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# 7 Courts

## CONTENTS

Roles and responsibilities	7.1
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data in the Courts chapter	7.2

### Attachment tables

There are no Courts attachment tables throughout this Indigenous Compendium.

The Courts chapter (chapter 7) in the *Report on Government Services 2015* (2015 Report) focuses primarily on administrative support functions for the courts, not on the judicial decisions made in the courts. The primary support functions of court administration services are to:

- manage court facilities and staff, including buildings, security and ancillary services such as registries, libraries and transcription services
- provide case management services, including client information, scheduling and case flow management
- enforce court orders through the sheriff's department or a similar mechanism.

This chapter covers the State and Territory supreme, district/county and magistrates' (including children's) courts, coroners' courts and probate registries. It also covers the Federal Court of Australia, the Family Court of Australia, the Family Court of WA and the Federal Circuit Court of Australia (previously the Federal Magistrates Court of Australia). The chapter does not include information on the High Court of Australia, and broadly excludes tribunals and specialist jurisdiction courts (for example, Indigenous courts, circle sentencing courts and drug courts are excluded). The chapter also excludes electronic infringement and enforcement systems.

## Roles and responsibilities

Within certain court levels, a number of specialist jurisdiction courts (such as Indigenous courts, circle sentencing courts and drug courts) aim to improve the responsiveness of courts to the special needs of particular service users. Tribunals can also improve responsiveness and assist in alleviating the workload of courts — for example, small claims tribunals can assist in diverting work from the magistrates' court. Specialist

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jurisdiction courts (other than the children’s courts, family courts and coroners’ courts) and tribunals are outside the scope of this Report and excluded from reported data where possible.

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data in the Courts chapter**

The Courts chapter in the 2015 Report contains no specific data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.