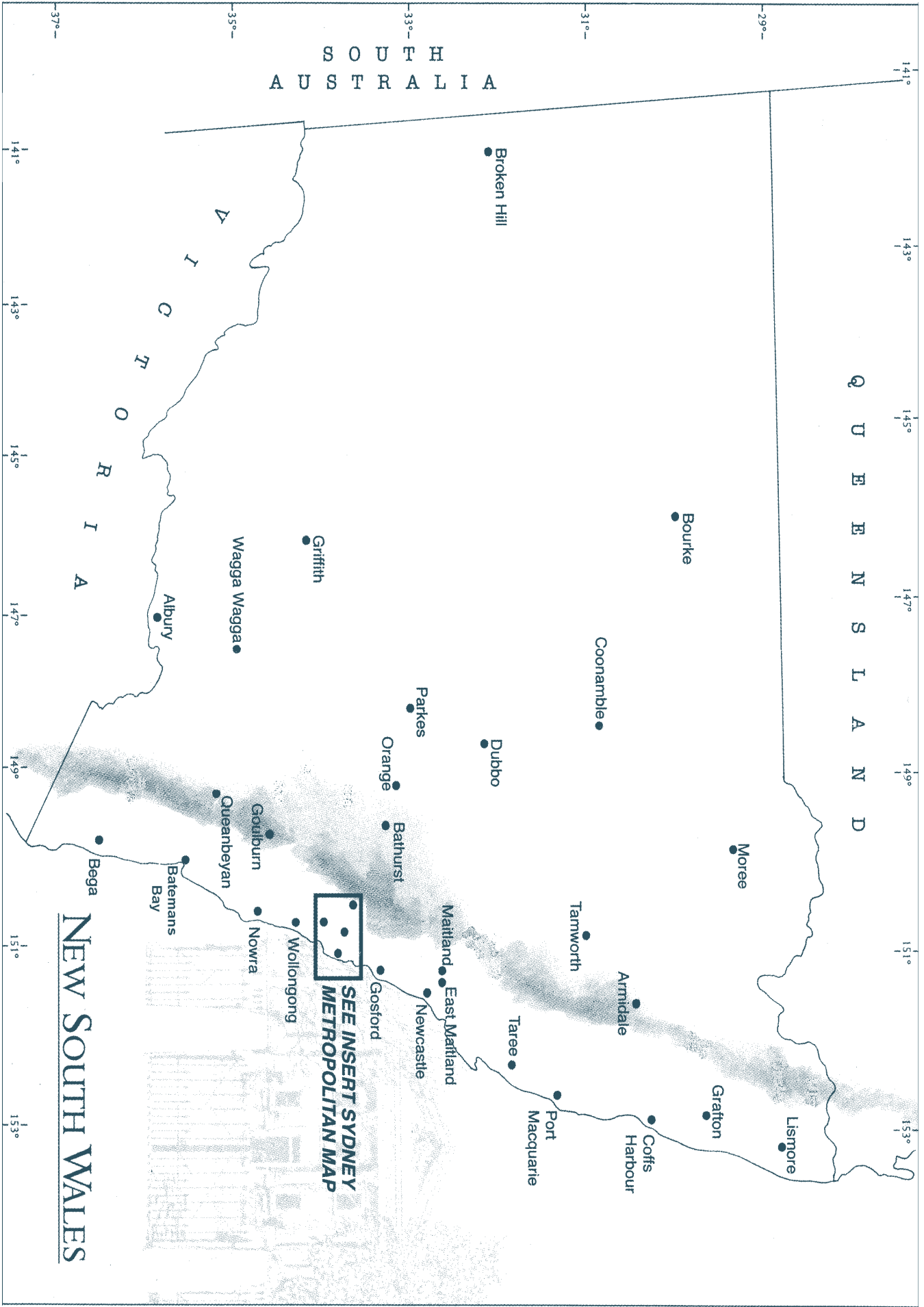




The District Court
of
New South Wales

Annual Review
2007



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

QUEENSLAND

NEW SOUTH WALES

SEE INSERT SYDNEY METROPOLITAN MAP

Broken Hill

Bourke

Coonamble

Dubbo

Parkes

Orange

Bathurst

Gosford

Newcastle

East Maitland

Maitland

Taree

Port Macquarie

Coffs Harbour

Grafton

Lismore

Moree

Tamworth

Armidale

Wagga Wagga

Griffith

Albury

Goulburn

Queanbeyan

Batemans Bay

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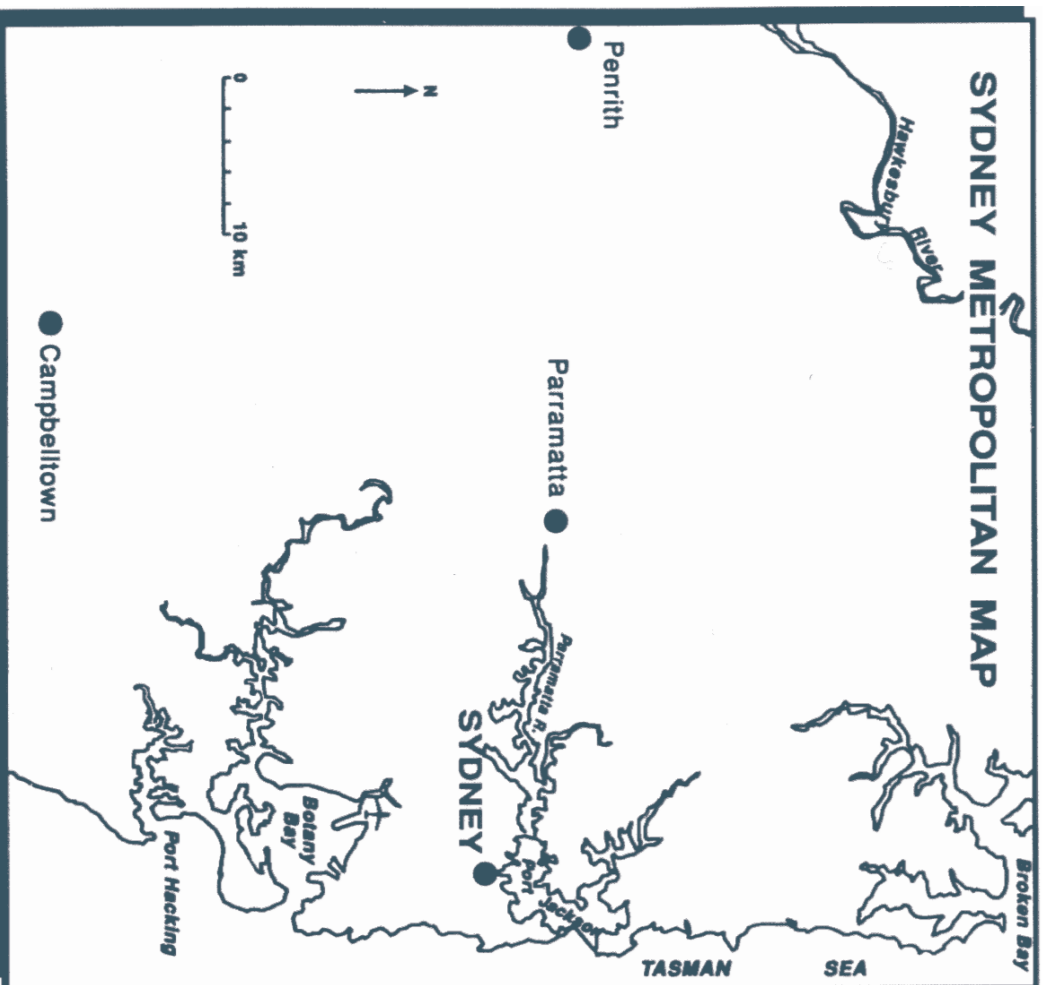
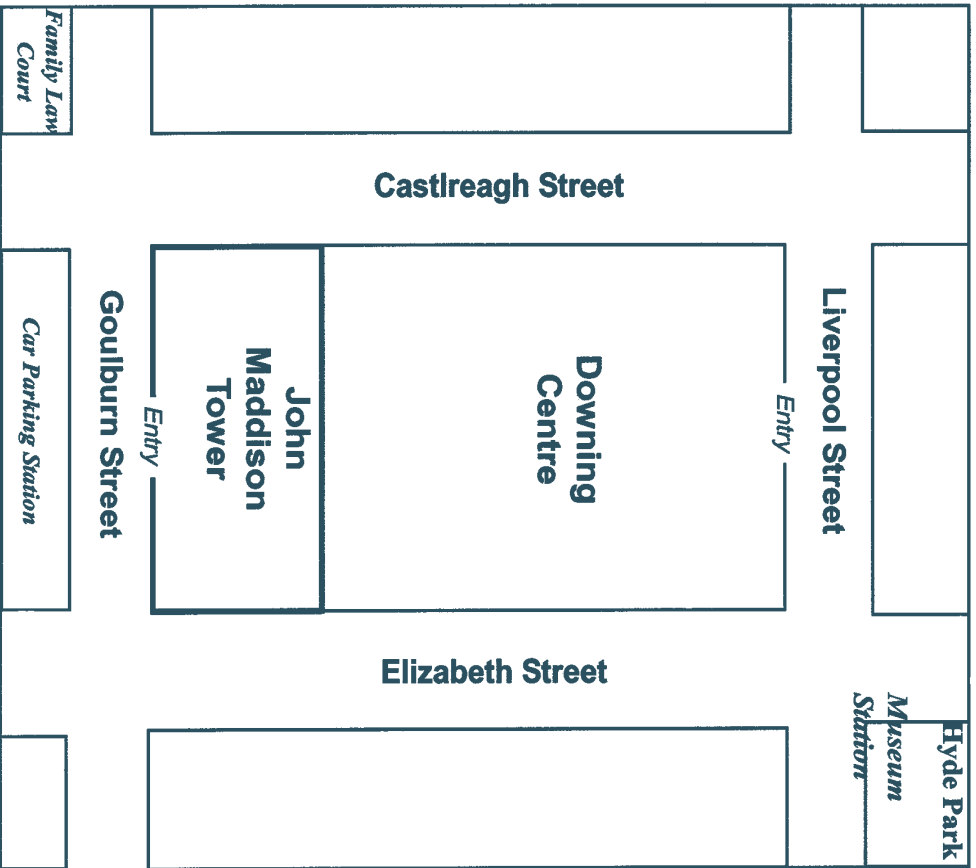
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DISTRICT COURT OF NSW - SITTING VENUES

SYDNEY CBD



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FOREWORD

by
Chief Judge

During the course of 2007 the work of the Court continued to be carried out in conformity with the past practices of the Court and with the Strategic Plan of the Court. In the Courts criminal jurisdiction there was a slight reduction in the number of criminal trials registered and disposed of but the appellate work of the Court remained steady. A significant achievement during the year was the fact that the Court became the first and only trial court in Australia to reach the Australian efficiency standard of not having more than 10% of trials older than 12 months. Indeed throughout the year the Court has been able to give early hearing dates for trials and during 2007 I was able to introduce a Practice Note requiring sexual assault trials to be listed for trial within six months of committal.

Those standards are ones we can meet but of course it requires a considerable amount of co-operation from the prosecuting agencies and the defence Bar. In general terms that co-operation has been forthcoming and I pay tribute to the judges and the legal profession for their co-operation in reaching this landmark position. I cannot foresee anything other than a continued improvement in our efficiency although we have reached a point where the Court is operating in accordance with the world's best practice. I know of no criminal jurisdiction in the English speaking world which delivers justice in a more efficient way and consequently any improvement in our present situation can only be expected to be marginal. The major challenge for the Court in its criminal jurisdiction is to be able to bring the same efficiencies to bear in the country circuits as occurs in Sydney and Sydney West. Problems arise in the country because of sudden increases in work at particular centres. We are attempting to address these problems by way of a centralised callover system for the circuit courts.

That is done by way of a telephone hookup throughout the State each week.

In the civil jurisdiction of the Court there has continued to be a reduction in cases commenced. The fall in registrations was 6% and a decrease in registrations of about that proportion has been consistent over the past few years. As a result we have lost two judge positions. Of particular concern is the fall in registration of civil cases in country areas. In many of our civil circuits the number of cases for hearing is so low that some sittings have had to be cancelled. In order to continue to sit the Court in some civil venues in the country, arrangements have been made to add a civil week at the end of the criminal sittings so that if a criminal trial carried over, it can be concluded and the judge then moves to do the civil cases. The positive news, however, is that the Productivity Commission's Report on the comparative performance in the various States indicates that New South Wales has less civil cases older than 12 months than any other State in Australia.

During the course of the year the Court also prepared a new Strategic Plan for the period 2007-2012. That Strategic Plan addresses questions of access to justice, case management, equality and fairness, independence and accountability and professionalism. The Plan recommitted the Court to achieving time standards for the disposal of cases. The Plan also noted the ongoing commitment to minimising the costs of litigation by the use of technology, the protection of vulnerable witnesses in the trial process and the commitment of finding a more effective way of dealing with aboriginal offenders.

Foreword

I believe the Strategic Plan of the Court is a sound platform for embarking on the future and I have every expectation that the present efficiency of the Court will be maintained.

The Honourable Justice R O Blanch, A.M.
Chief Judge

THE DISTRICT COURT

HISTORY

By the middle of 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 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;
- other claims to a maximum amount of \$750,000, although it may deal with matters

The Court

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

Section 12 of the District Court Act 1973 provides that the Court shall be composed of a Chief Judge and such other Judges as the Governor may from time to time appoint.

The following were the Judges of the Court as at 31 December 2007

CHIEF JUDGE

The Honourable Justice Reginald Oliver Blanch, A.M.

JUDGES

His Honour Judge John Lawrence O'Meally, A.M., R.F.D.*

His Honour Judge Ronald Herbert Solomon

Her Honour Judge Margaret Ann O'Toole

His Honour Judge David James Freeman

His Honour Judge William Harwood Knight

His Honour Judge John Roscoe Nield

His Honour Judge Kenneth Victor Taylor, A.M., R.F.D.

His Honour Judge Anthony Frederick Garling

His Honour Judge Christopher James Geraghty

Her Honour Judge Dianne Joy Truss

His Honour Judge Garry William Neilson

His Honour Judge Christopher John Armitage

Her Honour Judge Margaret Sidis

His Honour Judge Christopher John George Robison

Her Honour Judge Robyn Christine Tupman

His Honour Judge James Patrick Curtis*

Her Honour Judge Helen Gay Murrell, S.C.

Her Honour Judge Deborah June Payne

His Honour Judge Martin Langford Sides, Q.C.

His Honour Judge Robert Keleman, S.C.

Her Honour Judge Anne Mary Quirk

Her Honour Judge Ann Margaret Ainslie-Wallace

His Honour Judge Colin Phegan

Her Honour Judge Linda Margaret Ashford

His Honour Judge Gregory David Woods, Q.C.

His Honour Judge Anthony Francis Puckeridge, Q.C.

Her Honour Judge Helen Jane Morgan

His Honour Judge John Lester Goldring

His Honour Judge Norman Edward Delaney

His Honour Judge Jonathan Steuart Williams

His Honour Judge Kevin Patrick O'Connor, A.M.

Her Honour Judge Jennifer Anne English

His Honour Judge Allan Hughes

Her Honour Judge Susan Jennifer Gibb

His Honour Judge Gregory Scott Hosking, S.C.

His Honour Judge Ralph Coolahan

His Honour Judge Kevin Peter Coorey

His Honour Judge Richard Anthony Rolfe

His Honour Judge James Walter Black, Q.C.

His Honour Judge Robert Arthur Sorby

His Honour Judge Stephen Ronald Norrish, Q.C.

Her Honour Judge Audrey Suzanne Balla

His Honour Judge Michael John Finnane, R.F.D., Q.C.

Her Honour Judge Penelope Jane Hock

Her Honour Judge Judith Clare Gibson

His Honour Judge John Cecil Nicholson, S.C.

His Honour Judge Stephen Lewis Walmsley, S.C.

His Honour Judge Nigel Geoffrey Rein, S.C.

His Honour Judge Anthony Martin Blackmore, S.C.

His Honour Judge Colin Emmett O'Connor, Q.C.

His Honour Judge Peter Graeme Berman, S.C.

His Honour Judge Raymond Patrick McLoughlin, S.C.

His Honour Judge Colin David Charteris, S.C.

His Honour Judge Roy David Ellis

His Honour Judge Mark Curtis Marien, S.C.

His Honour Judge Brian John Knox, S.C.

His Honour Judge Brian Harrie Kevin Donovan, Q.C.

His Honour Judge Robert Allan Hulme, S.C.

His Honour Judge John Roger Dive

Her Honour Judge Deborah Anne Sweeney

His Honour Judge James L A Bennett, S.C.

His Honour Judge Peter Lind Johnstone

His Honour Judge William Patrick Kearns, S.C.

His Honour Judge Paul Vincent Conlon, S.C.

Her Honour Judge Leonie Flannery, S.C.
His Honour Judge Robert Stephen Toner, S.C.
His Honour Judge Gregory Michael Keating
His Honour Peter Raymond Zahra, S.C.
His Honour Richard Dominic Cogswell, S.C.

(* denotes Members of the Dust Diseases Tribunal)

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

The following Judges were appointed during 2007 on the dates indicated in brackets after their name:

His Honour Judge Peter Raymond Zahra, S.C.
(30 January 2007)
His Honour Judge Richard Dominic Cogswell, S.C. (6 February 2007)
Her Honour Judge Leonie Flannery, S.C.
(20 March 2007)
His Honour Judge Robert Stephen Toner, S.C.
(16 April 2007)
His Honour Judge Gregory Michael Keating, S.C.
(5 November 2007)

JUDICIAL RETIREMENTS

The following Judges retired during 2007 on the dates indicated in brackets after their name:

His Honour Judge Terence Fenwick Marley Naughton, Q.C. (16 February 2007)
His Honour Judge Kenneth Peter Shadbolt
(5 February 2007)
His Honour Judge Philip Ronald Bell (1 June 2007)

APPOINTMENTS HELD DURING 2007

His Honour Judge John Lawrence O'Meally, A.M., R.F.D., held the appointment of President of the Dust Diseases Tribunal of NSW.
His Honour Judge Kevin Patrick O'Connor, A.M., held the appointment of President of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal of NSW.
His Honour Judge Gregory Michael Keating held the position of President of the Workers Compensation Commission.

MEDICAL TRIBUNAL OF NSW

The Honourable Justice Reginald Oliver Blanch, A.M., Chief Judge, held the appointment of Chairperson of the Medical Tribunal of New South Wales.

The following Judges held appointments as Deputy Chairpersons of the Tribunal as at 31 December 2007:

His Honour Judge Ronald Herbert Solomon
His Honour Judge David James Freeman
His Honour Judge William Harwood Knight
His Honour Judge Kenneth Victor Taylor, A.M., R.F.D.
Her Honour Judge Margaret Sidis
His Honour Judge Anthony Francis Puckeridge, Q.C.
His Honour Judge Stephen Lewis Walmsley, S.C.
Her Honour Judge Ann Margaret Ainslie-Wallace
Her Honour Judge Helen Gay Murrell, S.C.
His Honour Judge Nigel Geoffrey Rein, S.C.
His Honour Judge Robert Keleman, S.C.

ACTING JUDGES DURING 2007

Section 18 of the District Court Act 1973 provides that the Governor may appoint a person to act as a Judge for a time not exceeding 12 months. The following people held a Commission as an Acting Judge during the course of 2007:

Mr Graham Hamlyn Traill Armitage, Q.C.
Mr Terence Joseph Christie, Q.C.
Mr Geoffrey John Graham
Mr Peter Rex Grogan
Mr Peter John Johns
Ms Angela Jeanne Stirling Karpin
Mr John Cecil McGuire
Mr Joseph Anthony Moore
Mr David Louthean Patten
Mr Brian James Bolton
Professor Leroy Certoma
Emeritus Professor Michael Rainsford
Chesterman
Mr Peter Rex Grogan
The Honorable Barrie Clive Hungerford, Q.C.
Mr Michael John McGrowdie
Mr Neil McLauchlan
Sir Robert Kynnersley Woods, C.B.E.
Mr Ian Barnett
Ms Jillian Orchiston

JUDICIAL REGISTRAR

Section 18FA of the District Court Act 1973 provides for the appointment of a Judicial Registrar.

Ms Catherine Admonisha McDonald is the Judicial Registrar.

VENUES

In 2007 the Court sat permanently in Sydney at the Downing Centre, 143-147 Liverpool Street, Sydney (in crime), where it occupies 17 courtrooms, and at the John Maddison Tower, 86 Goulburn Street, Sydney, where it occupies 22 courtrooms (mostly in civil).

In Sydney West, Judges sat full-time in the Court Houses at Parramatta (4 courtrooms), Penrith (3 courtrooms) and Campbelltown (4 courtrooms). In addition, continuous sittings were conducted at Newcastle, Gosford, Wollongong and Lismore. The places where the Court sat were:

Albury, Armidale, Batemans Bay, Bathurst, Bega, Bourke, Broken Hill, Campbelltown, Coffs Harbour, Coonamble, Dubbo, East Maitland, Gosford, Goulburn, Grafton, Griffith, Inverell, Lismore, Maitland, Moree, Newcastle, Nowra, Orange, Parkes, Parramatta, Penrith, Port Macquarie, Queanbeyan, Sydney, Tamworth, Taree, Wagga Wagga, Wollongong.

COURT STAFF

DIRECTOR COURT SERVICES AND PRINCIPAL REGISTRAR

The Director Court Services and Principal Registrar is Mr Craig Smith, who is responsible for all the Court's administrative operations on a statewide basis. He is the focal point for the delivery of Departmental services to the Court and for promoting and maintaining a collaborative approach with the judiciary in the effective management of the Court.

Mr Smith oversees the provision of the registry services to the Court. He ensures that Government and Court policy are effectively implemented and

proper objectives for the Court and Department are achieved.

In addition, the Director Court Services and Principal Registrar ensures that the various component offices of the Court operate to maximum efficiency and that proper judicial, departmental and community expectations and needs are met effectively.

ASSISTANT REGISTRARS, SYDNEY

The Assistant Registrars exercise quasi-judicial powers relating to interlocutory applications, review of matters under case management and conducting status conferences, call-over of matters awaiting hearing, the examination of judgment debtors, the return of subpoenas and providing procedural advice to the legal profession and the public. They also assist the Judges and the Judicial Registrar in case management of the lists and by providing mediation.

As at 31 December 2007 the Assistant Registrars were:

Tony Grew
Mark Fukuda-Oddie
Mary O'Connell

REGISTRY OFFICE

The Registry Office provides administrative and clerical support to the Court, in a close partnership with the judiciary. It is co-located in the John Maddison Tower and the Downing Centre and consists of a number of components.

CIVIL CASE MANAGEMENT AND LISTING - implements civil case management and listing practices for the timely disposition of cases coming before the Court in accordance with the Court's timetable: schedules cases; prepares lists and allocates courtrooms.

Manager, Civil Case
Management and Listing: Jane Dunn

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.

Manager, Criminal Listings
and Judicial Arrangements: Rob Fornito

CLIENT SERVICES - provide registration, counter, information and enquiry services, undertake post-hearing procedures (including giving effect to Court decisions) and the tracking and storage of files, exhibits and subpoenaed material.

Manager,
Client Services (Civil): Tony Bellia
Manager,
Client Services (Crime): Craig Cooke

STRATEGIC PLAN

In August 2007 the Court introduced its third 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 second Strategic Plan in 2000.

The Strategic Plan articulates the values of the Court and sets out the goals to be achieved over 2007-2012 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.
- The highest standard of excellence in the functioning of the Court.

As in past plans, 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 four major business committees that are accountable to the Policy and Planning Committee. Those Committees are:

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

CIVIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

MEETINGS HELD

The Committee consists of representatives from the judiciary, registry, NSW Attorney General's Department, the legal profession (including the Law Society of NSW and Bar Association of NSW), Insurance Council of Australia and Motor Accidents Authority.

The Committee met on 3 occasions during the year.

ACTIVITIES

1. The Committee monitors the Court's Operational Performance Report. Statistical information is presented at each meeting which includes the number and types of registrations and disposals from the caseload; the percentage of cases 18 months old in the caseload; the number of cases listed before Judges; the adjournments from the judicial hearing list; the not reached rate; the results of pre-trial and status conferences; the listings for and disposals by arbitration; the number of motions listed before and dealt with by the Court; the results of mediations conducted by Assistant Registrars; and the long hearings. Where it becomes apparent that there is a problem in any area of the system in place for the swift and efficient disposal of civil actions by the Court it is dealt with by the Committee.
2. The Committee keeps under review the case managed system, particularly in relation to pre-trial conferences and status conferences. The unsatisfactory standard of representation at pre-trial conferences and the falling percentage of cases ready to take a hearing date from the status conference listing were noted in 2006 as problems which have developed in the

system. These problems have continued throughout 2007. The trial listing of pre-trial conferences at two months after filing in lieu of of at three months after filing initiated in 2006 continued in 2007, however the percentage of cases ready to take to a hearing date from status conference did not improve appreciably. It is becoming a matter of concern that while the Court has an extremely good record of finalisation of cases between 12 and 18 months from commencement, as evidenced by the Productivity Commission's Report which indicated that the NSW District Court was the leader in timeliness of civil non-appeal matters which represent over 99 percent of all civil matters handled in the Court, there continue to be problems with practitioners being ready to proceed from status conference. The Committee continues to monitor and to seek solutions for problems in the case managed system.

3. The Committee provided a forum for the discussion of and for the making of recommendations in relation to a number of matters, which were before the Working Party on the Uniform Civil Procedure Rules. At the 2007 meetings particular attention was devoted to the development of the rules in relation to expert evidence and to the likely operation of these rules in the context of the District Court.
4. During 2007, the Committee closely monitored the Professional Negligence List, which had been created by amendment of the rule in July 2006. A Judge of the Court manages the List. Information concerning the timing of and preferred method of entry of matters into the list, the numbers and types of actions with a cause of action within the Rules and the progress (including an attendance index) of cases to hearing in the list are being monitored and statistics are being reported to the Committee. It is proposed that in due course a practice note will be drawn up to govern the procedures in the list.
5. The Committee continued to track the scheme introduced at the commencement of the Civil Procedure Act for mediation of matters by Assistant Registrar of the Court if a party is following its success in 2006. The statistics demonstrated that approximately 50% of cases referred to the Assistant Registrars are being resolved as a result of mediation.
6. The Committee considered carefully the annual analysis of the long hearings list of the Court, as these are the matters that involve the greatest expenditure of resources by the Court and ancillary areas such as the Reporting Services Branch, the profession and the litigants. The Court offers date certainty in these matters. No matter has been not reached in this list since 2003. Parties in long matters are encouraged to mediate prior to hearing unless they can satisfy the Court that the litigation is not suitable for referral to mediation. The Committee noted that the available dates for long hearings is now only a month outside the range of hearing dates being allocated to cases of less than 5 days duration.
7. The Committee invited consideration by the profession of the continuation of the Court annexed arbitration system in view of the decreased demand for this form of dispute resolution. Both arms of the profession provided responses to the Committee indicating that they were desirous of the system being maintained and the Court through the Committee agreed that the Philadelphia Arbitration System would continue at the District Court.
8. The Committee reported on the input received by the Court from the profession in relation to the revision of the Court's Strategic Plan.
9. The Committee also discussed and examined the following issues:
 - ◆ The change in the manner in which insurers are managing cases before the Court and the impact that this change is having on the case management of cases.
 - ◆ The intransigence of some defendants in relation to the issue of consent to extended jurisdiction and the impact on case management if the defendant is only one of a number involved in the case.
 - ◆ The requirement that the appointment of a funds manager for a disabled plaintiff can only be made by the Supreme Court.

CRIMINAL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

ACTIVITIES

1. The rollout of CCTV facilities to regional courts has been completed. There is an ongoing program of updating courtroom facilities at the Downing Centre.
2. Proposal to construct a new criminal trial court on Level 3 of the Downing Centre in the 2008/09 financial year.
3. Parramatta Trial Court Complex to be completed and occupied by the District Court from 31 March 2008. The Court will initially occupy 4 courtrooms and it is expected that all 8 courtrooms will be occupied by July 2009 once the refurbishment of the old courthouse is completed.
4. In Sydney, the Court is listing trials approximately 6 to 10 weeks ahead.
5. The Productivity Commission's report showed that NSW District Court was ranked first in time standards for the disposal of criminal trials and that the Court had the lowest cost per finalization of criminal cases than any other state.
6. The Chief Judge issued Practice Note 7 on 28 September 2007 regarding the management of criminal trials in country circuits. The listing of these trials is now done by way of a telephone call over.
7. Continue to maintain a collaborative approach to the management of criminal business with the Court's stakeholders in its criminal jurisdiction.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (EDUCATION) COMMITTEE

ACTIVITIES

The Annual Conference was held at Peppers Fairmont Resort, Leura on 10-12 April 2007 and was attended by 53 Judges and the Judicial Registrar. The programme consisted of a range of sessions relevant to the day-to-day work of the court, with an emphasis this year on sexual assault matters. The conference focused on providing challenging and interesting educational sessions, while also providing a valuable opportunity for discussion and debate.

For the first time the conference was held over three days to ensure that sexual assault matters were given additional coverage. Sessions were held on such topics as:

- ◆ Psychology of Offenders and the Victims by Dr Michael Giuffrida (psychiatrist) and Ms Anna Robilliard (psychologist)
- ◆ Procedure in Prescribed Sexual Offence Cases by Her Honour Judge Tupman
- ◆ Unreasonable Cross-Examination by His Honour Judge Colin O'Connor QC
- ◆ Directions in Sexual Assault Cases by His Honour Judge Nicholson SC
- ◆ Perspectives on the Treatment of Sexual Assault Complaints Panel consisting of Ms Amy Watts (DPP), Ms Debbie Scott (Witness Assistance Programme), Mr Peter Krisenthal (Legal Aid Commission), Ms Malin Suchting (Child Protection and Violence Prevention Team, NSW Health Department), Mr Christopher Craigie SC (Public Defender), Mr Phil Smith and Detective Superintendent Helen Bigg (Commander, Child Protection and Sex Crimes Squad)
- ◆ Evidence in Prescribed Sexual Offence Cases by His Honour Judge Ellis.
- ◆ Sentencing Options In Prescribed Sexual Assault Cases by Mr Dale Tolliday (NSW Pretrial Diversion of Offenders Programme) and Mr David Bright (Custody Based Intensive Treatment Department of Corrective Services).

The balance of the programme consisted of a range of sessions relevant to the day-to-day work of a judge, including:

- ◆ Court of Appeal Review by the Honourable Justice Mason AC
- ◆ Criminal Law Update by His Honour Judge Hosking SC (Paper) and His Honour Judge Woods (presenter)
- ◆ Judicial conduct by His Honour Judge Kevin O'Connor AM and His Honour Judge Norrish QC
- ◆ Appeals from the Local Court by His Honour Judge Williams
- ◆ Civil Law Update by Her Honour Judge Sidis

National Judicial Orientation Programme

In 2007, three new judges of the Court attended the National Judicial Orientation Programme conducted by the National Judicial College of Australia, the Judicial Commission of NSW and the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration.

Occasional Seminars

The Education Committee has continued to work with the Judicial Commission to organise a series of breakfast, lunch and twilight education sessions for the District Court judges in the John Maddison Tower, including:

- ◆ Dealing with the media presented by Mr Sam North, Managing Editor, The Sydney Morning Herald
- ◆ Post Traumatic Stress Disorder presented by Professor Chris Tennant, the University of Sydney
- ◆ The Impact of the New Super System on Judges presented by Mr Daryl Dixon, Dixon Advisory Services
- ◆ Managing Criminal & Civil Circuits presented by His Honour Judge Goldring and His Honour Judge Puckeridge

- ◆ Australia's Anti-Terrorism Laws - Where They Stand and What's Next? Presented by Dr Andrew Lynch, Deputy Director of the Gilbert and Tobin Centre of Public Law.

Sexual Assault Handbook

The *Sexual Assault Handbook* is a new online publication that will substantially assist judges to deal with the challenges of conducting sexual assault trials. The Handbook includes:

- ◆ checklists of relevant procedural requirements
- ◆ a practical guide to case management
- ◆ a checklist of jury directions
- ◆ resource materials for important directions
- ◆ sentencing resources
- ◆ links to relevant legislation, case law, articles and suggested jury directions all in one convenient location.

NSW Attorney General, The Honourable John Hatzistergos, MLC, launched the Handbook at the District Court on 3 December 2007 and it is available on the Judicial Commission's online Judicial Information Research System (JIRS) and website.

On behalf of the Professional Standards (Education) Committee of the District Court, the Handbook was designed for the Judicial Commission of New South Wales by a working group comprising Her Honour Judge Helen Murrell SC (Chair), His Honour Judge Roy Ellis, His Honour Judge Brian Knox SC and Ms Ruth Windeler, Education Director of the Judicial Commission.

Judgment Writing Workshops

Professor James Raymond, a legal writing consultant from New York, conducted a two day Judgment Writing Workshop for 10 District Court consultants from New York, conducted a two day Judgment Writing Workshop for 10 District Court judges in August 2007. Through analysing and discussing their own writing, participants develop their judgment writing skills and the ability to write clear, concise, well-structured judgments. The participants were very enthusiastic about the workshop and the valuable tips they received for improving the process of judgment writing.

CIVIL JURISDICTION

NEW SOUTH WALES

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

- In 2007:
- ❖ Registrations fell by 5%
 - ❖ Finalisations fell by 6%
 - ❖ Pending cases fell by 7%
 - ❖ Median time for disposals fell from 11.5 to 11.4 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. Further, actions may be transferred between registries, which can complicate matters as each registry has its own registration numbering system. 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 5,508 matters registered in 2007, compared to 5,769 in 2006.

DISPOSALS

There were 5,598 disposals in 2007, compared to 5,927 in 2006.

PENDING

At the end of 2007 the pending caseload was 6,125, compared to 6,567 in 2006.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

Figure 1 overleaf tracks the Court's caseload since 1996. The early part of this decade saw a marked increase in registrations due the announcement of legislative changes, particularly tort law reform.

Following the implementation of these reforms a significant drop in registrations occurred. However, those cases which came into the Court were more complex and less likely to settle, with few being suitable for arbitration.

Figure 1. NSW Civil Caseload

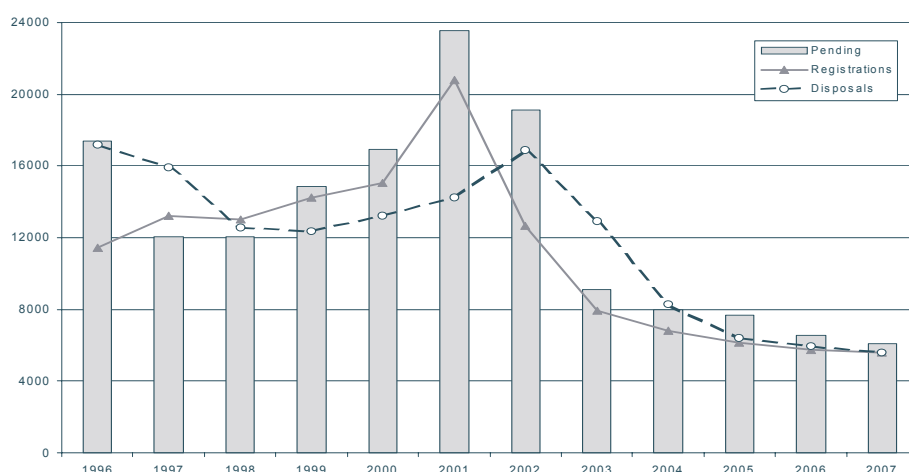


Table 1. Factors Influencing the Civil Case load

Year	Influencing Factor
1996	The Court made a concerted effort during the first 18 months after the commencement of case management, to dispose of pre-1996 matters. These efforts quickly eliminated many of the actions which had remained active, resulting in a higher disposal rate.
1997	The Court's jurisdiction was increased in July. (Note: the figures in the graph do not include some 3,000 matters transferred from the Supreme Court prior to 30 June 1998, for which special arrangements had been made).
1997	There was a marked increase in registrations at the end of 1997, due to Part 12 rule 4C of the District Court Rules taking effect (actions commenced prior to 1 January 1996 were deemed dismissed if the Praecipe for Trial had not been filed by 1 January 1998).
1999	The Motor Accidents Compensation Act commenced limiting access to the Court in relation to motor accident claims. The impact of the amendments has been a gradual (although substantial) reduction in these types of claims, which formerly represented a significant proportion of the Court's caseload.
2001	Legislative changes in relation to work related accidents and medical negligence prompted a rush of filings during the year prior to the changes.
2002	Further legislative changes aimed at reducing civil litigation (personal injuries claims) prompted a rush of filings in the first half of the year, with a marked drop occurring the second half after the amendments became effective.
2003	A significant decrease in the number of matters suitable for arbitration (as a result of legislative amendments in 1999, 2001 and 2002) reduced the Court's capacity to finalise actions through this quick and inexpensive alternative dispute resolution mechanism.
2004	The Court was vested with the residual jurisdiction of the NSW Compensation Court with its abolition from 1 January 2004. As a result, additional judges were available to assist during the first half of 2004.

DISPOSAL TIMES

In 2007, 53% of all actions completed were finalised within 12 months, with 84% being completed within 24 months. This compares to 53% and 82%, respectively, in 2006.

Of the pending caseload at the end of 2007, 17% exceeded 18 months compared to 16% in 2006 and 17% in 2005.

CASE MANAGEMENT

UNIFORM CIVIL PROCEDURE

The *Civil Procedure Act 2005* and *Uniform Civil Procedure Rules* consolidated provisions about civil procedure that were found in a number of different Acts and rules, into a single Act and set of rules. The Rules introduced common rules and procedures in civil proceedings in the Supreme, District and Local Courts.

CIVIL PRACTICE NOTE 1

Civil Practice Note 1 provides that parties should expect to be allocated a trial date within 12 months of commencement of proceedings. Parties must plan to meet this time standard.

Briefly, the Practice Note provides:

- ◆ the plaintiff must serve a timetable for the conduct of the case on the defendant with the statement of claim;
- ◆ any proposed amendments to the timetable by the defendant must be served on the plaintiff at least 7 days before the Pre-Trial Conference;
- ◆ a Pre-trial Conference, which will entail an in-depth review of the case, will be held 3 months after commencement;
- ◆ directions and orders will be made at the Pre-Trial Conference, which must be complied with or otherwise it may lead to cost orders;
- ◆ a Status Conference will take place 7 months after commencement and parties should be ready to take a trial or arbitration date;
- ◆ the trial date allocated will generally be within 1 to 3 months of the Status Conference;
- ◆ at any stage a case may be referred to a directions hearing before the List Judge or the Judicial Registrar;
- ◆ the Court will only grant adjournment applications where there are very good reasons.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Practice Note 1 stresses that the Court proposed to continue to finalise as many matters as possible through alternative dispute resolution systems. In appropriate cases the Court will refer a matter to arbitration or mediation.

I

SYDNEY

In 2007:

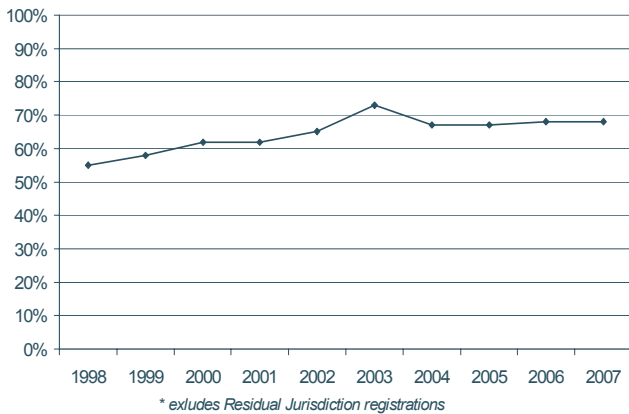
- ❖ Registrations fell by 6%
- ❖ Finalisations fell by 3%
- ❖ Pending cases fell by 6%
- ❖ Median disposal time rose from 10.8 to 11.3 months.

CASELOAD

In 2007, Sydney civil case managed matters represented 68% of the State’s registrations and 70% of the matters on hand.

Since 1998 the ratio of new civil actions commencing in Sydney, as compared to the whole State, has increased from 55% to 67%. The rise is shown in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2. Sydney’s % of NSW Registrations



REGISTRATIONS, DISPOSALS AND PENDING

Excluding the Residual Jurisdiction, there were 3,736 new actions commenced and 3,701 finalised in Sydney in 2007. At the end of the year there were 4,315 actions pending. Figure 3 at the bottom of the page tracks Sydney’s caseload since 1996.

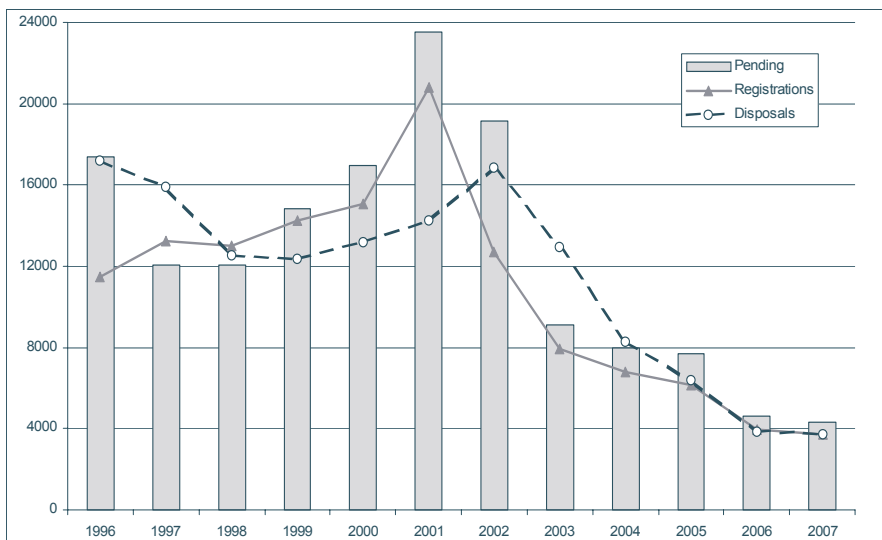
DISPOSAL TIMES

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

In 2007, 54% of all actions completed were finalised within 12 months, with 84% being completed within 24 months. This compares to 55% and 83%, respectively in 2006.

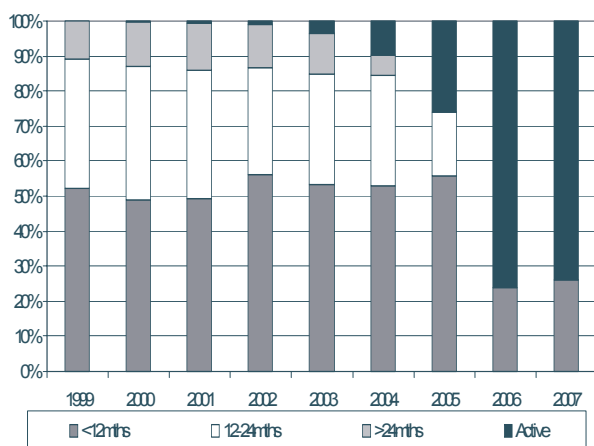
Of the pending caseload at the end of 2007, 17% exceeded 18 months, an increase of 1% from 2006.

Figure 3. Sydney Caseload



This graph should be viewed in light of the “Influencing Factors” set out on page 16.

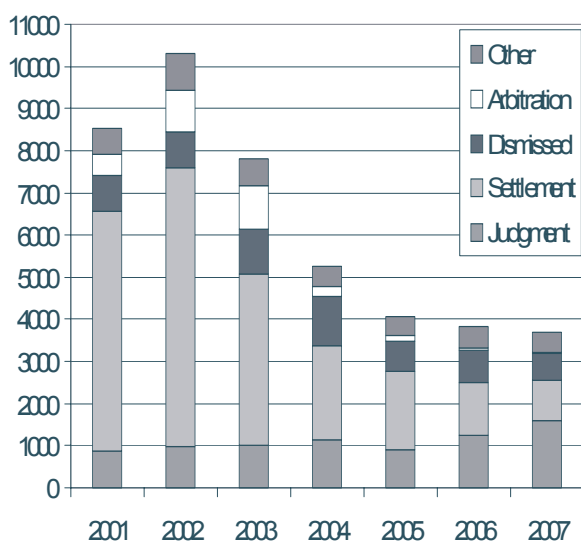
**Figure 4. Completion Times
(For year the Action
Commenced)**



MANNER OF DISPOSAL

Figure 5 compares the manner in which civil actions in the last 4 years have been disposed.

Figure 5. Method of Finalisation



This graph clearly indicates that in the last few years the manner in which cases are being disposed has changed as a result of the drop in settlements and arbitrations.

Table 1. Disposal Outcomes

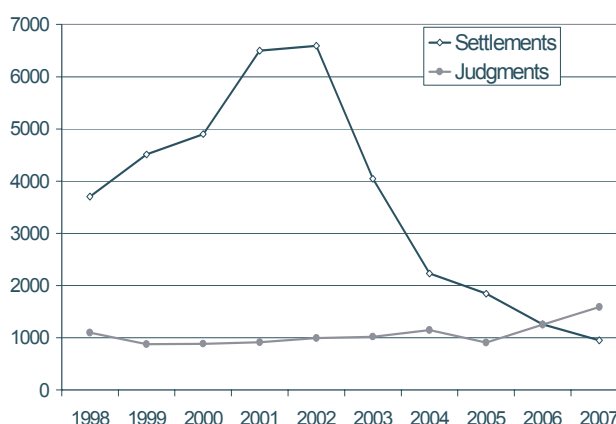
Judgment	Settlement	Dismissed	Arbitration Awards	Discontinued	Transferred	Total
1,590	949	660	13	405	84	3,701

Table 1 (at the bottom of the page) sets out the break-up of how matters were completed in 2006.

It shows that in 2007, 1,590 matters resulted in a court judgment. Yet in 2001 when the disposal figure was more than double that of 2006, the number of court judgments was only 916.

Figure 6 below shows there has been a significant drop in recent years in the number of settlements, and an increase in the number of court judgments.

Figure 6. Judgments/Settlements



Settlements consume minimal court time. It is the cases which proceed to judgment that place the most demands on court time.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

MEDIATION

The List Judge or the Judicial Registrars refer all suitable long cases before the Sydney District Court to mediation.

On 15 August 2005, the Court introduced a court run mediation scheme in the Sydney District Court. Under this scheme, either the List Judge or the Judicial Registrar may refer matters to an Assistant Registrar to mediate.

Some judges have also mediated in a number of matters.

ARBITRATION

The arbitration scheme in operation in the Court is the “Philadelphia” scheme (named after a similar scheme in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA). Under this scheme, a number of Arbitrators are rostered to attend court provided accommodation on a nominated date and the Registry provides support services. This enables multiple matters to be listed and reserve matters are allocated to Arbitrators as previous matters conclude.

In 2007, 98 matters were referred to arbitration as compared to 179 in 2006, 296 in 2005, 605 in 2004 and 1,973 in 2003.

This substantial drop is another indication of the changing nature of the Court’s workload, with less actions being suitable for resolution through arbitration.

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
- The Workers’ Compensation (Bush Fire, Emergency & Rescue Services) Act 1987.

During 2007, 432 actions were commenced and 445 were finalised. There were a total of 225 matters on hand in the residual jurisdiction at the end of 2007.

SYDNEY WEST

COUNTRY

Sydney West had 5% of the total number of new actions started in the State in 2007 (excluding the Court's residual jurisdiction). Figure 7 below tracks the variation in the proportional rate of registrations in Sydney West.

Venues outside of Sydney and Sydney West had 20% of the total number of new actions started in 2007 (excluding the Court's residual jurisdiction). Figure 9 below tracks the proportional rate of registrations rate for Country venues.

Figure 7. % of NSW Registrations

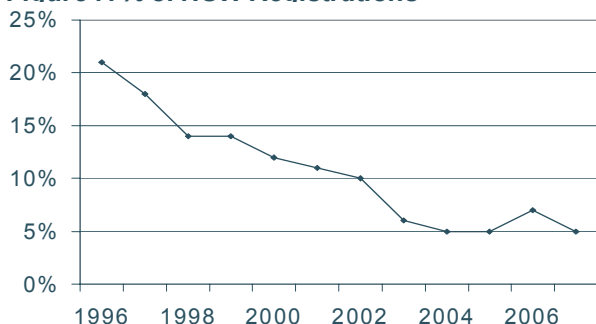
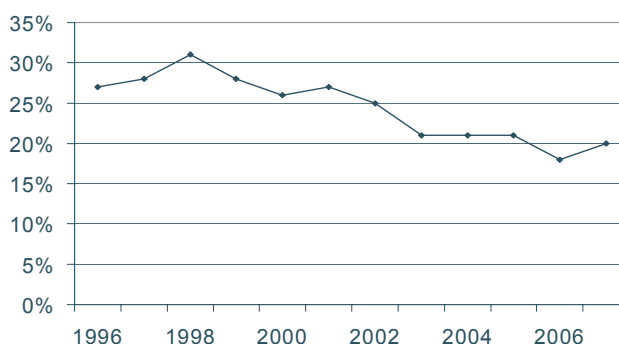


Figure 9. % of NSW Registrations



In Sydney West there were 260 matters registered and 268 dispositions throughout the year. At the end of 2007 the total pending caseload was 250, as compared to 281 the previous year.

Outside of Sydney and Sydney West, there were 1,180 dispositions throughout the year. At the end of the year the total pending caseload was 1,335 as compared to 1,435 the previous year.

Figure 8 shows comparative registrations, finalisations and pending caseloads since 1996.

Figure 10 shows comparative registrations, finalisations and pending caseloads since 1996.

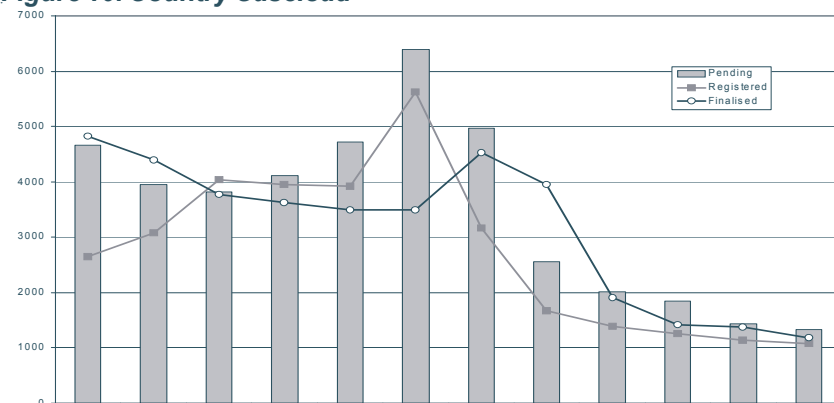
Figure 8. Sydney West Caseload



Pending matters in Sydney West fell by 1% and the median finalisation time was 7.9 months.

13% of pending matters exceeded 18 months.

Figure 10. Country Caseload



Pending matters in the country fell by 7% and the median finalisation time was 12.6 months.

19% of pending matters exceeded 18 months.

CRIMINAL JURISDICTION

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

TRIALS

In 2007:

- ❖ Trial registrations dropped by 5%
- ❖ Finalisations fell by 4%
- ❖ Pending trials dropped by 7%
- ❖ Median disposals times fell from 35.2 to 33.2 weeks
- ❖ Average length of trials rose by 1%, from 7.4 to 7.5 days

Caseload

There were 1,726 criminal trials registered during 2007 in New South Wales, as compared to 1,822 in 2006 and 1,869 in 2005.

There were 1,801 trials finalised in 2007, as compared to 1,881 in 2006 and 2,030 in 2005.

There were 952 trials on hand at the end of 2007, which was a decrease on the 1,027 trials at the end of 2006 and 1,086 at the end of 2005.

Figure 11, at the bottom of the page, tracks the statewide trends in the criminal trial caseload since 1996.

The following are some of the factors which have influenced trial registrations and disposals in the last decade.

- Legislative changes have increased the range of indictable offences capable of being dealt with by Magistrates, which has tended to filter out the shorter matters.
- A centralised committal scheme was introduced in Sydney in April 1998, and was extended outside of Sydney in early 1999. This scheme resulted in a decrease in committals for trial and an increase in committals for sentence.

Figure 11. Criminal Trial Caseload

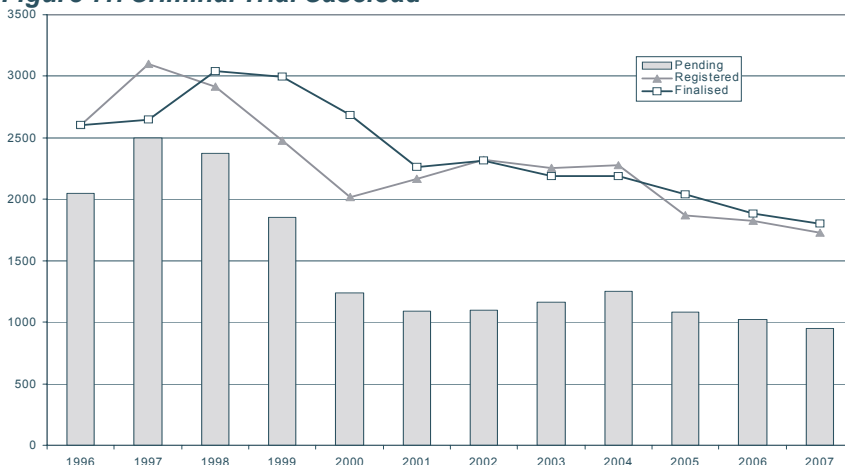
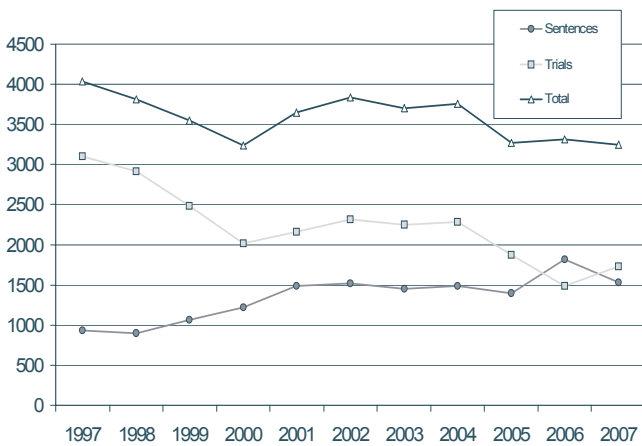


Figure 12 shows variations in trial and sentence registrations since 1997.

Figure 12. 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.

Disposal Times

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 2007, 43% of trial disposals where the accused was in custody were finalised within 4 months, and 8% exceeded 12 months. Where the accused was on bail, 27% of disposals occurred within 4 months, with 21% exceeding 12 months.

Figure 13 sets out comparative compliance rates with time standards for all trials finalised.

Figure 13. All Registered Trials Finalised - Time Standards Compliance Rate

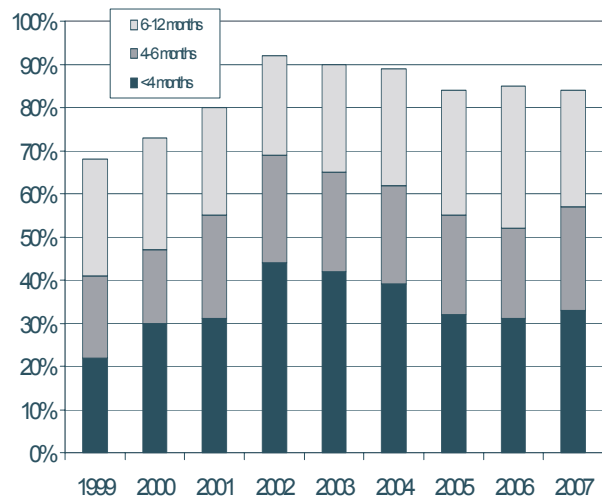


Figure 14 shows the age of all trials which were pending at the end of the year indicated.

Figure 14. All Registered Trials - Pending Matters

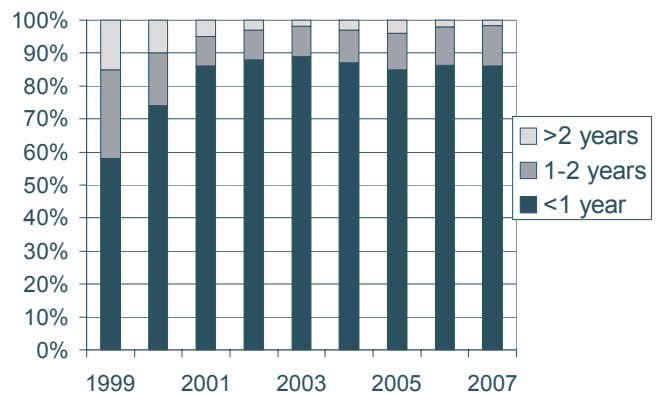


Figure 15 tracks the median disposal times, from committal to commencement of the trial, for matters finalised during the year indicated.

Figure 15. Median Disposal Times - Criminal Trials



Between 1998 and 2002 the Court substantially improved waiting times in criminal trials. However, since then waiting times have started to rise. This will continue to be closely monitored by the Court.

Trial Durations

The statewide average length of criminal trials finalised in 2007 was 7.25 days, as compared to 7.5 days in 2006. In Sydney the average duration was 8.13 days in 2007, compared to 10.0 days in 2006.

Figure 16 illustrates the fluctuating rise in the average trial duration time.

Figure 16. Average Trial Length



CRIMINAL LISTING PRACTICES

Listings in Sydney and Sydney West are to be in conformity with Criminal Practice Note 1.

This Practice Note provides:

- ◆ cases committed to trial in the Downing Centre are to be listed for mention on the last sitting day of the following week (normally a Friday) for first mention in the arraignment list;
- ◆ in Sydney West a similar procedure is adopted but the first mention day varies from court to court;
- ◆ where an appeal against severity is lodged in the Local Court the date of hearing in the District Court is endorsed on the Notice of Appeal;

- ◆ the provision of legal assistance is to be addressed at the first mention and an arraignment date set within 8 weeks;
- ◆ where the accused indicates a plea of not guilty at arraignment, the matter will normally be fixed for trial;
- ◆ the listing judges in Sydney West may fix further management dates for the trials;
- ◆ any application to vacate a hearing date should be made as soon as a party becomes aware of the grounds relied on and, wherever possible, at least 10 days before the listed trial date.

Listings in country circuits are to be in conformity with Criminal Practice Note 2, which provides:

- ◆ the listing of case is to be done on the basis of listing three trials per week and the sittings will be conducted as a running list for the week;
- ◆ when listing trials at any circuit sittings with a duration of two or three weeks, the trials for the second week will be mentioned on the first day of the sittings to enable the judge to allocate hearing dates in the sittings. Similarly if there is a third week of sittings, trials listed in the third week will be mentioned on the Monday of the second week of the sittings for the judge to allocate a hearing date;
- ◆ in the ordinary course of events no trial will be marked not reached until the last week of the sittings;
- ◆ parties are encouraged to bring forward any trial matter which may be a plea to enable the Registrar to list it for plea or mention at the sittings;
- ◆ any application to vacate a trial during the sittings should be notified to the judge on the first day of the sittings and the application should be made by notice of motion and supported by affidavit.

TRIAL LISTING OUTCOMES

About 1,983 trials were listed for hearing in 2007. Figure 17 shows the break-up of those matters not dealt with.

Figure 17. Trial Listings Not Dealt With

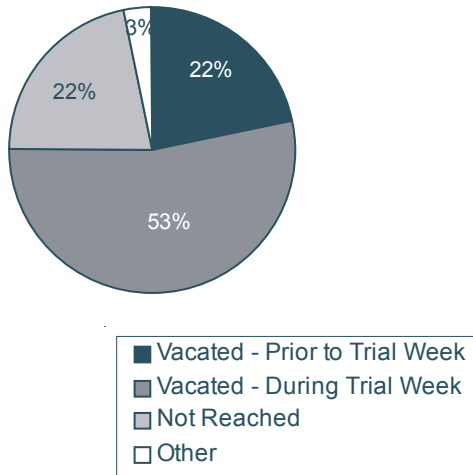


Figure 18 shows the break-up of those matters which were dealt with after being listed.

Figure 18. Trial Listings Dealt With

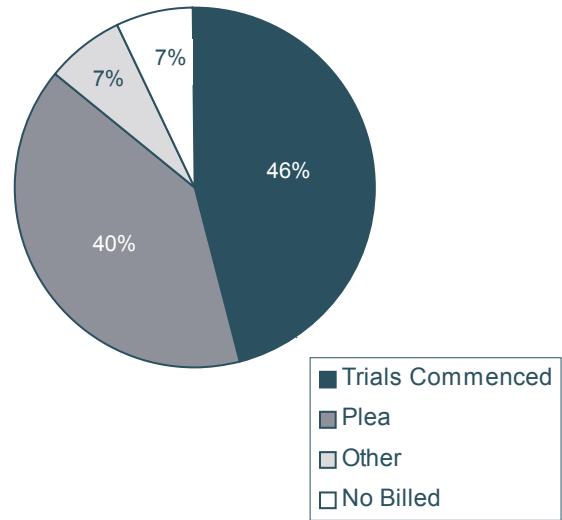
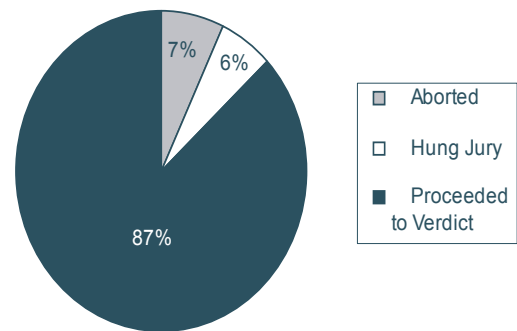


Figure 19 shows the outcome of those which commenced.

Figure 19. Trials Commenced



The table on the following page sets out trial listing outcomes for 2007.

Table 2. Trial Listing Outcomes

	Sydney	Sydney West	Country	Total
NOT DEALT WITH	25%	34%	36%	32%
Vacated	24%	28%	19%	24%
Prior to Trial Week	5%	14%	3%	7%
During Trial Week	20%	15%	16%	17%
Other Not Dealt With (Trial Week)	1%	6%	17%	8%
Not Reached	0%	5%	16%	7%
Other	1%	1%	1%	1%
DEALT WITH	75%	66%	64%	68%
Dealt With Prior to Trial Week	1%	11%	2%	5%
No Billed	0%	2%	0%	1%
Bench Warrant	0%	0%	0%	0%
Plea	0%	5%	1%	2%
Other (eg. deceased)	0%	2%	0%	1%
Transferred	0%	2%	1%	1%
Dealt With In Trial Week	31%	32%	36%	33%
No Billed	3%	4%	4%	4%
Bench Warrant	0%	1%	0%	1%
Plea	23%	23%	29%	25%
Other (eg. deceased)	2%	1%	1%	1%
Transferred	1%	3%	1%	1%
Trials Commenced	46%	23%	26%	31%
Aborted	2%	3%	3%	2%
Hung Jury	4%	2%	1%	2%
Proceeded to Verdict	40%	19%	23%	27%

Of trials dealt with in 2007 (ie. 68% of total listings):

- ❖ **40% pleaded guilty**
- ❖ **40% proceeded to verdict**
- ❖ **7% were “no billed”**
- ❖ **3% were transferred**
- ❖ **3% were aborted**
- ❖ **3% ended with a “hung jury”**
- ❖ **3% were otherwise disposed of**
- ❖ **1% had bench warrants issued**

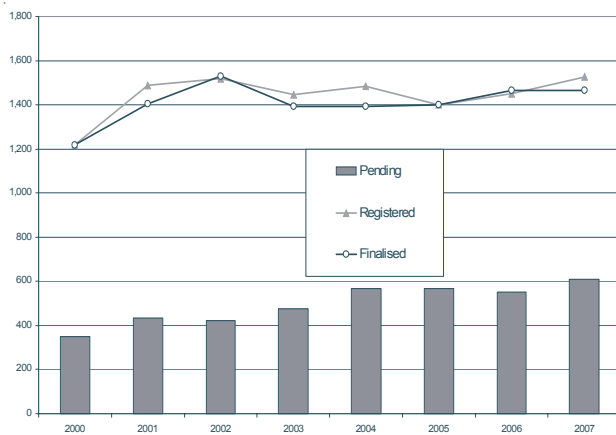
SHORT MATTERS

Sentences

There were 1,525 committals for sentence received in 2007 and 1,467 matters were finalised. At the end of the year there were 608 sentence matters pending, compared to 550 at 2006.

Figure 20 tracks the sentence caseload since 2000.

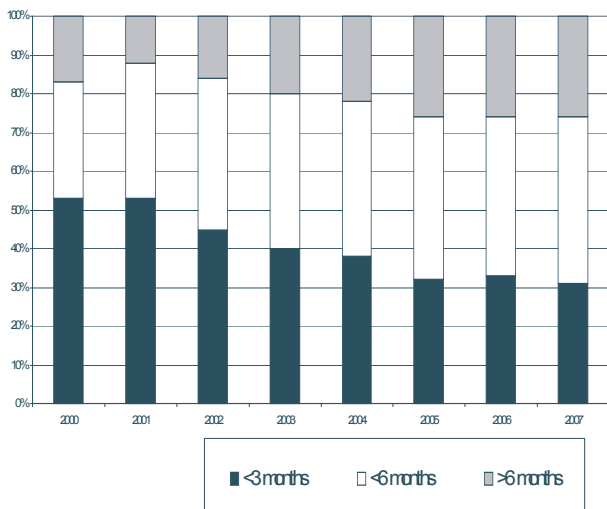
Figure 20. Sentence Caseload



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 21 illustrates compliance rates with time standards.

Figure 21. Compliance with Time Standards

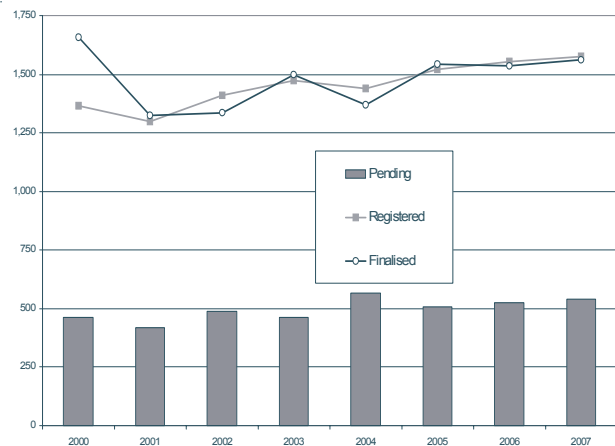


Conviction Appeals

There were 1,577 conviction appeals lodged in 2007 and 1,562 finalisations. At the end of the year there were 541 conviction appeals pending, 3% more than 2006.

Figure 22 tracks the conviction appeal caseload since 2000.

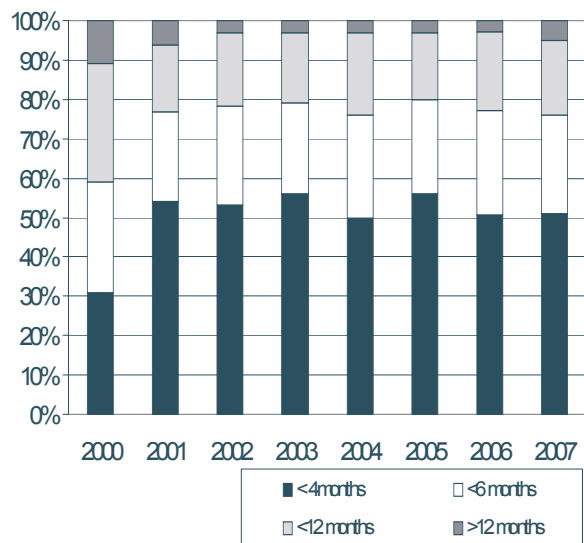
Figure 22. Conviction Appeals Caseload



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

Figure 23 illustrates compliance rates with time standards.

Figure 23. Compliance with Time Standards

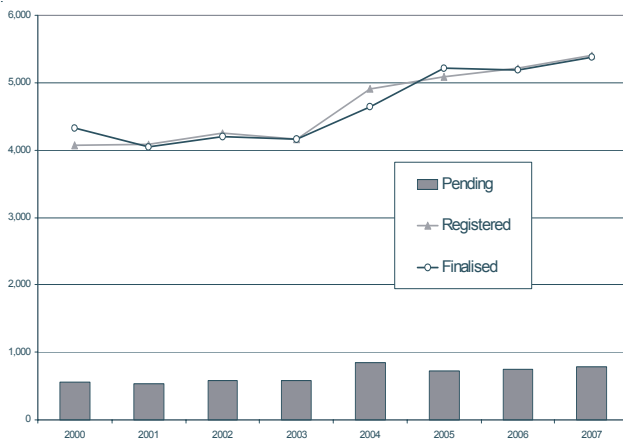


Sentence Appeals

There were 5,409 sentence appeals lodged in 2007 and 5,375 finalised. At the end of the year there were 784 sentence appeals pending, 5% more than 2006.

Figure 24 tracks the sentence appeals caseload since 2000.

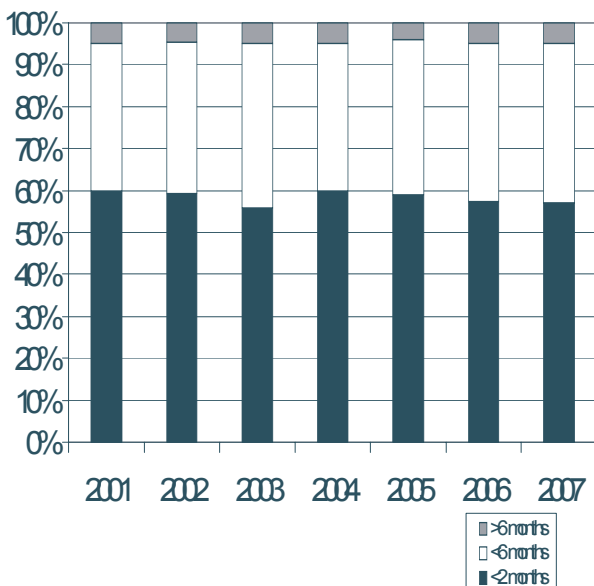
Figure 24. Sentence Appeals Caseload



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 25 illustrates compliance rates with time standards.

Figure 25. Compliance with Time Standards



JUDICIAL RESOURCES

ALLOCATED SITTINGS

Table 3 sets out the number of judicial sitting weeks allocated in 2007 as published in the Court's Calendar of Sittings.

Table 3. Sitting Allocations

Location	Jurisdiction	No. of Weeks	Judge EFT	%
Sydney	Criminal	864	21.3	34%
	Civil	699	17.2	27%
Sydney West	Criminal	391	9.6	15%
	Civil	26	0.6	1%
Major Country	Criminal	160	3.9	6%
	Civil	57	1.4	2%
Other Venues	Criminal	298	7.3	12%
	Civil	63	1.6	2%
Total	Criminal	1,713	42.2	67%
	Civil	845	20.8	33%
	All	2,558	63.0	100%

*Judge EFT is calculated at 40.6 sitting weeks p.a.
- ie. 52 weeks less judicial vacations, public holidays and Annual Judges' Conference*

ACTUAL SITTINGS

Table 4 sets out the number of days actually sat by the Court in 2007 converted into weeks (by dividing the number of days by 5).

Table 4. Actual Sittings

Location	Jurisdiction	No. of Weeks	Judge EFT	%
Sydney	Criminal	854	21.0	36%
	Civil	586	14.4	25%
Sydney West	Criminal	374	9.2	16%
	Civil	19	0.5	1%
Major Country	Criminal	151	3.7	6%
	Civil	53	1.3	2%
Other Venues	Criminal	290	7.1	12%
	Civil	45	1.1	2%
Total	Criminal	1,669	41.1	70%
	Civil	703	17.3	30%
	All	2,372	58.4	100%

*Judge EFT is calculated at 40.6 sitting weeks p.a.
- ie. 52 weeks less judicial vacations, public holidays and Annual Judges' Conference*

COMPARISONS WITH 2006

Overall, there were 7 less weeks of sittings in 2007 than 2006. This resulted in 20 fewer weeks of criminal sittings and 13 more weeks of civil sittings.

The reduction in criminal sittings was as a result of fewer special fixtures and fewer criminal sittings in Sydney West. Criminal sittings in Sydney increased by 22 weeks.

ACTING JUDGES

An extra 889 days of actual sitting was provided by Acting Judges. Based on a maximum of 40.6 sitting weeks per year for a permanent judge, this equated to 4.4 additional judges.

Figure 26 below shows the fluctuations in the number of Acting Judge weeks attained since 2000.

Figure 26. 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 5. District Court Sittings 2007

	ALLOCATED (weeks)		AVAILABLE (days)		ACTUALLY SAT (days)		*AVERAGE RECORDED HOURS	
	CRIME	CIVIL	CRIME	CIVIL	CRIME	CIVIL	CRIME	CIVIL
SYDNEY	864	699	4263	3459	4271	2930	4.12	3.85
CAMPBELLTOWN	126	0	611	0	631	0	4.58	N/A
PARRAMATTA	146	22	711	105	694	86	4.53	3.93
PENRITH	119	4	578	19	545	9	3.98	3.56
SYDNEY WEST TOTAL	391	26	1900	124	1870	95	4.39	3.89
GOSFORD	49	5	240	25	219	20	4.20	4.25
NEWCASTLE	61	36	290	176	290	198	4.10	3.90
WOLLONGONG	50	16	245	80	246	46	3.73	3.07
O/S TOTAL	160	57	775	281	755	264	4.01	3.78
ALBURY	12	4	59	19	59	18	5.08	4.89
ARMIDALE	5	1	23	5	22	4	5.91	4.00
BATEMANS BAY	0	1	0	4	0	4	N/A	3.50
BATHURST	11	3	55	15	56	8	4.77	5.25
BEGA	9	1	44	5	43	4	4.30	3.00
BOURKE	4	0	20	0	14	0	5.07	5.75
BROKEN HILL	7	0	35	0	32	0	3.53	N/A
COFFS HARBOUR	20	4	99	20	99	20	5.26	N/A
COONAMBLE	6	0	30	0	25	0	4.44	4.55
DUBBO	27	3	131	14	132	12	5.02	N/A
EAST MAITLAND	13	0	65	0	68	0	3.82	3.00
GOULBURN	12	0	60	0	43	0	4.40	N/A
GRAFTON	9	0	45	0	47	0	4.57	N/A
GRIFFITH	9	4	45	20	44	8	4.82	N/A
INVERELL	1	0	5	5	0	0	N/A	4.38
LISMORE	41	14	202	69	216	54	3.97	N/A
MAITLAND	0	3	0	14	0	6	N/A	3.94
MOREE	4	0	19	0	17	0	5.76	2.50
NOWRA	13	0	64	0	63	0	4.76	N/A
ORANGE	10	3	49	15	50	13	5.08	N/A
PARKES	4	0	20	0	20	0	4.40	4.00
PORT MACQUARIE	26	1	128	5	124	5	4.68	N/A
QUEANBEYAN	10	2	49	10	47	4	4.40	5.00
TAMWORTH	13	2	65	10	69	8	5.16	4.25
TAREE	17	8	82	40	86	23	4.78	4.13
WAGGA WAGGA	15	9	73	45	76	35	5.13	6.09
COUNTRY TOTAL	298	63	1467	315	1452	226	4.68	4.39
STATE TOTAL	1713	845	8405	4179	8348	3515	4.27	3.88

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



ANNEXURES

CIVIL CASELOAD

	Registered			Disposed			Pending ¹		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
Sydney CML²	4,115	3,957	3,736	4,056	3,823	3,701	5,229	4,613	4,315
Residual Jurisdiction	470	388	432	566	471	445	321	238	225
Parramatta	194	175	152	255	177	188	188	186	130
Penrith	49	64	39	53	51	39	47	60	56
Liverpool	31	33	60	23	19	34	17	31	57
Campbelltown	19	7	9	33	10	7	7	4	7
Sydney West	293	279	260	364	257	268	259	281	250
Newcastle	369	317	287	275	294	308	569	401	379
Gosford	54	56	44	56	79	50	94	71	65
Wollongong	195	110	95	199	283	121	317	144	118
Major Country	618	483	426	530	656	479	980	616	562
Albury	47	47	45	56	58	47	75	58	56
Armidale	20	9	11	19	18	13	32	23	18
Bathurst	18	25	18	29	25	14	20	20	18
Bega	11	16	6	16	11	15	9	14	9
Broken Hill	6	5	7	7	8	6	12	8	9
Coffs Harbour	42	75	59	72	61	69	46	60	54
Dubbo	30	20	27	56	29	34	45	36	29
Forbes	2	-		7	-		0		
Griffith	23	21	16	36	26	30	48	43	29
Lismore	123	129	130	156	129	135	111	116	112
Lithgow	9	14	15	20	11	12	13	16	19
Maitland	42	27	38	73	48	37	55	34	39
Nowra	14	16	28	34	11	13	6	11	26
Orange	37	21	36	54	30	41	59	55	50
Port Macquarie	40	33	41	57	49	32	84	68	77
Queanbeyan	29	34	20	25	38	23	30	26	23
Tamworth	29	28	27	32	30	27	37	35	36
Taree	50	58	41	57	66	60	80	72	53
Wagga Wagga	61	84	89	83	72	97	112	124	116
Other Venues	633	662	654	889	720	705	874	819	773
NSW Total	6,129	5,769	5,508	6,405	5,927	5,598	7,663	6,567	6,125

1. Pending figures are adjusted as a result of stocktakes etc. undertaken during the course of the year and may not always equate with registration and disposition figures

2. CML - Matters in the Case Managed List

CIVIL DISPOSAL TIMES

	Median Delay (mths)			%age of Cases Disposed Within						%age Pending* within 18 mths		
				12 mths			24 mths			2005	2006	2007
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007			
Sydney	12	10.8	11.3	50%	55%	54%	79%	83%	84%	16%	16%	17%
Parramatta	10.6	10.6	9.1	61%	54%	70%	89%	88%	91%	20%	25%	21%
Penrith	10.5	8.7	8.0	56%	73%	82%	89%	88%	95%	26%	25%	16%
Liverpool	3.2	7.1	7.8	92%	100%	86%	96%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%
Campbelltown	10.4	5.5	5.6	67%	88%	70%	93%	100%	70%	40%	67%	0%
Sydney West	9.8	10.6	7.9	64%	60%	77%	92%	89%	89%	20%	22%	13%
Newcastle	12.5	12.6	13.1	47%	46%	44%	78%	81%	79%	14%	18%	16%
Gosford	13.6	14	15.1	40%	42%	34%	75%	86%	84%	16%	12%	16%
Wollongong	13.6	13.3	9.4	40%	40%	60%	75%	74%	83%	26%	22%	11%
Major Country	14.2	13.2	13.1	40%	43%	46%	72%	78%	82%	23%	18%	15%
Albury	13.7	14.2	13.1	41%	41%	47%	77%	70%	78%	29%	16%	22%
Armidale	13	15.5	18.5	41%	44%	14%	86%	63%	78%	33%	30%	33%
Bathurst	18.4	9.8	7.3	26%	60%	69%	74%	96%	100%	10%	6%	7%
Bega	12.3	12.9	11.0	50%	45%	60%	92%	73%	70%	22%	14%	0%
Broken Hill	32.3	19.1	6.7	14%	33%	67%	43%	78%	100%	40%	33%	38%
Coffs Harbour	12.7	8.6	8.5	49%	59%	70%	87%	84%	91%	32%	9%	6%
Dubbo	19.9	15.6	12.3	24%	31%	46%	67%	79%	89%	22%	42%	27%
Griffith	26.2	20.9	15.2	21%	23%	31%	48%	65%	62%	35%	36%	41%
Lismore	12.2	11.9	12.7	48%	50%	45%	80%	77%	85%	34%	7%	23%
Lithgow	11.5	16.3	7.2	50%	25%	60%	88%	75%	80%	31%	42%	44%
Maitland	14.5	11.3	12.9	40%	52%	44%	87%	84%	94%	22%	3%	28%
Nowra	13	11.4	6.3	44%	67%	78%	71%	92%	100%	0%	0%	0%
Orange	13.2	16.2	14.7	42%	38%	41%	71%	69%	82%	40%	50%	34%
Port Macquarie	19.3	18.3	14.7	24%	27%	43%	71%	73%	70%	41%	36%	30%
Queanbeyan	20	10.4	11.3	24%	53%	53%	64%	89%	74%	11%	29%	19%
Tamworth	16.2	14	15.1	35%	38%	53%	74%	79%	74%	29%	12%	15%
Taree	14.8	12.4	13.2	43%	49%	43%	76%	88%	83%	15%	19%	16%
Wagga Wagga	21.2	14.5	11.3	27%	40%	55%	59%	71%	83%	26%	16%	19%
Other Venues	15.2	13.4	12.5	48%	45%	51%	75%	78%	83%	29%	16%	23%
NSW Total	12.4	11.5	11.4	49%	53%	53%	72%	79%	84%	17%	16%	17%

* Pending figures are taken as at 31 December

CRIMINAL CASELOAD

TRIALS

Registered

	2005	2006	2007	06/07 Variant
Sydney	638	599	512	-15%
Sydney West	553	535	517	-3%
Newcastle	243	253	255	1%
Wollongong	131	120	131	9%
Lismore	121	131	133	2%
Dubbo	112	115	112	-3%
Wagga Wagga	71	69	66	-4%
Country Total	678	688	697	1%
State Total	1,869	1,822	1,726	-5%



Finalised

	2005	2006	2006	06/07 Variant
Sydney	780	639	597	-7%
Sydney West	580	527	504	-4%
Newcastle	227	264	278	5%
Wollongong	129	143	138	-3%
Lismore	132	123	118	-4%
Dubbo	120	114	99	-13%
Wagga Wagga	70	71	67	-6%
Country Total	678	715	700	-2%
State Total	2,038	1,881	1,801	-4%



Pending

	2005	2006	2007	06/07 Variant
Sydney	379	339	254	-25%
Sydney West	287	295	308	4%
Newcastle	155	144	121	-16%
Wollongong	96	73	66	-10%
Lismore	61	69	84	22%
Dubbo	71	72	85	18%
Wagga Wagga	37	35	35	0%
Country Total	420	393	390	-1%
State Total	1,086	1,027	952	-7%



Footnote: The above figures do not include changes of venue

CRIMINAL CASELOAD

SENTENCES

Registered

	2005	2006	2007	06/07 Variant
Sydney	573	476	435	-9%
Sydney West	363	419	496	18%
Newcastle	184	230	214	-7%
Wollongong	116	116	129	11%
Lismore	79	88	107	22%
Dubbo	61	55	92	67%
Wagga Wagga	26	64	52	-19%
Country Total	466	553	594	7%
State Total	1,402	1,448	1,525	5%



Finalised

	2005	2006	2007	06/07 Variant
Sydney	591	506	464	-8%
Sydney West	344	421	442	5%
Newcastle	157	222	217	-2%
Wollongong	128	122	115	-6%
Lismore	71	93	92	-1%
Dubbo	81	47	80	70%
Wagga Wagga	30	53	57	8%
Country Total	467	537	561	4%
State Total	1,402	1,464	1,467	0%



Pending

	2005	2006	2007	06/07 Variant
Sydney	221	191	162	-15%
Sydney West	156	154	208	35%
Newcastle	84	92	89	-3%
Wollongong	44	38	52	37%
Lismore	31	26	41	58%
Dubbo	18	26	38	46%
Wagga Wagga	12	23	18	-22%
Country Total	189	205	239	17%
State Total	566	550	608	11%



Footnote: The above figures do not include changes of venue

CRIMINAL CASELOAD

CONVICTION APPEALS

Registered

	2005	2006	2007	06/07 Variant
Sydney	547	495	497	0%
Sydney West	344	476	496	4%
Newcastle	223	194	195	1%
Wollongong	132	136	130	-4%
Lismore	128	132	103	-22%
Dubbo	98	77	108	40%
Wagga Wagga	50	45	48	7%
Country Total	631	584	584	0%
State Total	1,522	1,555	1,577	1%



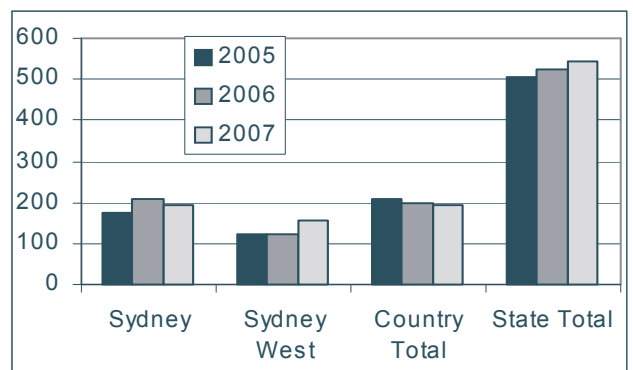
Finalised

	2005	2006	2007	06/07 Variant
Sydney	561	466	511	10%
Sydney West	327	476	463	-3%
Newcastle	233	200	200	0%
Wollongong	151	134	133	-1%
Lismore	121	130	118	-9%
Dubbo	93	81	95	17%
Wagga Wagga	58	49	42	-14%
Country Total	656	594	588	-1%
State Total	1,544	1,536	1,562	2%



Pending

	2005	2006	2007	06/07 Variant
Sydney	177	206	192	-7%
Sydney West	122	122	155	27%
Newcastle	70	64	59	-8%
Wollongong	39	41	38	-7%
Lismore	48	50	35	-30%
Dubbo	31	27	40	48%
Wagga Wagga	20	16	22	38%
Country Total	208	198	194	-2%
State Total	507	526	541	3%



Footnote: The above figures do not include changes of venue

CRIMINAL CASELOAD

SENTENCE APPEALS

Registered

	2005	2006	2007	06/07 Variant
Sydney	1,448	1,293	1,252	-3%
Sydney West	1,496	1,594	1,520	-5%
Newcastle	869	940	952	1%
Wollongong	359	390	505	29%
Lismore	341	423	468	11%
Dubbo	360	372	450	21%
Wagga Wagga	219	200	262	31%
Country Total	2,148	2,325	2,637	13%
State Total	5,092	5,212	5,409	4%



Finalised

	2005	2006	2007	06/07 Variant
Sydney	1,540	1,315	1,295	-2%
Sydney West	1,459	1,630	1,514	-7%
Newcastle	886	881	969	10%
Wollongong	402	385	469	22%
Lismore	342	402	449	12%
Dubbo	347	384	426	11%
Wagga Wagga	234	194	253	30%
Country Total	2,211	2,246	2,566	14%
State Total	5,210	5,191	5,375	4%



Pending

	2005	2006	2007	06/07 Variant
Sydney	179	157	114	-27%
Sydney West	224	188	194	3%
Newcastle	126	185	168	-9%
Wollongong	37	42	78	86%
Lismore	52	73	92	26%
Dubbo	66	54	78	44%
Wagga Wagga	45	51	60	18%
Country Total	326	405	476	18%
State Total	729	750	784	5%



Footnote: The above figures do not include changes of venue

COMPLIANCE WITH CRIMINAL TIME STANDARDS

TRIALS - REGISTERED

Accused Custody

	Percentage of Cases Disposed Within											
	4 months			6 months			12 months			>12 months		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
Sydney	35%	34%	39%	62%	57%	64%	91%	86%	90%	9%	14%	10%
Sydney West	45%	45%	42%	65%	66%	69%	91%	94%	95%	9%	6%	5%
Newcastle	60%	56%	68%	81%	81%	88%	96%	91%	99%	4%	9%	1%
Gosford			29%			71%			95%			5%
Wollongong	43%	24%	30%	71%	43%	63%	89%	89%	88%	11%	11%	12%
Lismore	41%	42%	47%	66%	69%	51%	98%	97%	87%	2%	3%	13%
Dubbo	45%	55%	43%	79%	74%	79%	95%	100%	89%	5%	0%	11%
Wagga Wagga	48%	52%	43%	84%	72%	79%	96%	96%	100%	4%	4%	0%
Country Total	50%	47%	48%	77%	71%	72%	95%	94%	93%	5%	6%	7%
State Total	42%	41%	43%	67%	63%	68%	92%	91%	92%	8%	9%	8%

Accused on Bail

	Percentage of Cases Disposed Within											
	4 months			6 months			12 months			>12 months		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
Sydney	25%	22%	27%	48%	43%	52%	78%	81%	80%	22%	19%	20%
Sydney West	28%	31%	28%	50%	52%	54%	84%	84%	85%	16%	16%	15%
Newcastle	28%	26%	42%	46%	47%	58%	77%	80%	83%	23%	20%	17%
Gosford			21%			44%			77%			23%
Wollongong	22%	21%	21%	37%	39%	39%	74%	71%	69%	26%	29%	31%
Lismore	31%	29%	29%	56%	49%	55%	81%	84%	86%	19%	16%	14%
Dubbo	18%	14%	18%	36%	34%	29%	66%	79%	59%	34%	21%	41%
Wagga Wagga	28%	15%	20%	48%	58%	49%	93%	92%	78%	7%	8%	22%
Country Total	26%	23%	27%	44%	44%	47%	77%	79%	76%	23%	21%	24%
State Total	26%	24%	27%	47%	46%	50%	79%	81%	79%	21%	19%	21%

All Trials

	Percentage of Cases Disposed Within											
	4 months			6 months			12 months			>12 months		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
Sydney	30%	27%	32%	54%	48%	57%	84%	83%	84%	16%	17%	16%
Sydney West	35%	37%	33%	57%	57%	60%	87%	88%	89%	13%	12%	11%
Newcastle	39%	36%	52%	58%	58%	68%	84%	84%	89%	16%	16%	11%
Gosford			23%			52%			83%			17%
Wollongong	27%	22%	24%	46%	40%	47%	78%	75%	75%	22%	25%	25%
Lismore	34%	33%	36%	59%	55%	54%	86%	88%	86%	14%	12%	14%
Dubbo	26%	27%	24%	50%	47%	42%	75%	85%	67%	25%	15%	33%
Wagga Wagga	35%	29%	24%	61%	63%	54%	94%	94%	82%	6%	6%	18%
Country Total	33%	31%	34%	55%	53%	55%	83%	84%	81%	17%	16%	19%
State Total	32%	31%	33%	55%	52%	57%	84%	85%	84%	16%	15%	16%

COMPLIANCE WITH CRIMINAL TIME STANDARDS

TRIALS - VERDICTS

Accused in Custody

	Percentage of Cases Disposed Within											
	4 months			6 months			12 months			>12 months		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
Sydney	23%	21%	35%	51%	40%	51%	90%	76%	88%	10%	24%	12%
Sydney West	24%	42%	25%	53%	56%	55%	88%	93%	89%	12%	7%	11%
Newcastle	31%	54%	83%	69%	23%	92%	88%	100%	100%	13%	0%	0%
Gosford			0%			40%			80%			20%
Wollongong	22%	40%	13%	67%	40%	25%	78%	100%	88%	22%	0%	13%
Lismore	38%	0%	57%	38%	60%	57%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%
Dubbo	20%	44%	50%	60%	56%	50%	60%	100%	100%	40%	0%	0%
Wagga Wagga	50%	100%	25%	100%	100%	25%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%
Country Total	30%	42%	45%	63%	42%	55%	85%	100%	95%	15%	0%	5%
State Total	25%	31%	35%	54%	45%	53%	88%	86%	90%	12%	14%	10%

Accused on Bail

	Percentage of Cases Disposed Within											
	4 months			6 months			12 months			>12 months		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
Sydney	13%	13%	20%	41%	32%	46%	70%	75%	76%	30%	25%	24%
Sydney West	22%	21%	21%	31%	45%	37%	70%	77%	77%	30%	23%	23%
Newcastle	13%	10%	34%	25%	31%	44%	69%	77%	84%	31%	23%	16%
Gosford			10%			20%			70%			30%
Wollongong	15%	13%	6%	40%	23%	31%	70%	59%	63%	30%	41%	37%
Lismore	16%	10%	0%	42%	38%	27%	74%	81%	87%	26%	19%	13%
Dubbo	17%	31%	17%	30%	54%	22%	52%	85%	70%	48%	15%	30%
Wagga Wagga	30%	14%	12%	30%	14%	24%	80%	86%	76%	20%	14%	24%
Country Total	16%	13%	15%	32%	31%	30%	68%	73%	74%	33%	27%	26%
State Total	13%	15%	18%	35%	34%	38%	69%	75%	75%	31%	25%	25%

All Trials

	Percentage of Cases Disposed Within											
	4 months			6 months			12 months			>12 months		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
Sydney	17%	16%	25%	45%	35%	48%	78%	75%	80%	22%	25%	20%
Sydney West	15%	30%	22%	39%	49%	44%	77%	84%	81%	23%	16%	19%
Newcastle	17%	20%	48%	36%	30%	57%	73%	82%	89%	27%	18%	11%
Gosford			7%			27%			73%			27%
Wollongong	17%	16%	7%	48%	25%	30%	72%	64%	67%	28%	36%	33%
Lismore	22%	8%	18%	41%	42%	36%	81%	85%	91%	19%	15%	9%
Dubbo	18%	36%	24%	36%	55%	28%	54%	91%	76%	46%	9%	24%
Wagga Wagga	33%	25%	14%	42%	25%	24%	83%	87%	81%	17%	13%	19%
Country Total	19%	19%	22%	39%	34%	36%	72%	79%	79%	28%	21%	21%
State Total	17%	20%	24%	42%	38%	43%	76%	78%	80%	24%	22%	20%

COMPLIANCE WITH CRIMINAL TIME STANDARDS

APPEALS

Conviction Appeals

	Percentage of Cases Disposed Within											
	4 months			6 months			12 months			>12 months		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
Sydney	53%	38%	43%	81%	72%	69%	97%	98%	95%	3%	2%	5%
Sydney West	61%	66%	61%	82%	85%	84%	97%	98%	98%	3%	2%	2%
Newcastle	51%	55%	61%	76%	75%	80%	97%	96%	94%	3%	4%	6%
Gosford			35%			63%			91%			9%
Wollongong	43%	39%	47%	71%	68%	75%	96%	94%	92%	4%	6%	8%
Lismore	49%	49%	47%	78%	78%	74%	98%	98%	91%	2%	2%	9%
Dubbo	74%	57%	51%	88%	88%	77%	97%	99%	93%	3%	1%	7%
Wagga Wagga	61%	43%	55%	71%	83%	87%	98%	92%	100%	2%	8%	0%
Country Total	55%	49%	51%	75%	79%	76%	97%	96%	93%	3%	4%	7%
State Total	56%	51%	51%	76%	80%	76%	97%	97%	95%	3%	3%	5%

Severity Appeals

	Percentage of Cases Disposed Within								
	2 months			6 months			>6 months		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
Sydney	72%	74%	76%	98%	98%	98%	2%	2%	2%
Sydney West	67%	60%	59%	97%	96%	96%	3%	4%	4%
Newcastle	48%	46%	48%	94%	93%	95%	6%	7%	5%
Gosford			40%			89%			11%
Wollongong	34%	44%	49%	92%	92%	94%	8%	8%	6%
Lismore	48%	51%	46%	94%	96%	92%	6%	4%	8%
Dubbo	47%	44%	40%	93%	92%	88%	7%	8%	12%
Wagga Wagga	34%	34%	35%	95%	93%	96%	5%	7%	4%
Country Total	44%	45%	45%	94%	93%	93%	6%	7%	7%
State Total	59%	57%	57%	95%	96%	95%	4%	5%	5%

SENTENCES

	Percentage of Cases Disposed Within								
	3 months			6 month			>6 months		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
Sydney	33%	32%	35%	74%	69%	73%	26%	31%	27%
Sydney West	30%	30%	23%	75%	75%	76%	25%	25%	24%
Newcastle	37%	34%	44%	75%	76%	84%	25%	24%	16%
Wollongong	21%	23%	22%	66%	71%	74%	34%	29%	26%
Lismore	43%	38%	48%	79%	76%	87%	21%	24%	13%
Dubbo	30%	30%	37%	75%	72%	69%	25%	28%	31%
Wagga Wagga	47%	67%	28%	80%	90%	82%	20%	10%	18%
Country Total	33%	35%	34%	74%	76%	75%	26%	24%	25%
State Total	32%	32%	31%	74%	73%	74%	26%	27%	26%

DISTRICT COURT COMMITTEES

CHIEF JUDGE'S POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Honourable Justice R O Blanch, Chief Judge
(Chairman)
His Honour Judge R H Solomon
(ex officio as Chair, Criminal Court Users Committee)
His Honour Judge K V Taylor, A.M., R.F.D.
(ex officio as Chair, Resources Committee)
His Honour Judge W H Knight
(ex officio as Chair, Education Committee)
His Honour Judge A F Garling
(ex officio as Chair, Civil Court Users Committee)
Her Honour Judge A M Ainslie-Wallace
Her Honour Judge L M Ashford
His Honour Judge C J G Robison
His Honour Judge S L Walmsley, S.C.
His Honour Judge R D Ellis
His Honour Judge M C Marien, S.C.
His Honour Judge B J Knox, S.C.
His Honour Judge J L A Bennett, S.C.
His Honour Judge P L Johnstone
Mr C Smith, Director Court Services (Secretary)

RULE COMMITTEE

The Honourable Justice R O Blanch, Chief Judge
(Chairman)
His Honour Judge Garling (Deputy Chairman)
Her Honour Judge Sidis
His Honour Judge Robison
His Honour Judge Phegan
His Honour Judge Rolfe
His Honour Judge Neilson
His Honour Judge Rein SC
Mr P Khandhar, NSW Bar Association
Mr T Stern, Law Society of NSW
Mr A Grew (Secretary)

CIVIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

His Honour Judge Garling (Convenor)
Her Honour Judge Truss
Her Honour Judge Sidis
His Honour Judge Rolfe
His Honour Judge McLoughlin, S.C.
His Honour Judge Johnstone
Judicial Registrar McDonald
Mr V Driscoll, Insurance Council of Australia
Ms B Cassidy, Motor Accidents Authority
Mr P Deakin, QC, NSW Bar Association
Ms L King SC, NSW Bar Association
Mr A McMurran, Law Society of NSW
Mr A Saxton, Law Society of NSW
Ms J Atkinson, Attorney General's Department

Mr S Olischlager, Attorney General's Department
Mr C Smith, Director Court Services
Ms J Dunn, Manager, Civil Case Management and
Listings, District Court

CRIMINAL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

His Honour Judge R H Solomon (Chairman)
His Honour Judge Sides Q.C.
His Honour Judge Woods Q.C.
Mr J Kiely, Crown Prosecutor
Mr M Ierace, Senior Public Defender
Mr R Fornito, District Court
Mr D Giddy, NSW Law Society
Ms C Girotto, Office of the Director of Public
Prosecutions (NSW)
Mr J Joliffe, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
(Commonwealth)
Mr R Kozanecki, Legal Aid Commission
Mr C Smith, Director Court Services & Principal Registrar
Ms K Traill, Bar Association of NSW
Mr C Franklin, Aboriginal Legal Service
Mr C Smith, Director Court Services
Ms J Garvey, District Court (Secretary)

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

His Honour Judge Taylor AM RFD (Chairman)
Her Honour Judge Ainslie-Wallace
His Honour Judge Finnane, R.F.D., Q.C.
Mr C. Smith, Director Court Services (Secretary)

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS (EDUCATION) COMMITTEE

His Honour Judge Knight (Chairman)
His Honour Judge Geraghty
Her Honour Judge Sidis
Her Honour Judge Murrell, S.C.
His Honour Judge Phegan
His Honour Judge Puckeridge, Q.C.
His Honour Judge Williams
His Honour Judge Norrish, Q.C.
Her Honour Judge Gibson
His Honour Judge Nicholson, S.C.
His Honour Judge Knox, S.C.
Ms R Windeler, Education Director, Judicial Commission
Mr C Smith, Director Court Services

CRIMINAL LAW COMMITTEE

The Honourable Justice R O Blanch, Chief Judge
His Honour Judge Knight
His Honour Judge Taylor AM RFD
His Honour Judge Garling

Annexure D

COMPUTER COMMITTEE

Her Honour Judge Sidis (Chairperson)
His Honour Judge Sides
His Honour Judge Delaney
His Honour Judge Finnane RFD QC
Her Honour Judge J C Gibson
Mr J Mahon, Attorney General's Department
Ms J Gee, Attorney General's Department
Mr D Lane, Attorney General's Department
Mr C Smith, Director Court Services

COURTLINK COMMITTEE

His Honour Judge Taylor, A.M., R.F.D.
His Honour Judge Williams
His Honour Judge Rolfe
His Honour Judge Hulme, S.C.
Judicial Registrar McDonald
Mr P Ryan, Courtlink
Ms N Ubrihien, Courtlink

DISTRICT COURT JUDGES LIBRARY COMMITTEE

His Honour Judge Knight (Convenor)
His Honour Judge Phegan
Her Honour Judge Ainslie-Wallace
Mr J Hourigan (Secretary)

JUDGES' CONDITIONS COMMITTEE

His Honour Judge Garling
His Honour Judge Taylor, A.M., R.F.D.
Her Honour Judge Sidis

JUDICIAL COMMISSION, STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF JUDICIAL EDUCATION

His Honour Judge Phegan

JUDICIAL COMMISSION, JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE WITH THE ALJA ABORIGINAL CULTURAL AWARENESS PROGRAM

His Honour Judge Norrish, Q.C.
His Honour Judge Dive

JUDICIAL COMMISSION, CRIMINAL TRIAL COURTS BENCH BOOK COMMITTEE

His Honour Judge Berman, S.C.
His Honour Judge Hulme, S.C.

JOHN MADDISON TOWER BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Mr C Smith, Director Court Services
Mr G Byles - Sheriff
Mr S Smith - AMS - Manager Facility Maintenance
Mr R Gounder - AMS - Engineering Officer
Mr R Dunlop - AMS - Building Manager
Mr B Coombs - Manager, Support Services

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