

COURT ADMINISTRATION (CHAPTER 6)

- The focus of this chapter is on the administration of State and Territory magistrates', district/county, supreme and coroners' courts, the Federal Court, the Federal Magistrates Service, the Family Court of Australia and the Family Court of Western Australia. Data are presented in the Report for the Commonwealth and for each State and Territory.

Selection of results

- Total recurrent expenditure less income (excluding fines) by Commonwealth, State and Territory court authorities (excluding the High Court) was approximately \$770 million in 2001-02. Nationally, court administration recurrent expenditure less income for magistrates', district/county and supreme courts was higher in the criminal jurisdiction (\$420 million) than in the civil jurisdiction (\$187 million), and was around \$110 million for family courts and \$25 million for coroners' courts. Across Australia, both electronic courts and probate registries had income which was greater than expenditure (by \$33 million and \$17 million respectively) (**p. 6.11**). Expenditure by jurisdiction and court level, is contained in **tables 6A.11-15**.
- Nationally, in 2001-02, there were approximately 817 000 criminal defendants in the magistrates', district/county and supreme courts. These same courts had 686 000 civil cases lodged. In the Commonwealth jurisdiction there were approximately 82 000 forms lodged in the Family Court of Australia; 4 500 cases lodged in the Federal Court, and 50 000 forms and cases lodged in the Federal Magistrates Service (**pp. 6.18-6.19**). Court lodgments by jurisdiction, and court level, are contained on **pp. 6.18-19**.
- In 2001-02, in the criminal jurisdiction, there were 618 000 criminal finalisations in the magistrates', district/county and supreme courts. These same courts had 406 000 civil finalisations (**pp. 6.21-22**). Finalisations, by jurisdiction and court level, are contained on **pp. 6.21-22**. In the Commonwealth jurisdiction, the Federal Court of Australia finalised 5000 cases and the Federal Magistrates Service finalised around 3000 federal law cases (**p. 6.22**).
- Nationally, average court fees collected per lodgment for civil magistrates', district/county and supreme/Federal courts were \$89, \$601 and \$1019 respectively in 2001-02. Average court fees, by jurisdiction and court level, are contained on **p.6.27**.
- Across Australia, of all supreme court non-appeal matters, 89.2 per cent of criminal cases were finalised in less than twelve months. For criminal cases in district/county courts 72.7 per cent of cases were finalised in six months, and 90.5 per cent of criminal cases were finalised within six months in magistrates' courts (**p.6.30**). A breakdown of these results by jurisdiction are available on **p. 6.30**.
- Across Australia, of all supreme court non-appeal matters, 74.5 per cent of civil cases were finalised within 12 months. In the district/county court and magistrates' court 25.4 per cent and 86.3 per cent of civil cases were finalised within 6 months respectively (**p.6.33**). A breakdown of these results is available on **p. 6.33**.
- Expenditure less income (excluding fines) per finalisation, by jurisdiction and court level, is contained on **pp. 6.40 – 6.49**.

[MORE]

Progress in 2001-02

The Review continues to develop its framework of performance indicators for court administration. As well, work on improving data quality and comparability across jurisdictions continues to occur.

[END]

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Please do not approach other parties for comment before Thursday, 6 February 2003.

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