
C Justice preface

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Governments provide justice services to facilitate effective and efficient administration of justice and to ensure community safety and confidence in law and order. The provision of justice services involves crime prevention, detection and investigation, judicial processes and dispute resolution, prisoner and offender management, and rehabilitation services. Some of the high level goals common to all justice agencies are to:

- protect the rights and freedoms of all people through a fair and just system of criminal justice
- provide an accessible and equitable civil justice system
- preserve civil order through the prevention and detection of crime
- provide a safe, just and humane custodial environment.

In seeking to achieve these goals, there is a trend toward the delivery of justice services through partnerships between agencies, in order to address complex issues and client needs, for example bail or housing support programs. However, the focus of the chapters in this section of the Report is on the justice services provided by police (chapter 6), court administration (chapter 7) and adult corrective services (chapter 8). Juvenile justice services are part of the community services section (Part F) of this Report.

There are no major improvements in reporting in the Justice preface this year. Major improvements in reporting on justice this year are identified in each of the service-specific justice chapters.

Profile of the justice system

Objectives of the justice system

The justice system reported on in this Report comprises both criminal and civil jurisdictions. Services in the criminal jurisdiction are delivered by police, court administration and corrective services. In the civil jurisdiction, police deliver services for infringements, and court administration deals with civil law matters.

The objectives of the criminal justice system are listed in box C.1.

Box C.1 Objectives of the criminal justice system

The objectives of the criminal justice system are to provide protection for the rights and freedoms of all people through:

- the operation of police services that enhance community safety by preventing, detecting and investigating crime
- the administration of criminal justice that determines guilt and applies appropriate, consistent and fair sanctions to offenders
- the provision of a safe, secure and humane custodial environment and an effective community corrections environment that provides program interventions to reduce the risk of re-offending.

These objectives are pursued in a manner that is accessible, equitable, timely and efficient.

The objectives of the civil justice system are listed in box C.2.

Box C.2 Objectives of the civil justice system

The civil justice system sustains and fosters social stability and economic growth through a network of courts, tribunals and legal processes that:

- resolve civil disputes and enforce a system of legal rights and obligations
- respect, restore and protect private and personal rights
- resolve and address the issues resulting from family conflicts and ensure that children's and spousal rights are respected and enforced.

By contrast with criminal justice, civil cases involve participants using the legal system as a matter of choice to settle disputes, and the types of parties and possible dispute resolution approaches vary considerably.

Police, courts and corrective services contribute to the objectives of the criminal and civil justice systems in a number of ways. Not all of the police, court and corrective services activities referred to below are specifically reported on in this Report, in part because either the agency or service does not report, or because programs are delivered by different agencies and there is no comparable national program. A list of exclusions can be found on page C.15.

Police services

Police services are the principal means through which State and Territory governments pursue the achievement of a safe and secure environment for the community. This is through the investigation of criminal offences, response to life threatening situations, provision of services to the judicial process and provision of road safety and traffic management. Police services also respond to more general needs in the community — for example, working with emergency management organisations and a wide range of government services and community groups, and advising on general policing and crime issues. Additionally, police are involved in various activities which aim to improve public safety and prevent crime.

Courts

Courts provide independent adjudication of disputes and application of the law within an environment that protects human rights. This is a necessary role to ensure that the principles of justice operate in society. Court administration provides services which support the judiciary and court users through the efficient and effective management of court resources and court caseloads.

Corrective services

Corrective services implement the correctional sanctions determined by the courts and releasing authorities such as parole boards. Corrective services agencies operate (or contract with private operators for the operation of) prison facilities, and in some states and territories periodic detention centres, and are also responsible for managing offenders on community corrections orders. Corrective services agencies administer services and programs which aim to reduce prisoners' and offenders' risk of re-offence, and also provide advice to courts and releasing authorities.

Framework of the justice system

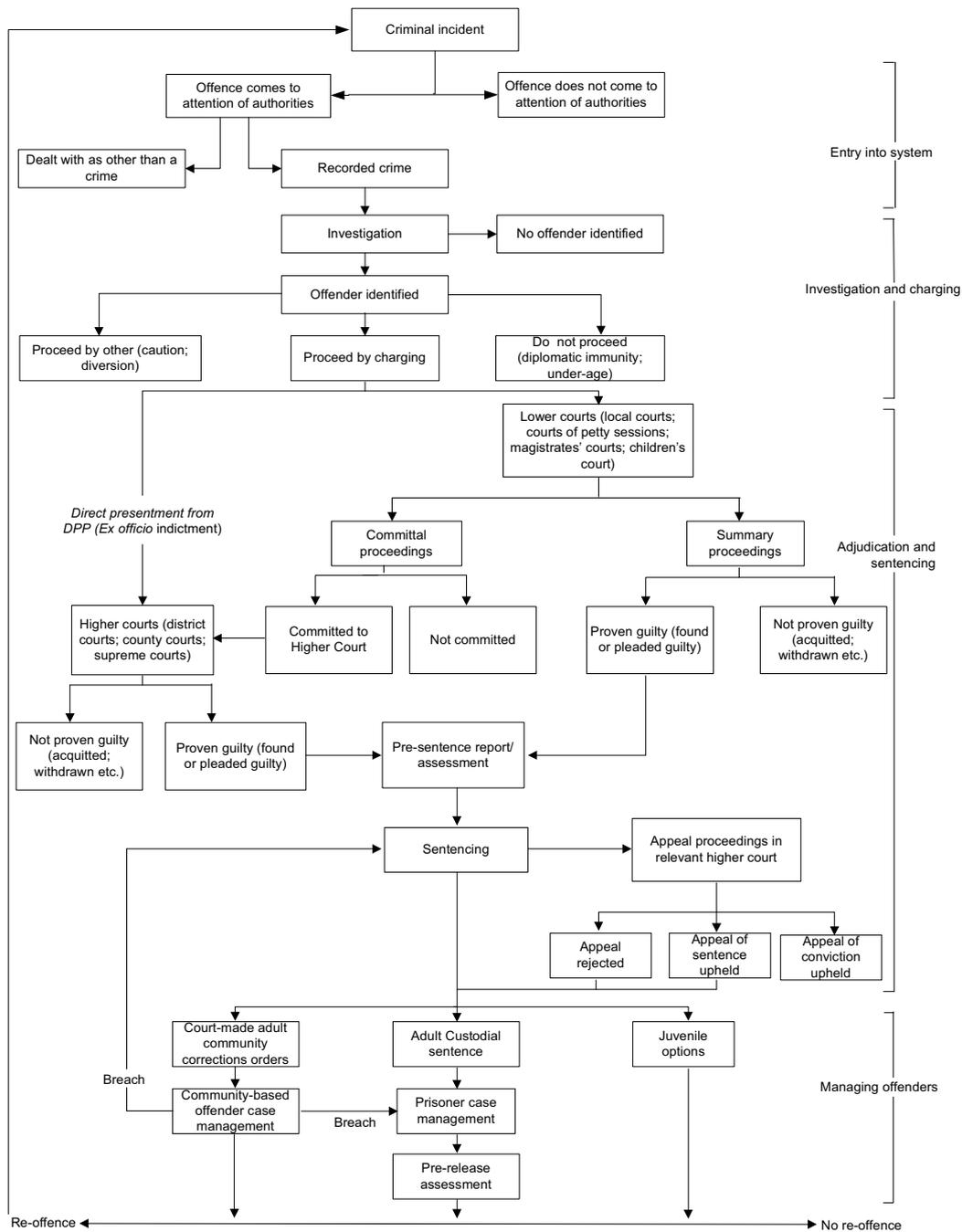
The justice system is broad and complex, and has many interrelated objectives.

A model of the criminal justice system

The criminal justice system involves the interaction of many entities and their processes and practices are aimed at providing protection for the rights and freedoms of all people. For most people who come into contact with it, the criminal justice system is a sequentially structured process (figure C.1).

Figure C.1 shows the typical flow of events in the criminal justice system. This depiction is broadly indicative and, for brevity and clarity, does not seek to capture all the complexities of the criminal justice system or variations across jurisdictions.

Figure C.1 Flows through the criminal justice system^{a, b, c}

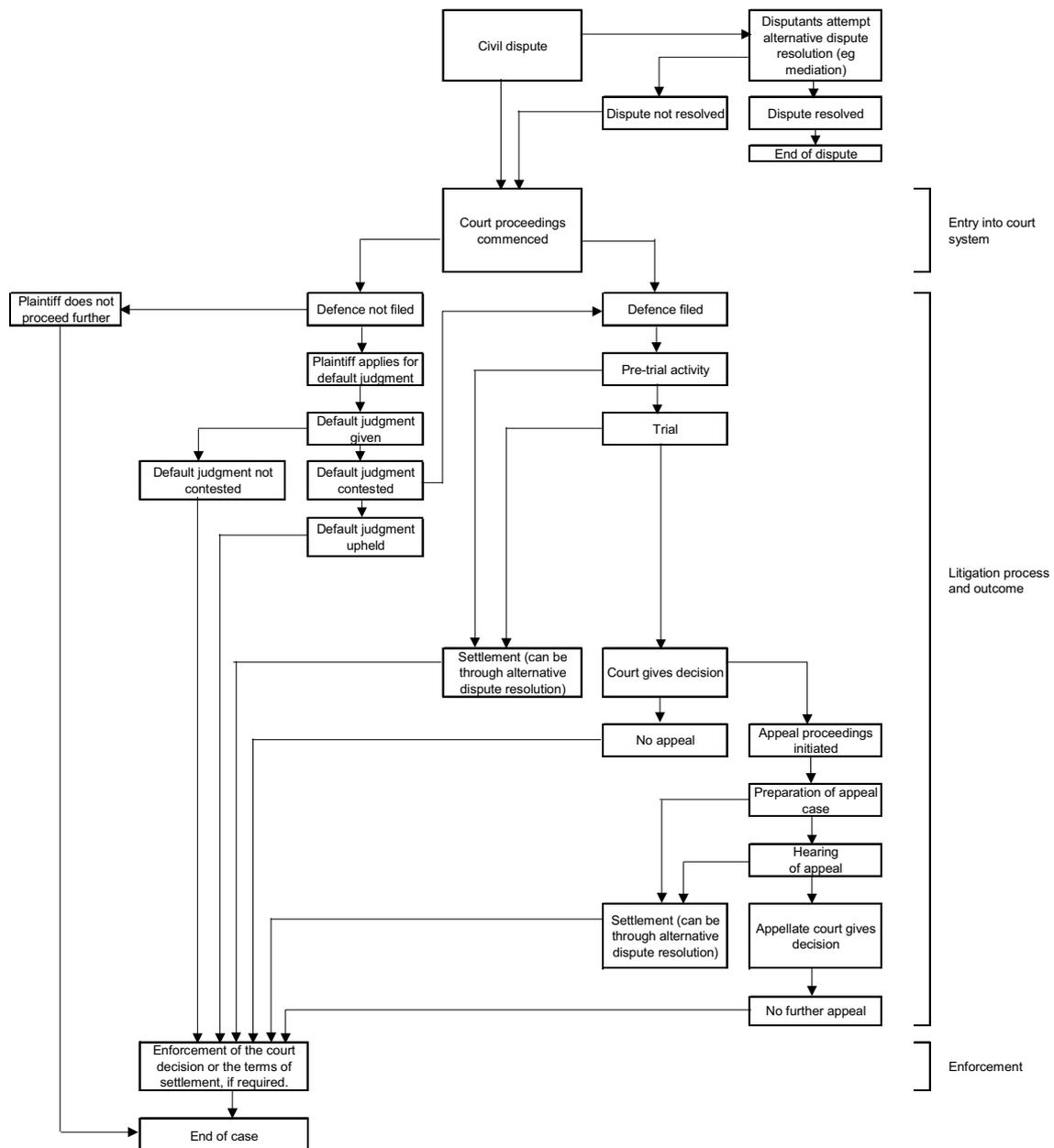


^a Does not account for all variations across Australian, State and Territory governments' criminal justice systems. ^b The flow diagram is indicative and does not seek to include all the complexities of the criminal justice system. ^c Juvenile justice is covered in the Protection and support services chapter (chapter 15).
 Source: ABS (2007)

A model of the civil justice system

The civil justice system involves the interaction of a number of practices, procedures and case management processes aimed at achieving fair, accessible and effective dispute resolution. Figure C.2 is an indicative model of the flows through the civil justice system; it has been simplified because specific steps are complex, vary between jurisdictions, and cannot all be captured in a single figure.

Figure C.2 Flows through the civil justice system^{a, b}



^a Does not account for all variations across Australian, State and Territory governments' civil justice systems.

^b The flow diagram is indicative and does not seek to include all the complexities of the civil justice system.

Measuring performance in the justice system

The performance of the justice system is measured in this Report against the objectives of equity (how well agencies treat special needs groups), effectiveness (how well agencies meet the outcomes of access, appropriateness and/or quality) and efficiency (how well inputs are used to deliver a range of outputs). Within the justice system, the ability of one service to meet these objectives depends in part on the effectiveness of the complex interactions between the police, courts and corrective services (and other services outside the scope of this Report). Examples of interactions between justice system services are:

- police services' effect on the courts through the implementation of initiatives such as the issue of police cautions and other diversionary strategies
- police and courts effect on corrective services, such as diversion, bail and sentencing approaches
- correctional systems' services to courts through advisory services
- the impact on the justice system of the degree of recidivism (rate of return to the justice system) experienced.

Although service areas are represented in separate chapters in this Report, performance results are to some extent interdependent. Each agency's activities may affect the activities and priorities of the other areas of the system. The resource demands on police, corrective services and, to a lesser degree, courts, along with their responsiveness and capacity to provide services and programs to their client bases, need to be considered in this context.

The following section introduces relevant effectiveness indicators used in the Report. It also reports some rate of return to justice system indicators, and overall costs (including an efficiency indicator) for the parts of the justice system covered in this Report. Specific overall equity indicators are yet to be developed for justice in this Report.

Police services

Recorded rates of crime and information from crime victimisation surveys are reported in chapter 6 (Police services). Chapter 6 also includes measures of community perceptions of safety and judicial services.

Measures of public perceptions of safety indicate the success of the system in ensuring that the public feel safe both personally and in regard to their property. Public perceptions of safety reported in detail in chapter 6 include measures of

perceived safety in the home, in public places and on public transport. Chapter 6 also includes data on people's perceptions of the level or incidence of particular crime problems in local neighbourhoods and more broadly across each jurisdiction.

The recorded rate of crime is an indicator of the success of crime prevention and law enforcement. Given that several factors can influence recorded rates of crime, including the general willingness of the public to report crimes to police, additional information is also provided on the community's experience with crime, drawn from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) Crime Victimization Survey. This information helps to clarify the relationship between reported and unreported crimes.

Information on the outcomes of criminal investigations provides a measure of the success of the police in bringing offenders to justice. Chapter 6 reports on outcomes of investigations. The data include the total number of investigations for a range of crimes, the number of investigations finalised as a proportion of total investigations, and the number of investigations that resulted in proceedings against the offending person. Measures relating to the proportion of lower court cases resulting in a guilty plea or finding indicate the effectiveness of work undertaken by police in relation to evidence gathering and court case preparation.

Chapter 6 also identifies the proportion of identified juvenile offenders who were diverted from the criminal justice system, as well as the proportion of investigations which were not resolved.

Court administration

Data on the processing of criminal and civil cases provide information on the ability of the justice system to meet community demands for accused people to be processed in a timely manner, for civil disputes and family law matters to be appropriately resolved, and on the courts' ability to manage their caseload effectively. Information on case processing is reported in chapter 7.

Corrective Services

Chapter 8 includes indicators such as:

- rates of escapes from prison and successful completions of community corrections orders, which provide outcome measures of the effectiveness of corrective services in administering correctional sentences imposed on offenders
- rates of assaults by prisoners on other prisoners, prisoner deaths from unnatural causes and the average number of hours that prisoners spend outside of their

cells while they serve their prison sentences, which are indicators of the provision of a safe, secure and humane custodial environment

- the ratio of hours of community work ordered to hours worked, which is an indicator of the effective administration of the community corrections system
- the levels of participation by prisoners in accredited education courses and employment in prison, which are indicators of the opportunity for prisoners to develop skills that will improve their ability to make a successful transition back into the community at the completion of their sentence.

Selected indicators of the justice system

Repeat offending

The extent to which people who have had contact with the criminal justice system are re-arrested, re-convicted or receive further sentences can be viewed as a partial indicator of the success of the criminal justice system in achieving the objective of improving public safety by reducing the incidence of crime. Two available measures of repeat offending reported here are the proportion of offenders who were proceeded against by police more than once and the rate of return to the corrective services sector.

The rate of return — the extent to which people entering the justice system return to the justice system — is an indicator of the success of the justice system in achieving the stated outcome of reducing the incidence of unlawful activity. The data reported here relate to the criminal justice system, sourced from corrective services and police agencies. There are no data currently available on return to courts. Although snapshot views are available for corrective services and police, it is not possible to identify the same offender moving through the justice system due to limitations in the availability of unique person identifiers.

Offenders proceeded against by police

Data on offenders proceeded against by police are reported in table C.1. An offender can be proceeded against multiple times during a given period. The data represent each separate occasion police initiated a legal action against an offender.

Table C.1 provides data on the number of times offenders were proceeded against in 2008-09. The statistics are based on data extracted from the administrative records of State and Territory police agencies and relate to offenders aged 10 years and over. Data are not currently available for WA and therefore national data are not yet

available from this collection. The data presented are comparable across jurisdictions, but there are differences in data reflecting varying administrative processes in dealing with alleged offenders and the range of court and non-court actions available to police.

Repeat offender data are difficult to interpret. A lower proportion of repeat offenders may indicate an effective justice system discouraging repeat offending. However, a higher proportion of repeat offenders may indicate more effective policing.

In each State and Territory, the majority of offenders (around 70 per cent) were proceeded against only once during 2008-09.

Table C.1 Number of times offenders were proceeded against during 2008-09 (per cent)^a

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic^b</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>
1	74.0	77.8	69.4	na	79.0	67.2	77.7	69.1
2	14.6	12.7	17.0	na	10.9	14.7	12.8	17.8
3	5.6	4.6	6.6	na	4.6	6.6	5.1	7.1
4	2.5	2.2	3.1	na	2.2	3.5	1.9	3.3
≥ 5	3.3	2.7	3.9	na	3.3	7.9	2.5	2.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	na	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total repeat offenders	26.0	22.2	30.6	na	21.0	32.8	22.3	30.9

^a Totals may not sum as a result of rounding. ^b Victorian data exclude penalty/infringement notices. **na** Not available.

Source: ABS (2010), *Recorded Crime – Offenders, Selected States and Territories, 2008-09*, Cat. no. 4519.0.

Return to corrective services

Rates of return to corrective services within two years of adults discharged from prison or community corrections are reported for:

- prisoners discharged from an adult prison following a term of imprisonment
- offenders discharged from adult community corrections supervision following completion of their order(s) or supervision requirements.

These return rates are not weighted to account for the nature of the re-offence — for example, a return to prison for a traffic offence is counted in the same manner as a return for a more serious offence such as armed robbery. Nor do these return rates take into account any further:

- arrests

- convictions for re-offending that lead to outcomes that are not administered by corrective services, for example, fines
- corrections sanctions for a repeat offender who has previously been sentenced to only non-correctional sanctions, for example, fines.

Rate of return — prisoners

Two indicators of rate of return are reported for prisoners (table C.2):

- percentage of prisoners returning to prison under sentence, within two years of release
- percentage of prisoners returning to corrective services (either prison or community corrections) within two years of release.

The most recent data on the rate of return to corrective services that is available for this Report relate to prisoners released during 2007-08. That is, prisoners released during 2007-08 who returned to corrective services by 2009-10.

Table C.2 Prisoners released during 2007-08 who returned to corrective services with a new correctional sanction within two years (per cent)^a

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT^b</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
Prisoners returning to:									
— prison	42.4	33.7	33.5	38.3	30.2	31.7	..	47.9	37.6
— corrective services ^c	45.2	41.5	38.9	50.6	46.4	39.9	..	50.6	44.0

^a Refers to all prisoners released following a term of sentenced imprisonment including prisoners subject to correctional supervision following release, that is, offenders released on parole or other community corrections orders. Data include returns to prison resulting from the cancellation of a parole order. ^b The ACT did not report on either indicator, because for most of the reporting period the majority of full-time prisoners sentenced in the ACT were held in NSW prisons. ^c Includes a prison sentence or a community corrections order. .. Not applicable.

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished).

Table C.3 provides a time series on the proportion of prisoners released who returned to prison under sentence within two years. Nationally, 37.6 per cent of prisoners released in 2007-08 returned to prison within two years, remaining relatively stable since 2005-06.

Table C.3 Prisoners released who returned to prison under sentence within two years (per cent)

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
2005-06	43.3	36.5	27.6	40.3	31.0	37.2	..	46.4	37.6
2006-07	43.8	36.2	28.7	38.2	32.8	37.1	..	44.6	37.5
2007-08	43.0	35.6	33.6	37.1	33.2	36.0	..	44.8	38.2
2008-09	42.9	33.9	37.9	38.3	32.2	36.4	..	47.3	39.3
2009-10	42.4	33.7	33.5	38.3	30.2	31.7	..	47.9	37.6

.. Not applicable.

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished).

Rate of return — offenders

Two indicators of rate of return are reported for offenders who served orders administered by community corrections, including post-prison orders such as parole or licence:

- percentage of offenders returning to community corrections with a new order within two years of discharge
- percentage of offenders returning to corrective services (either prisons or community corrections) within two years of discharge.

Table C.4 provides data on offenders discharged from community corrections orders who returned with a new correctional sanction within two years. Nationally, of those offenders who were released during 2007-08, 15.6 per cent had returned with a new correctional sanction to community corrections, and 27.4 per cent had returned to corrective services by 2009-10.

Table C.4 Offenders discharged from community corrections orders during 2007-08 who returned with a new correctional sanction within two years (per cent)

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA^a</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT^b</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
Offenders returning to:									
— community corrections	13.0	13.6	15.6	23.1	16.0	18.4	na	13.7	15.6
— corrective services ^c	23.9	19.9	30.7	40.6	23.5	26.3	na	27.6	27.4

^a Figures for SA include breaches of supervised bail, that has a home detention component. This group has a higher rate of return than home detainees on a sentenced order. In the majority of cases, this is for a minor breach. ^b ACT did not report on either indicator for this Report. ^c Includes a prison sentence or a community corrections order. **na** Not available.

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished).

Cost of justice services

Real recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources)

Recurrent expenditure relates to the annual service costs for the parts of the justice system covered in this Report, and excludes payroll tax. Real recurrent expenditure is derived by applying a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Implicit Price Deflator (IPD) to the recurrent expenditure data. Details on the GDP IPD can be found in the statistical appendix and table AA.26.

Total real recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources) for those parts of the justice system covered in this Report was \$12.3 billion in 2009-10 (table C.5).

Table C.5 Real recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources) on justice services by Australian, State and Territory governments (2009-10 dollars)^{a, b, c, d}

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Average annual growth rate
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	%
Police services	7 210	7 400	7 597	7 788	8 235	3.4
Court admin. — criminal	588	610	633	657	673	3.4
Court admin. — civil ^e	612	624	624	596	618	0.3
Corrective services	2 386	2 463	2 588	2 730	2 807	4.2
Total justice system	10 796	11 096	11 442	11 772	12 334	3.4
	%	%	%	%	%	
Police services	66.8	66.7	66.4	66.2	66.8	..
Court admin. — criminal	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.5	..
Court admin. — civil ^e	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.1	5.0	..
Corrective services	22.1	22.2	22.6	23.2	22.8	..
Total justice system	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	..

^a Totals may not sum as a result of rounding. ^b Expenditure data for all services include depreciation, but exclude payroll tax and user cost of capital. This treatment has been adopted to aid comparability in the above table and may differ from the treatment used in tables within individual chapters. ^c Excludes expenditure on justice services out of the scope of this Report (for example, expenditure on specialist courts). ^d Real expenditure based on the ABS gross domestic product price deflator (2009-10 = 100). ^e Civil real net recurrent expenditure for court administration excludes real net recurrent expenditure on probate matters. .. Not applicable.

Source: Australian, State and Territory governments (unpublished); tables 6A.10, 7A.12-13, 8A.12 and AA.2.

Efficiency — real recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources) per person

The efficiency of the justice system is reflected in the level of resources used to deliver those services. Unit cost indicators for individual justice services are presented in the related chapters, but some outcomes result from interactions among

the individual services. One indicator of efficiency is annual government recurrent expenditure per person on the justice system. Data in table C.6 are calculated from real recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources) data for corrective services, criminal and civil court administration and police services, and ABS population estimates, to derive per person results.

Nationally, real expenditure (less revenue from own sources) per person on justice in 2009-10 was \$557 (table C.6).

Table C.6 Real recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources) per person on justice services, 2009-10^{a, b, c, d, e}

	<i>Unit</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
Police services	\$	365	333	367	438	354	382	403	997	372
Court admin. — criminal	\$	27	28	29	44	34	28	35	76	30
Court admin. — civil ^{f,g}	\$	15	16	11	30	15	10	23	48	28
Corrective services	\$	136	87	114	208	108	124	113	380	127
Total justice system	\$	543	465	521	720	510	544	575	1500	557
Police services	%	67.3	71.6	70.5	60.8	69.3	70.2	70.2	66.4	66.8
Court admin. — criminal	%	4.9	6.1	5.5	6.2	6.6	5.2	6.1	5.0	5.5
Court admin. — civil ^{f,g}	%	2.7	3.5	2.1	4.1	3.0	1.8	4.1	3.2	5.0
Corrective services	%	25.1	18.8	21.9	28.9	21.1	22.8	19.7	25.3	22.8
Total justice system	%	100.0								

^a Totals may not sum as a result of rounding. ^b Expenditure data for all services include depreciation, but exclude payroll tax and user cost of capital. This treatment has been adopted to aid comparability in the above table and may differ from the treatment used in tables within individual chapters. ^c Population is estimated by taking the midpoint population estimate of the 2008-09 financial year. ^d Excludes expenditure on justice services out of the scope of this Report (for example, expenditure on specialist courts). ^e Real expenditure based on the ABS gross domestic product price deflator (2009-10 = 100). ^f The Australian total includes net court administration expenditure for the Federal Court of Australia, the Family Court of Australia, and the Federal Magistrates Court of Australia, which are not attributed to State or Territory jurisdictions. ^g WA civil net court administration expenditure includes the Family Court of WA, so is not directly comparable with other jurisdictions.

Source: Australian, State and Territory governments (unpublished); tables 6A.10, 7A.12–13, 8A.13 and table AA.2.

A number of factors contribute to the marked differences in expenditure across jurisdictions. These include factors beyond the control of jurisdictions (such as geographic dispersion, economies of scale and socioeconomic factors), as well as differences in justice policies and/or the scope of services that justice agencies deliver. For example:

- police agencies in some jurisdictions provide event management and emergency response services, while others do not
- electronic infringement and enforcement systems are within the scope of court administration only in Victoria, Queensland, WA and SA

- corrective services in some jurisdictions are responsible for functions that are delivered by other justice sector agencies elsewhere, for example, management of prisoners in police cells.

Comparisons of unit costs need to account for conflicting objectives and tradeoffs among cost, quality and timeliness, and be interpreted in the context of the effectiveness indicators in each chapter.

Given the difficulties inherent in making comparisons across jurisdictions, time series analysis within jurisdictions is important (table C.7). However improvements in the counting rules and collection scope for each service area over the 5-year period covered in table C.7 mean caution should also be applied to interpreting time series and average annual growth rates.

Table C.7 Real recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources) per person on the justice system — time series and growth rates (2009-10 dollars)^{a, b, c, d, e, f}

	<i>Unit</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
2005-06	\$	527	442	485	641	487	481	492	1 347	525
2006-07	\$	532	451	484	666	485	514	487	1 316	532
2007-08	\$	534	449	502	686	506	502	529	1 335	540
2008-09	\$	532	451	505	700	511	529	566	1 464	544
2009-10	\$	543	465	521	720	510	544	575	1 500	557
Average annual growth rate	%	0.8	1.3	1.8	3.0	1.2	3.1	4.0	2.7	1.5

^a Excludes payroll tax. ^b Population is estimated by taking the midpoint population estimate of the relevant financial year. ^c Supreme court probate expenditure is not included in these totals. ^d The Australian total includes net court administration expenditure for the Federal Court of Australia, the Family Court of Australia and the Federal Magistrates Court of Australia, which are not attributed to state or territory jurisdictions. ^e Real expenditure based on the ABS gross domestic product price deflator (2008-09 = 100). ^f WA net expenditure includes the Family Court of WA, so is not directly comparable with other jurisdictions.

Source: Australian, State and Territory governments (unpublished); tables 6A.10, 7A.12-13, 8A.12 and table AA.2.

Exclusions in justice system reporting

Some government services which contribute to criminal and civil justice outcomes but that are not reported on in this Report are:

- legal aid services, which provide access to both criminal and civil aspects of the justice system
- alternative dispute resolution services, such as conciliation and mediation
- offices of fair trading or consumer affairs, which operate to minimise incidences of unlawful trade practices

-
- victim support services, which assist victims' recovery from crime (although the processing of applications for compensation is included in the civil case processing information)
 - various social services and community organisations that help prisoners released from prison to re-integrate into society, support families of prisoners during their incarceration, and assist people who have contact with the criminal justice system
 - the Australian Crime Commission and the federal functions of the Australian Federal Police
 - the operations of tribunals and registries (except for probate and court registries, and particular matters processed by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal), and judicial outcomes
 - the operations of the High Court of Australia and specialist jurisdiction courts (except for family courts, children's courts and coroners' courts).

Future directions in performance reporting

The Steering Committee intends to replace this preface with a Justice sector summary and continue to expand reporting on the characteristics of the Justice sector. In particular, developments that span various justice services, will be considered. Ongoing investigation of cross-cutting issues might allow improved reporting for the justice sector as a whole.

Each chapter (police services, court administration and corrective services) contains a service-specific section on future directions in performance reporting. The aim of this section is to provide an insight into other related and overarching developments on reporting in the justice sector.

Crime and Justice National Information Development Plan

The *National Information Development Plan for Crime and Justice Statistics, 2005* (NIDP) identifies an agreed understanding of Australia's statistical priorities as they relate to the field of crime and justice, key data sources (both ABS and other agencies) and information gaps with reference to the identified priorities (ABS 2005). It is a strategic document developed in collaboration with the Australian Government, State and Territory justice agencies, associated research bodies, and a range of other portfolio agencies and non-government bodies that have an interest in the crime and justice field.

The NIDP aims to promote improved understanding of trends and patterns of crime in Australia and the operation of the criminal justice system. The NIDP lists 12 priority areas for improving the quality, coverage and use of crime and justice information across Australia and provides a map of the collaborative work planned or underway. The NIDP priority areas relevant to this Report relate to improvements in: data comparability across administrative collections; data quality; improving data about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and developing measures of recidivism.

National Criminal Justice statistical framework

The Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Information paper: National Criminal Justice Statistical Framework, 2007* (NCJSF) discusses the criminal justice system, including its policy and social context, and the complexities of measurement within the system and broader environment (ABS 2007). It models the flows through the criminal justice system and discusses the various connections across its primary sectors, identifying some of the key counting units and data variables that characterise its main aspects. The NCJSF provides a basic structure for understanding, organising, collecting and reporting data about crime and the criminal justice system. In doing so it aims to facilitate the compatibility and integration of aggregated data on populations across the criminal justice system and across geographic areas. By using shared definitions and standards across service areas and jurisdictions, a common language can be created that facilitates a mutual understanding of the criminal justice system and the populations that flow through it. The framework is a dynamic and evolving document.

Juvenile justice

The Protection and support services chapter (chapter 15) includes performance information on juvenile justice services (including custodial, non-custodial and diversionary services).

Justice system Indigenous issues

Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators

The *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key indicators* report series concentrates on high level outcomes, including criminal justice indicators. In the *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key indicators 2009* report, information about family and community violence, and imprisonment and juvenile detention

rates formed part of the suite of headline indicators. Strategic change indicators included diversions of juvenile offenders and repeat offending (SCRGSP 2009). The next edition is scheduled for release in July 2011.

Developments in Indigenous data

Limited data are available on Indigenous people who have interaction with the criminal justice system. In this Report, data on the deaths of Indigenous people in police custody and custody-related operations (for example, sieges and pursuits) (chapter 6) are sourced from the Australian Institute of Criminology. Data on the representation of Indigenous people in prisons and community corrections (chapter 8) are sourced from the ABS.

Ongoing examination by the ABS of the implementation of the ABS ‘Standard Indigenous Question’ (SIQ) in the practices and systems of police agencies, court agencies, and corrective services agencies will lead to data quality improvements for ABS data currently included in this Report, and may lead to additional data becoming available in the future.

Outcomes from Review of Report on Government Services

COAG endorsed recommendations of a review of the Report in December 2009. Those recommendations implemented during 2010 are reflected in this Report.

Further recommendations will be reflected in future Reports, including implementation of Independent Reference Group and Steering Committee recommendations arising from the ‘Review of the general performance indicator framework’ and the ‘Review of the performance indicators and their associated measures’. The 2012 Report and later editions will continue:

- lengthening time series data in attachment tables
- developing data quality information documents for performance indicators
- developing mini-case studies.

References

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2005, *National Information Development Plan for Crime and Justice, 2005*, Cat. no. 4520.0.

— 2007, *Information Paper: National Criminal Justice Statistical Framework, 2007*, Cat. no. 4525.0.

— 2010, *Recorded Crime — Offenders, Selected States and Territories, 2008-09*, Cat. no. 4519.0.

SCRGSP (Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision) 2009, *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2009*, Productivity Commission, Canberra.

