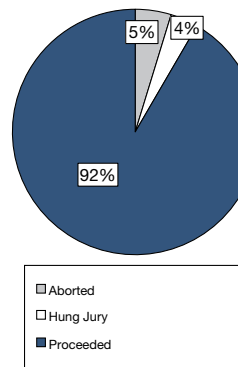


Table 3. Trial Listing Outcomes

The following table sets out trial listing outcomes for 2014.

	Sydney	Sydney West	Country	Total
NOT DEALT WITH	28%	38%	31%	32%
Vacated	22%	22%	12%	19%
Prior to Trial Week	5%	9%	2%	5%
During Trial Week	17%	13%	10%	14%
Other Not Dealt With (Trial Week)	6%	15%	19%	13%
Not Reached	0%	14%	17%	9%
Other	6%	2%	2%	3%
DEALT WITH	72%	62%	69%	68%
Dealt With Prior to Trial Week	3%	8%	2%	4%
No Billed	1%	2%	1%	1%
Bench Warrant	0%	0%	0%	0%
Plea	2%	2%	1%	2%
Other (e.g. deceased)	0%	2%	0%	1%
Transferred	0%	3%	0%	1%
Dealt With In Trial Week	26%	27%	36%	29%
No Billed	4%	5%	6%	5%
Bench Warrant	0%	0%	1%	0%
Plea	20%	20%	27%	22%
Other (e.g. deceased)	2%	1%	1%	1%
Transferred	0%	2%	1%	1%
Trials Commenced	43%	27%	31%	34%
Aborted	1%	1%	2%	2%
Hung Jury	2%	1%	1%	1%
Proceeded	40%	24%	28%	31%

Of trials dealt with in 2014 (i.e. 68% of total listings):

- 35% pleaded Guilty
- 46% proceeded to verdict
- 8% were “no billed”
- 3% were transferred
- 2% were aborted
- 2% ended with a “hung Jury”
- 3% were otherwise disposed
- 1% had bench warrants issued

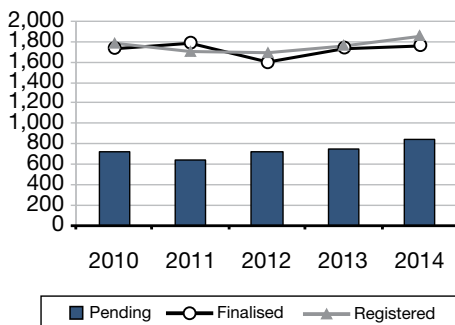
SHORT MATTERS

SENTENCES

There were **1,844** committals for sentence received in 2014 and **1,760** matters were finalised. At the end of the year there were **839** sentence matters pending, compared to **755** at the end of 2013.

Figure 17 tracks the sentence caseload for the last 5 years.

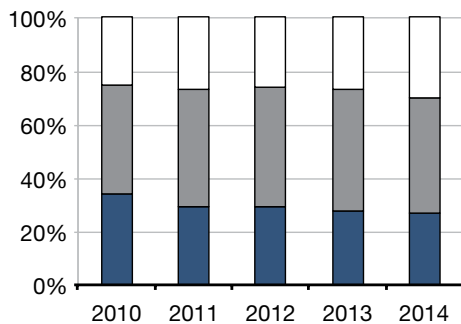
Figure 17. Sentence Caseload



The ideal time standard from committal for sentence to hearing is 3 months in **90%** of cases, with **100%** being completed within 6 months.

Figure 18 illustrates compliance rates with time standards.

Figure 18. Compliance with Time Standards

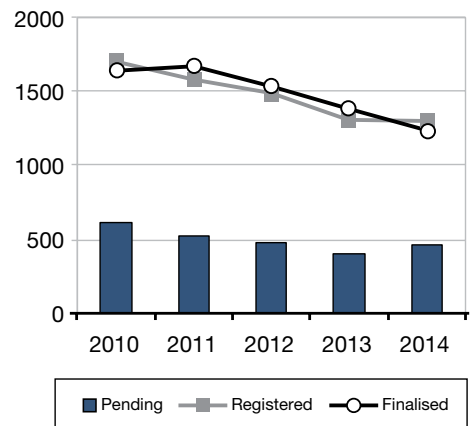


CONVICTION APPEALS

There were **1,301** conviction appeals lodged in 2014 and **1,238** finalisations. At the end of the year there were **470** conviction appeals pending, compared to **407** at the end of 2013.

Figure 19 tracks the conviction appeal caseload for the last 5 years.

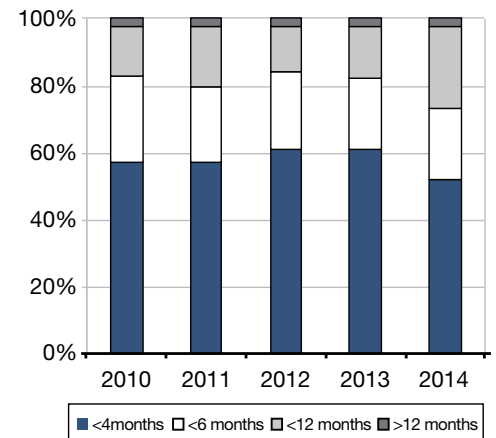
Figure 19. Conviction Appeals Caseload



The ideal time standard from lodgement to finalisation is 4 months in **90%** of cases, with **100%** being completed within 12 months.

Figure 20 illustrates compliance rates with time standards.

Figure 20. Compliance with Time Standards

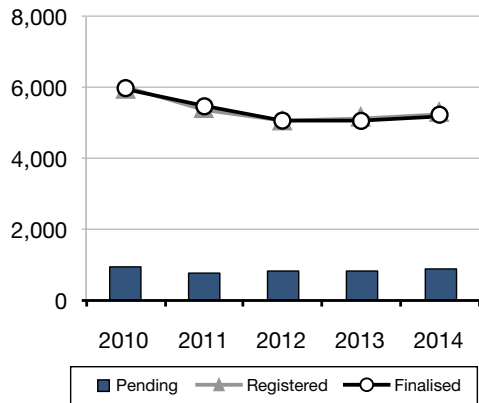


SENTENCE APPEALS

There were **5,276** sentence appeals lodged in 2014 and **5,218** finalised. At the end of the year there were **895** sentence appeals pending, compared to **837** at the end of 2013.

Figure 21 tracks the sentence appeals caseload for the last 5 years.

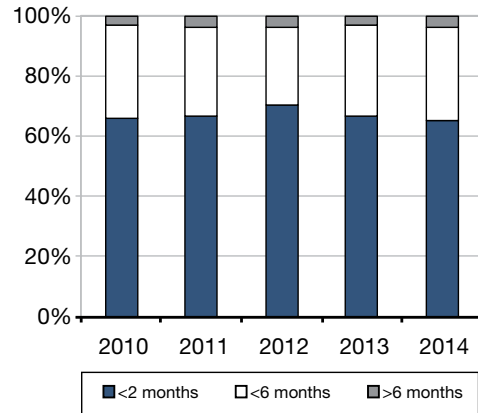
Figure 21. Sentence Appeals Caseload



The ideal time standard from lodgement to finalisation for sentence appeals is 2 months in **90%** of cases, with **100%** being completed within 6 months.

Figure 22 illustrates compliance rates with time standards.

Figure 22. Compliance with Time Standards



JUDICIAL RESOURCES

- Allocated Sitings
- Actual Sitings



Allocated Sittings

Table 4 sets out the number of judicial sitting weeks allocated in 2014 as published in the Court's Calendar of Sittings.

Table 4. Sitting Allocations

Location	Jurisdiction	No. of Weeks	Judge EFT	%
Sydney	Criminal	861	21.2	34%
	Civil	703	17.3	28%
Sydney West	Criminal	433	10.7	17%
	Civil	15	0.4	1%
Major Country	Criminal	288	7.1	11%
	Civil	40	1.0	2%
Other Venues	Criminal	156	3.8	6%
	Civil	31	0.8	1%
Total	Criminal	1,738	42.8	69%
	Civil	789	19.4	31%
All		2,527	62.2	100%

Judge EFT is calculated at 40.6 sitting weeks p.a. – i.e. 52 weeks less judicial vacations, public holidays and Annual Judges' Conference.

Actual Sittings

Table 5 sets out the number of days actually sat by the court in 2014 converted into weeks (by dividing the number of days by 5).

Table 5. Actual Sittings

Location	Jurisdiction	No. of Weeks	Judge EFT	%
Sydney	Criminal	915	22.5	38%
	Civil	544	13.4	23%
Sydney West	Criminal	420	10.3	18%
	Civil	8	0.2	0%
Major Country	Criminal	275	6.8	12%
	Civil	23	0.6	1%
Other Venues	Criminal	161	4.0	7%
	Civil	35	0.9	1%
Total	Criminal	1,771	43.6	74%
	Civil	610	15.0	26%
All		2,381	58.6	100%

Judge EFT is calculated at 40.6 sitting weeks p.a. – i.e. 52 weeks less judicial vacations, public holidays and Annual Judges' Conference.

COMPARISON WITH 2013

Overall, there was a decrease of **7** weeks for sittings in 2014 compared to 2013. This included **7** extra weeks of criminal sittings and a reduction of **14** weeks of civil sittings.

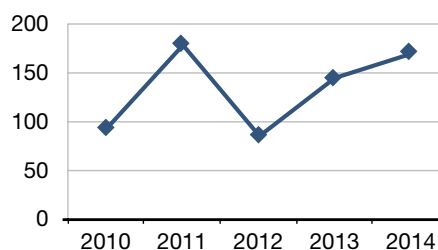
The increase in criminal sittings was due to an increase in pending workload

ACTING JUDGES

Acting Judges provided an extra **846** days of actual sitting. Based on the maximum of **40.6** sitting weeks per year for a permanent judge, this equated to **4.2** additional judges.

Figure 23 below shows the fluctuations in the number of Acting Judge weeks attained since 2010.

Figure 23. Acting Judge Weeks



SITTING DETAILS

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

Table 6. Acting Judges Sitting Days 2014


	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	TOTAL
Ashford			5			5				12	2		24
Black						5							5
Christie				17	6	14	8	9	14		1		69
Delaney									4	5	2	10	21
Freeman	1			1	1								3
Garling	2	12	7	3		9	19	25	20	17	14	11	139
Graham		1	8	8	2	10	8	1	1	11	15	15	80
Hosking			2	1		11	4	1		1		5	25
Madgwick		4	8		9	14	11	10	4	15	20	15	110
Marien						6	1	18		3	15	11	54
O'Connor									10	2	5	10	27
Phegan		17			3	20		4	8		7	5	64
Sidis		7	1								4		12
Solomon	1	2	10	11	11	12	5	25	3	11		3	94
Walmsley		8	8		12					5	8		41
Williams	2	4	3	13	18	8	1	6	20		1	2	78
Total days	6	55	52	54	62	114	57	99	84	82	94	87	846
Average days per Acting Judge 2014													53

Table 7. District Court Sitings 2014

	ALLOCATED (weeks)		AVAILABLE (days)		ACTUALLY SAT (days)		* AVERAGE RECORDED HOURS	
	CRIME	CIVIL	CRIME	CIVIL	CRIME	CIVIL	CRIME	CIVIL
Sydney	861	703	4,179	3,320	4,575	2,721	4.18	3.22
Campbelltown	88	0	426	0	397	0	4.17	0.00
Parramatta	319	15	1,541	73	1,572	40	4.35	4.05
Penrith	26	0	130	24	130	0	4.35	0.00
Sydney West Total	433	15	2,097	97	2,099	40	4.32	4.05
Gosford	51	4	248	20	249	21	3.95	4.48
Newcastle	75	22	359	109	397	131	4.12	3.70
Wollongong	30	5	143	25	160	23	3.71	4.39
O/S total	156	31	750	154	806	175	3.99	3.89
Albury	12	3	59	14	57	9	4.51	3.89
Armidale	12	2	60	10	64	4	5.20	2.75
Bathurst	11	2	54	10	46	5	4.76	0.00
Bega	8	0	40	0	36	0	4.42	0.00
Bourke	3	0	15	0	12	0	5.00	0.00
Broken Hill	6	1	30	5	30	0	4.13	0.00
Coffs Harbour	19	3	93	15	90	7	4.16	3.29
Coonamble	3	0	15	0	11	0	5.00	0.00
Dubbo	39	3	188	15	179	7	4.10	0.00
Goulburn	8	0	40	0	41	0	4.95	0.00
Grafton	5	0	25	0	27	0	5.63	0.00
Griffith	12	2	59	10	50	1	4.52	0.00
Lismore	39	8	189	40	186	38	5.09	4.53
Moree	4	0	25	0	19	0	5.68	0.00
Nowra	15	1	74	5	64	0	4.55	0.00
Orange	6	2	30	10	27	10	4.67	5.00
Parkes	4	0	20	0	18	0	3.94	0.00
Port Macquarie	24	2	118	10	118	9	4.19	4.33
Queanbeyan	8	2	40	10	43	0	4.67	0.00
Tamworth	14	1	70	5	67	4	4.82	4.75
Taree	15	3	75	14	75	11	4.68	3.64
Wagga Wagga	21	5	104	25	116	12	4.20	4.75
Country Total	288	40	1,423	198	1,376	117	4.57	4.09
State Total	1,738	789	8,449	3,769	8,856	3,053	4.26	3.30

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

ANNEXURES

- Annexure A – Civil Caseload
 - Annexure B – Criminal Caseload
 - Annexure C – Compliance with Criminal Time Standards
 - Annexure D – Court Committees
- 

Annexure A1

Civil Caseload

	Registered			Disposed			Pending		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
Sydney CML	3,225	3,437	3,286	3,393	3,188	3,268	3,824	4,071	4,099
Residual Jurisdiction	354	319	323	310	337	277	191	173	219
Parramatta	162	141	150	167	175	128	189	154	175
Penrith	32	43	7	41	38	28	45	51	30
Liverpool	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Campbelltown	4	3	2	4	4	3	3	2	1
Sydney West	198	187	159	212	217	159	237	207	206
Newcastle	250	264	238	275	250	265	299	312	284
Gosford	63	83	83	64	58	87	88	114	110
Wollongong	124	118	134	106	122	109	167	164	189
Major Country	437	465	455	445	430	461	554	590	583
Albury	51	30	28	29	54	26	68	44	46
Armidale	14	6	8	17	15	7	17	8	10
Bathurst	16	9	12	14	16	9	25	18	21
Bega	7	7	2	9	10	4	10	7	5
Broken Hill	5	8	6	1	5	5	6	9	10
Coffs Harbour	40	51	36	39	47	46	55	60	50
Dubbo	27	27	7	22	35	17	39	31	21
Griffith	30	18	28	18	13	30	36	41	39
Lismore Region	141	132	120	118	135	125	166	163	158
Lithgow	15	4	11	10	12	19	26	18	10
Maitland	26	11	22	37	18	16	25	18	24
Nowra	22	23	29	49	28	27	31	26	27
Orange	35	26	24	25	29	27	43	40	37
Port Macquarie	43	62	39	39	69	42	61	53	50
Queanbeyan	21	30	18	13	21	30	20	29	18
Tamworth	30	24	25	12	22	29	35	37	33
Taree	34	39	44	32	33	49	52	58	52
Wagga Wagga	78	53	55	112	58	67	108	103	91
Other Venues	635	560	514	596	620	575	823	763	702
NSW Total	4,849	4,968	4,737	4,956	4,792	4,740	5,629	5,804	5,809

Annexure A2

Civil Disposal Times

	Median Delay (mths)			% 'age of Cases Disposed within						% 'age of Pending > 12 mths < 24 mths			% 'age of Pending > 24 mths		
				12 mths			24 mths			2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
Sydney CML	12.1	9.0	12.4	52%	50%	63%	88%	87%	91%	17%	19%	24%	5%	5%	4%
Parramatta	11.0	11.0	11.7	56%	50%	67%	89%	88%	92%	18%	22%	23%	6%	7%	2%
Penrith	13.3	9.0	15.3	39%	71%	39%	93%	97%	85%	15%	18%	65%	3%	5%	9%
Liverpool	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Campbelltown	2.4	3.0	9.1	50%	50%	77%	100%	10%	92%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sydney West	11.3	10.0	12.2	52%	53%	64%	90%	90%	91%	18%	22%	28%	6%	6%	3%
Newcastle	13.5	10.0	11.0	40%	52%	51%	90%	90%	89%	19%	20%	24%	4%	7%	4%
Gosford	12.9	10.5	12.2	41%	50%	54%	88%	86%	83%	22%	25%	31%	8%	12%	10%
Wollongong	10.7	8.0	15.4	54%	64%	36%	88%	92%	77%	21%	35%	18%	6%	13%	11%
Major Country	12.9	10.0	13.1	43%	55%	48%	89%	90%	85%	20%	25%	24%	5%	10%	10%
Albury	11.5	11.0	13.6	55%	59%	46%	86%	87%	82%	17%	36%	23%	8%	6%	18%
Armidale	18.6	12.5	12.5	24%	33%	75%	65%	80%	100%	20%	0%	14%	13%	0%	0%
Bathurst	14.3	16.0	9.9	26%	38%	40%	86%	75%	90%	26%	47%	11%	13%	7%	32%
Bega	16.7	14.5	14.2	22%	40%	0%	78%	80%	75%	11%	17%	33%	22%	17%	0%
Broken Hill	36.3	12.0	17.5	0%	40%	25%	0%	100%	75%	0%	38%	33%	0%	0%	0%
Coffs Harbour	11.8	12.0	13.8	54%	47%	60%	97%	85%	88%	28%	18%	21%	8%	9%	9%
Dubbo	13.9	12.0	11.3	50%	43%	40%	86%	83%	75%	18%	23%	47%	11%	17%	21%
Griffith	10.5	13.0	15.9	44%	23%	31%	61%	85%	66%	9%	54%	26%	9%	5%	21%
Lismore Region	12.6	12.0	17.6	48%	47%	43%	89%	90%	80%	15%	29%	30%	7%	5%	8%
Lithgow	31.7	21.0	14.0	30%	17%	47%	40%	50%	79%	14%	43%	0%	27%	29%	33%
Maitland	12.7	12.0	12.9	43%	50%	65%	70%	89%	80%	13%	44%	13%	4%	6%	13%
Nowra	10.1	12.0	9.5	57%	40%	54%	96%	89%	89%	32%	17%	20%	7%	8%	4%
Orange	17.1	10.0	9.9	36%	62%	39%	64%	93%	85%	8%	44%	16%	8%	9%	16%
Port Macquarie	12.4	11.0	17.6	46%	70%	41%	90%	91%	86%	19%	38%	17%	9%	10%	19%
Queanbeyan	10.5	9.0	14.5	62%	72%	54%	92%	95%	94%	10%	21%	22%	5%	3%	6%
Tamworth	10.9	10.5	10.9	67%	50%	55%	75%	86%	91%	15%	39%	19%	6%	6%	19%
Taree	10.9	13.0	11.3	47%	42%	55%	88%	88%	87%	20%	27%	23%	5%	6%	9%
Wagga Wagga	13.4	15.0	12.2	36%	36%	31%	83%	81%	72%	29%	37%	30%	8%	14%	13%
Other Venues	12.7	12.0	19.1	45%	48%	45%	84%	87%	82%	18%	32%	24%	8%	8%	13%
NSW Total	12.2	10.0	12.6	50%	51%	60%	88%	87%	90%	17%	21%	24%	5%	6%	5%

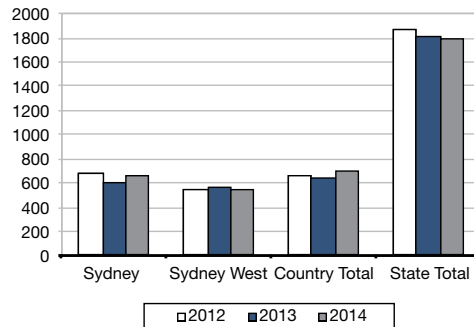
Annexure B1

Criminal Caseload

TRIALS

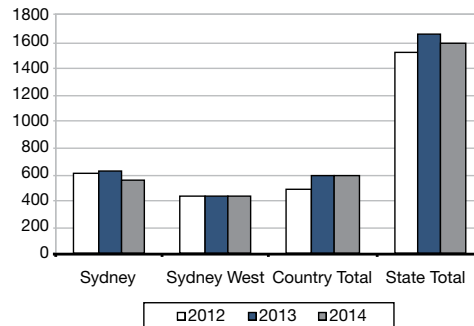
Registered

	2012	2013	2014	13/14 Variant
Sydney	671	605	653	8%
Sydney West	553	563	554	-2%
Newcastle	216	203	234	15%
Gosford	77	53	54	2%
Wollongong	141	124	117	-6%
Lismore	82	120	97	-19%
Dubbo	83	81	97	20%
Wagga Wagga	53	65	91	40%
Country Total	652	646	690	7%
State Total	1,876	1,814	1,797	-1%



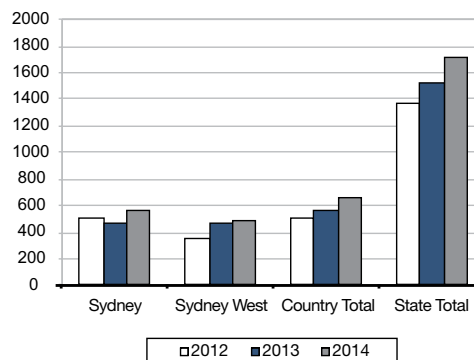
Finalised

	2012	2013	2014	13/14 Variant
Sydney	606	637	563	-12%
Sydney West	433	435	447	3%
Newcastle	156	181	198	9%
Gosford	70	62	55	-11%
Wollongong	105	133	99	-26%
Lismore	52	94	98	4%
Dubbo	61	71	84	18%
Wagga Wagga	49	49	52	6%
Country Total	493	590	586	-1%
State Total	1,532	1,662	1,595	-4%



Pending

	2012	2013	2014	13/14 Variant
Sydney	509	477	567	19%
Sydney West	347	475	482	1%
Newcastle	171	193	229	19%
Gosford	43	34	33	-3%
Wollongong	102	93	111	19%
Lismore	70	96	95	-1%
Dubbo	73	83	96	16%
Wagga Wagga	48	64	103	61%
Country Total	507	563	667	18%
State Total	1,363	1,515	1,716	13%

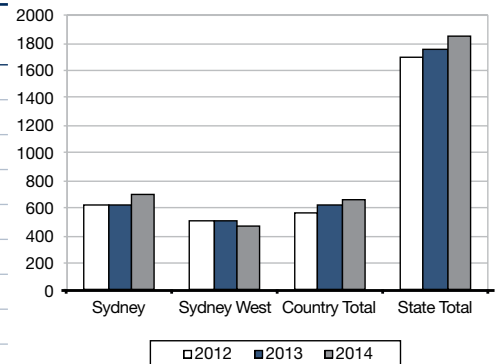


Annexure B2 Criminal Caseload

SENTENCES

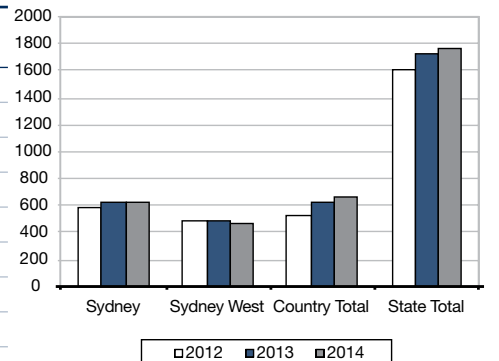
Registered

	2012	2013	2014	13/14 Variant
Sydney	625	619	706	14%
Sydney West	510	505	469	-7%
Newcastle	174	194	203	5%
Gosford	68	79	71	-10%
Wollongong	121	134	128	-4%
Lismore	80	96	112	17%
Dubbo	61	66	81	23%
Wagga Wagga	52	59	74	25%
Country Total	556	628	669	7%
State Total	1,691	1,752	1,844	5%



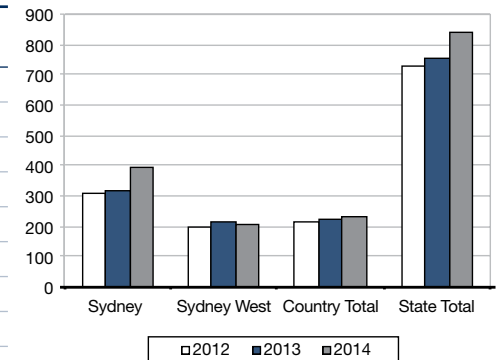
Finalised

	2012	2013	2014	13/14 Variant
Sydney	576	615	625	2%
Sydney West	490	492	472	-4%
Newcastle	174	202	197	-2%
Gosford	65	78	74	-5%
Wollongong	105	121	143	18%
Lismore	81	98	106	8%
Dubbo	60	58	78	34%
Wagga Wagga	49	61	65	7%
Country Total	534	618	663	7%
State Total	1,600	1,725	1,760	2%



Pending

	2012	2013	2014	13/14 Variant
Sydney	314	318	399	25%
Sydney West	200	213	210	-1%
Newcastle	78	70	76	9%
Gosford	25	26	23	-12%
Wollongong	40	53	38	-28%
Lismore	32	30	36	20%
Dubbo	19	27	30	11%
Wagga Wagga	20	18	27	50%
Country Total	214	224	230	3%
State Total	728	755	839	11%



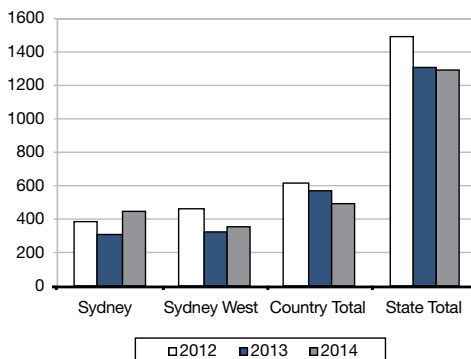
Annexure B3

Criminal Caseload

CONVICTION APPEALS

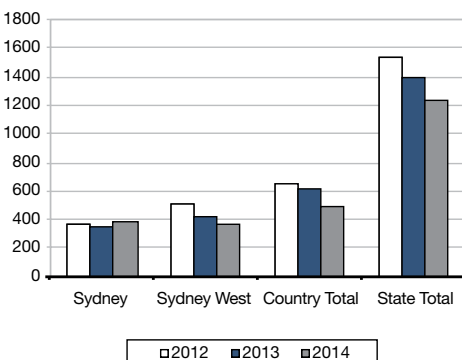
Registered

	2012	2013	2014	13/14 Variant
Sydney	395	312	445	43%
Sydney West	469	324	364	12%
Newcastle	172	196	125	-36%
Gosford	52	53	37	-30%
Wollongong	139	103	84	-18%
Lismore	101	91	101	11%
Dubbo	115	95	100	5%
Wagga Wagga	44	38	45	18%
Country Total	623	576	492	-15%
State Total	1,487	1,314	1,301	-1%



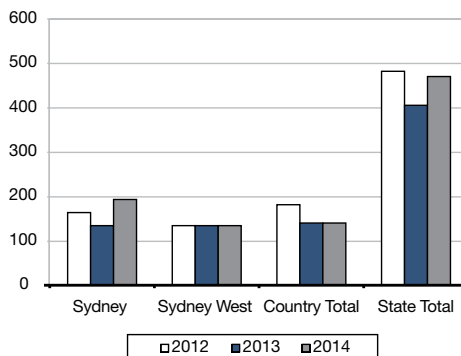
Finalised

	2012	2013	2014	13/14 Variant
Sydney	374	342	386	13%
Sydney West	512	424	362	-15%
Newcastle	152	203	130	-36%
Gosford	48	54	39	-28%
Wollongong	169	109	169	55%
Lismore	105	111	102	-8%
Dubbo	129	100	95	-5%
Wagga Wagga	40	44	38	-14%
Country Total	643	621	490	-21%
State Total	1,529	1,387	1,238	-11%



Pending

	2012	2013	2014	13/14 Variant
Sydney	164	134	193	44%
Sydney West	133	135	137	1%
Newcastle	49	42	37	-12%
Gosford	16	15	13	-13%
Wollongong	32	26	24	-8%
Lismore	45	25	24	-4%
Dubbo	27	22	27	23%
Wagga Wagga	14	8	15	88%
Country Total	183	138	140	1%
State Total	480	407	470	15%

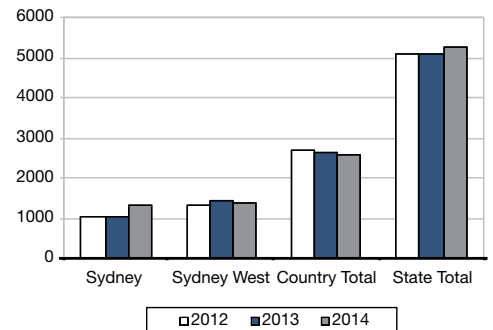


Annexure B4 Criminal Caseload

SENTENCE APPEALS

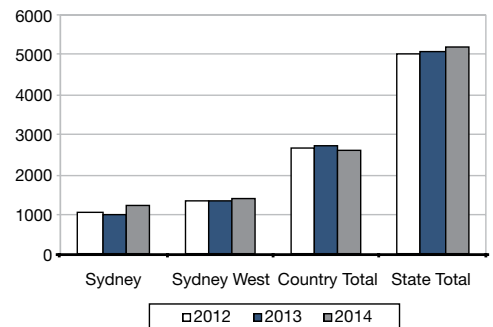
Registered

	2012	2013	2014	13/14 Variant
Sydney	1,065	1,049	1,299	24%
Sydney West	1,296	1,422	1,387	-2%
Newcastle	791	807	763	-5%
Gosford	201	248	272	10%
Wollongong	622	617	536	-13%
Lismore	385	383	440	15%
Dubbo	480	394	360	-9%
Wagga Wagga	225	196	219	12%
Country Total	2,704	2,645	2,590	-2%
State Total	5,065	5,116	5,276	3%



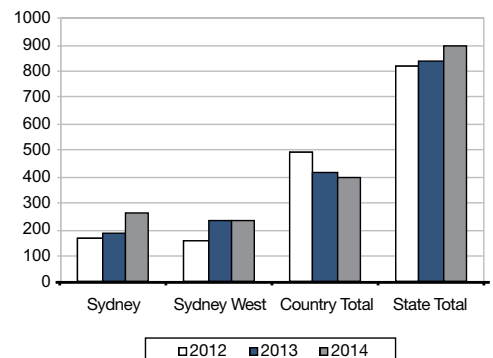
Finalised

	2012	2013	2014	13/14 Variant
Sydney	1,056	1,023	1,222	19%
Sydney West	1,344	1,350	1,388	3%
Newcastle	740	829	778	-6%
Gosford	202	232	276	19%
Wollongong	642	638	529	-17%
Lismore	397	393	427	9%
Dubbo	450	419	385	-8%
Wagga Wagga	218	210	213	1%
Country Total	2,649	2,721	2,608	-4%
State Total	5,049	5,094	5,218	2%



Pending

	2012	2013	2014	13/14 Variant
Sydney	163	189	266	41%
Sydney West	161	233	232	-0%
Newcastle	173	151	136	-10%
Gosford	28	44	40	-9%
Wollongong	77	56	63	13%
Lismore	73	63	76	21%
Dubbo	92	67	42	-37%
Wagga Wagga	48	34	40	18%
Country Total	491	415	397	-4%
State Total	815	837	895	7%



Annexure C1

Compliance with Criminal Time Standards

TRIALS – REGISTERED

Accused Custody												
	Percentage of Cases Disposed within											
	4 Months			6 Months			12 Months			>12 Months		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
Sydney	19%	11%	13%	43%	36%	41%	81%	84%	81%	19%	16%	19%
Sydney West	32%	21%	12%	56%	40%	17%	94%	83%	76%	6%	17%	24%
Newcastle	34%	30%	19%	67%	51%	45%	96%	90%	87%	4%	10%	13%
Gosford	54%	42%	33%	65%	65%	67%	92%	94%	93%	8%	6%	7%
Wollongong	43%	29%	31%	65%	40%	60%	94%	85%	90%	6%	15%	10%
Lismore	33%	24%	19%	53%	45%	38%	97%	88%	92%	3%	12%	8%
Dubbo	18%	17%	7%	48%	41%	23%	88%	86%	80%	12%	14%	20%
Wagga Wagga	21%	9%	29%	36%	35%	36%	71%	78%	79%	29%	22%	21%
Country Total	35%	27%	22%	60%	47%	44%	93%	88%	87%	7%	12%	13%
State Total	28%	19%	16%	52%	41%	36%	88%	85%	81%	12%	15%	19%

Accused on Bail												
	Percentage of Cases Disposed within											
	4 Months			6 Months			12 Months			>12 Months		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
Sydney	10%	8%	8%	33%	24%	25%	79%	74%	74%	21%	26%	26%
Sydney West	25%	16%	11%	58%	27%	15%	90%	77%	61%	10%	23%	39%
Newcastle	10%	11%	13%	46%	26%	31%	85%	77%	71%	15%	23%	29%
Gosford	31%	27%	10%	49%	47%	38%	78%	77%	78%	22%	23%	23%
Wollongong	22%	15%	12%	53%	26%	32%	94%	69%	74%	6%	31%	26%
Lismore	12%	21%	13%	59%	42%	26%	83%	90%	64%	17%	10%	36%
Dubbo	5%	13%	15%	29%	27%	22%	67%	73%	58%	33%	27%	42%
Wagga Wagga	13%	11%	28%	21%	25%	34%	67%	82%	72%	33%	18%	28%
Country Total	15%	15%	14%	44%	30%	30%	81%	77%	69%	19%	23%	31%
State Total	16%	13%	11%	44%	27%	25%	83%	76%	69%	17%	24%	31%

All Trials

	Percentage of Cases Disposed within											
	4 Months			6 Months			12 Months			>12 Months		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
Sydney	14%	9%	10%	37%	29%	32%	80%	78%	77%	20%	22%	23%
Sydney West	27%	18%	12%	58%	32%	16%	91%	79%	67%	9%	21%	33%
Newcastle	20%	18%	15%	55%	35%	36%	90%	82%	77%	10%	18%	23%
Gosford	39%	34%	16%	55%	56%	45%	83%	85%	82%	17%	15%	18%
Wollongong	30%	21%	19%	58%	32%	42%	94%	76%	80%	6%	24%	20%
Lismore	21%	22%	15%	56%	43%	29%	89%	89%	72%	11%	11%	28%
Dubbo	10%	14%	12%	36%	32%	22%	75%	78%	66%	25%	22%	34%
Wagga Wagga	15%	10%	28%	24%	29%	35%	68%	80%	75%	32%	20%	25%
Country Total	22%	20%	17%	50%	37%	35%	85%	82%	75%	15%	18%	25%
State Total	21%	15%	13%	47%	33%	29%	85%	80%	74%	15%	20%	26%

Annexure C2

Compliance with Criminal Time Standards

TRIALS – VERDICTS

Accused Custody												
	Percentage of Cases Disposed within											
	4 Months			6 Months			12 Months			>12 Months		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
Sydney	5%	0%	4%	25%	19%	35%	67%	75%	81%	33%	25%	19%
Sydney West	8%	2%	3%	28%	24%	5%	88%	70%	61%	12%	30%	39%
Newcastle	13%	11%	9%	56%	22%	22%	100%	83%	65%	0%	17%	35%
Gosford	50%	17%	50%	50%	67%	50%	50%	83%	100%	50%	17%	0%
Wollongong	33%	27%	0%	40%	27%	46%	87%	91%	85%	13%	9%	15%
Lismore	29%	14%	29%	57%	57%	57%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%
Dubbo	0%	0%	0%	25%	11%	0%	100%	89%	71%	0%	11%	29%
Wagga Wagga	0%	0%	20%	0%	50%	20%	100%	50%	60%	0%	50%	40%
Country Total	22%	13%	11%	45%	33%	30%	92%	85%	75%	8%	15%	25%
State Total	10%	4%	6%	31%	24%	25%	79%	77%	74%	21%	23%	26%

Accused on Bail												
	Percentage of Cases Disposed within											
	4 Months			6 Months			12 Months			>12 Months		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
Sydney	2%	1%	1%	22%	15%	17%	71%	69%	67%	29%	31%	33%
Sydney West	12%	0%	1%	42%	8%	4%	85%	64%	53%	15%	36%	48%
Newcastle	5%	5%	10%	29%	19%	24%	68%	68%	69%	32%	32%	31%
Gosford	0%	17%	15%	8%	25%	38%	58%	67%	85%	42%	33%	15%
Wollongong	13%	0%	0%	43%	6%	19%	90%	47%	71%	10%	53%	29%
Lismore	5%	4%	4%	47%	42%	15%	74%	83%	56%	26%	17%	44%
Dubbo	0%	6%	10%	0%	17%	10%	33%	50%	40%	67%	50%	60%
Wagga Wagga	0%	0%	13%	8%	0%	13%	46%	67%	75%	54%	33%	25%
Country Total	5%	5%	8%	26%	21%	20%	65%	65%	64%	35%	35%	36%
State Total	6%	2%	3%	29%	15%	15%	72%	67%	63%	28%	33%	37%

All Trials												
	Percentage of Cases Disposed within											
	4 Months			6 Months			12 Months			>12 Months		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
Sydney	3%	1%	2%	23%	17%	24%	69%	71%	73%	31%	29%	27%
Sydney West	10%	1%	2%	37%	14%	4%	86%	66%	56%	14%	34%	44%
Newcastle	7%	7%	9%	37%	20%	23%	78%	73%	68%	22%	27%	32%
Gosford	13%	17%	20%	19%	39%	40%	56%	72%	87%	44%	28%	13%
Wollongong	20%	11%	0%	42%	14%	29%	89%	64%	76%	11%	36%	24%
Lismore	12%	6%	9%	50%	45%	24%	81%	87%	65%	19%	13%	35%
Dubbo	0%	4%	7%	7%	15%	7%	52%	63%	48%	48%	37%	52%
Wagga Wagga	0%	0%	15%	7%	15%	15%	50%	62%	69%	50%	38%	31%
Country Total	10%	8%	9%	32%	24%	23%	73%	72%	68%	27%	28%	32%
State Total	7%	3%	4%	29%	18%	19%	75%	70%	67%	25%	30%	33%

Annexure C3

Compliance with Criminal Time Standards

APPEALS

Conviction Appeals												
	Percentage of Cases Disposed within											
	4 Months			6 Months			12 Months			>12 Months		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
Sydney	53%	48%	44%	84%	78%	72%	97%	98%	97%	3%	2%	3%
Sydney West	60%	59%	44%	84%	79%	65%	98%	98%	98%	2%	2%	2%
Newcastle	79%	78%	65%	91%	88%	79%	99%	97%	100%	1%	3%	0%
Gosford	73%	69%	53%	89%	87%	71%	100%	98%	97%	0%	2%	3%
Wollongong	65%	65%	63%	81%	82%	79%	99%	97%	99%	1%	3%	1%
Lismore	53%	63%	56%	83%	81%	75%	98%	98%	97%	2%	2%	3%
Dubbo	66%	76%	71%	81%	92%	86%	95%	98%	99%	5%	2%	1%
Wagga Wagga	68%	68%	70%	78%	88%	78%	98%	100%	100%	3%	0%	0%
Country Total	68%	71%	63%	84%	86%	79%	98%	98%	99%	2%	2%	1%
State Total	61%	61%	52%	84%	82%	73%	98%	98%	98%	2%	2%	2%

Sentence Appeals									
	Percentage of Cases Disposed within								
	2 Months			6 Months			>6 Months		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
Sydney	78%	76%	73%	97%	97%	97%	3%	3%	3%
Sydney West	77%	71%	67%	97%	98%	94%	3%	2%	6%
Newcastle	56%	55%	55%	97%	94%	95%	3%	6%	5%
Gosford	73%	67%	56%	95%	98%	97%	5%	2%	3%
Wollongong	72%	73%	72%	98%	98%	99%	2%	2%	1%
Lismore	54%	59%	61%	93%	96%	96%	7%	4%	4%
Dubbo	66%	60%	62%	95%	95%	96%	5%	5%	4%
Wagga Wagga	61%	58%	57%	92%	96%	95%	8%	4%	5%
Country Total	63%	62%	61%	96%	96%	96%	4%	4%	4%
State Total	70%	67%	65%	96%	97%	96%	4%	3%	4%

SENTENCES

	Percentage of Cases Disposed within								
	3 Months			6 Months			>6 Months		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
Sydney	23%	27%	18%	67%	67%	61%	33%	33%	39%
Sydney West	23%	19%	18%	77%	74%	63%	23%	26%	37%
Newcastle	35%	38%	41%	78%	78%	79%	22%	22%	21%
Gosford	23%	20%	47%	72%	70%	84%	28%	30%	16%
Wollongong	53%	37%	42%	88%	75%	85%	12%	25%	15%
Lismore	49%	40%	35%	78%	82%	82%	23%	18%	18%
Dubbo	38%	30%	35%	81%	75%	81%	19%	25%	19%
Wagga Wagga	40%	37%	53%	87%	84%	88%	13%	16%	12%
Country Total	40%	35%	42%	80%	77%	83%	20%	23%	17%
State Total	29%	28%	27%	74%	73%	70%	26%	27%	30%

Annexure D

District Court Committees

Chief Judge's Policy and Planning Committee

- The Honourable Justice Blanch AM (Chair until August 2014)
- The Honourable Justice Price AM (Chair from August 2014)
- Her Honour Judge Truss (to August 2014)
- His Honour Judge Neilson
- Her Honour Judge Hock
- His Honour Judge Elkaim SC (from November 2014)
- His Honour Judge North
- Her Honour Judge Woodburne SC
- His Honour Judge Mahony SC
- His Honour Judge Hoy SC
- Her Honour Judge Huggett
- His Honour Judge M Williams SC
- Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar (Secretary)

Rule Committee

- The Hon Justice R O Blanch AM (Chair until August 2014)
- The Hon Justice D Price AM (Chair from August 2014)
- Her Honour Judge Truss (until November 2014)
- His Honour Judge Neilson
- His Honour Judge Robison
- His Honour Judge Elkaim SC (from November 2014)
- Her Honour Judge Olsson
- His Honour Judge Mahony SC
- Mr A Saxton, Law Society of NSW (until November 2014)
- Mr P Khandar, NSW Bar Association
- Mr T Stern, Law Society of NSW (from November 2014)
- Mr J Prowse, Law Society of NSW (from November 2014)
- Mr T Grew (Secretary until November 2014)
- Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar (Secretary from November 2014)

Civil Business Committee

- Her Honour Judge Truss (Convenor to August 2014)
- His Honour Judge Elkaim (Convenor from September 2014)
- His Honour Judge McLoughlin SC
- His Honour Judge Colefax SC
- His Honour Judge Letherbarrow SC
- Her Honour Judge Olsson SC
- His Honour Judge Mahony SC
- Mr P Deakin QC, NSW Bar Association
- Mr L King SC, NSW Bar Association
- Mr T Stern, Law Society of NSW
- Mr J Prowse, Law Society of NSW (from July 2014)
- Ms B Cassidy, Motor Accidents Authority
- Ms J Hall, Insurance Council of Australia (to July 2014)
- Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar
- Ms J Dunn, Civil Case Management and Listing

Criminal Business Committee

- The Honourable Justice Blanch AM (Chair until August 2014)
- The Honourable Justice Price AM (Chair from August 2014)
- Mr R Bromwich SC, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (Commonwealth)
- Ms E Mackenzie, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (Commonwealth)
- Mr L Babb SC, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW)
- Ms S Govind, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW)
- Mr M Ierace, Senior Public Defender
- Ms K Traill, NSW Bar Association
- Mr D Giddy, Law Society of NSW
- Mr R Funston, Legal Aid Commission
- Mr A Coultas-Roberts, Legal Aid Commission
- Ms J Boulos, Legal Aid Commission
- Mr J Styles, Aboriginal Legal Service

- Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar
- Mr R Fornito, Criminal Listing Director
- Ms J Garvey, Judicial Support (Secretary)

Professional Development (Education) Committee

- Her Honour Judge Hock (Chair)
- His Honour Judge Neilson
- His Honour Judge Woods QC
- His Honour Judge Berman SC
- His Honour Judge Zahra SC
- His Honour Judge Lakatos SC
- His Honour Judge Levy SC
- His Honour Judge Elkaim SC
- Her Honour Judge Wells SC
- His Honour Judge Lerve
- Her Honour Judge Culver (from October 2014)
- Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar
- Ms R Windeler, Judicial Commission of NSW (Convenor)

John Maddison Tower and Downing Centre Building Committee

- Her Honour Judge Tupman (Convenor)
- His Honour Judge Kearns SC
- His Honour Judge Driver, Federal Circuit Court
- Ms P Green, Registrar, NSW Civil & Administrative Tribunal
- Mr R Gounder, Asset Management Services
- Mr R Cowburn, Brookfield Multiplex Ltd
- Mr P Ryan, Acting Principal Registrar
- Mr J Howard, Judicial Registrar
- Mr K Breen, Judicial Support (Secretary)

Downing Centre Library Committee

- Her Honour Judge Truss (Chair to August 2014)
- His Honour Judge Berman
- Her Honour Judge Culver (from October 2014)
- Ms V Blackmore, Library Services
- Ms S Ramsay, Library Services

Judicial Commission, Criminal Trial Courts Bench Book Committee

- His Honour Judge Lakatos SC
- His Honour Judge Arnott SC

Judicial Commission, Civil Trials Bench Book Committee

- His Honour Judge Neilson
- His Honour Judge Elkaim SC

Judicial Commission, Equality before the Law Bench Book Committee

- His Honour Judge Norrish QC

Judicial Commission, Sexual Assault Trials Handbook Committee

- His Honour Judge Ellis (Chair)
- His Honour Judge Norrish QC
- Her Honour Judge Huggett
- Dr Judith Cashmore AO
- Mr H. Donnelly, Director, Research & Sentencing
- Ms R Windeyer, Judicial Commission of NSW
- Ms P Buckland (Convenor)

Judicial Commission, Standing Advisory Committee on Judicial Education

- His Honour Judge Lakatos SC

Judicial Commission, Ngara Yura Committee

- His Honour Judge Haesler SC

District Court of NSW
PO Box K1026
Haymarket NSW 2000
Phone: +61 1300 679 272
Internet: www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/dc
ISSN 1834-9978

