

Report on Government Services 2013

**COURTS  
(CHAPTER 7)**

This chapter reports on the court administration functions of Australian and State and Territory courts. Data are reported for the Federal Court, the Family Court of Australia and the Federal Magistrates Court, the criminal and civil jurisdictions of the supreme courts (including probate registries), district/county courts, magistrates' courts (including children's courts), coroners' courts and the Family Court of WA.

- In 2011-12, in the criminal jurisdiction of the supreme, district/county and magistrates' courts, approximately 772 700 cases were lodged, and 795 000 cases were finalised. In the civil jurisdiction of these same courts there were approximately 476 600 cases lodged and 483 200 cases finalised. In the Australian government courts, approximately 115 900 cases were lodged, and approximately 113 400 cases finalised (**pp. 7.17–21**).
- Total court administration recurrent expenditure less income (excluding fines) by the court authorities covered in this chapter was approximately \$1.39 billion in 2011-12, comprising \$1.13 billion for the State and Territory courts and \$257 million for the Australian government courts (**p. 7.14**).

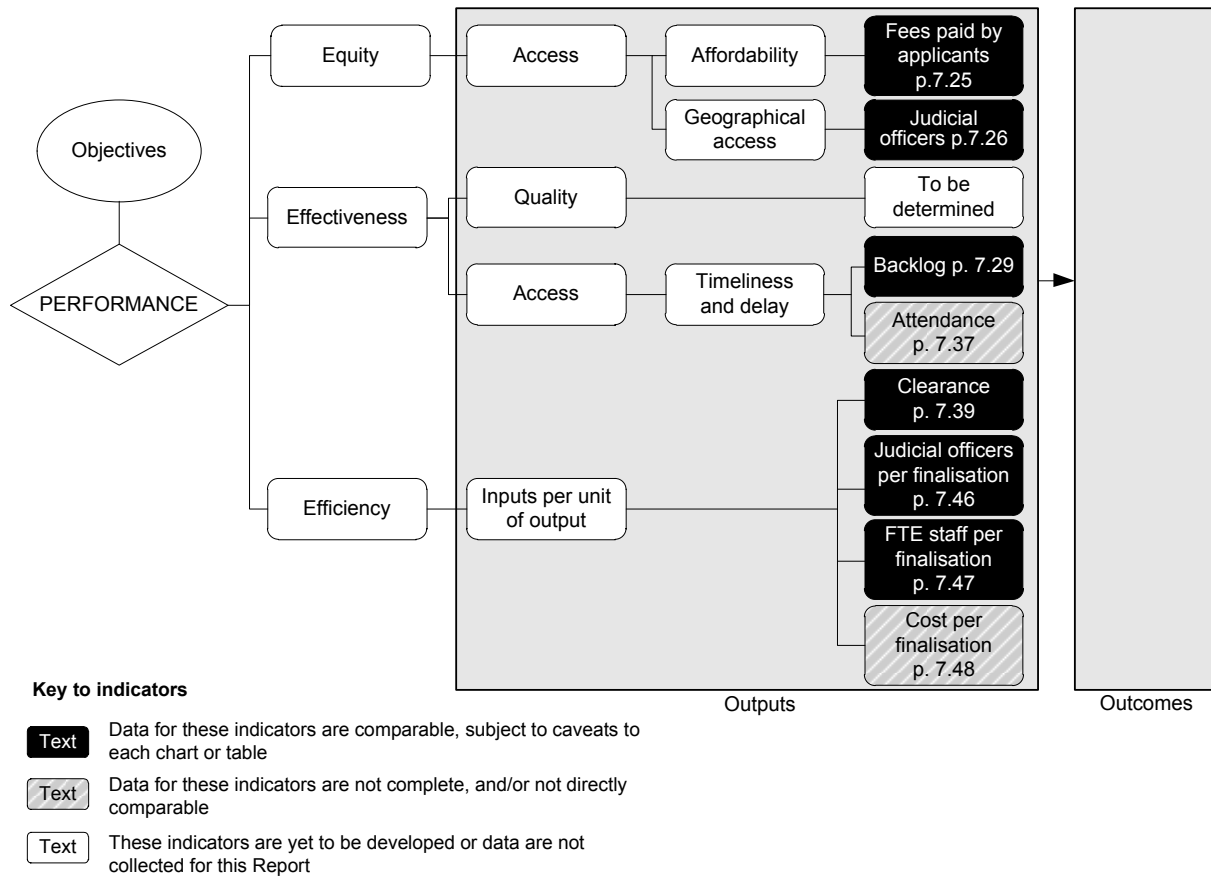
**Objectives of Courts**

Common objectives for court services across Australia are: to be open and accessible; to process matters in an expeditious and timely manner; to provide due process and equal protection before the law; and to be independent yet publicly accountable for performance (**p. 7.22**).

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**Performance indicators for courts (figure 7.3, p. 7.24)**

- The Report’s framework of performance indicators for courts is based on the common objectives for court services across Australia.
- The courts chapter presents information about court workload (lodgments and finalisations), and resources (expenditure and staff), as well as data for eight output indicators.



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**Please do not approach other parties for comment before 31 January 2013.**

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Tables with a ‘7A’ prefix (eg table 7A.5) are in the attachments on the Review website.

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