

Local Court of New South Wales Annual Review 2014



Local Court
of New South Wales

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Foreword by Chief Magistrate of New South Wales

The performance of the Local Court of New South Wales during 2014 was in part, contradictory. The Court commenced the legal year having been cut by four magistrates in 2013. From July, Government further reduced the number of available magistrates by two, making a cumulative reduction of six. Despite a reported drop in the crime rate the criminal case load of the Court increased by some 14,000 matters. The Productivity Commission identified the Local Court of NSW as the most effective summary trial court in the Commonwealth in meeting its time standards for the 15th year in a row. Such productivity reflects great credit on the magistrates and court staff who have worked tirelessly to manage an expanding criminal case load. Reference to the sitting times of the Court identify the reality that courts throughout the State are sitting for longer periods of time. This is part of the answer to how success is achieved, however, it is not the complete explanation. Reforms introduced by the Court over the last seven years have built a structure that guides parties along a well signposted and effective path towards the resolution of cases within its criminal and civil jurisdictions.

Greater and more effective use of court time however disguises other issues. These issues have to do with the principle of access to justice, a concept that does not entirely focus on productivity but represents the necessary compromise between case load and fulfilling part of the social contract with country people. I believe at this time in the life of the Court it is important to revisit the essence of its being and poorly understood place in the judicial environment. The clearest delineation is to be found in a brief overview of access to justice in country areas.

The role of a country magistrate is very different to that of one located in Sydney, Newcastle or Wollongong. No amount of case management effectiveness can overcome the role geography plays in the professional and private life of a magistrate allocated to a country circuit.

Many locations in rural NSW do not sit on a full-time basis. Whilst their case loads are relatively small, travel to and from such locations is

considerable. By way of example the courts at Bourke/Brewarrina and Walgett/Lightning Ridge have historically been serviced from Sydney. Magistrates assigned to these two circuits would be required to leave their home and families on a Sunday morning, travel by aircraft to Dubbo, pick up a hire vehicle and drive 368 and 277 kilometres respectively in order to be in a position to preside over the courts in question on the Monday morning before returning in the same manner to Sydney on a Friday.

The occupational health and safety issues, tiredness and risk on country roads, particularly at dusk during the winter, led to a decision to locate the two magistrates who service these locations in Dubbo. This provides additional assistance to the Court at Dubbo whilst reducing the inordinate amount of personal time away from family and in travel to and from circuit courts.

I doubt whether the wider community or government truly appreciate the level of demand on the role magistrates perform compared to the more settled arrangements in higher jurisdictions. Bureaucrats who assess the performance of the Court solely on the basis of work in and work completed compound the lack of insight into the complexities of life as a magistrate. Not many people get up at an early hour of the morning to drive 210 kilometres from Broken Hill to preside at a court in Wentworth for the day, or drive 470 kilometres from Broken Hill to Wilcannia and back on the two consecutive days each month because of accommodation and security issues.

This type of environment confronts most magistrates allocated to a country circuit. Whilst the case load at particular locations may be small, courts are part of the social cohesion in a democratic society and their appearance on the landscape contributes to the sense within communities that access to justice is real and their relevance as a community to the common good is not abandoned or overlooked. When we look inside the backpack of responsibilities of a country magistrate it is easier to understand why this may be so. As a community we could be excused for thinking that a magistrate only deals with criminal proceedings. The reality is

more complex. It is true a magistrate is primarily involved in dealing with the largest aspect of jurisdiction, the determination of criminal proceedings, and it is similarly the case that the bulk of civil litigation for money claims is the flipside of jurisdiction. That view is simplistic.

On any given day a magistrate may be required to determine family law proceedings, Commonwealth matters, decide whether a person should be released on bail or detained, coronial matters, domestic and personal violence applications, mental health issues, Children's Court proceedings both in crime and care and protection, extradition proceedings, license appeals, building applications in relation to access to land, environmental proceedings, industrial matters, unsafe workplace prosecutions, and the list could be longer.

Decisions are made, often in a hothouse environment of a crowded court, often with significant social ramifications for families, the lives of children taken from families, reputations, livelihood, social isolation, health and wellbeing, mental and physical health, whether to order an autopsy following the death of a loved one and so on.

The capacity to continue to deliver access to these judicial responsibilities to a consistently high standard depends on maintaining the Court's extensive continuing judicial education and effective mentoring programs. Encouragement to fellow magistrates to communicate regularly with those who work in isolation so that they know they are acknowledged and are caring for their own health and well-being is a well-established part of the Court's culture. The life of a magistrate is more

than just a series of words and numbers on a page of outcome.

During 2014, Government increased the number of cuts to magistrate resources from four to six. Next year that figure is intended to rise to eight. Against this background, reduction in judicial resources challenges the ability of the Court to maintain an adequate level of service to country regions.

The Local Court of NSW already has the lowest ratio of magistrates to population in the Commonwealth. Continually lowering the resources provided will inevitably lead to a loss of capacity to provide the same level of access to justice as is current. When this occurs, the Court may have no alternative than to manage the outcome through a reduction in attendance at some of the smaller courts in country locations, and to do so in a way that is likely to make the current practice of locating the headquarters of a magistrate in the country no longer cost effective or geographically viable. Should that come to pass, the social cost in providing a lesser service may well exceed the purported cost savings to government through a short-sighted reduction in judicial numbers.

This is an issue challenging the Court at this time. If the trend towards decision making in government simply based on measured outcomes without consideration of the impact on communities persists, it is likely in the near future to be one affecting decision making and accountability elsewhere in government.

**Judge Graeme Henson
Chief Magistrate**

1 An overview of the Local Court

- Jurisdictions and divisions
- The Magistrates
- Chief Magistrate's Executive Office
- The work of the Local Court registries

Jurisdictions and divisions

The Local Court is the first point of contact many people have with the justice system in NSW. In order of ascension, the District Court, Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal and Criminal Appeal, and the High Court of Australia follow.

The Local Court deals with a wide range of matters across several jurisdictions. As at 31 December 2014, there were 129 magistrates (121 full-time magistrates and 8 part-time) who preside at approximately 150 sitting locations throughout NSW.

Criminal jurisdiction

The Local Court deals with over 90% of all criminal matters in the State, including the finalisation of charges for summary offences and the summary hearing of particular indictable offences nominated under the *Criminal Procedure Act 1986*. The Court also conducts committal proceedings to determine whether or not indictable offences are to be committed to the District and Supreme Courts.

Magistrates are involved in the majority of criminal proceedings from the time a matter first comes before the court, to the time it is either:

- Finalised by a plea of guilty;
- Finalised at a hearing upon a not guilty plea, at which the defendant is found guilty or acquitted;
- Committed for sentence to the Supreme Court or District Court after a plea of guilty;
- Committed for trial in the Supreme Court or District Court where the matter is to be defended; or
- Withdrawn by the prosecuting authority, and therefore dismissed.

Prosecutions in the criminal jurisdiction include matters that are:

- Brought under Federal law by the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions; and
- Brought under State law either by the NSW Director of Public Prosecutions, NSW Police Force, or Local Councils and regulatory bodies.

When the Local Court deals with criminal matters, depending on the type of offence, a wide range of penalties and sentences can be imposed, such as:

- **Non-custodial sentences**, including:
 - A dismissal or good behaviour bond without a conviction being recorded against the offender;
 - A conviction without further punishment;
 - A fine with conviction;
 - A good behaviour bond with conviction; and
 - A Community Service Order with conviction.
- **Custodial sentences**, including:
 - A suspended sentence, in which the offender is sentenced to imprisonment but is placed on a good behaviour bond. The offender does not serve the sentence of imprisonment unless he/she breaches the conditions of the bond and it is revoked by the court;
 - An Intensive Correction Order, in which the offender serves a sentence of imprisonment 'in the community' and is required to comply with requirements such as a curfew, completion of work, and/or completion of rehabilitative or treatment programs;
 - Home Detention, where the offender serves the sentence of imprisonment in his/her home; and
 - Full-time imprisonment.

Custodial alternatives to full-time imprisonment often involve the offender being externally assessed as suitable before the sentence is delivered.

The maximum term of full-time imprisonment that can be imposed by the Local Court is a term of two years for any singular offence where gaol is the maximum penalty, or an accumulation of up to five years for multiple offences where the maximum penalty for each offence is a term of imprisonment.

Civil jurisdiction

The Local Court also exercises a civil jurisdiction, in which it deals with civil matters where people, companies or business owners may make claims for up to and including \$100,000 for recovery of debts, demands or damages.

The civil case load of the Court is split between two Divisions:

- The **Small Claims Division**, which deals with claims with a monetary value of up to \$10,000. Proceedings in the Small Claims Division are conducted with as little formality and technicality as is needed for the proper consideration of the issues in dispute. The hearing is generally an informal process where the Court considers statements and documents provided by the parties. The parties are also given the opportunity to comment upon the evidence.
- The **General Division**, which deals with claims between the amounts of \$10,000 and \$100,000 (except in claims relating to personal injury or death, where a jurisdictional limit of \$60,000 applies). Matters where the monetary value of the claim is less than \$10,000 may also be transferred to the General Division in circumstances where the issues in dispute are complex, difficult, or of such importance that they should more properly be dealt with in the General Division.

Coronial jurisdiction

All magistrates, by virtue of their office, are coroners. A coroner has jurisdiction to conduct an inquest if a person has died a violent unnatural death, a sudden death cause unknown, or under suspicious or unusual circumstances.

A death must be reported to the State Coroner or Deputy State Coroner where a person dies during the course of a police operation or whilst in custody, and an inquest must be conducted into the circumstances of that death. The State Coroner or a Deputy State Coroner also has sole jurisdiction in relation to deaths of children in care or at risk of harm and certain deaths of people with disabilities.

Coroners also have jurisdiction to hold an inquiry into the cause and origin of fires and explosions where property has been damaged or destroyed.

The State Coroner is responsible for overseeing and co-ordinating all coronial services in NSW.

Industrial jurisdiction

All magistrates were appointed as industrial magistrates in 2013. All new magistrates are appointed as industrial magistrates upon their commission. The industrial jurisdiction deals with such matters as:

- Recovery of money owing under industrial instruments, such as Awards, Enterprise Agreements and statutory entitlements;
- Prosecutions for breach of industrial instruments;
- Appeals from various administrative decisions; and
- Prosecutions for statutory breaches.

The Magistrates

The judicial officers of the Court are the magistrates. The Governor of NSW appoints magistrates pursuant to s 13 of the *Local Court Act 2007* on the advice of the Executive Council.

The *Local Court Act* also provides that the Governor may appoint a Chief Magistrate and Deputy Chief Magistrates.

In 2014, the judicial officers of the Court were as follows:

Chief Magistrate

His Honour Judge Graeme Leslie Henson

Deputy Chief Magistrates

Her Honour Magistrate Jane Ellen Mottley

Her Honour Magistrate Jane Ariane Culver
(until 28 October 2014)

His Honour Magistrate Christopher Gerard O'Brien
(from 3 November 2014)

Magistrates (Alphabetical)

His Honour Magistrate Michael Gerard Allen

His Honour Magistrate John Andrews

His Honour Magistrate Michael David Antrum

Her Honour Magistrate Jennifer Atkinson

Her Honour Magistrate Joan Margaret Baptie

His Honour Magistrate Michael Andrew Barko

His Honour Magistrate Peter J Barnett, SC

Her Honour Magistrate Helen Gay Barry

His Honour Magistrate Glenn James Bartley

Her Honour Magistrate Geraldine Beattie

Her Honour Magistrate Jennifer Ethel Betts (until 4
September 2014)

His Honour Magistrate Graham Thomas Blewitt AM

His Honour Magistrate Geoff Edward Bradd

His Honour Magistrate Dr Roger Alasdair Brown

His Honour Magistrate William John Brydon (until
25 July 2014)

His Honour Magistrate Peter Ignatius Bugden

His Honour Magistrate Mark Buscombe

Her Honour Magistrate Jayeanne Carney

His Honour Magistrate Ian Malcolm Cheetham

His Honour Magistrate John Michael Chicken

His Honour Magistrate Roger James Clisdell

His Honour Magistrate Michael John Connell
His Honour Magistrate James Alistair Coombs
(until 16 November 2014)

His Honour Magistrate Stephen Corry

Her Honour Magistrate Sharron Maree Crews

His Honour Magistrate Graeme Bryan Curran

His Honour Magistrate Michael Gary Dakin

His Honour Magistrate Peter Sampson Dare SC

His Honour Magistrate David Day

His Honour Magistrate David Patrick Degnan

Her Honour Magistrate Robyn Eva Denes

His Honour Magistrate Douglas Raymond Dick

His Honour Magistrate Hugh Christopher Bryant
Dillon, Deputy State Coroner

His Honour Magistrate Mark Antony Douglass

Her Honour Magistrate Susan Mary Duncombe

His Honour Magistrate Geoffrey James Dunleavy

His Honour Magistrate Andrew Ronald Eckhold

Her Honour Magistrate Elizabeth Anne Ellis

His Honour Magistrate Wayne Henry Evans OAM
(until 28 February 2014)

Her Honour Magistrate Clare Joanne Farnan

His Honour Magistrate John Daniel Favretto

His Honour Magistrate Peter Gordon Feather

Her Honour Magistrate Dr Gabriel Catherine
Fleming

Her Honour Magistrate Carmel Ann Forbes,
Deputy State Coroner

His Honour Magistrate Caleb Mark Franklin

Her Honour Magistrate Sharon Claire Freund,
Deputy State Coroner

Her Honour Magistrate Jennifer Anne Giles

Her Honour Magistrate Lee Anne Gilmour (until 3
January 2014)

Her Honour Magistrate Claire Giroto

Her Honour Magistrate Michelle Norma Goodwin

Her Honour Magistrate Harriet Winifred Grahame

Her Honour Magistrate Megan Jeanette
Greenwood

His Honour Magistrate Gregory John Grogin

His Honour Magistrate Ian James Guy

Her Honour Magistrate Christine Mary Haskett

Her Honour Magistrate Estelle Ann Hawdon

His Honour Magistrate David Michael Heilpern
Her Honour Magistrate Nancy Louise Hennessy,
Deputy President of the Administrative
Decisions Tribunal
Her Honour Magistrate Carolyn M Huntsman
His Honour Magistrate Geoffrey Graeme Hiatt
His Honour Magistrate Thomas Hugh Hodgson
His Honour Magistrate Jeffrey Raymond Hogg
Her Honour Magistrate Sharon Lee Holdsworth
His Honour Magistrate Michael North Holmes
Her Honour Magistrate Julie Anne Huber
His Honour Magistrate Timothy Bernard Keady
Her Honour Magistrate Erin Camille Kennedy
Her Honour Magistrate Joanne Mary Keogh
Her Honour Magistrate Georgia Knight
Her Honour Magistrate Daphne Anne Kok (until
12 September 2014)
His Honour Magistrate Derek Jonathan Lee
His Honour Magistrate Jeffrey Alan Linden
His Honour Magistrate Christopher Longley
His Honour Magistrate Terence Timothy Lucas
His Honour Magistrate Leslie William Mabbutt
His Honour Magistrate Paul Anthony MacMahon,
Deputy State Coroner
His Honour Magistrate Ronald John Maiden
His Honour Magistrate Shaughan McCosker
His Honour Magistrate Shane McAnulty
Her Honour Magistrate Margaret Mary McGlynn
Her Honour Magistrate Susan McGowan
Her Honour Magistrate Susan Clare McIntyre
Her Honour Magistrate Louise M McManus
His Honour Magistrate Alexander Mijovich
Her Honour Magistrate Jacqueline Mary Milledge
His Honour Magistrate Richard Peter Miszalski
His Honour Magistrate Paul Raymond Mulrone
(until 7 November 2014)
His Honour Magistrate Terence Anthony Murphy
His Honour Magistrate Anthony Kevin Murray
His Honour Magistrate Bernard Michael O'Brien
Her Honour Magistrate Teresa Margaret
O'Sullivan
His Honour Magistrate Darryl John Pearce
His Honour Magistrate William Grenville Pierce
Her Honour Magistrate Dorelle Pinch
His Honour Magistrate Roger David Prowse
Her Honour Magistrate Margaret Christine Quinn PSM
His Honour Magistrate Robert Scott Rabbidge
His Honour Magistrate Allan Wilson Railton
His Honour Magistrate Daniel Reiss
His Honour Magistrate Mark Richardson
Her Honour Magistrate Karen Robinson
Her Honour Magistrate Paula Mary Russell
Her Honour Magistrate Elizabeth Jane Ryan
Her Honour Magistrate Mary Ryan
His Honour Magistrate Albert John Sbrizzi
Her Honour Magistrate Beverley Anne Schurr
Her Honour Magistrate Suzanne Gaye Seagrave
Her Honour Magistrate Tracy Sheedy
Her Honour Magistrate Annette Christine Sinclair (until
7 February 2014)
Her Honour Magistrate Ellen Skinner
Her Honour Magistrate Lisa Veronica Stapleton
Her Honour Magistrate Karen Elizabeth Stafford
Her Honour Magistrate Janet Christina Ruth
Stevenson
His Honour Magistrate Phillip Douglas Stewart
His Honour Magistrate Gary James Still
His Honour Magistrate Michael Martin Stoddart
His Honour Magistrate Robert George Stone
Her Honour Magistrate Margot Gai Stubbs
Her Honour Magistrate Vivien Margaret Swain
Her Honour Magistrate Katherine E Thompson
Her Honour Magistrate Fiona Gladys Toose
Her Honour Magistrate Jacqueline Maree Trad
Her Honour Magistrate Elaine Maree Truscott, Deputy
State Coroner
His Honour Magistrate Theo Tsavdaridis
His Honour Magistrate Brian John van Zuylen
Her Honour Magistrate Alison Mary Viney
Her Honour Magistrate Janet Wahlquist
His Honour Magistrate Robert Allen Walker
His Honour Magistrate Glenn Kevin Walsh
His Honour Magistrate Bruce Haldane Williams
His Honour Magistrate David I Williams
His Honour Magistrate Robert Hilary Williams
Her Honour Magistrate Eve Wynhausen

Judicial appointments in 2014

Michael O'Brien

After a long established career in private practice, working for several firms as a senior solicitor over the past four decades, Michael O'Brien has been a sole practitioner in practice in North Ryde since 2008.

Mr O'Brien also holds the rank of Group Captain in the Royal Australian Air Force Specialist Reserves. He has conducted routine inquiries for the Australian Defence Force and advised the Force on matters of discipline and administrative law and has also represented an affected party in the HMAS *Success* Commission of Inquiry.

Mr O'Brien is highly experienced and has worked across property law, business law, wills and estates, family law and criminal law. He has also appeared across all levels of court from the Local and Children's Courts to the Supreme Court.

Mr O'Brien was sworn in as a magistrate on 10 February 2014.

David Williams

David Williams has a long established career with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP). First admitted to practice as a solicitor in 1997, Mr Williams' career has reached as far as London where he worked at the turn of the century.

After graduating in law from Wollongong University, Mr Williams tested his legal feet first in property law before moving to environmental law, with experience in wills and estates. His depth and knowledge has seen him work across most of the courts, including Local, District and Supreme.

Mr Williams is an experienced Crown Prosecutor; he is well versed in serious criminal trials and special hearings under mental health.

Mr Williams was sworn in as a magistrate on 10 February 2014.

Katherine Thompson

Katherine Thompson has been a lawyer for 14 years, working primarily as a Local Court advocate for the ODPP.

Ms Thompson has appeared on countless occasions in the Local Court in relation to bail applications, committal and summary hearings and sentencing proceedings. Her experience in the Local Court and her understanding of its processes will no doubt be of great assistance when she takes her position on the bench.

During her time at the ODPP, Ms Thompson has also appeared in the District and Supreme Court, worked as a senior lawyer at the Drug Court and was a senior professional assistant within the Director's Chambers at the time of her appointment as a magistrate.

Ms Thompson has taken a number of secondments during her career. In 2001, she worked for the Criminal Law Review Division of the NSW Attorney General's Department. She also worked as a senior legal officer at the Health Care Complaints Commission between 2006 and 2008.

Ms Thompson was sworn in as a magistrate on 24 February 2014.

Peter Barnett SC

For more than a decade, Peter Barnett has served as the Deputy Senior Crown Prosecutor at Newcastle and has been responsible for the management of 19 Crown Prosecutors attached to the regional offices of the ODPP.

Mr Barnett is a seasoned criminal barrister who has prosecuted some of the most difficult and complex trials to be heard during circuit sittings of the Supreme and District Courts. He has also worked as an educator and mentor within the legal profession, providing guidance and advice to ODPP lawyers in the areas of advocacy, criminal law, evidence, and practice and procedure in the Local, District and Supreme Courts.

Mr Barnett has lectured in criminal law at the University of Newcastle and given presentations to NSW Police, sexual assault counsellors, medical practitioners and community groups. He has performed almost all of this work on a pro bono basis.

Mr Barnett was admitted to the Bar in 1980 and appointed a Crown Prosecutor in 1988. He was appointed as a Senior Counsel in 2007.

Mr Barnett was sworn in as a magistrate on 24 February 2014.

Claire Girotto

Claire Girotto graduated from Macquarie University with a Bachelor in Legal Studies and was admitted to practice law in 1990. Prior to that time, Ms Girotto was an associate to the late Supreme Court Justice Jeremy Badgery-Parker.

Ms Girotto worked for the ODPP for almost a quarter of a century and for the past 11 years she has managed the prosecution services of its Solicitor's Office. She has also served as the managing lawyer of the ODPP's Wollongong regional office.

Ms Girotto was sworn in as a magistrate on 25 August 2014.

Erin Kennedy

Erin Kennedy graduated from the Australian National University in 1995 with a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Laws and has been a Trial Advocate for the ODPP for the past two years, prosecuting in criminal trials and sentencing hearings in the District Court at Parramatta and Gosford.

Prior to joining the ODPP, Ms Kennedy worked as a barrister for 14 years, maintaining a criminal and civil practice. She has also been a solicitor for the Department of Fair Trading and conducted commercial litigation for a small law firm.

Ms Kennedy was sworn in as a magistrate on 8 September 2014.

Philip Stewart

Philip Stewart graduated from University of Technology, Sydney, with a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) in 1996. Mr Stewart has been a solicitor for more than 16 years and a partner at Nyman Gibson Stewart since 2002. He has appeared in all NSW courts as well as the Police Integrity Commission, and the NSW and Australian Crime Commissions.

Mr Stewart also served as a police officer for 14 years, including six years as a police prosecutor. He left the Police Force when he was admitted as a solicitor in 1998.

Mr Stewart was sworn in as a magistrate on 8 September 2014.

Magistrate appointed as District Court judge

Her Honour Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Ariane Culver was appointed as a Judge of the District Court and was sworn in on 29 October 2014.

Judicial retirements during 2014

Her Honour Magistrate Lee Anne Gilmour (retired 3 January 2014)

Her Honour Magistrate Annette Christine Sinclair (retired 7 February 2014)

His Honour Magistrate Wayne Henry Evans OAM (retired 28 February 2014)

His Honour Magistrate William John Brydon (retired 25 July 2014)

Her Honour Magistrate Jennifer Ethel Betts (resigned 4 September 2014)

Her Honour Magistrate Daphne Anne Kok (retired 12 September 2014)

His Honour Magistrate Paul Raymond Mulroney (retired 7 November 2014)

His Honour Magistrate James Alister Coombs (retired 16 November 2014)

The Court was saddened by the death of former Magistrate Scott Mitchell in April 2014.

Acting Magistrates in 2014

The Court could not continue to achieve the outstanding service to the administration of justice that makes it a leader within the Commonwealth without the energy and assistance of acting magistrates. Recently retired magistrates may be commissioned as acting magistrates under s 16 of the *Local Court Act 2007* for a limited tenure.

Acting magistrates are used to preside at weekend bail courts. They may also be used to cover absences on sick leave and extended leave.

Acting magistrates in 2014 were:

His Honour Acting Magistrate Robert Joseph Abood
His Honour Acting Magistrate Peter Frederick Ashton
His Honour Acting Magistrate John Anthony Bailey
Her Honour Acting Magistrate Carolyn Jane Barkell
His Honour Acting Magistrate Leslie Brennan
His Honour Acting Magistrate John Ormonde Crawford
His Honour Acting Magistrate Colin Alan Elliott
His Honour Acting Magistrate Andrew John Benson George
Her Honour Acting Magistrate Lee Anne Gilmour (from 7 April 2014)
His Honour Acting Magistrate Stephen Vaughan Jackson
Her Honour Acting Magistrate Mary Stella Jerram (from 30 April 2014)
His Honour Acting Magistrate Bernard Joseph Kennedy
His Honour Acting Magistrate Brian Anthony Lulham

His Honour Acting Magistrate Paul Lyon
His Honour Acting Magistrate Malcolm MacPherson
His Honour Acting Magistrate John McIntosh
His Honour Acting Magistrate Ian Duncan McRae
His Honour Acting Magistrate Christopher McRobert
His Honour Acting Magistrate Carl Milovanovich
His Honour Acting Magistrate Allan Darroll Moore
His Honour Acting Magistrate Michael Morahan
His Honour Acting Magistrate David Patrick O'Connor
His Honour Acting Magistrate Michael Kevin Price
His Honour Acting Magistrate Mark Robert Shepherd
Her Honour Acting Magistrate Annette Christine Sinclair (from 1 May 2014)
His Honour Acting Magistrate Anthony Alfred Spence
His Honour Acting Magistrate George Zdenkowski

Small Claims assessors in 2014

Small Claims assessors sit at various Local Court locations in the Sydney metropolitan area in the Small Claims Division, which deals with civil claims of less than \$10,000. In other locations Small Claims matters are dealt with by a magistrate.

Small Claims assessors in 2014 were:

Ms Danae Harvey
Ms Janice Connelly
Mr Stephen Olischlager

Chief Magistrate's Executive Office

In 2014, the Executive Office consisted of six staff:

Executive Officer

Ms Jacinta Haywood

Policy Officer

Ms Alison Passé-de Silva (until 3 November 2014); and Ms Caterina Kim (from 8 December 2014)

Listing and Rostering Co-ordinator

Ms Helena Potter

Courts Co-ordinator

Mr Phillip Sutor

Executive Assistant to the Chief Magistrate

Ms Theresa Parkinson

Judicial Support Officer

Ms Linda McRae

The Local Court of NSW has the largest number of Judicial Officers in a summary jurisdiction in Australia. Under the direction of the Chief Magistrate, the staff of the Chief Magistrate's Executive Office provide state-wide administrative support to magistrates and acting magistrates.

One of the primary functions of the Chief Magistrate's Executive Office is to assist the Chief Magistrate in organising and managing the sittings of the Local Court at approximately 150

locations throughout the State. The Executive Office is responsible for the publication of sittings schedules, rosters, Chief Magistrate's circulars, Local Court Practice Notes, listing of cases and collation of statistical information. The Executive Office co-ordinates magistrates' travel across the State to ensure requirements for sittings are met and co-ordinates magistrates' attendance at various conferences throughout the year. The Executive Office also assists the Chief Magistrate in discharging ceremonial functions such as the swearing in of newly appointed magistrates.

Under the supervision of the Chief Magistrate and Deputy Chief Magistrates, the Executive Office is responsible for the day-to-day listing management and co-ordination of the Downing Centre and Central Local Courts, the largest Local Court complex in the State.

The Executive Office also facilitates strategic and effective working relationships with clients and stakeholders. In particular, members of the Executive Office provide advice to and represent the Chief Magistrate on committees and working groups regarding matters that affect the Court, including the use and installation of audio visual and other technology. The members of the Executive Office also assist the Chief Magistrate by providing research and project support relating to changes in legislation and policy.

Further information about the NSW Local Court can be found on the Local Court website at: <http://www.localcourt.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/localcourts/index.html>

The work of the Local Court registries

The Local Court would be unable to operate effectively without the valued assistance and expertise of the many registry staff throughout the State. Each registry provides administrative and clerical support to the Local Court. The Local Court is responsible for dealing with a complex range of matters from different jurisdictions and registry staff are required to have a sound operational knowledge.

Staff at each registry are responsible for checking and accepting various documents filed at the Court, securing and maintaining court records, issuing court process and providing assistance to a variety of court users. A large number of Local Court users are not legally represented and it therefore falls upon registry staff to explain the various court processes in a manner that is easily understood.

Registrars

Registrars are appointed to the Local Court by the Governor pursuant to s 18 of the *Local Court Act 2007*. Registrars have a number of quasi-judicial functions conferred upon them by legislation.

The work of the registrar includes:

- Conduct of call-overs in both the civil and criminal jurisdiction;
- Conduct of pre-trial reviews in civil claims and small claims hearings;
- Issuing of search warrants;
- Determining various applications and motions in all jurisdictions;
- Management and supervision of the court registry;
- Swearing in of Justices of the Peace; and
- Limited responsibilities in relation to births, deaths and marriages.

2 Court operations during 2014

- Criminal jurisdiction
- Civil jurisdiction
- Coronial jurisdiction

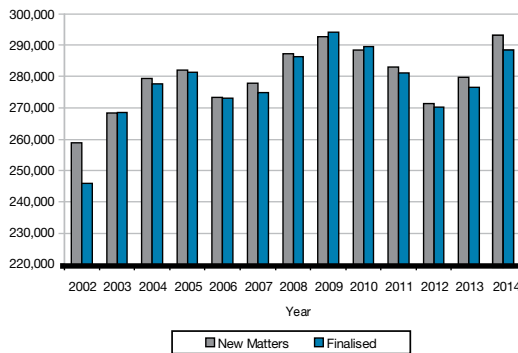
Criminal jurisdiction

Criminal matters in 2014

Between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2014:

- 289,826 criminal matters were commenced in the Local Court, representing an increase of 4.55% from the previous year (compared to an increase of 2.94% in the calendar year of 2013).
- 285,513 criminal matters were finalised, giving a clearance ratio for the period of 98.50%.

Criminal matters commenced and finalised



Note: Due to source differences, no direct comparison can be made between figures for 2009 onwards and previous years.

Timeliness

In accordance with published time standards, the Court aims to finalise 100% of summary criminal trials and indictable matters discharged or committed for trial or sentence to the Supreme or District Court within 12 months of commencement.

In 2014:

- 96.31% of matters were completed within 6 months of commencement.
- 99.47% of matters were completed within 12 months of commencement.

Developments in 2014

Bail law

The *Bail Act 2013* was passed by Parliament in 2013, and commenced on 20 May 2014 following a period for the education and training of judicial officers, legal practitioners, police and court staff. Magistrates took part in seminars on the new Act as part of the 2013-14 judicial education program. Several magistrates of the Local Court also participated in a project, led by the Judicial Commission of NSW, to develop an educational DVD on different procedural aspects of the new bail regime. The DVD was launched in April 2014.

Following the Government's review of the *Bail Act 2013*, the Bail Amendment Bill 2014 was introduced into Parliament and received assent on 25 September 2014. Prior to its commencement on 28 January 2015, the following training sessions on the new amendments were conducted:

- For all metropolitan magistrates, at the metropolitan continuing judicial education week commencing 10 November 2014.
- For acting magistrates who attend to the weekend bail courts, at the education program on 28 November and 12 December 2014.
- For magistrates on country circuits, a video recording provided on YouTube/USB.

Domestic and personal violence

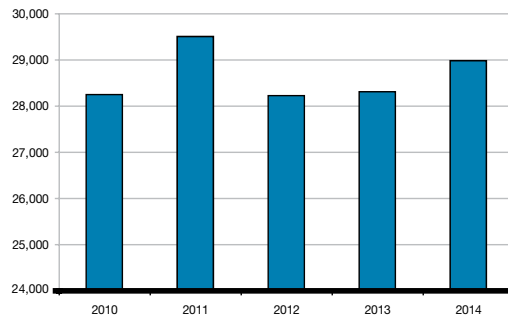
Final domestic violence orders increased from 23,177 in 2013 to 24,293 in 2014. Final personal violence orders decreased from 5,150 in 2013 to 4,724 in 2014.

Apprehended Violence Statistics 2014

Domestic Violence	2013	2014
<i>Lodgements</i>		
Total lodgements*	34,789	31,741
<i>Finalisations</i>		
Final Orders made	23,177	24,293
Complaints withdrawn/ dismissed	8,775	8,032
Complaints dismissed after hearing	447	368
Application not served	221	269
Orders varied/revoked	2,607	2,746
Application to vary/revoke withdrawn/dismisssed	520	672
Total finalisations	35,747	36,380
Personal Violence		
<i>Lodgements</i>		
Total lodgements*	9,062	7,476
<i>Finalisations</i>		
Final Orders made by Court	5,150	4,724
Complaints withdrawn/ dismissed	3,709	2,797
Complaints dismissed after hearing	140	130
Application not served	104	119
Orders varied/revoked	230	167
Application to vary/revoke withdrawn/dismisssed	77	75
Total finalisations	9,410	8,012

* Note: Data as to the breakdown of lodgements into the categories of provisional orders, application notices and applications for variation/revocation was not able to be extracted from JusticeLink for 2014 (and 2013) as in previous years.

Final domestic and personal violence orders



The Local Court acknowledges the important work of, and the assistance received in 2014 from:

- The Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Program that provides support and assistance for applicants in AVO proceedings. Designated rooms and other support services are provided at most courts.
- Police Domestic Violence liaison officers, who provide assistance on list days.
- Community Justice Centres in facilitating mediation of complaints between private parties in personal violence order proceedings.

Domestic Violence Intervention Court Model

The Domestic Violence Intervention Court Model (DVICM) continued to operate in the Local Court during 2014 at Wagga Wagga and Campbelltown.

The DVICM aims to apply good practice in the criminal justice process for domestic violence matters and improve the coordination of services to victims and defendants. By agreement with magistrates, the victim is only required to attend Court on the first mention. There are regular, although not specialist, police prosecutors at both locations. Police are being encouraged and supported to submit high quality briefs to the Court at the earliest stage possible, preferably on the first mention.

Civil jurisdiction

Criminal Procedure Amendment (Domestic Violence Complainants) Bill 2014

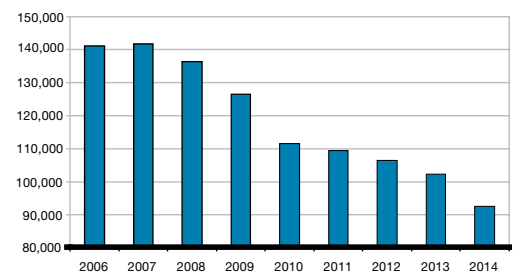
On 28 November 2014, the Criminal Procedure Amendment (Domestic Violence Complainants) Bill 2014 received assent and commenced on 1 June 2015. The Bill provided for the following key amendments, which are now enacted and in force:

- Enabling recorded video or audio statements of domestic violence complainants to be admissible evidence in criminal proceedings for domestic violence offences and in concurrent or related proceedings for applications for apprehended domestic violence orders.
- Enabling the recorded statement of a domestic violence complainant to be used in committal proceedings instead of a written statement.

Civil matters in 2014

In the period 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014, 92,475 civil actions were commenced (decreasing from 102,257 in 2013). 74,766 matters were filed in the Small Claims Division and 13,186 were filed in the General Division. Overall, 100,132 civil actions were finalised.

Civil actions commenced



Note: Due to source differences, no direct comparison can be made between figures for 2009 onwards and previous years.

Timeliness

The Local Court's published time standards provide for the finalisation of:

- 90% of civil cases – within 6 months of the initiation of the proceedings in the Court
- 100% of civil cases – within 12 months of the initiation of proceedings in the Court.

In 2014:

- In the Small Claims Division – 95% of matters were finalised within 12 months; and
- In the General Division – 91% of matters were finalised within 12 months.

Coronial jurisdiction

Developments in 2014

Reduction in civil actions

The gradual reduction in the number of civil actions commenced in the Local Court continued throughout 2014. The Court is unable to identify a single reason for this reduction in filing, although the increased cost of litigation, generally, may provide some explanation.

Recommended changes to the Small Claims Division

In June 2014, the Court made a submission to the NSW Legislative Assembly Legal Affairs Committee Inquiry, Debt Recovery in NSW, recommending an increase in the monetary jurisdiction of the Small Claims Division to \$20,000 with a view to providing more cost effective and efficient access to justice.

On 4 November 2014, the Committee published a number of recommendations, including that the Attorney General:

- Increase the jurisdiction of the Small Claims Division of the Local Court to \$30,000 and that the Small Claims Division be funded and resourced to manage the subsequent increase in cases; and
- Review the fixed costs awarded in the Small Claims Division of the Local Court.

The Government responded on 16 June 2015 and reports that it will consider the above recommendations through the development of the Civil Justice Strategy.

His Honour Magistrate Michael Barnes was appointed as State Coroner from 6 January 2014. The appointment is for a period of five years.

In 2014, the Deputy State Coroners were:

- His Honour Magistrate Hugh Dillon
- His Honour Magistrate Paul MacMahon
- Her Honour Magistrate Elaine Truscott
- Her Honour Magistrate Sharon Freund (shared position)
- Her Honour Magistrate Carmel Forbes (shared position)
- His Honour Magistrate Ian Cheetham (Newcastle)
- Her Honour Magistrate Geraldine Beattie (Wollongong)

Review of the Coroners Act 2009

The statutory review of the *Coroners Act 2009* is currently being undertaken. The State Coroner is working closely with the Department of Justice, Justice Policy, in conducting this review. The review has received a number of comprehensive and wide ranging submissions from interested parties and stakeholders and is expected to be completed in 2015.

Reduction of delays in coronial jurisdiction

The NSW coronial jurisdiction maintained a high clearance rate of just under 98%. Lengthy delays experienced in the provision of post mortem reports from the Department of Forensic Medicine have reduced substantially thanks to the continued efforts of the State Coroner and the Director of Forensic and Scientific Services. This will continue with a view to streamline processes that delay the timeliness of the report.

The Department of Forensic Medicine and the State Coroner's Office are also undertaking an 'End to End Review' of all the processes that interact between the two departments. This review should be concluded late in 2015 and is anticipated to improve efficiencies and communications between the departments that currently exist.

Lecture, talks and conferences

During 2014, the State Coroner and Deputy State Coroners presented numerous lectures and papers to various stakeholders and groups including:

- The NSW Bar Association
- The NSW Law Society
- Barristers Chambers
- The NSW Police Academy
- Forensic Odontologists Course
- NSW Fire Services
- NSW Nurses
- NSW Health
- Law students from Sydney University, the University of NSW and the College of Law

Asia Pacific Coroner's Society Conference

In November 2014, the Office of the State Coroner of Victoria hosted the Annual Asia Pacific Coroner's Society Conference held in Melbourne. The NSW coronial jurisdiction was represented by State Coroner Barnes, Deputy State Coroner Forbes, Mr Don McLennan (Manager, Coronial Services) and Ms Ann Lambino (State Coroner's Court Registrar).

Deaths in custody and deaths during or as a result of a police operation

Section 23 of the *Coroners Act 2009* requires that if a person dies during the course of a police operation or whilst in custody, that death must be reported to the State Coroner or Deputy State Coroner and an inquest must be conducted into the circumstances of the death. A summary of all s 23 deaths is provided to the Attorney General for each 12-month period.

During 2014, 27 deaths were reported pursuant to the requirement of s 23, compared to 43 in 2013.

Children in care or disability deaths

Under s 24 of the *Coroners Act 2009*, it is mandatory to report to the State Coroner or Deputy State Coroner the deaths of:

- Children in care;
- Children who have been at risk of harm in the past three years;
- Siblings of children who have been at risk of harm in the past three years;
- Children whose deaths are, or may be, due to abuse, neglect or occurring in suspicious circumstances;
- Persons living in or temporarily absent from residential care provided by a service provider and authorised or funded under the *Disability Services Act 1993* or a residential care centre for handicapped persons; and
- Persons who are in a target group within the meaning of the *Disability Services Act 1993* and receive from a service provider, assistance to enable independent living in the community.

Whilst s 24 ensures mandatory reporting, unlike deaths reported pursuant to s 23, there is no mandatory requirement to conduct an inquest. Should an inquest be necessary, however, only the State Coroner or Deputy State Coroner may conduct it.

In 2014, 95 such deaths were reported to the State Coroner, compared to 211 in 2013.

State Coroner's Court premises

The current premises at Glebe continue to be an ongoing issue. Despite a joint business case prepared by NSW Health and the Department of Justice for the construction of a purpose built Forensic Services and Coroner's Court facility in Lidcombe, no announcement has been made by Government indicating an intention to commence construction.

The Lindt Café siege highlighted the inadequacies of the Glebe premises in terms of court security, witness and legal professional rooms, court size and IT capabilities. The State Coroner was not able to hold the inquest into this matter at Glebe but was able to source an appropriate court elsewhere at the John Maddison Tower in Sydney CBD.

Domestic Violence Death Review Team

The NSW Domestic Violence Death Review Team was established in July 2010 to systematically review deaths occurring in the context of domestic violence. The scope of the review includes both individual case analyses and the maintenance of a comprehensive database from which research data is derived.

The Team is convened by the NSW State Coroner and is constituted by representatives from 12 key government stakeholders, including law enforcement, justice, health and social services, as well as two non-government representatives and two sector experts.

The work of the Team has continued to progress over the past 12 months including: the development of mechanisms for enhanced data reporting; and positive engagement and negotiation with government agencies to facilitate improved information sharing and access to research tools. The work of the Team has also informed the development of the new Domestic Violence Safety Assessment Tool, and contributed to the development of the Second National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children.

The Team has recently tabled its third annual report, which sets out 23 recommendations derived from a combination of individual case reviews and data trends and patterns. The report also includes a chapter which monitors the uptake of the recommendations made by the Team in previous reports. Furthermore, in light of the Whole-of-Government response to the Second Annual Report, this report also includes a focused data chapter which highlights issues around the deaths of children who were killed by their parents in a context of domestic violence (including in a context of child abuse).

Coroner's Court Statistics 2014

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Deaths reported				
Glebe:	3128	2864	2807	2901
Other statewide:	2566	2505	2533	2709
Total:	5694	5369	5340	5610
Inquests dispensed with*				
Glebe:	3805	2185	2305	3169
Other statewide:	2134	1989	2209	2185
Total:	5939	4174	4514	5354
Inquests conducted**				
Glebe:	215	111	98	103
Other statewide:	75	37	44	37
Total:	290	148	142	140

*The term "inquest dispensed with" does not adequately explain the work of the Coroner in considering whether or not to dispense with the holding of an inquest. In each and every case, the decision to dispense with the holding of an inquest involves a reading and assessment of a sometimes lengthy and complex brief of evidence. Much of the Coroner's time is spent in requisitioning and reviewing material for cases, which ultimately do not proceed to inquest, as well as those that do.

** This figure represents the number of inquests (not inquest days) conducted by the State or Deputy State Coroners only, in Sydney and regional NSW throughout the year.

Fires

Section 30 of the *Coroners Act 2009* gives the coroner jurisdiction to hold an inquiry into the cause and origin of fires and explosions where property has been damaged or destroyed. Generally, fires account for less than 10% of matters reported to a Coroner and much fewer result in an inquiry.

3 Diversionary programs and other aspects of the Court's work

- Diversionary programs
- Technology in the Local Court

Diversions programs

Magistrates Early Referral into Treatment Program

The Magistrates Early Referral into Treatment Program (MERIT) is a pre-plea three-month drug treatment and rehabilitation program based in the Local Court that provides adult defendants an opportunity to break the drug crime related cycle.

MERIT is a Commonwealth and State initiative. Funding is provided through the Australian Health Care Agreement. The Court works in partnership with the NSW Department of Justice, the NSW Police Force, NSW Health, Legal Aid NSW and a network of drug and alcohol agencies in the delivery, expansion and development of MERIT.

The MERIT program is designed to allow defendants to focus on treating drug problems independently from their legal matters. Treatment commences prior to any pleas being entered, with the adjournment of court matters until the completion of the program. Defendants are closely case-managed by the MERIT team throughout the program and the magistrate receives regular reports on the participant. The final hearing and/or sentence proceedings generally coincide with the completion of the MERIT program. Magistrates are then able to consider the defendant's progress in treatment as part of final sentencing.

Magistrates are an integral part of the MERIT process. Undertaking an increased level of judicial supervision is a core element of the program. This may involve additional court appearances for mention to establish how a defendant is progressing and to offer encouragement or admonishment as appropriate. MERIT also relies on many dedicated staff at NSW Health and the Local Court remains committed to this partnership.

During 2014, the program was available in 65 Local Court locations, within all of the State's Local Health Districts. 3,251 defendants were referred to MERIT and 1,996 were accepted on to the program. In 2014, 1,304 defendants successfully completed the program.

Alcohol MERIT

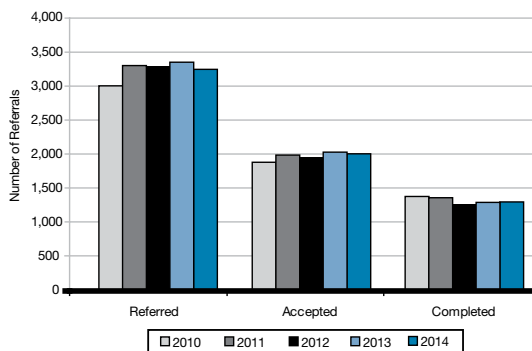
The Alcohol MERIT model is identical to MERIT in terms of eligibility and suitability criteria, referral pathways and court reporting. However, the clinical treatment provided is tailored to the specific needs of defendants with alcohol problems.

In 2014, some courts offering MERIT received additional resources such that defendants whose primary concern was alcohol were also eligible for the program. Alcohol MERIT was available in the following Local Court locations:

- Bathurst
- Broken Hill
- Coffs Harbour
- Dubbo
- Orange
- Wellington
- Wilcannia

The referral, entry and completion figures above and below include Alcohol MERIT participants.

MERIT Program Statistics



It is important to note when interpreting these statistics that the annual number of program completions is not proportional to the annual number of program referrals.

The MERIT program is of three months duration. Some persons referred to the program after September 2014 will still be on the program at 31 December 2014, and therefore not accounted for in the completion figures. Similarly, the completion figures include persons who commenced MERIT from September to December 2013 and completed their contact with the program in 2014.

Circle Sentencing (Circle Courts)

Circle Sentencing is an alternative sentencing court for adult Aboriginal offenders. Based on traditional Indigenous forms of dispute resolution and customary law, Circle Courts are designed for more serious repeat Aboriginal offenders and are aimed at achieving full community involvement in the sentencing process. Circle Sentencing directly involves local Aboriginal people in the process of sentencing offenders, with the aims of making the sentencing process more meaningful and improving confidence in the criminal justice system. It also empowers Aboriginal people to address criminal behaviour within their local communities.

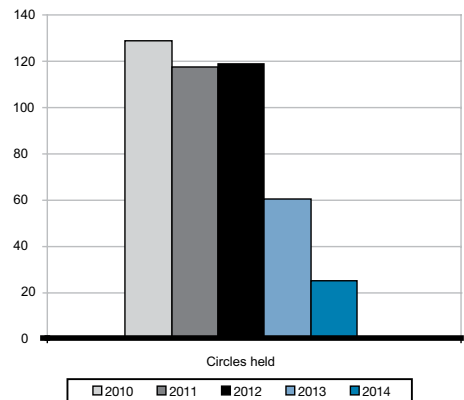
As set out in cl 35 of the *Criminal Procedure Regulation 2010*, the aims of Circle Sentencing are to:

- Include members of Aboriginal communities in the sentencing process;
- Increase the confidence of Aboriginal communities in the sentencing process;
- Reduce barriers between Aboriginal communities and the courts;
- Provide more appropriate sentencing options for Aboriginal offenders;
- Provide effective support to victims of offences by Aboriginal offenders;
- Provide for the greater participation of Aboriginal offenders and their victims in the sentencing process;
- Increase the awareness of Aboriginal offenders of the consequences of their offences on their victims and the Aboriginal communities to which they belong; and
- Reduce recidivism in Aboriginal communities.

In 2014, Circle Sentencing was available in the following communities:

- Armidale
- Bourke
- Dubbo
- Kempsey
- Lismore
- Mt Drutt
- Nambucca Valley
- Nowra
- Walgett

The number of Circles held is dependent on factors including defendants opting to participate, the sentence a defendant is likely to receive, and the appropriateness of defendants to participate due to links to the local Aboriginal community. In 2014, 26 Circle Sentencing matters were finalised.



Forum Sentencing

Criminal Justice Interventions in the Department of Justice manages the Forum Sentencing program. Forum Sentencing is open to eligible adult offenders who have committed offences that expose them to the likely prospect of imprisonment. Certain offences, including serious violence and domestic violence offences and some regulatory driving offences, are excluded.

Forum Sentencing brings an offender and victim together with a facilitator, police officer, support people and others affected by an offence. The group discuss what happened and the harm caused by the offence, and prepare an intervention plan for the offender.

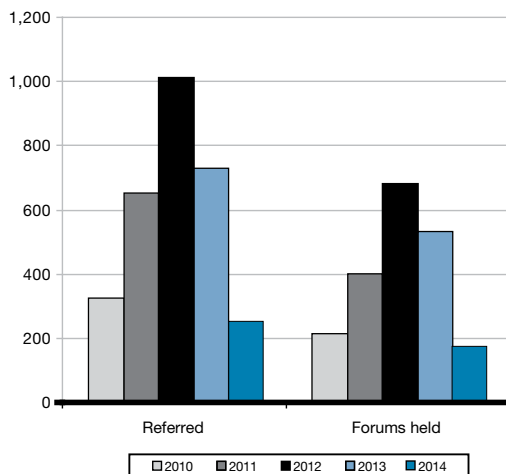
The program is available post-plea and provides magistrates with another sentencing option. An intervention plan may be taken into account by the sentencing court. Completion of the plan may form part of the offender's sentence and include the making of an apology, cash payments, or other reparation to the victim; participation in an appropriate rehabilitative program; and other measures aimed at repairing the harm caused and helping offenders address their offending behaviour.

Forum Sentencing currently operates at:

- Ballina
- Bankstown
- Bellingen
- Belmont
- Burwood
- Byron Bay
- Campbelltown
- Camden
- Casino
- Central
- Cessnock
- Coffs Harbour
- Dungog
- East Maitland
- Fairfield
- Forster
- Gloucester
- Gosford
- Grafton
- Kempsey
- Kurri Kurri
- Kyogle
- Lismore
- Liverpool
- Macksville
- Maclean
- Maitland
- Moss Vale
- Mullumbimby
- Murrurundi
- Murwillumbah
- Muswellbrook
- Newcastle
- Newtown
- Parramatta
- Picton
- Port Macquarie
- Scone
- Singleton
- Sutherland
- Sydney Downing Centre
- Taree
- Toronto
- Tweed Heads
- Wauchope
- Waverley
- Woy Woy
- Wyong

Significant reforms to the Forum Sentencing operating model were implemented in 2014. The new operating model places greater focus on victim engagement and broadens the eligibility criteria to include offenders guilty of less serious offences.

While 82 per cent of Forums were attended by one or more victims, there was a reduction in the number of Forums held in 2014 compared to in previous years. 251 offenders were referred to the program and 173 Forums took place. This number is expected to rise as changes to increase the number of eligible offenders and increase victim participation take effect.



Statewide Community Court Liaison Services

Statewide Community and Court Liaison Service (the Mental Health Liaison Service) assist the Local Court to appropriately manage people with psychiatric illnesses by providing full time mental health nurses at a number of Local Court locations to enable early diagnosis of defendants and facilitate treatment in conjunction with progress through the criminal justice system.

SCCLS operated in 20 Local Court locations in 2014:

- Blacktown
- Burwood
- Campbelltown
- Central Sydney
- Coffs Harbour
- Dubbo
- Gosford
- Kempsey
- Lismore
- Liverpool
- Milton
- Nowra
- Parramatta
- Penrith
- Port Macquarie
- Sutherland
- Tamworth
- Wagga Wagga
- Wollongong
- Wyong

In 2014, 11,202 people were screened for mental health problems in court cells. Of this number, 2,735 received a comprehensive mental health assessment, of which 2,387 were found to have a mental illness.¹

¹ Figures obtained from Justice Health and the Forensic Mental Health Network

In 2014, 211 mentally ill people were diverted (appearing via audio visual link) from custody to the community.

Traffic Offender Intervention Program

The Traffic Offender Intervention Program (TOIP) is targeted at defendants who have pleaded guilty to, or been found guilty of, a traffic offence. A magistrate is able to refer a defendant to an approved traffic course provider on application by the defendant or their legal representative, or on the Court's own motion. A referral is made prior to sentencing, with the proceedings adjourned to allow sufficient time for the nominated course to be completed.

Although traffic offender programs were historically the product of *ad hoc* local arrangements, the Regulations made under the *Criminal Procedure Act 1986* now provide for the referral of offenders to a TOIP.

There are currently six traffic course providers operating in 59 locations across the State to whom referrals may be made.

In 2014:

- 11,509 individuals participated in and 9,572 individuals completed a TOIP (83.2%).
- Driving with a prescribed concentration of alcohol (i.e. drink driving) represented the most frequent offence type (50% of offences). Other categories included speeding (19%), licence infringement offences (12%) and regulatory offences (15%).
- The majority of participants (75%) were male, with the most frequent age group being those aged 20-24 years (27%).

Court Referral of Eligible Defendants into Treatment

The Court Referral of Eligible Defendants Into Treatment (CREDIT) program commenced as a trial program in 2009. It presently operates in Burwood, Tamworth and Quirindi Local Courts.

CREDIT aims to provide Local Court defendants with access to a wide range of treatment options and services to assist them to reduce their likelihood of reoffending. These may include assistance in areas such as accommodation, financial counselling, mental health assessment or drug and alcohol treatment. The program is a pre-plea program with defendants being referred to the program prior to entering a plea, unless referred by a magistrate.

CREDIT Program Statistics

For the period 1 January 2014 until 31 December 2014:

- 282 referrals were made to the program and 264 assessments were undertaken;
- 182 defendants met CREDIT's eligibility criteria and entered the program;
- 135 case management plans were agreed upon and signed by the participant and CREDIT officer; and
- 99 participants successfully completed the service, while 112 participants continue to receive case management.

Technology in the Local Court

Life on Track

In August 2013 a new case management service, Life on Track, commenced in two start-up sites servicing the Local Court at Bankstown, Sutherland, Kogarah, Lismore, Ballina, Casino and Kyogle. Mission Australia delivers the service at both sites.

Life on Track offers person-centred support and case management to eligible and suitable Local Court defendants. The service provides assistance to identify and address the issues that contribute to a defendant's likelihood of reoffending, including by linking defendants with available services and programs in their local area. It also seeks to promote a strengths-based approach through enhancement of social engagement, significant relationships, recreation and pursuit of personal goals.

The strategic plan *NSW 2021: A plan to make NSW number one* establishes as a goal of Government the prevention and reduction of reoffending. To achieve the biggest impact on reoffending, Life on Track targets participants at the highest risk of reoffending with the highest service level at the earliest possible stage. It offers case management for longer timeframes (of up to nine months) for defendants with high support needs or a high risk of reoffending and can be continued beyond the duration of a defendant's court matter.

For the period 1 January 2014 until 31 December 2014:

- 560 referrals were made to the program, and 244 comprehensive assessments were undertaken;
- 217 case management plans were agreed upon and signed by the participant and Life on Track officer; and
- 115 participants completed the service, while 392 participants continued to receive case management.

Audio Visual Link Technology (AVL)

Video conferencing involves the delivery of images and sounds to and from a remote location. The Court's audio visual link is two-way, which enables real time conversations to take place. The benefits provided include a reduction in transportation of prisoners to and from courthouses, especially in regional locations, and increased security. It improves the management of custodial matters within the Local Court and produces significant reductions in recurrent expenditure for Government.

In 2013/14, AVL was used to conduct over 36,000 appearances in the Local and Children's Courts, including 5,352 appearances at weekend bail courts. AVL facilities were available at 411 cross justice agency locations across the State, including the following Local Court locations:

- Albury
- Armidale
- Bankstown
- Bateman's Bay
- Bathurst
- Bidura
- Blacktown
- Bourke
- Broken Hill
- Burwood
- Campbelltown
- Central
- Cessnock
- Coffs Harbour
- Deniliquin
- Downing Centre
- Dubbo
- Gosford
- Goulburn
- Grafton
- Griffith
- Lismore
- Liverpool
- Maitland
- Manly
- Moree
- Mount Druitt
- Newcastle
- Nowra
- Orange
- Parkes
- Parramatta
- Penrith
- Port Kembla
- Port Macquarie
- Raymond Terrace
- Sutherland
- Tamworth
- Taree
- Tweed Heads
- Wagga Wagga
- Walgett
- Waverley
- Wellington
- Wentworth
- Wilcannia
- Wollongong
- Woy Woy
- Wyong

Some of the above court locations were upgraded with advanced technology. The *Justice AVL Consolidation Project* will further expand AVL to additional court locations in 2015.

CCTV – Remote Witnesses

Closed circuit television (CCTV) facilities have also been installed in 84 courts, allowing vulnerable witnesses to give evidence in sensitive matters (such as sexual assaults) from a remote location. This facility is highly utilised and provides some measure of comfort and security to victims of crime.

Data on the use of remote witness facilities was not available for 2014.

Court lists online

The provision of online access to daily court lists for Local Court locations across NSW enhances public accessibility to the Court. Court users are able to access the online facility through the Local Court website or the Online Registry site within Lawlink: http://www.onlineregistry.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/onlineregistry/onlineregistry_index.html

Electronic lodgement

Civil claims

Electronic lodgement of civil claims allows court users to lodge initiating process and file for default judgment. Electronic lodgement results in increased timeliness in court practices and procedures.

Criminal processes

NSW Police are able to interface and upload new cases from Police Charge Management System (COPS) to the Court's case management system, JusticeLink. Electronic lodgement facilities also provide an interface between the Court and NSW Police to enable the updating of an offender's criminal antecedents following a court hearing. This process continues to provide significant benefits to the Court and court users.

Apprehended violence orders (AVOs)

NSW Police are able to file applications for AVOs electronically into JusticeLink, overcoming the need for manual processing by court registry staff. Information about court orders is also electronically submitted to police.

Local Court website

The Local Court website on Lawlink provides access information including Local Court Practice Notes, as well as forms and fees. The website can be found at: <http://www.localcourt.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/localcourts/index.html>

Due to the large number of cases magistrates deal with, the majority of judgments in the Local Court are delivered orally. Selected written judgments continue to be published on the Caselaw NSW website. These decisions can be found at: <http://caselaw.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/>

4 Judicial education and community involvement

- Judicial education and professional development

Judicial education and professional development

The Local Court, in partnership with the Judicial Commission of NSW, provides a relevant and practical continuing judicial education program for all magistrates.

Adult education is most effective when it draws out the adult's experience and caters to individual learning styles. With a focus on tailored learning, our approach involves participants in the learning process and is based on enhancing their skills, attitudes and knowledge in a judicially relevant environment.

Sessions range from orientation programs for new magistrates to specialist seminars on practical matters, social awareness issues and legislative changes. The Local Court offers each magistrate a minimum five days of judicial education each year, with a focus on sentencing, important legal developments, improving knowledge in difficult areas of legal practice and procedure, and the development of judicial skills.

The Local Court Education Committee, composed of magistrates and the Judicial Commission's Education Director, develops each education program based on the identified needs of magistrates. Magistrates are involved in the development and delivery of the education program to ensure its relevance to the judicial role. The Committee's Chair is also a member of the Judicial Commission's Standing Advisory Committee on Judicial Education.

Participants are asked to rate the practical value of each education event to their role as a magistrate. The overall ratings (from an average response rate of 69%) reveal that magistrates find the Local Court's education program relevant and a useful source of knowledge and ideas. While 84% of participants said that the education program enhanced their knowledge and capability, fewer than 1% participants found that the program had little or no relevance to their work.

Conferences and Seminars

During 2014 magistrates continued to receive specialised training tailored to meet their educational needs:

- Permanent magistrates attended 693 days of face-to-face judicial education, an average of 5.3 days per magistrate (exceeding the national standard for judicial professional development which recommends judicial officers attend five days of professional development activities each year).
- The Local Court Annual Conference was held over three days in July 2014 for all NSW magistrates. The program focused on practical and interactive sessions which related directly to the daily work of magistrates. Topics included civil and criminal law updates, the *Evidence Act 1995*, the querulental litigant, Corrective Services' response to Aboriginal offenders, the impact of sexual assault on children, organised crime, unconscious judicial bias and decision making, and the Ngara Yura Program. The Annual Conference received an 89% satisfaction rating from participants, exceeding the target of 85%.
- Smaller, interactive metropolitan and regional seminars were attended by all magistrates. These interactive sessions, structured around discussion and peer-based learning, facilitate the development of judicial knowledge and skills. Topics included the new *Bail Act 2013*, assistance to authorities, access to court information, sentencing, courtroom communication, security, an introduction to Evernote, and complaints to the Judicial Commission. These programs overall received a 94% satisfaction rating from participants.

- Continuing the focus on skills development:
 - All seven newly appointed magistrates attended a pre-bench training session designed to familiarise them with Local Court practice and procedure.
 - Eight magistrates attended a judgment writing workshop to help them develop and refine the ability to write clear, concise, well-structured judgments. Over two thirds of all magistrates have now attended one of these workshops.
 - Six magistrates attended a residential orientation program – this five-day residential program, which focuses on court craft and judicial skills for new magistrates, received a 99% satisfaction rating from participants.
- Magistrates continued to participate in the Judicial Commission’s Ngará 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. Magistrates were well represented in the visits organised by the Judicial Commission to the Aboriginal Heritage Office and Museum at Northbridge, to the Walgett community, and at the seminar on “The Impact of *Bugmy* and *Munda* on Sentencing”.

Education Focus on the new Bail Regime

- In preparation for the commencement of the new bail regime in May 2014, the Court worked with the Judicial Commission to organise ongoing educational sessions and assisted in the development of an educational DVD, *The Bail Act 2013: Selected Scenarios*. This video provided practical insight into new procedures under the *Bail Act 2013*.
- His Honour Magistrate Les Mabbutt, who featured in the DVD, presented a series of scenario-based seminars to ensure that all magistrates could learn about the practical effect of the new *Bail Act 2013* on their work. These sessions provided useful tips and

comments about the new considerations to be made when making a bail determination.

- The Court worked with the Judicial Commission to ensure that the *Local Court Bench Book* was updated to reflect the changes in practice caused by the commencement of the new bail regime.
- In late 2014, magistrates and acting magistrates received additional education about the key changes caused by the *Bail Amendment Act 2014* and how they will affect the work of the Local Court.

Magistrates who attended the Ngará Yura Twilight Seminar: The Impact of Bugmy and Munda on Sentencing

- Her Honour Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Culver
- His Honour Magistrate Mark Buscombe
- Her Honour Magistrate Jayeann Carney
- Her Honour Magistrate Susan Duncombe
- Her Honour Magistrate Joanne Keogh
- His Honour Magistrate Peter Miszalski
- His Honour Magistrate Paul Mulroney
- His Honour Magistrate Chris O’Brien
- Her Honour Magistrate Beverley Schurr
- His Honour Magistrate Theo Tsavdaridis

Magistrates who attended the Ngará Yura Field Trip to Aboriginal Heritage Office and Museum at Northbridge

- His Honour Magistrate Graham Blewitt AM
- His Honour Magistrate Paul Mulroney
- Her Honour Magistrate Beverley Schurr
- His Honour Magistrate Brian van Zuylen

Magistrates who attended the Judgment Writing Workshop

- Her Honour Magistrate Sue Duncombe
- Her Honour Magistrate Estelle Hawdon
- Her Honour Magistrate Carolyn Huntsman
- His Honour Magistrate Tim Keady
- His Honour Magistrate Michael O'Brien
- His Honour Magistrate Mark Richardson
- Her Honour Magistrate Katherine Thompson
- His Honour Magistrate David Williams

Magistrates who attended Orientation

- His Honour Magistrate Mark Douglass
- Her Honour Magistrate Karen Robinson
- Her Honour Magistrate Carolyn Huntsman
- His Honour Magistrate Michael O'Brien
- His Honour Magistrate David Williams
- Her Honour Magistrate Katherine Thompson

Magistrates who attended the Ngará Yura Community Visit to Walgett

- His Honour Magistrate Graham Blewitt AM
- His Honour Magistrate James Coombs
- His Honour Magistrate Stephen Corry
- Her Honour Magistrate Susan Duncombe
- His Honour Magistrate Andrew Eckhold
- Her Honour Magistrate Clare Farnan
- Her Honour Magistrate Harriet Grahame
- Her Honour Magistrate Joanne Keogh
- Her Honour Magistrate Margaret McGlynn
- His Honour Magistrate Brian van Zuylen

Legal education in the community and participation in external bodies

In 2014, magistrates continued to be involved in legal education, with a number of magistrates regularly volunteering their time to preside over College of Law practice hearings and pleas of mitigation.

Magistrates' activities in 2014 are summarised below:

His Honour Judge Chief Magistrate Graeme Henson

Membership of organisations:

Member, Judicial Commission of NSW

Member, Uniform Rules Committee

Member, Judicial Conference of Australia Executive Committee

Member, University of Wollongong Faculty of Law Advisory Committee

Member, Australian Catholic University Faculty of Law Advisory Committee

Speaking engagements and other activities:

Mar Bar Association of NSW, CPD Program – Diversionary and Other Schemes in the Local Court – The Conflict of Ideology

Nov Judicial Commission of NSW Community Awareness Program – Operations of the Local Court

Nov Salvos Legal Lecture

Nov Keynote Speaker, Merit Forum

Conferences and events:

Mar, Oct Council of Chief Magistrates

Apr District Court of NSW Annual Conference

July – Aug Supreme Court of NSW Conference, Wollongong

Her Honour Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Mottley

Membership of organisations:

Member, Ngara Yura Committee

Member, JusticeLink Steering Committee

Member, MERIT Steering Committee

Chair, Marine Appeals Tribunal

Part-time Commissioner, NSW Law Reform Commission

Speaking engagements and other activities:

May, Nov Presentation to Police Prosecutors Domestic Violence Course

Judicial Commission of NSW Community Awareness Program – Bail

His Honour Deputy Chief Magistrate Christopher O'Brien

Speaking engagements and other activities:

Aug	Presentation to Salvos Legal – Local Court Advocacy
Sep	Presentation to St George-Sutherland Law Society – Local Court Advocacy
Nov	Judicial Commission of NSW (Visit by Jiangsu Provincial People's Procuratorate – Civil Jurisdiction of the NSW Local Court)

His Honour State Coroner Michael Barnes

Speaking engagements and other activities:

Dec	Co-presented with His Honour Magistrate Dillon a three-day coronial orientation for new magistrates, National Judicial College of Australia
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His Honour Magistrate Hugh Dillon

Speaking engagements and other activities:

Dec	Co-presented with His Honour State Coroner Barnes a three-day coronial orientation for new magistrates, National Judicial College of Australia
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Recipient, Churchill Fellowship Award (study trip to Canada, the UK and Germany with a view to developing best practice guidelines for coronial practice and the training and professional development of Australian coroners)

His Honour Magistrate Michael Antrum

Speaking engagements and other activities:

Mar	Presentation to Riverina Regional Law Society – “Ethics and Professional Responsibility – A Viking Perspective”
Aug	Participation in Community Consultation on Community Work Orders Scheme, Wagga Wagga
Sep	Presentation to Wagga Wagga City Council – Community Sentencing Options
Nov	Visit to and Review of Junee Correctional Centre
Dec	Presentation to Wagga Wagga Rotary Club – Sentencing Principles

His Honour Magistrate Graham Blewitt AM

Speaking engagements and other activities:

Mentor, Sydney University Law Society Careers Mentoring program

Participant, PhD Research Project, Children and the Criminal Law

Book reviews on International Criminal Law and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia

His Honour Magistrate Andrew Eckhold

Membership of organisations:

Reserve Defence Member, Lieutenant, Reviewing Officer, Royal Australian Navy

Her Honour Magistrate Beverley Schurr

Membership of organisations:

Committee Member, Australian Association of Women Judges

Conferences and events:

May International Association of Women Judges, 12th Biennial Conference, "Justice for All" (Arusha, Tanzania)

His Honour Magistrate Robert Stone

Membership of organisations:

Member, Judicial Conference of Australia

Honorary Member, Law Society of NSW

Member, NSW Bar Association

Associate Member, Cooks Hill Surf Lifesaving Club

Conferences and events:

Feb Opening of Law Term, Newcastle

Feb Speaker, local Newcastle Rugby Club on Current Law Issues

Nov Newcastle Law Society Annual Dinner

Her Honour Magistrate Fiona Toose

Membership of organisations:

Board Member, Rowing NSW

Member, The Law Society of NSW Indigenous Issues Committee

Secretary, Penrith Council Schools' Boat Shed Committee

Treasurer and Public Officer, Penrith Rowing Club Inc.

Visiting Volunteer Lecturer and Tutor, PDHPE Degree, University of Western Sydney Aquatics Program (Kingswood Campus)

Speaking engagements and other activities:

Mar Presenter, "Ethics; A Hypothetical", Law Society Blue Mountains Conference, Leura

Nov Presenter, "Domestic Violence: The Big Reality Check", Indigenous Family Law Pathways Conference (Sydney)

His Honour Magistrate Geoff Hiatt

Membership of organisations:

Chair of the Board, St Paul's Grammar School, Penrith

Her Honour Magistrate Robyn Denes

Membership of organisations:

Treasurer, NSW Magistrates Association

Speaking engagements and other activities:

Oct Judicial Conference of Australia Colloquium, Noosa
Speaker, Domestic Violence Seminars, Clarence Valley, Maclean, Grafton

His Honour Magistrate Roger Clisdell

Speaking engagements and other activities:

Oct Judicial Conference of Australia Colloquium, Noosa

Her Honour Magistrate Elizabeth Ryan

Speaking engagements and other activities:

Mar - July Law Society's Mock Trial Competition
Coach and Mentor, Pymble Ladies' College Team

Her Honour Magistrate Eve Wynhausen

Membership of organisations:

Board Member, Waverley Action for Youth Services

His Honour Magistrate Theo Tsavdaridis

Speaking engagements and other activities:

Mar Chair, Toongabbie Legal Centre's Continuing Legal Education Seminar on "Recent Court of Criminal Appeal decisions and their impact", guest speaker Keith Alder, Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions

Oct Judicial Conference of Australia Colloquium, Noosa

Nov Toongabbie Legal Centre Annual Dinner

Nov Chair, Toongabbie Legal Centre's Continuing Legal Education Seminar on "Urgent Property Issues arising under the Family Law Act", guest speaker John Weaver, Barrister

His Honour Magistrate Terence Lucas

Membership of organisations:

Group 10 Rugby League Judiciary
Chairman, Central West Defence Reserves Support Council
Officer, Naval Reserve Legal Panel

Her Honour Magistrate Susan Duncombe

Speaking engagements and other activities:

Nov Speaker, ANZ Association of Psychiatry, Psychology and the Law, Sydney

Nov Speaker, Aboriginal Family Law conference, Sydney

Conducted Consultative Meetings, Establishment of the NSW Youth Koori Court

His Honour Magistrate Albert Sbrizzi

Speaking engagements and other activities:

Aug Paper co-presented with His Honour Magistrate Mulroney, NSW Legal Aid, Care and Protection Conference

His Honour Magistrate Paul Mulroney

Membership of organisations:

Member, Children's Court of NSW Advisory Committee

Speaking engagements and other activities:

Apr Domestic Violence Matters in the Children's Court, NSW Police Prosecutors

Apr Best Practice when Representing Children, NSW Legal Aid, Child Representation Conference

Apr Advocacy for Child Representatives in the Care Jurisdiction, NSW Legal Aid, Child Representation Conference

May Sentencing Young People, District Court Twilight Seminar

Aug Paper co-presented with His Honour Magistrate Sbrizzi, NSW Legal Aid, Care and Protection Conference

Oct Sentencing in the Children's Court, Children's Legal Service Conference

Her Honour Magistrate Karen Stafford

Speaking engagements and other activities:

Mar – Dec Speaker, Careers Week, Law Students' Association, University of New England, Armidale and Host of Final Year Interns at Armidale Court

His Honour Magistrate Michael O'Brien

Membership of organisations:

Reserve Legal Officer, RAAF Specialist Reserve

Finance Committee Member, Parish Church, Epping

Director of the Board, Oakhill College, Castle Hill

Member, Rotary

His Honour Magistrate Mark Douglass

Speaking engagements and other activities:

Lecture, Advanced Criminal Law, University of Wollongong

Speaker, Law and Arts Graduation, University of Wollongong

Her Honour Magistrate Megan Greenwood

Speaking engagements and other activities:

Apr Assisting Unrepresented Litigants, The Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration Conference

Appendices

- The Court's time standards
- The Court's committees
- 2014 Court by Court statistics

The Court's time standards

The Court aims to finalise its case load in accordance with the following time standards:

Local Court criminal time standards

- 95% of summary criminal trials – within 6 months.
- 100% of summary criminal trials – within 12 months
- 95% of criminal cases where the defendant enters a plea of guilty – within 3 months.
- 100% of criminal cases where the defendant enters a plea of guilty – within 6 months.
- 90% of indictable matters discharged or committed for trial or sentence to the Supreme or District Court – within 6 months.
- 100% of indictable matters discharged or committed for trial or sentence to the Supreme or District Court – within 12 months.
- 95% of complaint summonses – within 3 months.
- 100% of complaint summonses – within 6 months.

Local Court civil time standards

- 90% of civil cases – within 6 months of the initiation of the proceedings in the Court.
- 100% of cases – within 12 months of the initiation of proceedings in the Court.

Children's Court criminal time standards

- 80% of all summary criminal trials – within 6 months and 100% – within 12 months.
- 90% of all sentence matters following a plea of guilty – within 3 months of commencement and 100% – within 6 months.
- 90% of committals for trial – within 9 months and 100% – within 12 months.
- 95% of applications – within 6 months and 100% – within 9 months.

Children's Court care time standards

- 90% of Care matters – within 9 months.
- 100% of Care matters – within 12 months.

Coroner's Court time standards

- 95% of deaths by natural causes, (no brief of evidence ordered), – within 3 months.
- 100% of deaths by natural causes, (no brief of evidence ordered), – within 6 months.
- 95% of deaths dispensed with (a brief of evidence ordered) – within 6 months.
- 100% of deaths dispensed with (a brief of evidence ordered) – within 9 months.
- 95% of deaths proceeding to inquest – within 12 months.
- 100% of deaths proceeding to inquest – within 18 months.

The Court's committees

As at 31 December 2014, committee members were:

Local Court Rule Committee

His Honour Judge Graeme Henson,
Chief Magistrate

Her Honour Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Mottley

Her Honour Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Culver (until 28 October 2014); His Honour Deputy Chief Magistrate Christopher O'Brien (from 3 November 2014)

Mr Paul Hayes, Legal Aid Commission

Mr Warwick Hunt, Bar Association

Mr Michael McTegg, Local Court Registrar

Mr Stephen Olischlager, Local Court of NSW

Ms Johanna Pheils, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

Mr Marcel Savary, Justice Policy

Commander Tony Trichter, NSW Police

Ms Pauline Wright, Law Society

Local Court Education Committee

Chair: Her Honour Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Culver (until 28 October 2014); His Honour Deputy Chief Magistrate Christopher O'Brien (from 3 November 2014)

Secretary: Ruth Windeler, Education Director, Judicial Commission of NSW

Her Honour Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Mottley

His Honour Magistrate Roger Brown

His Honour Magistrate Geoffrey Dunlevy

Her Honour Magistrate Sharon Freund

His Honour Magistrate Gregory Grogin

His Honour Magistrate Ian Guy

His Honour Magistrate David Heilpern

Her Honour Magistrate Julie Huber

His Honour Magistrate Leslie Mabbutt

Her Honour Magistrate Janet Wahlquist

Ms Alison Passé-de Silva, Policy Officer (until 3 November 2014)

Ms Caterina Kim, Policy Officer (from 8 December 2014)

Statute Law Revision and Procedures Committee

Chair: Her Honour Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Mottley

Her Honour Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Culver (until 28 October 2014)

His Honour Deputy Chief Magistrate Christopher O'Brien (from 3 November 2014)

Secretary: Ms Alison Passé-de Silva, Policy Officer (until 3 November 2014); Ms Caterina Kim, Policy Officer (from 8 December 2014)

Terms and Conditions of Service Committee

Chair: His Honour Judge Graeme Henson, Chief Magistrate

Secretary: Ms Jacinta Haywood, Executive Officer

Members: Her Honour Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Mottley

Her Honour Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Culver (until 28 October 2014)

His Honour Deputy Chief Magistrate Christopher O'Brien (from 3 November 2014)

Ms Alison Passé-de Silva, Policy Officer (until 3 November 2014)

Ms Caterina Kim, Policy Officer (from 8 December 2014)

Ethics Committee (ad hoc)

Chair: His Honour Judge Graeme Henson, Chief Magistrate

Her Honour Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Mottley

Her Honour Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Culver (until 28 October 2014)

His Honour Deputy Chief Magistrate Christopher O'Brien (from 3 November 2014)

Local Court Bench Book Committee

Chair: Her Honour Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Culver (until 28 October 2014); His Honour Deputy Chief Magistrate Christopher O'Brien (from 3 November 2014)

Her Honour Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Mottley

Her Honour Magistrate Joan Baptie

Ms Roslyn Cook, Judicial Commission of NSW

Ms Alison Passé-de Silva, Policy Officer (until 3 November 2014)

Ms Caterina Kim, Policy Officer (from 8 December 2014)

2014 Court by Court statistics

	New General Criminal Matters	Finalised General Criminal Matters
Albion Park	1,006	922
Albury	3,298	3,266
Armidale	1,312	1,381
Ballina	1,323	1,324
Balmain	1,781	1,775
Balranald	204	208
Bankstown	7,391	7,230
Batemans Bay	977	980
Bathurst	1,806	1,770
Bega	756	737
Bellingen	289	284
Belmont	2,307	2,457
Blacktown	8,998	9,132
Blayney	105	117
Boggabilla	213	222
Bombala	50	40
Bourke	1,043	1,069
Brewarrina	338	338
Broken Hill	1,412	1,411
Burwood	13,002	12,382
Byron Bay	1,550	1,552
Camden	874	918
Campbelltown	9,048	8,805
Casino	1,050	990
Central	7,780	7,500
Cessnock	1,914	1,845
Cobar	290	288

	New General Criminal Matters	Finalised General Criminal Matters
Coffs Harbour	3,528	3,274
Condobolin	223	224
Cooma	649	643
Coonabarabran	316	302
Coonamble	484	514
Cootamundra	492	484
Corowa	274	290
Cowra	696	687
Crookwell	39	37
Deniliquin	791	754
Dubbo	2,936	3,026
Dunedoo	105	106
Dungog	104	102
Eden	153	146
Fairfield	6,450	6,427
Finley	315	322
Forbes	557	538
Forster	1,432	1,428
Gilgandra	289	299
Glen Innes	455	432
Gloucester	111	105
Gosford	4,838	4,888
Goulburn	2,916	2,794
Grafton	1,545	1,592
Grenfell	23	29
Griffith	2,181	2,197
Gulgong	74	74

	New General Criminal Matters	Finalised General Criminal Matters
Gundagai	295	289
Gunnedah	599	651
Hay	222	224
Hillston	48	42
Holbrook	179	196
Hornsby	1,471	1,796
Inverell	941	905
Junee	116	103
Katoomba	1,409	1,352
Kempsey	1,713	1,692
Kiama	540	504
Kogarah	2,866	2,780
Kurri Kurri	726	732
Kyogle	184	200
Lake Cargelligo	125	126
Leeton	648	661
Lightning Ridge	361	349
Lismore	3,802	3,717
Lithgow	1,209	1,185
Liverpool	10,707	10,606
Lockhardt	0	0
Macksville	773	808
Maclean	695	686
Maitland	3,667	3,708
Manly	4,194	3,855
Milton	487	504
Moama	251	271

	New General Criminal Matters	Finalised General Criminal Matters
Moree	1676	1612
Moruya	287	287
Moss Vale	1,083	1,074
Moulamein	0	2
Mt Druitt	7,770	7,822
Mudgee	962	993
Mullumbimby	253	242
Mungindi	84	89
Murwillumbah	753	765
Muswellbrook	1,400	1,377
Narooma	266	266
Narrabri	796	710
Narrandera	459	482
Narromine	377	384
Newcastle	8,593	8,471
Newtown	3,822	3,752
North Sydney	2,074	2,255
Nowra	2,888	2,828
Nyngan	238	235
Oberon	111	110
Orange	2,435	2,365
Parkes	980	934
Parramatta	18,285	17,477
Peak Hill	116	116
Penrith	4,966	4,536
Picton	958	883
Port Kembla	5,361	4,370

	New General Criminal Matters	Finalised General Criminal Matters
Port Macquarie	2,652	2,572
Queanbeyan	1,975	1,900
Quirindi	273	286
Raymond Terrace	2,974	3,024
Ryde	8	80
Rylstone	102	100
Scone	380	398
Singleton	1,230	1,200
Sutherland	8,582	8,564
Taree	2,520	2,494
Tamworth	2,963	3,117
Temora	245	240
Tenterfield	238	240
Toronto	2,985	2,846
Tumbarumba	75	80
Tumut	494	506
Tweed Heads	3,102	3,080
Wagga Wagga	3,741	3,682
Walcha	76	82
Walgett	738	789
Warialda	45	41
Warren	234	229
Wauchope	300	290
Waverley	7,477	7,411
Wee Waa	122	129
Wellington	625	621
Wentworth	698	695

	New General Criminal Matters	Finalised General Criminal Matters
West Wyalong	289	301
Wilcannia	255	251
Windsor	1,905	1,895
Wollongong	3,543	4,666
Woy Woy	1,118	1,158
Wyong	5,327	5,334
Yass	510	519
Young	844	789
TOTAL	265,959	262,645

Note: some courts' case loads were impacted by temporary closures:

- Penrith: closed from January to June 2014 (spread between Mt Druitt, Blacktown, Katoomba).
- Ryde: cease sitting from January 2014 (redirected to Burwood).

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