

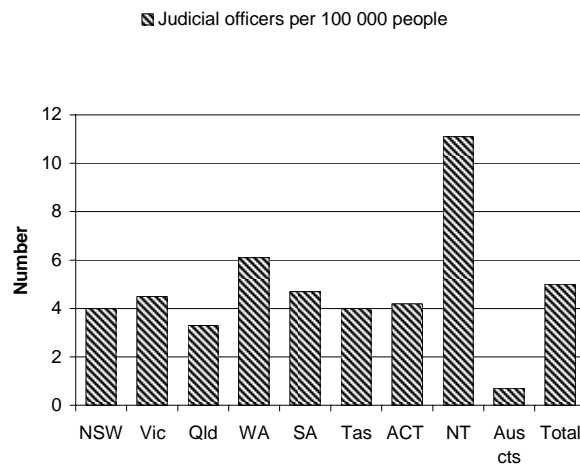
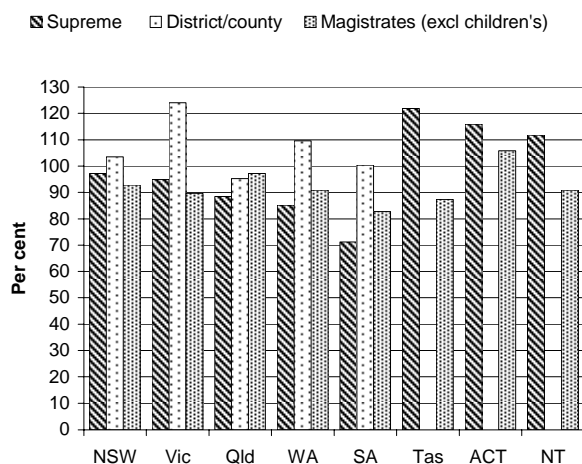
COURT ADMINISTRATION (CHAPTER 6)

- The focus of this chapter is on the administration of State and Territory magistrates', district/county, supreme and coroners' courts, electronic infringement and enforcement systems, the Federal Court, the Federal Magistrates Court, the Family Court of Australia and the Family Court of Western Australia. Related chapters cover police services, corrective services and the justice preface.
- Total court administration recurrent expenditure less income (excluding fines) by Australian, State and Territory court authorities (excluding the High Court) was approximately \$902 million in 2004-05. Nationally, the recurrent expenditure less income for magistrates', district/county and supreme courts was higher in the criminal jurisdiction (\$478 million) than in the civil jurisdiction (\$314 million). Electronic systems and probate registries had income greater than expenditure (by \$51 million and \$25 million respectively) (pp. 6.10–12).
- Nationally in 2004-05, there were approximately 774 900 lodgments in the criminal jurisdiction of the magistrates, district/county and supreme courts. These same courts had 661 900 civil cases lodged. In the Australian court jurisdiction there were approximately 4 500 cases lodged in the Federal Court, 37 800 forms lodged in the Family Court of Australia, and 80 400 cases lodged in the Federal Magistrates Court (pp. 6.14–16).
- In 2004-05 there were approximately 745 000 finalisations in the criminal jurisdiction of the magistrates, district/county and supreme courts. These same courts had 585 700 civil cases finalised. In the Australian court jurisdiction there were approximately 4 300 cases finalised in the Federal Court, 43 400 forms finalised in the Family Court of Australia, and 77 300 cases finalised in the Federal Magistrates Court (pp. 6.17–18).
- The court administration chapter contains six performance indicators this year. They are: 'fees paid by applicants' (p. 6.21), 'backlog' (p. 6.23), 'judicial officers' (p. 6.29), 'attendance' (p. 6.30), 'clearance rate' (p. 6.32) and 'cost per finalisation' (p. 6.34).

Selection of results

Clearance rate (finalisations/lodgments), criminal and civil matters, 2004-05, by state/territory (per cent) (p. 6.33)

Judicial officers, full time equivalent, per 100 000 people, 2004-05 (p. 6.30)



Progress since the 2005 Report

The Review this year has modified the presentation of the backlog indicator to include the number of pending cases (and related timeliness data) for the higher courts (aggregate of supreme and district courts). Work continues on improving data quality and comparability across jurisdictions.

Data for charts on previous page

Clearance rate (finalisations/lodgments), criminal and civil matters, 2004-05, by state/territory (per cent)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA ^c	Tas ^d	ACT ^d	NT ^d
Supreme courts ^a	97.2	94.9	88.5	85.2	71.2	121.8	115.9	111.8
District/county courts ^b	103.5	124.1	95.3	109.6	100.3
Magistrates (excluding children's) courts	92.8	89.7	97.2	90.9	82.7	87.3	105.8	90.9

^a The civil jurisdiction excludes probate matters. ^b In the civil jurisdiction in Victoria, there has been a decrease in the number of cases lodged in 2004-05 compared to 2003-04. This decrease in 2004-05 has been due to the influx of writs filed before the cut off date of 30 September 2003, as a result of changes to the *Wrongs Act (Wrongs and Limitations of Actions Acts (Insurance Reform) Act 2003)*. ^c In SA, the number of cases finalised in the civil jurisdiction of the supreme court has been undercounted by 320 in 2004-05. The inclusion of these cases in the finalisation counts would have resulted in a clearance rate in the supreme court of 88.1 per cent (instead of the reported 71.2 per cent). ^d Tasmania, the ACT and the NT do not have a district/county court. .. Not applicable.

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 6.15

Judicial officers, full time equivalent, per 100 000 people, 2004-05^{a, b}

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust crts	Total
Total ^c	4.0	4.5	3.3	6.1	4.7	4.0	4.2	11.1	0.7	5.0

^a Totals may not add as a result of rounding. ^b Population data is the average of the four quarters over the 2004-05 financial year. ^c Excludes electronic infringement and enforcement systems as they do not have open court sittings and therefore do not require judicial officers.

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 6.12

[END]

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Tables with an 'A' prefix (eg table 6.A5) are in the electronic attachments on the CD-ROM or on the Review website.