

**Steering Committee for the Review
of Government Service Provision**



Report on Government Services 2023

Justice (part C)

Produced by the Productivity Commission
on behalf of the Steering Committee for the
Review of Government Service Provision.

The Productivity Commission acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to their Cultures, Country and Elders past and present.

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Report on Government Services 2023

PART C: RELEASED ON 31 JANUARY 2023

Produced by the Productivity Commission for the Steering Committee for Review of Government Service Provision. The content for this PDF is generated from the online, interactive publication. Data below are the most recent at the time of preparing the report. In some cases, charts and tables may present data for a single jurisdiction. To access data for all jurisdictions and the most current data available, go to: www.pc.gov.au/rogs

C Justice

Data downloads

These data tables relate to the sector as a whole. Data specific to individual service areas are in the data tables under the relevant service area.

[Justice data tables \(XLSX - 46 Kb\)](#)

[Justice dataset \(CSV - 42 Kb\)](#)

See the Sector overview text and corresponding table number in the data tables for detailed definitions, caveats, footnotes and data source(s).

Note: Data tables are referenced by table xA.1, xA.2, etc. with x referring to the section or overview. For example, table CA.1 refers to data table 1 for this sector overview.

Main aims of services within the sector

The justice sector services aim to contribute to a safe and secure community and promote a law abiding way of life.

Services included in the sector

[Police services](#) >

Deliver services relating to preserving public order, investigating crime and apprehending offenders, improving road safety and supporting the judicial process.

[Courts](#) >

Arbitrate on criminal and civil justice matters. This Report focuses on administrative support functions for the courts, such as management of court facilities, services and staffing and the provision of case management services. Judicial decisions and outcomes are not included.

[Corrective services](#) >

Administer correctional sanctions imposed by courts and orders of the adult parole boards through the management of adult custodial facilities and community corrections orders, and the provision of programs and services to prisoners and offenders.

Legal aid, public prosecutions and tribunals are not included as service-specific sections in this Report. Justice services for children and young offenders (predominately related to youth community corrections and detention) are covered under youth justice in [section 17](#) of the Report.

Detailed information on the equity, effectiveness and efficiency of service provision and the achievement of outcomes for the Police, Courts and Corrective service areas is contained in the service-specific sections.

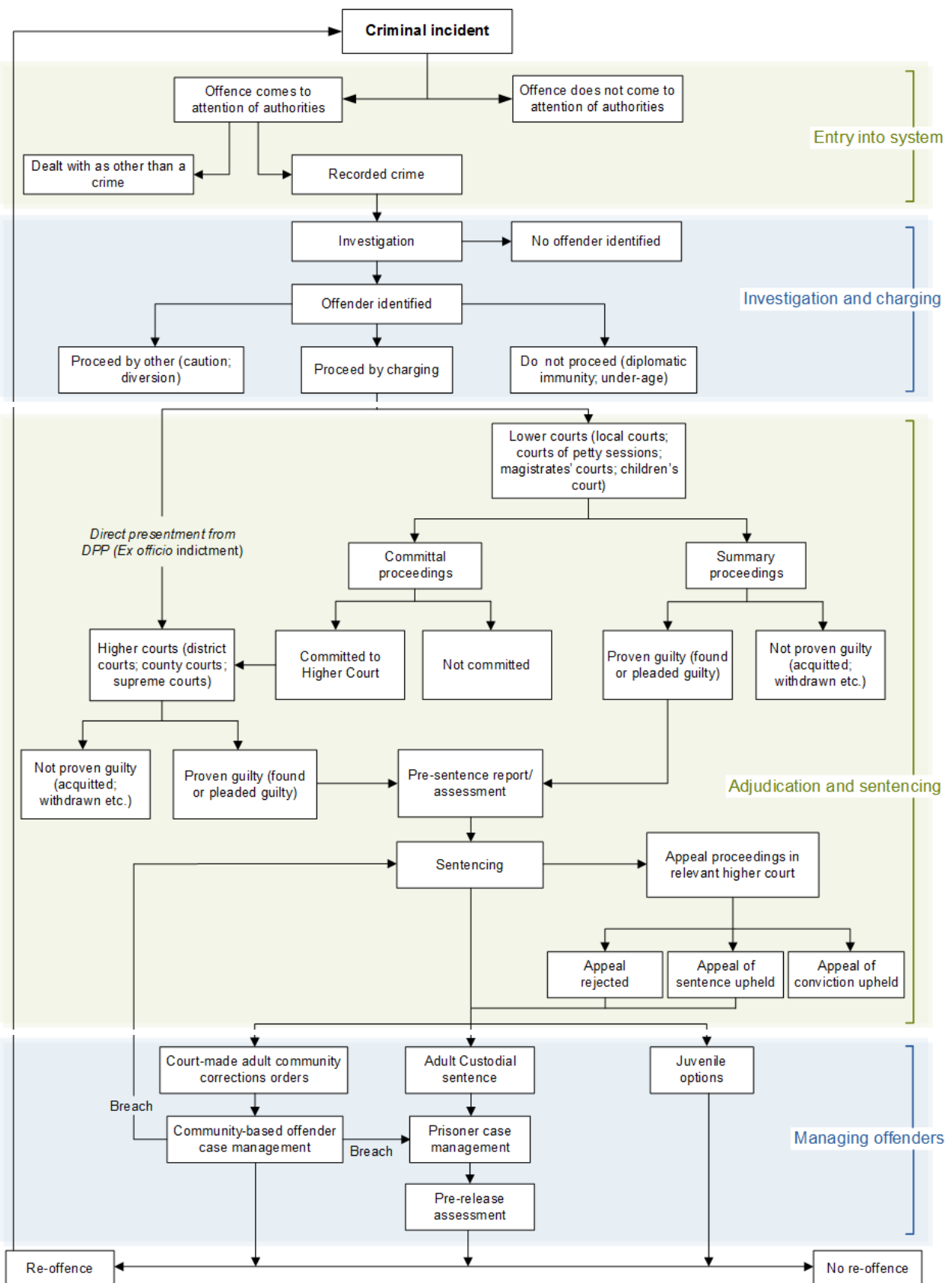
Government expenditure in the sector

Total government expenditure for the justice services in this Report (less revenue from own sources) was almost \$22.0 billion in 2021-22 (table CA.1), an increase of 3.4 per cent from the previous year. Police services was the largest contributor (64.5 per cent), followed by corrective services (26.2 per cent) and courts (9.2 per cent). Nationally, expenditure per person on justice services was \$854 in 2021-22 (table CA.2). For the 2020-21 financial year (the most recent financial year for which data are available across all sections), this represented around 6.6 per cent of total government expenditure covered in this Report.

Flows in the sector

For criminal matters which come to the attention of authorities, the typical flow of events is investigation by police and, if charges are laid, adjudication by courts with subsequent sentencing if applicable and possible entry into corrective services (adult prison, youth justice or community corrections orders). The roles of police, courts and corrective services, and the sequencing of their involvement, are shown in figure C.1.

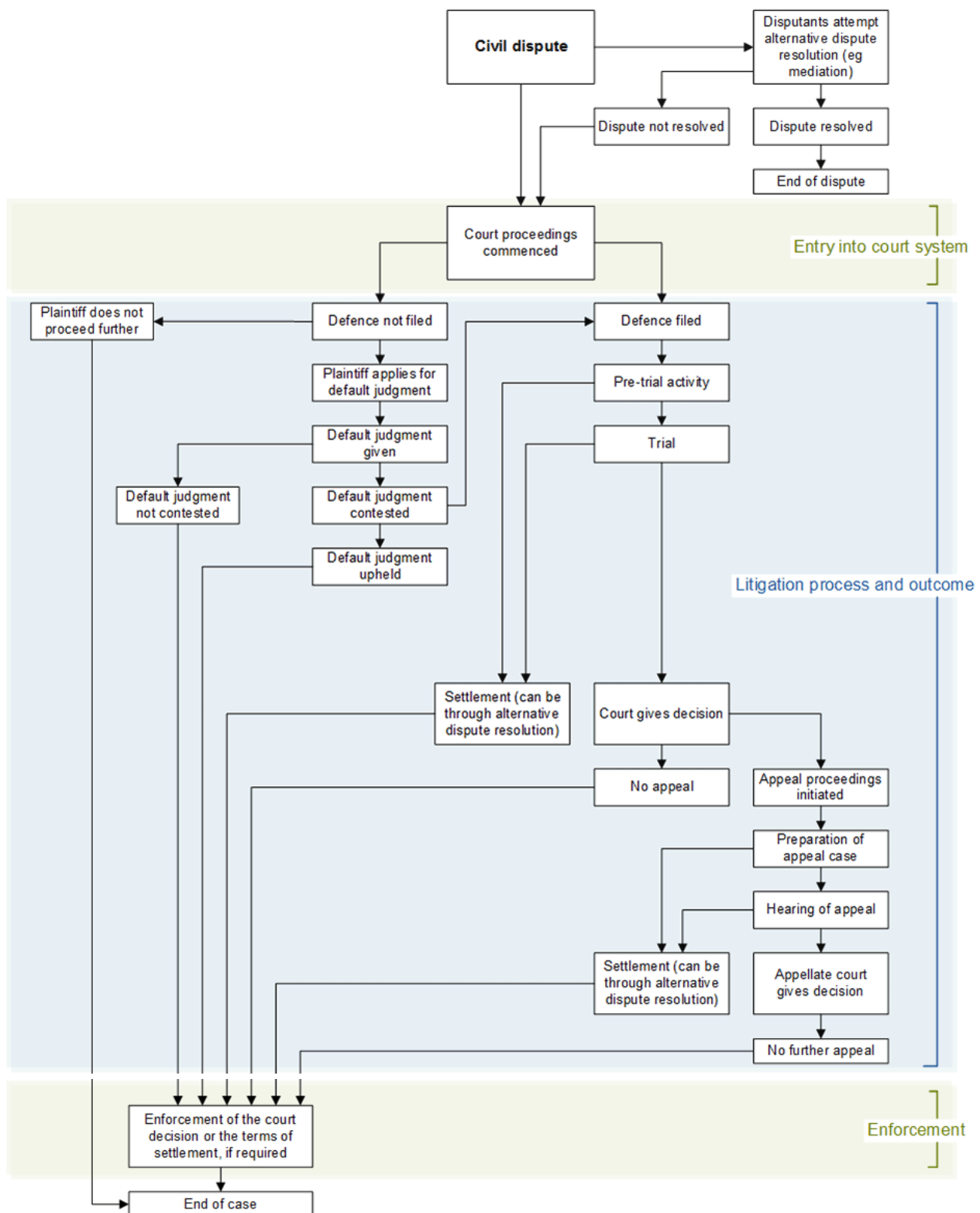
Figure C.1 Flows through the criminal justice system ^{a, b, c}



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 include all complexities of the criminal justice system. **c** *Ex officio indictment* refers to a decision by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to commence criminal proceedings in a higher court without a committal hearing, or where a committal hearing did not result in a case being committed to trial in a higher court.

Figure C.2 is an indicative model of the flows through the civil justice system. While the emphasis is on the flow of disputes which proceed to court, the role of alternative dispute resolution processes is considerable in civil justice in part as it is more available as an early alternative to court adjudication.

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 include all complexities of the civil justice system.

Sector-wide indicators

One sector-wide proxy indicator of governments' aim to contribute to a safe and secure community and promote a law abiding way of life is reported.

Re-offending rates

Re-offending rates show the extent to which people who have had contact with the criminal justice system are re-arrested or return to corrective services (either prison or community corrections). Low or decreasing rates of re-offending may indicate a safer and more secure community environment and the promotion of a more law abiding way of life — however higher rates may also indicate more effective policing and detection of offences.

Re-offending rates is a proxy indicator as it only reflects those people whose re-offending has come to the attention of authorities (some offences may go undetected by, or unreported to, police). The restricted time frames for measuring re-offending (one year for police proceedings and two years for return to corrective services) will also underestimate the proportions of offenders who have repeat contact with the criminal justice system beyond those time frames.

Re-offending is measured by:

- the proportion of people aged 10 years or over who were proceeded against more than once by police during the year
- the proportion of adults released from prison after serving a sentence who returned to corrective services (either prison or community corrections) within two years, with a new correctional sanction
- the proportion of adults discharged from community corrections orders who returned to corrective services (either prison or community corrections) with a new correctional sanction within two years.

People proceeded against by police

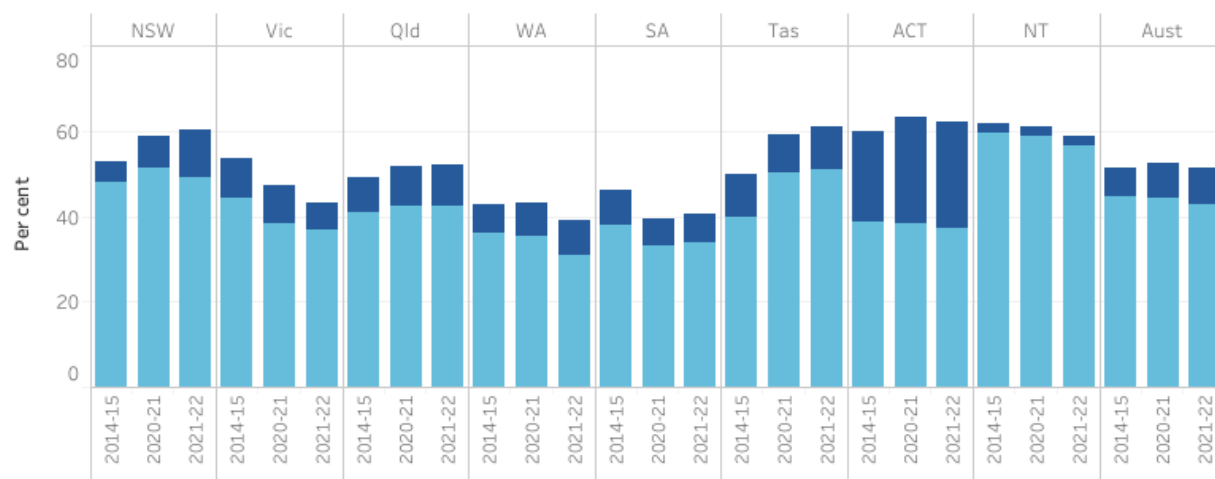
In each State and Territory (except Western Australia for whom data were not available), of people aged 10 years or over proceeded against by police in 2020-21, between 67 and 80 per cent were proceeded against only once during the year (table CA.3). The data represent each separate occasion that police initiated a legal action against a person. Depending on the type of offence committed, police will either initiate a court action (laying of charges to be answered in court) or non-court action (which does not require a court appearance, for example warnings and penalty notices).

Adult offenders released from prison

In 2021-22, 42.7 per cent of prisoners released in 2019-20 after serving a sentence had returned to prison within two years (for NSW, Vic, Qld, SA, Tas and the NT this only included prisoners who had returned with a new sentence within two years, for WA and the ACT this also included prisoners who had returned to prison on remand within two years but were sentenced within up to three years). Some of those returning to prison may also have received community corrections orders. In total, 51.5 per cent of released prisoners had returned to corrective services within two years in 2021-22 (either prison or community corrections) (figure C.3). Returns to prison and corrective services were higher in all states and territories for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander than non-Indigenous people (table CA.4).

Select year(s): ■ to community corrections only
 Multiple values ■ to prison only or to both prison and community corrections

Figure C.3 Adult offenders released from prison who returned to corrective services within two years of release by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table CA.4

Data tables are referenced above by a 'CA' prefix and all data (footnotes and data sources) are available for download from above (in Excel and CSV format).

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Adult offenders discharged from community corrections orders

In 2021-22, 14.3 per cent of adults discharged during 2019-20 after serving orders administered by community corrections returned to community corrections within two years, and 24.1 per cent returned to corrective services (prison or community corrections) (table CA.5).

Impact of COVID-19 on data for the Justice sector

COVID-19 may affect data in this Report in a number of ways. This includes in respect of actual performance (that is, the impact of COVID-19 on service delivery from 2020 to 2022 which is reflected in the data results), and the collection and processing of data (that is, the ability of data providers to undertake data collection and process results for inclusion in the Report).

Social distancing restrictions and other COVID-safe protocols implemented during 2020 and 2021 are likely to have had an impact on the Justice sector. Any impacts which are specific to the service areas covered in this Report are noted in sections 6, 7 and 8. Impacts on indicators in the Justice sector overview are likely to derive mainly from reduced finalisations in court and reductions in the numbers of people entering and/or exiting prison between 2020 and 2022.

Report on Government Services 2023

PART C, SECTION 6: RELEASED ON 31 JANUARY 2023

6 Police services

The focus of performance reporting in this section is on police services, covering the operations of the police agencies of each State and Territory government, including the ACT community policing function performed by the Australian Federal Police.

The **Indicator results** tab uses data from the data tables to provide information on performance for each indicator in the **Indicator framework**. The same data in the data tables are also available in CSV format.

Data downloads

[6 Police services data tables \(XLSX - 417 Kb\)](#)

[6 Police services dataset \(CSV - 981 Kb\)](#)

See the corresponding table number in the data tables for detailed definitions, caveats, footnotes and data source(s).

[Guide: How to find what you need in RoGS \(PDF - 298 Kb\)](#)

Context

Objectives for police services

Police services aim to contribute to a safe and secure community that enables people to undertake their lawful pursuits confidently and safely. To achieve these aims, governments seek to provide police services that:

- are accessible, and responsive to community needs, including disaster and emergency management
- support the judicial process to bring to justice people responsible for committing an offence
- provide safe custodial services
- are delivered with integrity, honesty and fairness
- promote safer behaviour on roads.

Governments aim for police services to meet these objectives in an equitable and efficient manner.

Service overview

Police services are the principal means through which State and Territory governments pursue the achievement of a safe and secure environment for the community. Across jurisdictions, police activity can be grouped into four broad activity areas:

- Community safety – preserving public order and promoting a safer community
- Crime – investigating crime and identifying and apprehending offenders

- Road safety – targeted operations to reduce the incidence of traffic offences and through attendance at, and investigation of, road traffic collisions and incidents
- Judicial services – support to the judicial process including the provision of safe custody for alleged offenders.

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 issues.

Roles and responsibilities

Police services are predominantly the responsibility of State and Territory government agencies. They include the ACT community policing function performed by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) under an arrangement between the ACT and the Commonwealth Minister for Justice.

The Australian Government is responsible for the AFP. Data for the national policing function of the AFP and other national non-police law enforcement bodies (such as the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission) are not included in this Report.

Funding

Funding for police services comes almost exclusively from State and Territory governments, with some limited specific purpose Australian Government grants. Nationally in 2021-22, total real recurrent expenditure (including user cost of capital, less revenue from own sources and payroll tax) was \$14.8 billion with an average annual growth rate of 4.5 per cent for the five years to 2021-22 (table 6A.1).

Size and scope

Client groups

As a universal service, all community members are recipients of policing services. Some members of the community, who have more direct dealings with the police, can be considered specific client groups, for example:

- victims of crime
- people suspected of, or charged with, committing offences
- people reporting criminal incidents
- people involved in traffic-related incidents
- third parties (such as witnesses to crime and people reporting traffic accidents)
- people requiring police services for non-crime-related matters.

Staffing

Police staff are categorised according to:

- 'sworn' status — sworn police officers exercise police powers, including the power to arrest, summons, caution, detain, fingerprint and search. Specialised activities may be outsourced or undertaken by administrative (unsworn) staff

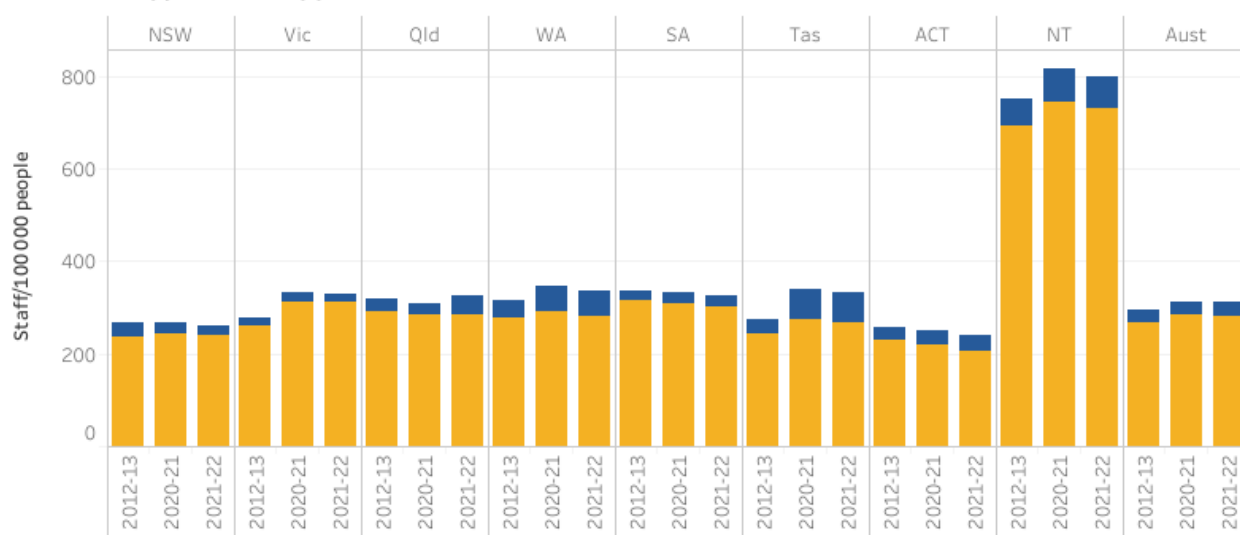
- operational status — an operational police staff member is any member (sworn or unsworn) whose primary duty is the delivery of police or police-related services to an external client (where an external client predominately refers to members of the public but may also include law enforcement outputs delivered to other government departments).

Operational status is considered the better estimate of the number of police staff actively engaged in the delivery of police-related services. Nationally in 2021-22, 90.4 per cent of the 79 963 police staff were operational. This proportion has decreased every year since 2017-18 (92.2 per cent). There were 281 operational police per 100 000 people nationally in 2021-22. Rates varied across jurisdictions from 205 to 313, except the NT with a rate of 730 (figure 6.1 and table 6A.2).

Select year(s): Multiple values

■ Non-operational staff per 100 000 people
 ■ Operational staff per 100 000 people

Figure 6.1 Police staff per 100 000 people by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 6A.2

Data tables are referenced above by a '6A' prefix and all data (footnotes and data sources) are available for download above (in Excel and CSV format).



Responsiveness

The responsiveness of police to calls for assistance is critical to the effectiveness of police services. Although the Steering Committee considers reporting on nationally comparable response times a priority for this Report, there is currently no consistent public reporting of response times across states and territories. NSW, Queensland, WA, SA and the ACT police publish response times data in annual reports. Other jurisdictions do not report response times as part of their corporate reporting and have advised they are unable to provide these data for this Report.

- NSW Police Force report the number of urgent (imminent threat to life or property) response calls and the percentage attended within a target time of 12 minutes. In 2021-22, NSW Police Force responded to 157 610 urgent response calls, attending 75.0 per cent of urgent duty jobs within the 12 minute target time (NSW Police Force 2022).

-
- *Queensland Police Service* report the percentage of code 1 and code 2 incidents attended within 12 minutes. Data includes geographic areas covered by the Queensland Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System. Code 1 and 2 incidents include very urgent matters when danger to human life is imminent and urgent matters involving injury or present threat of injury to person or property. In 2021-22, Queensland Police Service attended 85.3 per cent of urgent matters within the 12 minute target time (Queensland Police Service 2022).
 - *WA Police Force* aim to respond to 80 per cent of priority 1 and 2 incidents – situations that require urgent attendance and include an imminent threat to life, serious offence or incident in progress – within 12 minutes in the Perth metropolitan area. WA Police report that they met this target in 80.8 per cent of priority 1 and 2 incidents in 2021-22. The target for priority 3 incidents – situations that require routine attendance and include an offence in progress/suspect at the scene or the preservation of evidence – is 80 per cent within 60 minutes in the Perth metropolitan area (83.1 per cent achieved in 2021-22) (WA Police Force 2022).
 - *SA Police* reported that 94.8 per cent of Grade 1 taskings in the metropolitan area were responded to within 15 minutes in 2021-22 (SA Police 2022). The target is 80 per cent or above.
 - *ACT Policing* report response time targets for three incident categories:
 - *Priority One* incidents (life threatening or critical situations) – 80 per cent or more of responses within 10 minutes (76.6 per cent achieved in 2021-22)
 - *Priority Two* incidents (situations where the information provided indicates that time is important but not critical) – 80 per cent within 20 minutes (70.6 per cent achieved in 2021-22)
 - *Priority Three* incidents (situations where there is no immediate danger to safety or property, but police attendance or response is needed no later than 48 hours from the initial contact by the complainant or a time agreed with the complainant) – 90 per cent within 48 hours (94.0 per cent achieved in 2021-22) (ACT Policing 2022).

Indicator framework

The performance indicator framework provides information on equity, effectiveness and efficiency, and distinguishes the outputs and outcomes of police services.

The performance indicator framework shows which data are complete and comparable in this Report. For data that are not considered directly comparable, text includes relevant caveats and supporting commentary. [Section 1](#) discusses data comparability and completeness from a Report-wide perspective. In addition to the contextual information for this service area (see Context tab), the Report's statistical context ([section 2](#)) contains data that may assist in interpreting the performance indicators presented in this section.

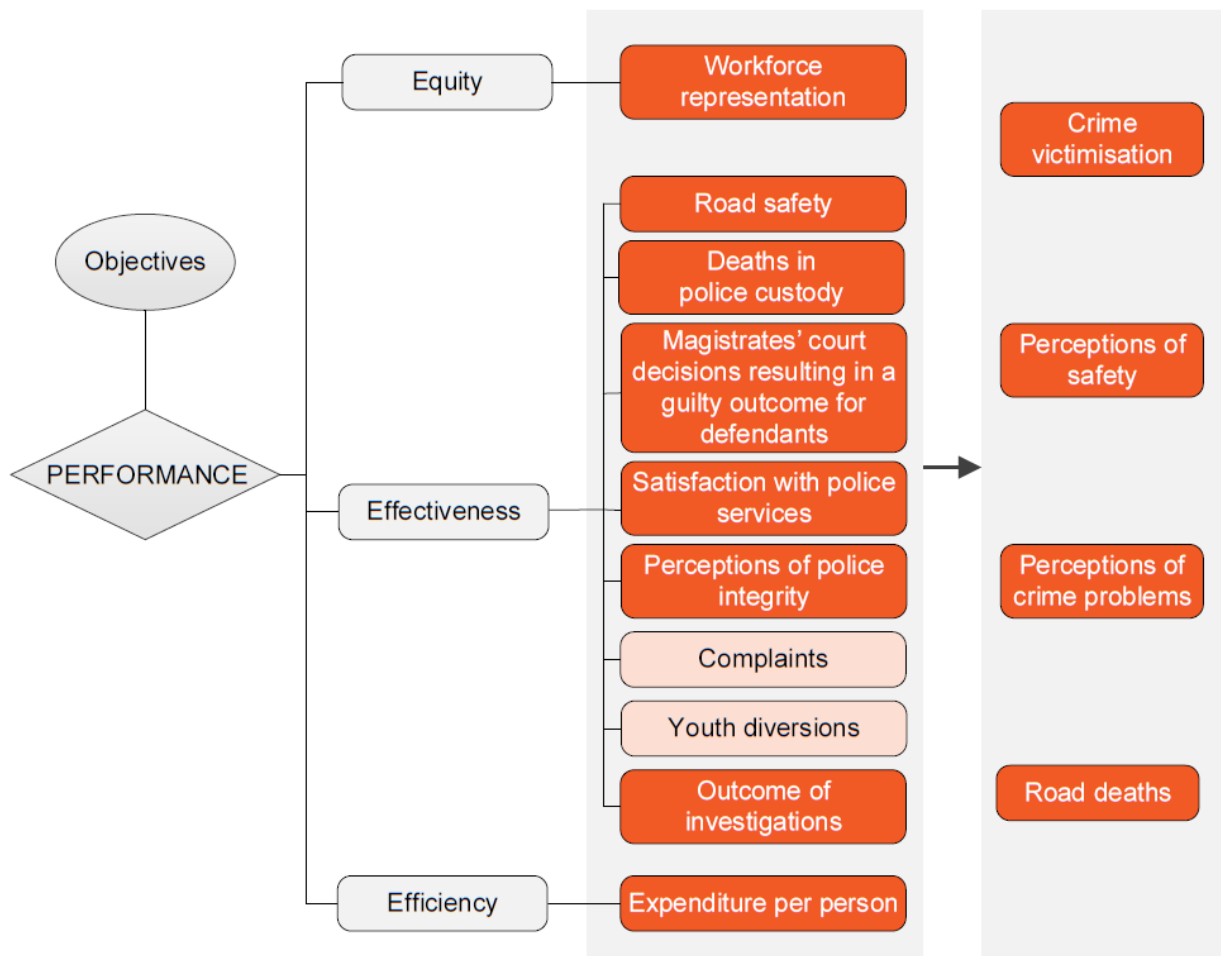
Improvements to performance reporting for police services are ongoing and include identifying data sources to fill gaps in reporting for performance indicators and measures and improving the comparability and completeness of data.

Outputs

Outputs are the services delivered (while outcomes are the impact of these services on the status of an individual or group) (see section 1). Output information is also critical for equitable, efficient and effective management of government services.

Outcomes

Outcomes are the impact of services on the status of an individual or group (see section 1).



Key to indicators*

- Text Most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete
- Text Most recent data for at least one measure are comparable and complete
- Text Most recent data for all measures are either not comparable and/or not complete
- Text No data reported and/or no measures yet developed

* A description of the comparability and completeness is provided under the Indicator results tab for each measure.

Text version of indicator framework

Performance – linked to Objectives

Outputs

Equity

- Workforce representation – most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete

Effectiveness

- Road safety – most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete
- Deaths in police custody – most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete
- Magistrates' court decisions resulting in a guilty outcome for defendants – most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete
- Satisfaction with police services – most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete
- Perceptions of police integrity – most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete
- Complaints – most recent data for all measures are either not comparable and/or not complete
- Youth diversions – most recent data for all measures are either not comparable and/or not complete
- Outcome of investigations – most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete

Efficiency

- Expenditure per person – most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete

Outcomes

- Crime victimisation – most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete
- Perceptions of safety – most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete
- Perceptions of crime problems – most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete
- Road deaths – most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete

A description of the comparability and completeness is provided under the Indicator results tab for each measure.

Indicator results

This section presents an overview of 'Police services' performance indicator results. Different delivery contexts, locations and types of clients can affect the equity, effectiveness and efficiency of police services.

Information to assist the interpretation of these data can be found with the indicators below and all data (footnotes and data sources) are available for download above as an excel spreadsheet and as a CSV dataset. Data tables are identified by a '6A' prefix (for example, table 6A.1).

Specific data used in figures can be downloaded by clicking in the figure area, navigating to the bottom of the visualisation to the grey toolbar, clicking on the 'Download' icon and selecting 'Data' from the menu. Selecting 'PDF' or 'Powerpoint' from the 'Download' menu will download a static view of the performance indicator results.

1. Workforce representation

'Workforce representation' is an indicator of governments' objective to provide police services in an equitable manner.

'Workforce representation' is defined by two measures:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff — the proportion of police staff (operational and non-operational) that are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people compared with the proportion of the population aged 20–64 years who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.
- Female staff — the proportion of police staff (operational and non-operational) who are female compared with the proportion of the population aged 20–64 years who are female.

Information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status is generally collected at recruitment and relates to staff who self-identify as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent.

Similar proportions of police who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people or who are female compared to the population is desirable.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people might feel more comfortable when in contact with police services if they are able to liaise with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff. Similarly, women might feel more comfortable when in contact with police services if they are able to liaise with female police staff (particularly in situations involving family violence and sex offences). Workforce representation can also bring about positive cultural change.

Nationally in 2021-22, 2.3 per cent of police staff (operational and non-operational) identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (up from 1.7 per cent in 2012-13) (figure 6.2). Nationally, and in all jurisdictions except NSW and the ACT, the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander police staff was lower than the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the population (figure 6.2).

- Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
- Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

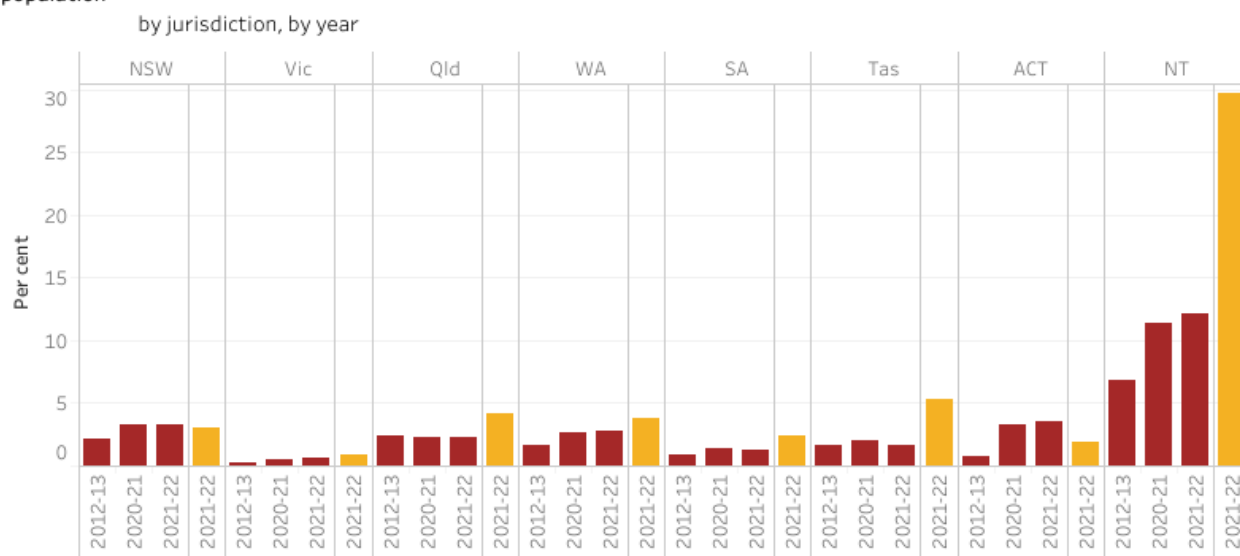
Select year(s):

Multiple values

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander:

- Proportion of total staff
- Proportion of total population

Figure 6.2 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff as a proportion of all staff and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population



Source: table 6A.2



Nationally in 2021-22, 34.5 per cent of police staff (operational and non-operational) were female, slightly lower than in 2020-21 (35.0 per cent), but higher than 10 years ago (32.2 per cent in 2012-13) (figure 6.3). In all jurisdictions across the 10 year time series, the proportion of female police staff was lower than the proportion of females in the population (table 6A.2).

Nationally in 2021-22, 27.3 per cent of *operational* sworn police staff were female (proportions varied across jurisdictions from 22.3 to 33.8 per cent) (table 6A.2).

■ Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

■ Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year(s):

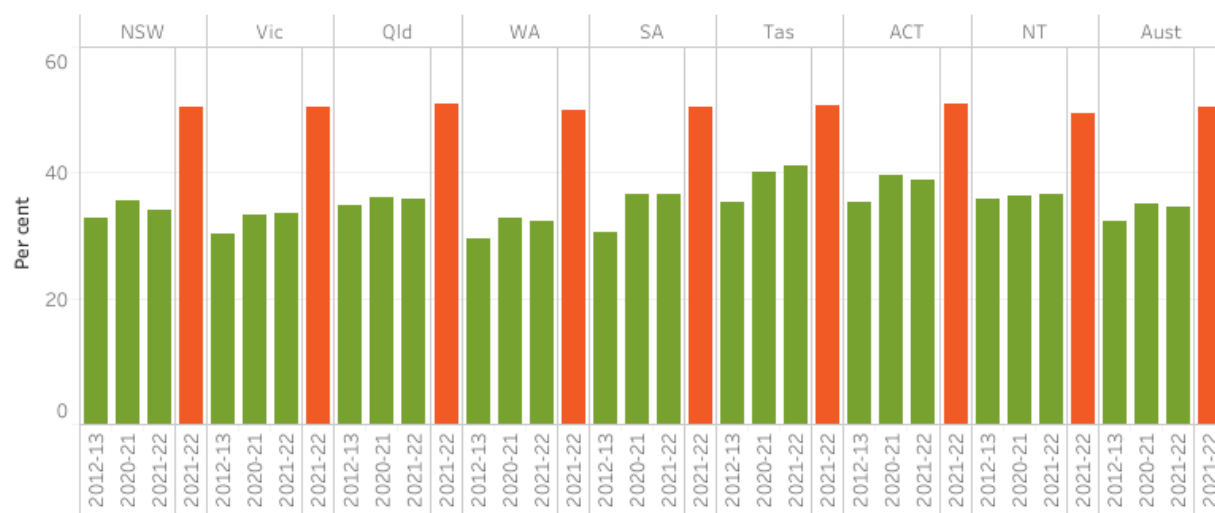
Multiple values

Females:

■ Proportion of total staff

■ Proportion of total population

Figure 6.3 Female police staff as a proportion of all staff and female population by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 6A.2

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2. Road safety

'Road safety' is an indicator of governments' objective to promote safer behaviour on roads.

'Road safety' is defined by three measures:

- use of seatbelts — the proportion of people who had driven in the past 6 months and who reported that they had driven without wearing a seatbelt
- driving under the influence — the proportion of people who had driven in the past 6 months and who reported that they had driven when possibly over the alcohol limit
- degree of speeding — the proportion of people who had driven in the past 6 months and who reported that they had driven 10 kilometres per hour or more above the speed limit.

The road safety data are from the National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing. It is an annual survey commissioned by all Australian State and Territory Police. The data are self-reported by participants and the survey samples people aged 18 years or over. (Until October 2015, it sampled people aged 15 years or over.)

A low or decreasing proportion of people who stated that they had driven without wearing a seatbelt, driven when possibly over the alcohol limit and/or driven 10 kilometres per hour or more above the speed limit is desirable.

The use of seatbelts, driving under the influence of alcohol and speeding are affected by a number of factors in addition to police activities, such as driver education and media campaigns.

Nationally in 2021-22, of those people who had driven in the past six months:

- 4.5 per cent reported driving without wearing a seat belt, down from 10 years ago (5.4 per cent in 2012-13)
- 6.0 per cent reported driving when possibly over the blood alcohol limit, down from 10 years ago (7.8 per cent in 2012-13)
- 59.2 per cent reported travelling 10 kilometres per hour or more above the speed limit, up from 10 years ago (55.6 per cent in 2012-13) (figure 6.4).

■ (all measures) Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

■ (all measures) Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

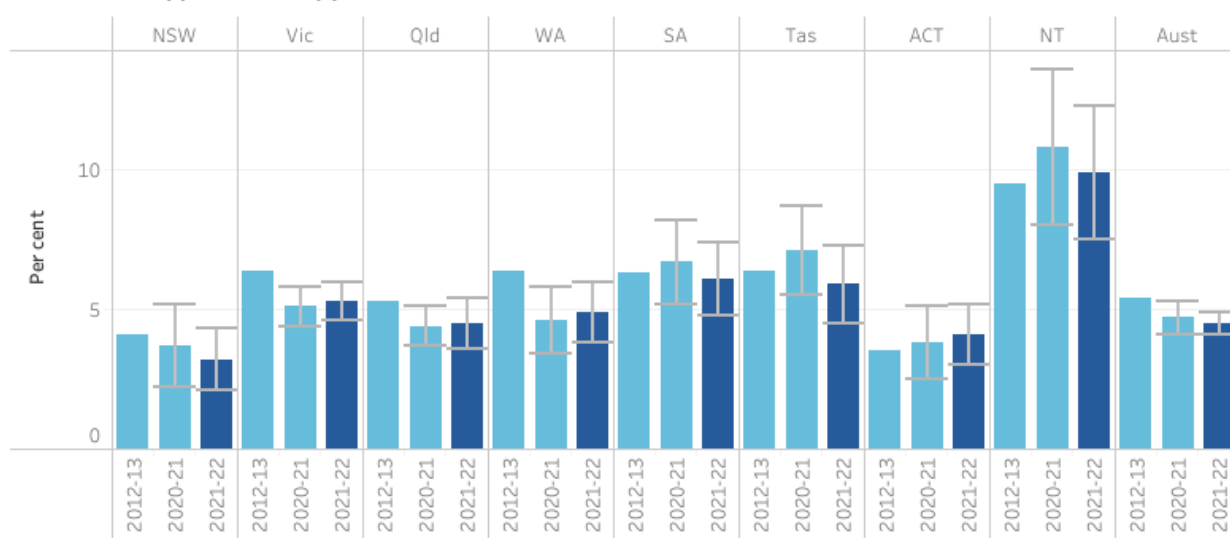
Select measure:

- Without wearing a seat belt
- When possibly over the alcohol limit
- 10 kilometres per hour or more above the speed limit

Select year(s):

Multiple values

Figure 6.4 People who had driven in the previous 6 months, Without wearing a seat belt by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 6A.3



3. Deaths in police custody

'Deaths in police custody' is an indicator of governments' objective to provide safe custodial services.

'Deaths in police custody' is defined as deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, by Indigenous status.

These deaths are divided into two main categories:

- Category 1: deaths in institutional settings (for example, police stations or lockups, police vehicles, during transfer from an institution), and other deaths in police operations where officers were in close contact with the deceased (for example, most raids and shootings by police).

-
- Category 2: deaths during custody-related operations — where officers did not have such close contact with the person to be able to significantly influence or control the person's behaviour (for example, most sieges), and most cases where officers were attempting to detain a person (for example, a pursuit).

Zero or a decreasing number of deaths in custody and custody-related operations is desirable.

Nationally in 2021-22, there were 22 deaths in police custody, 8 of which involved Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths in 2021-22 is the equal highest number in any year since 2007-08 (table 6.1). These numbers are an increase on deaths in police custody in 2020-21 (17 deaths in total, 4 of which involved Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people).

The total number of deaths in police custody is lower in 2021-22 than in 2007-08 due to a decrease in non-Indigenous deaths (29 out of 34 deaths in 2007-08).

■ Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

■ Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select Indigenous status:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Non-Indigenous people
- Unknown Indigenous status
- All people

Select year(s):

Multiple values

Table 6.1 Deaths in police custody, by Indigenous status
by jurisdiction, by year

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	2021-22	5	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	8
	2020-21	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	4
	2007-08	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	2	5
Non-Indigenous people	2021-22	3	5	3	1	1	-	-	-	13
	2020-21	5	3	3	-	1	1	-	-	13
	2007-08	7	8	4	4	2	1	-	3	29
Unknown Indigenous status	2021-22	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	2020-21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2007-08	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All people	2021-22	9	5	6	1	1	-	-	-	22
	2020-21	7	3	5	-	1	1	-	-	17
	2007-08	7	8	5	4	4	1	-	5	34

Source: table 6A.4
- Nil or rounded to zero.

4. Magistrates' court decisions resulting in a guilty outcome for defendants

'Magistrates' court decisions resulting in a guilty outcome for defendants' is an indicator of governments' objective of supporting the judicial process to bring to justice those people responsible for committing an offence.

'Magistrates' court decisions resulting in a guilty outcome for defendants' is defined as the proportion of Magistrates' court decisions where the defendant pled guilty, was found guilty by the court or was found guilty ex-parte (that is, a finding of guilt in the defendant's absence). The defendant is a person or organisation against whom one or more criminal charges have been laid.

A high or increasing proportion of Magistrates' court decisions where the outcome for the defendant is guilty is desirable. This can indicate police were effective in gathering evidence and only bringing to court charges with sufficient evidence to ensure a guilty outcome.

This indicator does not provide information on the number of cases where police have identified a likely offender but choose not to bring the likely offender to court due to several factors.

Nationally, the proportion of Magistrates' court decisions resulting in a guilty outcome for defendants was 97.2 per cent in 2020-21 (figure 6.5).

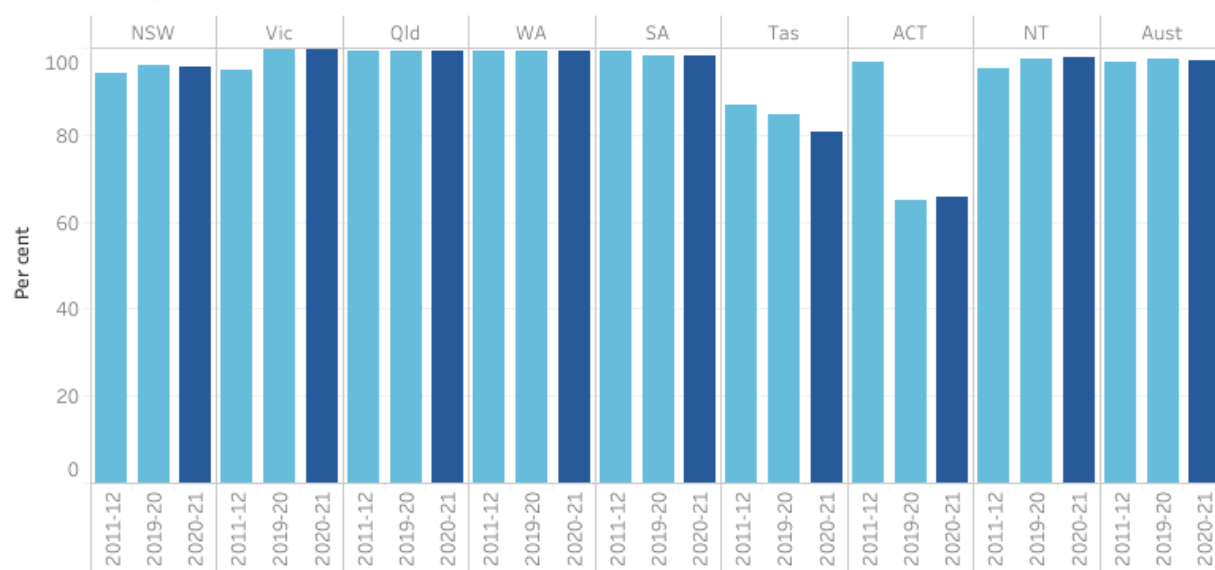
■ Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

■ Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year(s):

Multiple values

Figure 6.5 Proportion of Magistrates' court decisions resulting in a guilty outcome for defendants by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 6A.5

5. Satisfaction with police services

'Satisfaction with police services' is an indicator of governments' objective of providing services that are accessible and responsive to community needs, including disasters and emergencies.

'Satisfaction with police services' is defined by three measures: the proportion of people who were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with police services:

- in general (whether or not they had contact with police services)
- in their most recent contact
- in response to emergencies and disasters.

Satisfaction with police services data are from the National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing. It is an annual survey commissioned by all Australian State and Territory Police. The data are self-reported by participants and the survey samples people aged 18 years or over. (Until October 2015, it sampled people aged 15 years or over.)

A high or increasing proportion of people who were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' is desirable.

Nationally in 2021-22:

- 76.8 per cent of surveyed adults reported they were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' in general with the services provided by police, a decrease from a 10 year high of 80.7 per cent in 2020-21
- 77.7 per cent of surveyed adults who had contact with police in the previous 12 months reported they were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with their most recent contact, a ten year low compared to a high of 86.8 per cent in 2014-15
- 79.0 per cent of surveyed adults who had contact with police in response to emergencies and disasters reported they were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with police service responses, a six year low compared to a high of 83.0 per cent in 2020-21 (figure 6.6).

■ (all measures) Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

■ (all measures) Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year:

2021-22

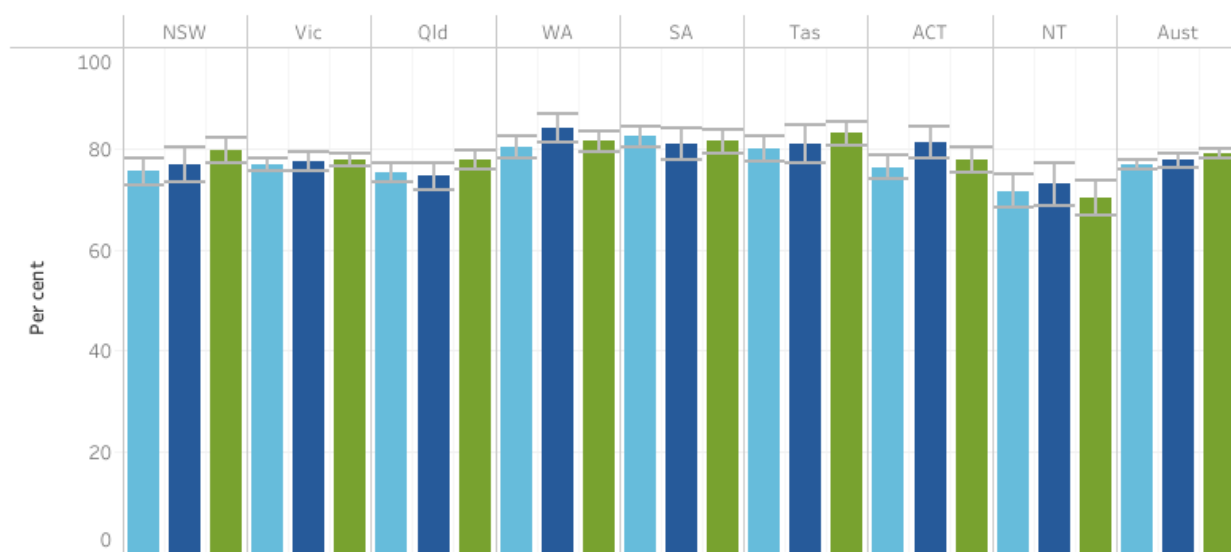
Measure:

■ in general (whether or not they had contact with police)

■ in their most recent contact

■ in response to emergencies and disasters

Figure 6.6 People who were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with police services by jurisdiction, 2021-22



Source: table 6A.6

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6. Perceptions of police integrity

'Perceptions of police integrity' is an indicator of governments' objective to provide services with integrity, honesty and fairness.

'Perceptions of police integrity' refers to public perceptions and is defined by three measures – the proportion of people who 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that police:

- treat people fairly and equally
- perform their job professionally
- are honest.

Perceptions of police integrity data are from the National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing. It is an annual survey commissioned by all Australian State and Territory Police. The data are self-reported by participants and the survey samples people aged 18 years or over. (Until October 2015, it sampled people aged 15 years or over.)

A high or increasing proportion of people who 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' with these statements is desirable.

Public perceptions might not reflect actual levels of police integrity, because many factors, including hearsay and media reporting, might influence people's perceptions of police integrity.

Nationally in 2021-22, the proportion of people who ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ that police:

- ‘treat people fairly and equally’ was 66.3 per cent, a ten year low compared to a high of 77.7 per cent in 2014-15
- ‘perform their job professionally’ was 82.0 per cent, a ten year low compared to a high of 88.7 per cent in 2014-15
- ‘are honest’ was 68.6 per cent, a ten year low compared to a high of 75.9 per cent in 2014-15 (figure 6.7).

■ (all measures) Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

■ (all measures) Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

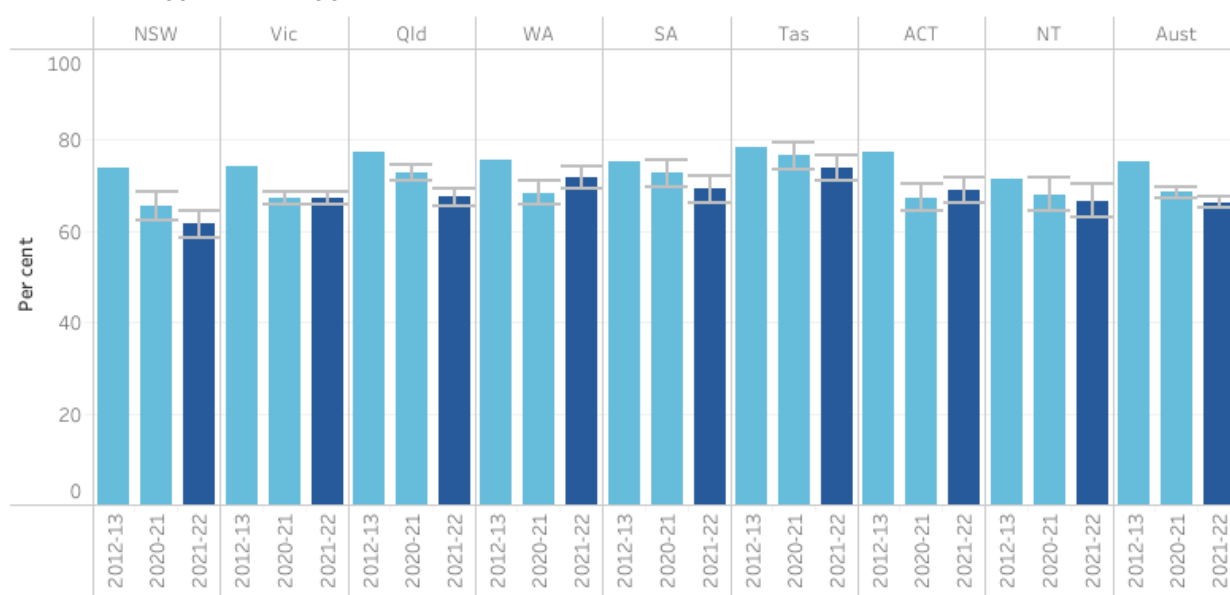
Select Measure:

- Opinions on statement ‘police treat people fairly and equally’
- Opinions on statement ‘police perform job professionally’
- Opinions on statement ‘police are honest’

Select year(s):

Multiple values

Figure 6.7 People who ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ regarding Opinions on statement ‘police treat people fairly and equally’ by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 6A.7

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7. Complaints

‘Complaints’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide services with integrity, honesty and fairness.

‘Complaints’ is defined as the rate of complaints against police by the public per 100 000 people in the population. It is expressed as an index comparing values over time to a base period allocated a value of 100.

Complaints includes statements (written or verbal) by members of the public regarding police conduct when a person was in police custody or had voluntary or involuntary dealing with the police.

They include sustained complaints, withdrawn complaints, dismissed complaints, and unresolved complaints, whether they are handled internally to the police service or by an external agency.

A low or decreasing index score is desirable.

A high or increasing index score does not necessarily indicate a lack of confidence in police. It can indicate greater confidence in complaints resolution. It is desirable to monitor changes in the index score to identify reasons for the changes and use this information to improve the manner in which police services are delivered.

Complaints increased in 2021-22 relative to the indexed baseline (2012-13 to 2014-15) in all jurisdictions, except Queensland and the ACT (figure 6.8).

- Data are not comparable across jurisdictions or within some jurisdictions over time.
- Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

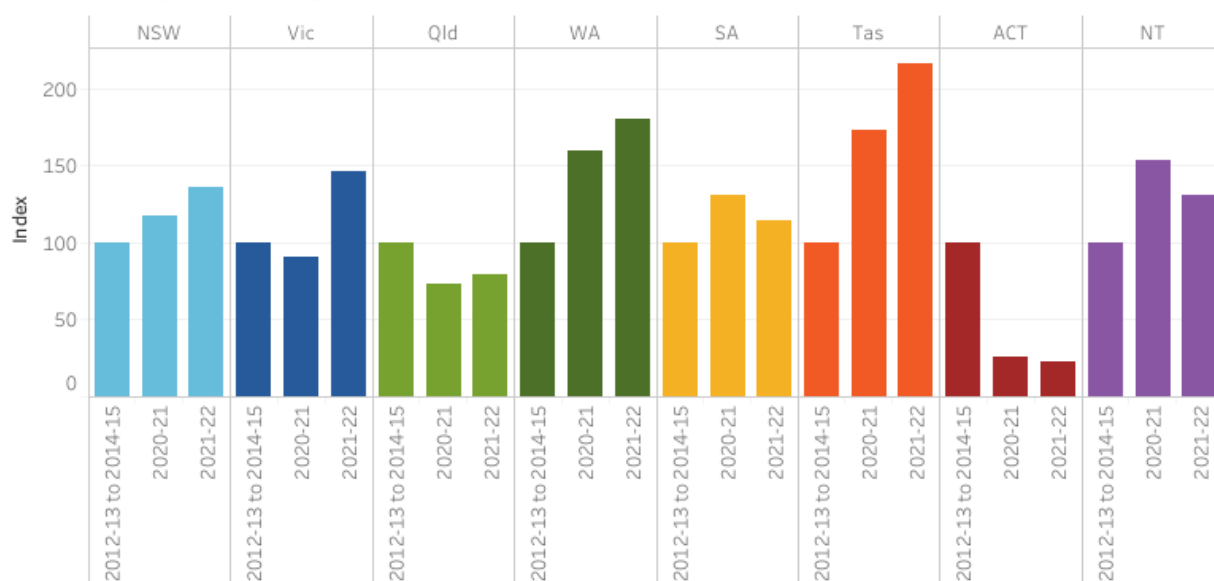
Select year(s):

Multiple values

Jurisdiction:

- NSW
- Vic
- Qld
- WA
- SA
- Tas
- ACT
- NT

Figure 6.8 Complaints per 100 000 people (index 2012-13 to 2014-15 = 100) by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 6A.8



8. Youth diversions

'Youth diversions' is an indicator of governments' objective to support the judicial process to bring to justice those people responsible for committing an offence.

'Youth diversions' is defined as the proportion of police proceedings for alleged youth offenders that were diverted by police using a non-court proceeding.

The measure is reported by Indigenous status.

When police apprehend offenders, they can charge the offender (and proceed to court), or they can use their discretion to divert the offender away from this potentially costly, time consuming and stressful situation (for both the offender and victim).

Alleged youth offenders are aged 10 to 17 years at the date of proceeding. A proceeding is a legal action initiated against an alleged offender for an offence (or offences). Police proceedings represent a count for each separate occasion on which police initiate a legal action against an offender during the reference period. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status is identified at the time of the proceeding by police.

Diversions include non-court actions such as community conferences, diversionary conferences, formal (written) cautioning by police, family conferences, and other programs (for example, drug assessment/treatment). Non-court actions that are initiated against offenders who would not normally be sent to court for the offence detected, and who are treated by police in a less formal manner (for example, issued informal (oral) cautions, informal warnings or infringement/penalty notices), are not included.

A high or increasing number of youth diversions, as a proportion of youth offenders is desirable. Not all diversionary options are available or subject to police discretion in all jurisdictions. In addition, young offenders who commit a serious offence or an offence specified in applicable legislation cannot be diverted. This limits opportunities for youth diversion. This indicator does not provide information on the relative success or failure of diversionary mechanisms.

In 2021-22, two jurisdictions (Victoria and the NT) reported an increase from 2020-21 in the proportion of young offenders diverted from the justice system, and three jurisdictions (Victoria, the ACT and the NT) reported an increase in the proportion of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders diverted from the justice system. In all jurisdictions in 2021-22, a higher proportion of non-Indigenous youth offenders were diverted than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders (table 6.2).

■ Data are not comparable across jurisdictions or within some jurisdictions over time.

■ Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select Indigenous status:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
 Non-Indigenous people
 All people

Select year(s):

Multiple values

Table 6.2 Youth diversions as a proportion of offenders, by Indigenous status by jurisdiction, by year

			NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	2021-22	%	31.4	20.7	25.7	37.4	19.6	22.5	22.1	33.9
	2020-21	%	32.2	14.7	26.4	45.0	27.2	27.9	21.8	32.2
	2012-13	%	31.8	18.8	22.9	33.2	29.9	45.0	28.5	24.6
Non-Indigenous people	2021-22	%	71.8	28.6	53.7	53.8	32.6	36.2	31.3	45.7
	2020-21	%	68.8	21.1	52.7	59.6	48.9	36.6	33.9	45.0
	2012-13	%	62.2	31.4	43.4	55.9	49.1	52.0	49.0	39.2
All people	2021-22	%	62.1	28.4	38.8	44.4	28.7	43.3	29.5	33.5
	2020-21	%	64.0	21.1	39.2	52.0	48.9	46.0	31.7	33.4
	2012-13	%	54.8	30.6	34.4	45.0	42.8	52.0	46.2	27.8

Source: table 6A.9

.. Not applicable. np Not published.

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9. Outcome of investigations

'Outcome of investigations' is an indicator of governments' objective to support the judicial process to bring to justice people responsible for committing an offence.

'Outcome of investigations' is defined by two measures of the status of a police investigation after 30 days from the recording of the incident by police:

- the proportion of all investigations that were finalised
- the proportion of all finalised investigations where an offender was proceeded against.

Measures are reported for a range of offences:

- personal offences: homicide and related offences; sexual assault; armed robbery; and unarmed robbery
- property offences: unlawful entry with intent; motor vehicle theft; and other theft.

A high or increasing proportion of investigations that were finalised and investigations finalised where proceedings were instituted against the offender, is desirable.

The proportion of investigations finalised within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police varied across jurisdictions for a range of personal and property offences. Nationally in 2021:

- sexual assaults recorded the lowest proportion of personal crimes with investigations finalised within 30 days (34.0 per cent)
- unlawful entry recorded the lowest proportion of property offences with investigations finalised within 30 days (16.8 per cent) (figure 6.9a).

■ Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

■ Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

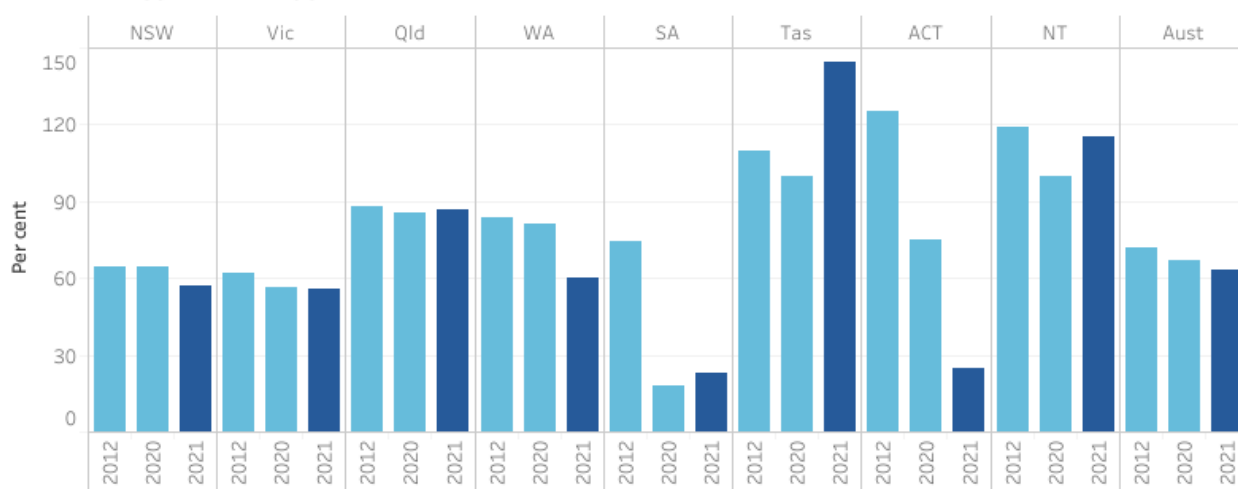
Select year:

Multiple values

Select offence category:

- Homicide and related offences
- Sexual assault
- Armed robbery
- Unarmed robbery
- Unlawful entry with intent
- Motor vehicle theft
- Other theft

Figure 6.9a Measure 1: Proportion of all investigations that were finalised within 30 days, Homicide and related offences (a), (b) by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 6A.10

(a) The number of finalised investigations may exceed the total number of investigations and therefore the proportion of investigations that are finalised may exceed 100 per cent. This is because the ABS randomly adjusts the cell values to avoid the release of confidential data. (b) Data for NSW for Other theft were not published prior to 2013.

The proportion of finalised investigations for which proceedings had begun against the offender within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police, varied across jurisdictions for a range of personal and property offences. Nationally in 2021, of finalised investigations:

- homicide and other related offences were the most likely personal offences to have an offender proceeded against within 30 days (94.5 per cent)
- unlawful entry with intent was the most likely property offence to have an offender proceeded against within 30 days (85.5 per cent) (figure 6.9b).

■ Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

■ Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year:

Multiple values

Select offence category:

- Homicide and related offences
- Sexual assault
- Armed robbery
- Unarmed robbery
- Unlawful entry with intent
- Motor vehicle theft
- Other theft

Figure 6.9b Measure 2: Proportion of all finalised investigations where an offender was proceeded against within 30 days, Homicide and related offences (a), (b) by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 6A.10

(a) The number of finalised investigations where an offender was proceeded against may exceed the number of finalised investigations and therefore the proportion of finalised investigations where an offender was proceeded against may exceed 100 per cent. This is because the ABS randomly adjusts the cell values to avoid the release of confidential data. (b) Data for NSW for Other theft were not published prior to 2013.

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10. Expenditure per person

‘Expenditure per person’ is a proxy indicator of governments’ objective to provide police services in an efficient manner.

‘Expenditure per person’ is defined as real recurrent expenditure on policing per person in the population. All else being equal, low or decreasing expenditure per person is desirable. However, efficiency data should be interpreted with care. High or increasing expenditure per person might reflect poor efficiency but may also reflect changing aspects of the service or policing environment.

Low expenditure per person may reflect more efficient outcomes or lower quality or less challenging crime and safety situations. The scope of activities undertaken by police services also varies across jurisdictions.

Real recurrent expenditure includes user cost of capital, less revenue from own sources and payroll tax.

Time series data for real recurrent expenditure and capital costs (including associated costs for the user cost of capital) for each jurisdiction are reported in table 6A.1. Information on treatment of assets by police agencies is presented in the [Explanatory material](#).

Nationally in 2021-22, real recurrent expenditure on policing was \$575 per person in the population. This figure has increased in real terms each year since 2016-17. Expenditure per person ranged from \$453 to \$649 across all jurisdictions, except the NT where it was \$1681 per person (figure 6.10).

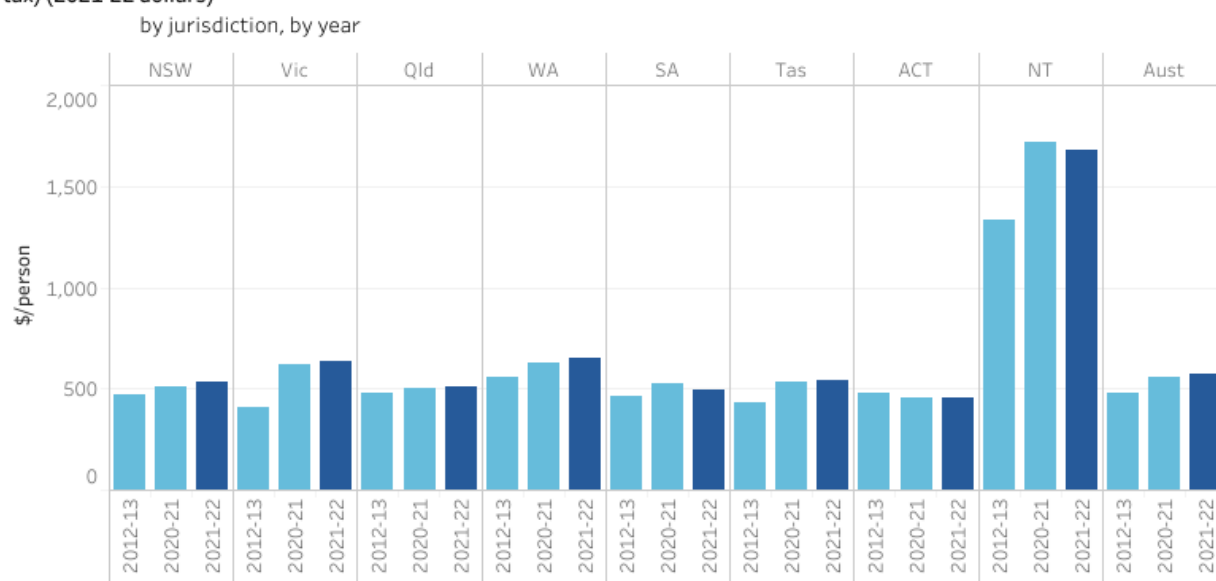
■ Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

■ Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year(s):

Multiple values

Figure 6.10 Real recurrent expenditure per person (including user cost of capital less revenue from own sources and payroll tax) (2021-22 dollars)



Source: table 6A.1

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11. Crime victimisation

'Crime victimisation' is an indicator of governments' objective to contribute to a safe and secure community that enables people to undertake their lawful pursuits confidently and safely.

'Crime victimisation' is defined as the victimisation rate of selected personal and property crimes.

Data are reported for:

- personal crimes of physical assault, face-to-face threatened assault and robbery per 100 000 people aged 15 years or over; and for sexual assault, per 100 000 people aged 18 years or over
- property crimes of break-in, attempted break-in, motor vehicle theft, theft from a motor vehicle, malicious property damage and other theft, per 100 000 households.

A victim is a person (for personal crimes) or household (for property crimes) who has self-reported as experiencing at least one incident in the last 12 months.

A low or decreasing rate of crime victimisation is desirable.

Nationally in 2020-21, there were an estimated 2031.6 victims of physical assault, 2188.8 victims of threatened assault (face-to-face incidents only), 536.3 victims of sexual assault and 266.9 victims of robbery per 100 000 people (figure 6.11a).

Crime victimisation survey reporting rates for these crimes are available in table 6A.14. The rates of victims of recorded crime per 100 000 people for selected personal offences are available in table 6A.16.

Data on reported victims of sexual assault by age at incident are available in table 6A.18. In 2021, 60.8 per cent of recorded victims of sexual assault were a child (under 18 years of age) at the time of the incident.

As some offences reported in any given year might relate to historical offences, data are also provided on victims who were a child at the time of the incident and where the incident occurred within one year of the date of report. Nationally in 2021, there were 11 293 reported victims of child sexual assault where the incident occurred within one year of the date of report. In comparison, there were 18 925 child victims of sexual assault who reported a sexual assault (recent or historical) to police in 2021.

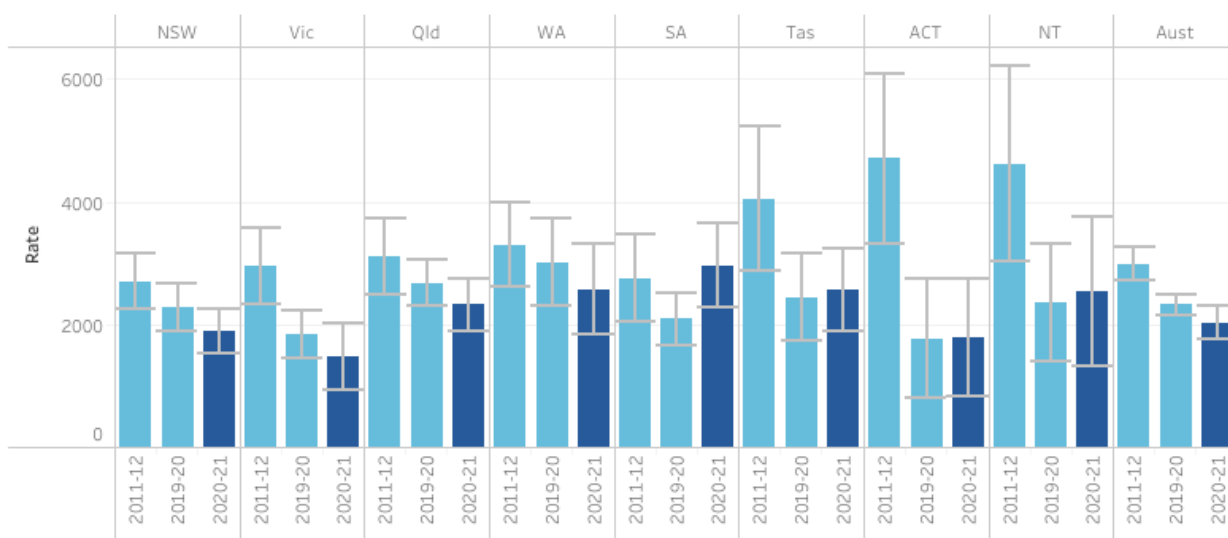
- Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
- Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year(s):
Multiple values

Select personal crime type:

- Sexual assault
- Physical assault
- Robbery
- Threatened assault

Figure 6.11a Estimated victims of personal crimes, Physical assault, per 100 000 people by jurisdiction, by year (a)



Source: table 6A.12

(a) Robbery and sexual assault data have not been published at the State and Territory level.



Nationally, for every 100 000 households in 2020-21, an estimated 1747.2 experienced a break-in, 1826.6 an attempted break-in, 479.6 motor vehicle theft, 2468.1 theft from motor vehicle, 4017.8 malicious property damage and 2221.7 experienced other theft (figure 6.11b).

Crime victimisation survey reporting rates for these crimes are available in table 6A.15. The rates of victims of recorded crime per 100 000 people for selected property offences are available in table 6A.17.

■ Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

■ Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

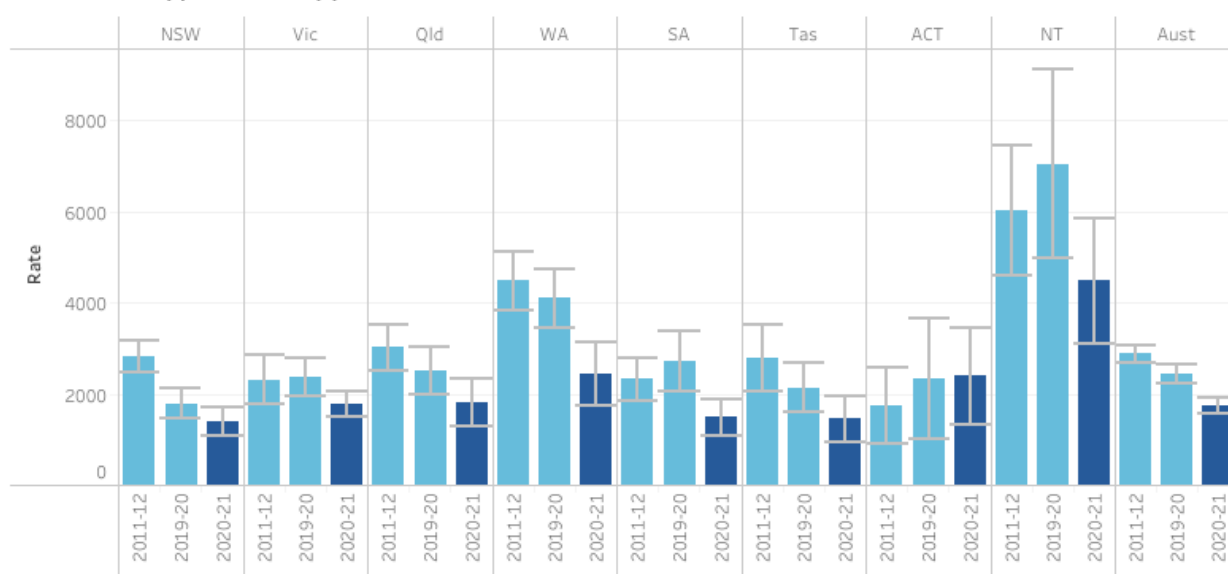
Select year(s):

Multiple values

Select property crime type:

- Motor vehicle theft
- Other theft
- Attempted break-in
- Break-in
- Malicious property damage
- Theft from motor vehicle

Figure 6.11b Estimated victims of property crimes, Break-in, per 100 000 households by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 6A.13

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12. Perceptions of safety

'Perceptions of safety' is an indicator of governments' objective to contribute to a safe and secure community that enables people to undertake their lawful pursuits confidently and safely.

'Perceptions of safety' is defined by two measures – the proportion of people who felt 'safe' or 'very safe':

- at home alone during the night
- in public places, including walking alone in the neighbourhood during the day and night and travelling on public transport during the night.

Perceptions of safety data are from the National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing. It is an annual survey commissioned by all Australian State and Territory Police. The data are self-reported by participants and the survey samples people aged 18 years or over. (Until October 2015, it sampled people aged 15 years or over.)

A high or increasing proportion of people who felt 'safe' or 'very safe' is desirable.

Nationally in 2021-22, 89.0 per cent of people felt 'safe' or 'very safe' at home alone during the night. This proportion dropped to 53.8 per cent when walking locally during the night and dropped further to 32.7 per cent when travelling on public transport during the night (figure 6.12).

■ (all measures) Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

■ (all measures) Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year(s): Multiple values

Select measure:

 At home alone

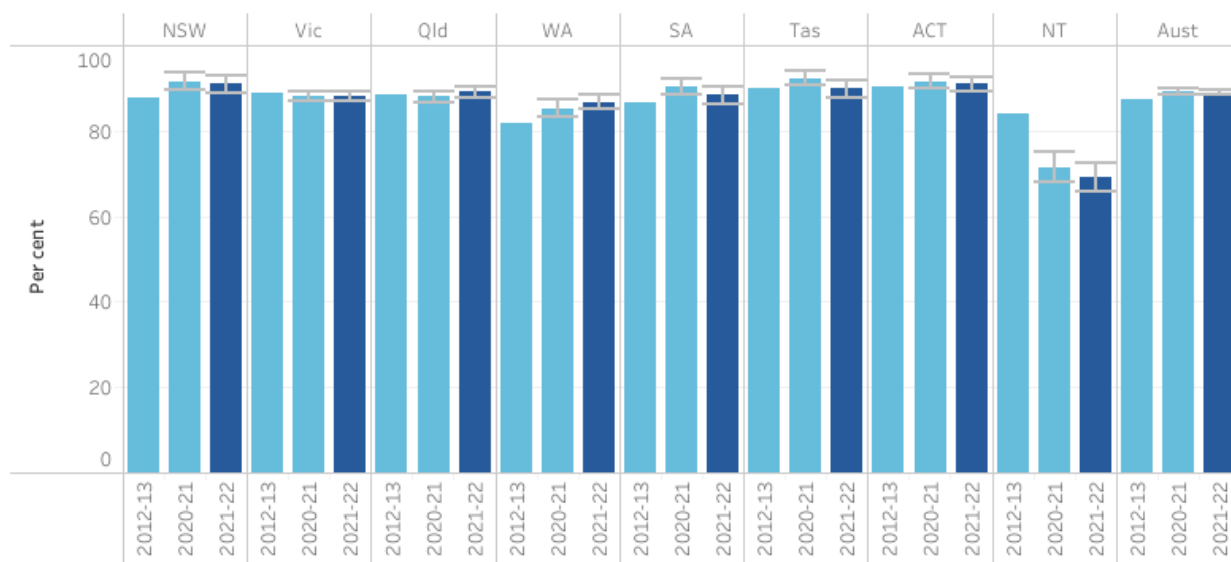
 On public transport

 Walking alone in your neighbourhood

Select time of day:

 During the night

Figure 6.12 People who felt 'safe' or 'very safe' At home alone, During the night by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 6A.19



13. Perceptions of crime problems

'Perceptions of crime problems' is an indicator of governments' objective to contribute to a safe and secure community that enables people to undertake their lawful pursuits confidently and safely.

'Perceptions of crime problems' is defined as the proportion of people who thought that various types of crime were a 'major problem' or 'somewhat of a problem' in their neighbourhood.

This indicator measures perceptions of crime, as distinct from the actual level of crime (recorded crime data are available in 6A.16 and 6A.17). Perceptions of crime data are sourced from the National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing. It is an annual survey commissioned by all Australian State and Territory Police. Data are self-reported by participants and the survey samples people aged 18 years or over. (Until October 2015, it sampled people aged 15 years or over.)

A low or decreasing proportion of people who thought the selected types of crime were a 'major problem' or 'somewhat of a problem' in their neighbourhood is desirable.

Nationally in 2021-22, 45.5 per cent of surveyed adults reported illicit drugs to be either a ‘major problem’ or ‘somewhat of a problem’ in their neighbourhood. This is the lowest proportion since 2014-15 (38.6 per cent). Also, 64.9 per cent of surveyed adults thought speeding cars, dangerous or noisy driving to be a problem, a decrease from 66.4 per cent in 2020-21 (figure 6.13).

■ Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

■ Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. ...

Select type of crime:

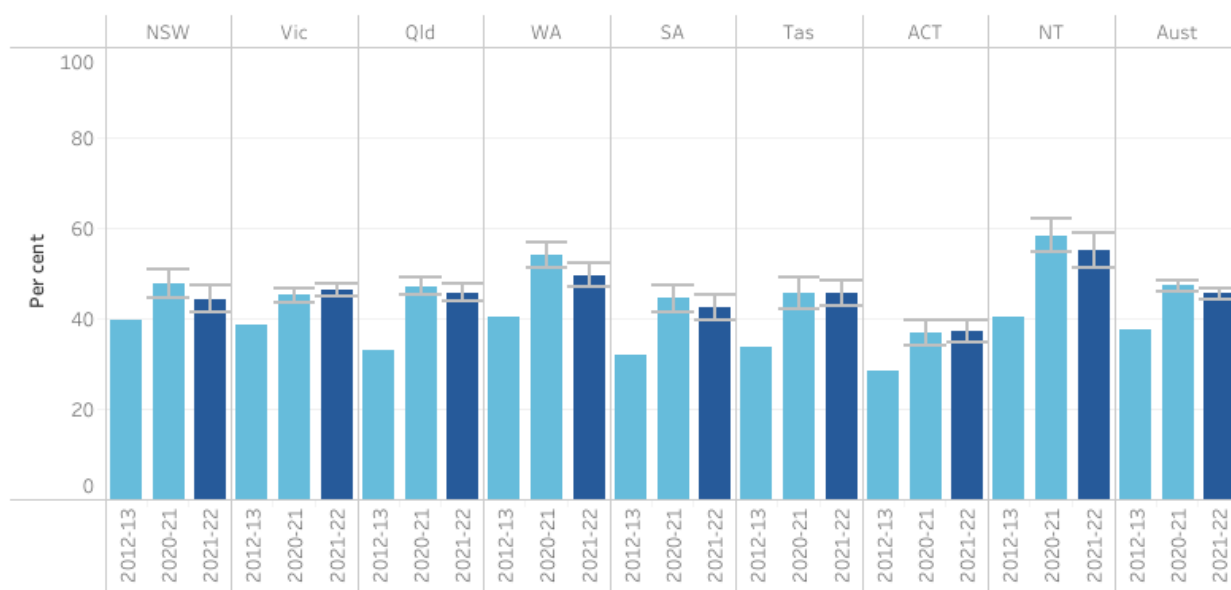
Opinion on whether illicit drugs are a problem in the neighbourhood

Opinion on whether speeding cars; dangerous or noisy driving are problems in the neighbourhood

Select year(s):

Multiple values

Figure 6.13 Proportion of people’s ‘Opinion on whether illicit drugs are a problem in the neighbourhood’ by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 6A.20

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14. Road deaths

‘Road deaths’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to contribute to a safe and secure community that enables people to undertake their lawful pursuits confidently and safely.

‘Road deaths’ is defined as the rate of road deaths per 100 000 registered vehicles.

The Australian Road Deaths Database provides basic details of road transport deaths in Australia as reported by the police each month to state and territory road safety authorities.

No deaths or a decreasing rate of road deaths per 100 000 registered vehicles is desirable.

The rate of road deaths is affected by a number of factors in addition to activities undertaken by police services, such as the condition of roads, driver education and media campaigns.

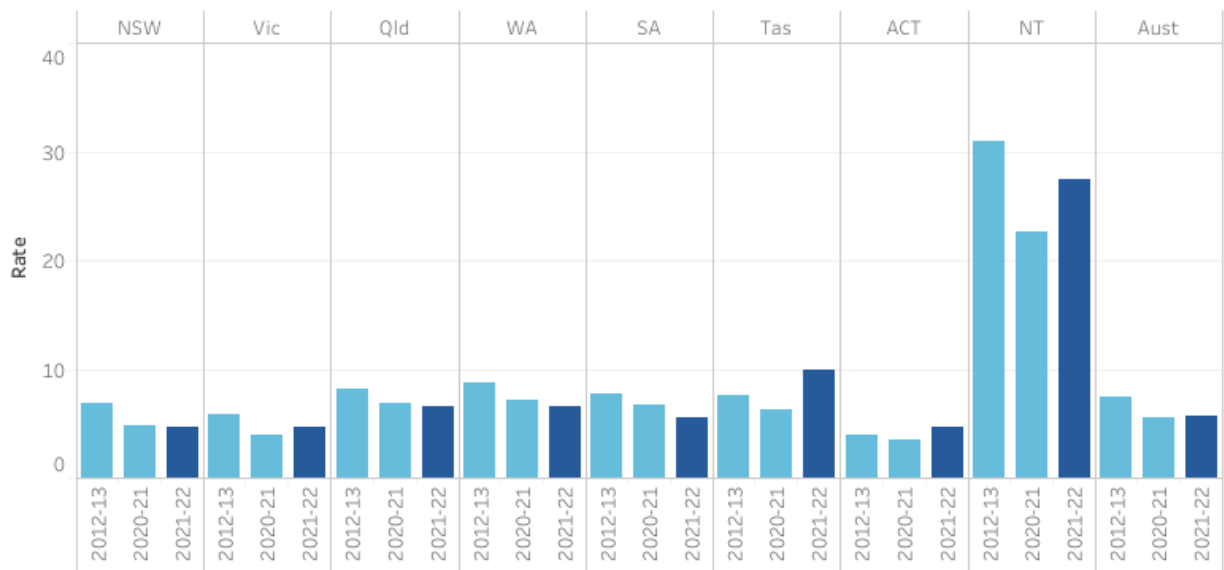
Nationally in 2021-22, there were 5.7 road deaths per 100 000 registered vehicles. This is down from a rate of 7.4 road deaths 10 years ago (2012-13) (figure 6.14). The 2021-22 rate reflects 1180 road deaths nationally (table 6A.21).

Supporting data on traffic accident hospitalisations are available in table 6A.22. The rate of traffic accident hospitalisations per 100 000 registered vehicles was higher in 2020-21 than the six year low in 2019-20. The number of traffic accident hospitalisations was higher in 2020-21 than in any of the previous six years (table 6A.22).

- Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
- Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year(s):
Multiple values

Figure 6.14 Road deaths per 100 000 registered vehicles by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 6A.21

Indigenous data

Performance indicator data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in this section are available in the data tables listed below. Contextual data and further supporting information can be found in the 'Indicator results' tab and data tables.

Police services data disaggregated for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Table number	Table title
Table 6A.2	Police staffing
Table 6A.4	Deaths in police custody, by Indigenous status
Table 6A.9	Youth diversions as a proportion of offenders, by Indigenous status

Explanatory material

Interpreting efficiency data

Table 6.3 Treatment of assets by police agencies, 2021-22

		NSW ^b	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT ^c	NT
Revaluation method ^a	Land	Market value	Fair value	Fair value	Fair value	Fair value	Fair Value	Market	Market
	Buildings	Written down replacement value	Fair value	Fair value	Fair value	Fair value	Fair Value	Market	Market
	Other assets	Straight-line depreciation over useful life	Fair value	Cost (aircraft are at market valuation)	Cost	Cost	Cost	Deprival	Cost - only land and buildings revalued
Frequency of revaluations (years)	Land	3	5	Annual over a four-year rolling plan	Annual	5	3	na	5
	Buildings	3	5	Annual over a four-year rolling plan	Annual	5	3	na	5
	Other assets	Annual capitalisation of group	5	None except aircraft, revalued annually	na	na	na	3	5
Useful asset lives (years) ^{b,c}	Buildings	Useful life/Lease term, determined individually	1-50	10-169	50 (except for transportables, depreciated over 20)	Lease term (20-60)	5-90	25-59	20-50
	Plant and equipment	6.5-10	1-40	2-17	4-20	10	1-40	3-25	1-10
	IT equipment ^d	4	1-5	3-8	4-40	3	5	3	3-6
	Office equipment ^e	10	1-10	4-40	7	10	1-40	5	5-10
	Motor vehicles ^f	Owned vehicles 6.5	1-10	2-10	5-10	3-10	5	5	1-10
Threshold capitalisation levels (\$)	Buildings	5 000	5 000	10 000	5 000	10 000	50 000	na	5 000
	IT equipment	–	5 000	5 000	5 000	10 000	10 000	2 000	5 000
	Other assets	5 000	5 000	5 000	5 000	10 000	10 000	2 000	5 000

a Depreciated replacement cost; current value; market value (current (net) value, market selling price or exchange value); and deprival value may be either the depreciated replacement cost of an asset of a similar service potential or the stream of its future economic benefits. **b** Estimated as $(1/\text{depreciation rate})$. **c** ACT asset lives for some assets have been grouped with other classifications. **d** WA IT equipment includes communication equipment. **e** NSW office equipment includes computer software, furniture and fittings, firearms and musical instruments. **f** Includes all transport equipment. However, marine equipment is amortised over 20 years and livestock over 8 years. Leased vehicles, including aircraft and vessels are amortised over the lease term. – Nil or rounded to zero. **na** Not available.

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished).

Key terms

Terms	Definition
Armed robbery	<p>Robbery conducted with the use (actual or implied) of a weapon, where a weapon can include, but is not restricted to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> firearms — pistol, revolver, rifle, automatic/semiautomatic rifle, shotgun, military firearm, airgun, nail gun, cannon, imitation firearm and implied firearm other weapons — knife, sharp instrument, blunt instrument, hammer, axe, club, iron bar, piece of wood, syringe/hypodermic needle, bow and arrow, crossbow, spear gun, blowgun, rope, wire, chemical, acid, explosive, vehicle, bottle/glass, other dangerous article and imitation weapons.
Assault	<p>The direct (and immediate/confrontational) infliction of force, injury or violence on a person(s) or the direct (and immediate/confrontational) threat of force, injury or violence where there is an apprehension that the threat could be enacted.</p>
Cautioning	<p>A formal method of dealing with young offenders without taking court proceedings. Police officers may caution young offenders instead of charging them if the offence or the circumstance of the offence is not serious.</p>
Depreciation	<p>The cost allocation of a physical asset over its useful life. Where possible, this should be based on current asset valuation.</p>
Estimated resident population (ERP)	<p>The official Australian Bureau of Statistics estimate of the Australian population. The ERP is derived from the 5-yearly Census counts and is updated quarterly between censuses. It is based on the usual residence of the person.</p>
Full time equivalent (FTE)	<p>The equivalent number of full time staff required to provide the same hours of work as performed by staff actually employed. A full time staff member is equivalent to an FTE of one, while a part time staff member is greater than zero but less than one.</p>
Homicide and related offences	<p>The unlawful killing or the attempted unlawful killing of another person. Includes murder, attempted murder and manslaughter. Excludes driving causing death.</p>

Terms	Definition
Motor vehicle theft	The taking of another person's motor vehicle illegally and without permission. It includes privately owned vehicles and excludes vehicles used mainly for commercial business/business purposes.
Non-operational full-time equivalent staff	Any person who does not satisfy the operational staff criteria, including functional support staff only. Functional support full-time equivalent staff includes any person (sworn or unsworn) not satisfying the operational or operational support staff criteria (for example, finance, policy, research, personnel services, building and property services, transport services, and management above the level of station and shift supervisors).
Offender	A person who is alleged to have committed an offence. It differs from the definition used in section 8 ('Corrective services'), where the term 'offender' refers to a person who has been convicted of an offence and is subject to a correctional sentence.
Operational staff	An operational police staff member (sworn or unsworn) is any member of the police force whose primary duty is the delivery of police or police related services to an external customer (where an external customer predominately refers to members of the public but may also include law enforcement outputs delivered to other government departments). Operational staff include general duties officers, investigators, traffic operatives, tactical officers, station counter staff, communication officers, crime scene staff, disaster victim identification, and prosecution and judicial support officers.
Other recurrent expenditure	Maintenance and working expenses; expenditure incurred by other departments on behalf of police; expenditure on contracted police services; and other recurrent costs not elsewhere classified. Expenditure is disaggregated by service delivery area.
Other theft	The taking of another person's property with the intention of depriving the owner of the property illegally and without permission, but without force, threat of force, use of coercive measures, deceit or having gained unlawful entry to any structure, even if the intent was to commit theft.

Terms	Definition
Property crimes	<p>Total recorded crimes against property, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • break-in • attempted break-in • motor vehicle theft • theft from motor vehicle • malicious property damage • other theft.
Real expenditure	<p>Actual expenditure is adjusted for changes in prices. Time series financial data are adjusted to 2021-22 dollars using the General Government Final Consumption Expenditure (GGFCE) chain price deflator (2021-22 = 100). See table 2A.26 and section 2 for more details.</p>
Recorded crime	<p>Crimes reported to (or detected) and recorded by police.</p>
Registered vehicles	<p>Total registered motor vehicles, including motorcycles.</p>
Revenue from own sources	<p>Revenue from activities undertaken by police, including revenue from the sale of stores, plant and vehicles; donations and industry contributions; user charges; and other revenue (excluding fine revenue and revenue from the issuing of firearm licenses).</p>
Robbery	<p>The unlawful taking of property from the immediate possession, control, custody or care of a person, with the intent to permanently deprive the owner of the property accompanied by the use, and/or threatened use of immediate force or violence.</p>

Terms	Definition
Salaries and payments in the nature of salary	<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • base salary package • motor vehicle expenses that are part of employer fringe benefits • superannuation, early retirement schemes and payments to pension schemes (employer contributions) • workers compensation (full cost) including premiums, levies, bills, legal fees • higher duty allowances (actual amounts paid) • overtime (actual amounts paid) • actual termination and long service leave • actual annual leave • actual sick leave • actual maternity/paternity leave • fringe benefits tax paid • fringe benefits provided (for example, school fee salary sacrifice at cost to the government, car parking, duress alarms, telephone account reimbursements, 'gold passes', other salary sacrifice benefits, frequent flyer benefits, overtime meals provided and any other components that are not part of a salary package) • payroll tax.
Sexual assault	<p>Physical contact of a sexual nature directed towards another person where that person does not give consent, that person gives consent as a result of intimidation or fraud, or consent is proscribed (that is, the person is legally deemed incapable of giving consent as a result of youth, temporary/permanent (mental) incapacity or a familial relationship).</p> <p>Includes rape, attempted rape, indecent assault and assault with intent to commit sexual assault. Excludes sexual harassment not leading to assault.</p>
Sworn staff	Sworn police staff recognised under each jurisdiction's Police Act.
Total capital expenditure	Total expenditure on the purchase of new or second-hand capital assets, and expenditure on significant repairs or additions to assets that add to the assets' service potential or service life.
Total expenditure	Total capital expenditure plus total recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources).

Terms	Definition
Total FTE staff	Operational staff and non-operational staff, including full-time equivalent staff on paid leave or absence from duty (including secondment and training), as measured using absolute numbers for the whole reporting period.
Total number of staff	Full-time equivalent staff directly employed on an annual basis (excluding labour contracted out).
Total recurrent expenditure	<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • salaries and payments in the nature of salary (for police and non-police staff) • other recurrent expenditure • depreciation • less revenue from own sources.
Unlawful entry with intent — involving the taking of property	The unlawful entry of a structure (whether forced or unforced) with intent to commit an offence, resulting in the taking of property from the structure. Includes burglary and break-in offences. Excludes trespass or lawful entry with intent.
Unlawful entry with intent — other	The unlawful entry of a structure (whether forced or unforced) with intent to commit an offence, but which does not result in the taking of property from the structure. Excludes trespass or lawful entry with intent.
User cost of capital	The opportunity cost of funds tied up in the capital used to deliver services. Calculated as 8 per cent of the current value of non-current physical assets (excluding land).
Value of physical assets — buildings and fittings	The value of buildings and fittings under the direct control of police.
Value of physical assets — land	The value of land under the direct control of police.
Value of physical assets — other	The value of motor vehicles, computer equipment, and general plant and equipment under the direct control of police.

References

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Impact of COVID-19 on data for the Police services section

COVID-19 may affect data in this Report in a number of ways. This includes in respect of actual performance (that is, the impact of COVID-19 on service delivery from 2020 to 2022 which is reflected in the data results), and the collection and processing of data (that is, the ability of data providers to undertake data collection and process results for inclusion in the Report).

For the Police services section, there has been some impact on the data that is attributable to COVID-19 but this has not affected either the comparability or completeness of any indicators. The introduction of COVID-19 related restrictions in March 2020 affected the volume of Magistrates' courts decisions which affects the indicator on Magistrates' court decisions resulting in a guilty outcome for defendants.

Specific footnotes identify additional technical matters in the data tables which may be applicable to individual jurisdictions.

Report on Government Services 2023

PART C, SECTION 7: RELEASED ON 31 JANUARY 2023

7 Courts

The focus of this section is the court administration functions of Australian and State and Territory courts.

Data are reported for the Federal Court of Australia, the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1), the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2), 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 Western Australia.

The **Indicator results** tab uses data from the data tables to provide information on the performance for each indicator in the **Indicator framework**. The same data in the data tables are also available in CSV format.

Data downloads

[7 Courts data tables \(XLSX - 663 Kb\)](#)

[7 Courts dataset \(CSV - 2130 Kb\)](#)

See the corresponding table number in the data tables for detailed definitions, caveats, footnotes and data source(s).

[Guide: How to find what you need in RoGS \(PDF - 298 Kb\)](#)

Context

Objectives for courts

Courts aim to safeguard and maintain the rule of law and ensure equal justice for all. Court services support the courts and aim to encourage public confidence and trust in the courts by enabling them to:

- be open and accessible
- be affordable
- process matters in a high quality, expeditious and timely manner.

Governments aim for court services to meet these objectives in an equitable and efficient manner.

Service overview

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.

Court support services are reported for the State and Territory supreme, district/county and magistrates' (including children's) courts, coroners' courts and probate registries, and for the Federal Court of Australia, the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Divisions 1 and 2), and the Family Court of WA .

The High Court of Australia, tribunals and specialist jurisdiction courts (for example, Indigenous courts, circle sentencing courts, drug courts and electronic infringement and enforcement systems) are excluded.

Roles and responsibilities

State and Territory court levels

There is a hierarchy of courts within each State and Territory (see figure 7.1). Supreme courts hear disputes of greater seriousness than those heard in the other courts. Supreme courts also develop the law and operate as courts of judicial review or appeal. For the majority of states and territories, the hierarchy of courts is as outlined below (although Tasmania, the ACT and the NT do not have a district/county court):

- supreme courts (includes probate)
- district/county courts
- magistrates' courts (includes children's and coroners' courts).

Differences in State and Territory court levels mean that the allocation of cases to courts and seriousness of cases heard varies across states and territories.

Supreme court jurisdictions across states and territories

Criminal courts

All State and Territory supreme courts have jurisdiction over similar criminal matters such as murder, treason and certain serious drug offences, but significant differences exist in this court level across the states and territories:

- District/county courts do not operate in Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, so in this state and these territories the supreme courts generally exercise a jurisdiction equal to that of both the supreme and district/county courts in other states.
- The Queensland Supreme Court deals with a number of drug matters, which supreme courts in other states and territories do not hear.
- In the New South Wales Supreme Court, almost all indictments are for offences of murder and manslaughter, whereas the range of indictments routinely presented in most other states and territories is broader.

- In the Western Australian Supreme Court, with the introduction of the *Court Jurisdiction Legislation Amendment Act 2018* which came into effect on 1 January 2019, the Court predominantly deals with the most serious offences such as homicide and related offences, and serious breaches of Commonwealth drug enforcement laws.

All State and Territory supreme courts hear appeals, but the number and type of appeals vary because New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland also hear some appeals in their district/county courts.

Civil courts

All supreme courts deal with appeals and probate applications and have an unlimited jurisdiction on claims but:

- New South Wales usually deals with complex cases, all claims over \$750 000 (except claims related to motor vehicle accidents or worker's compensation) and various other civil matters.
- Victoria deals with complex cases, high value claims and various other civil matters.
- Queensland deals with claims over \$750 000 and administrative law matters.
- Western Australia usually deals with claims over \$750 000.
- South Australia exercises its unlimited jurisdiction for general and personal injury matters.
- Tasmania usually deals with claims over \$50 000.
- The Australian Capital Territory usually deals with claims over \$250 000.
- The Northern Territory also deals with mental health, family law and *Coroners Act 1993* applications.

District/county court jurisdictions across states and territories

There are no district/county courts in Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory or the Northern Territory.

Criminal courts

The district/county courts have jurisdiction over indictable criminal matters (such as rape and armed robbery) except murder and treason, but differences exist among the states that have a district/county court. For example, appeals from magistrates' courts are heard in the district/county courts in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, but not in Western Australia and South Australia. In the latter two states, all appeals from the magistrates' court (criminal) go directly to the Supreme court. Briefly, the jurisdictions of the district/county courts are:

- New South Wales: The District Court deals with most of the serious criminal cases that come before the courts. It has responsibility for indictable criminal offences that are normally heard by a judge and jury, but on occasions by a judge alone. It does not deal with treason or murder.
- Victoria: The County Court deals with all indictable offences, except the following which must be heard in the Supreme court: murder, attempted murder, child destruction, certain conspiracy charges, treason, and concealing an offence of treason. Examples of criminal offences heard in the County Court include drug trafficking, serious assaults, serious theft, rape and obtaining financial advantage by deception.

- Queensland: The District Court deals with more serious criminal offences than heard by the Magistrates' Court — for example, rape, armed robbery and fraud.
- Western Australia: With the introduction of *the Court Jurisdiction Legislation Amendment Act 2018*, which came into effect on 1 January 2019, the District Court has had jurisdiction for all indictable offences (and therefore the ability to impose a range of life imprisonment sentences) except those related to Murder, Manslaughter, attempt to unlawfully kill, assisted suicide etc, and selected Commonwealth offences — these are dealt with by the Supreme Court.
- South Australia: The District Court is the principal trial court and has jurisdiction to try a charge of any offence except treason or murder or offences related to those charges. Almost all matters have been referred following a committal process in the Magistrates Court.

Civil courts

All district/county courts hear appeals and deal with the following types of cases:

- New South Wales: claims up to \$750 000 (or more if the parties consent) and has unlimited jurisdiction in motor accident injury claims.
- Victoria: appeals under the *Family Violence Protection Act 2008*, adoption matters and change-of-name applications. Has unlimited jurisdiction in both personal injury claims and other claims.
- Queensland: claims between \$150 000 and \$750 000.
- Western Australia: claims up to \$750 000 and unlimited claims for personal injuries and has exclusive jurisdiction for motor accident injury claims.
- South Australia: unlimited claims for general and personal injury matters.

Magistrates' court jurisdictions across states and territories

Criminal courts

- New South Wales: deals summarily with matters with a maximum penalty of up to two years' imprisonment for a single offence, and up to five years' imprisonment for multiple offences, including some indictable offences.
- Victoria: deals with summary offences and determines some indictable offences summarily.
- Queensland: deals with summary offences and determines summarily some indictable matters where the penalty imposed by this jurisdiction may be up to three years' imprisonment.
- Western Australia: deals with summary offences and determines some indictable offences summarily.
- South Australia: deals with matters with a maximum penalty of up to five years imprisonment for a single offence and 10 years imprisonment for multiple offences. Magistrates are able to sentence a defendant in relation to certain major indictable offences where the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and defence agree to the defendant being sentenced in the Magistrates' Court.

- Tasmania: deals with matters with a maximum penalty of up to two years imprisonment for a single offence and up to five years imprisonment for a second or subsequent offence. Also deals with some indictable offences summarily.
- Australian Capital Territory: deals summarily with matters with a maximum penalty of up to two years imprisonment. With the DPP's consent, an offence punishable by imprisonment for longer than two years but up to five years. With a defendant's consent, matters with a maximum penalty of up to 14 years imprisonment where the offence relates to money or property (up to 10 years in other cases).
- Northern Territory: deals with some drug and fraud charges and matters with a maximum penalty of up to 10 years imprisonment (or 10–14 years imprisonment if the accused consents).

Civil courts

- New South Wales: deals with small claims up to \$10 000 and general division claims up to \$100 000, as well as family law matters.
- Victoria: deals with claims up to \$100 000 for monetary damages, and applications for equitable relief and applications under the *Family Violence Protection Act 2008* and *Personal Safety Intervention Orders Act 2010*.
- Queensland: deals with claims up to \$150 000. Since 1 November 2010 minor civil disputes are lodged with the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal.
- Western Australia: deals with claims for debt recovery and damages (not personal injury) up to \$75 000, minor cases up to \$10 000, residential tenancy applications for monies up to \$10 000, residential tenancy disputes and restraining orders.
- South Australia: [from 1 August 2016] deals with minor civil claims up to \$12 000, and all other claims including commercial cases and personal injury claims up to \$100 000.
- Tasmania: deals with claims up to \$50 000 (or more if both parties consent) for monetary damages and debt recovery, minor civil claims up to \$5000, residential tenancy disputes, restraint orders and family violence orders.
- Australian Capital Territory: deals with claims between \$25 000 and \$250 000, victims financial assistance applications up to \$50 000, matters under the *Domestic Relationships Act 1994* and commercial leasing matters. Until December 2016, small claims up to \$10 000 were dealt with by the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal. From December 2016 the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal has had jurisdiction for small claims up to \$25 000.
- Northern Territory: deals with claims up to \$100 000 and workers compensation claims.

State and territory court levels – specific elements

The data sets from the following areas are reported separately from their court level to improve comparability and understanding of the data presented.

Probate

In all states and territories, probate issues are heard in supreme courts and encompass applications for the appointment of an executor or administrator to the estate of a deceased person. The two

most common types of application are:

- where the executor nominated by a will applies to have the will proved
- where the deceased was intestate (died without a will) and a person applies for letters of administration to be entitled to administer the estate.

Children's courts

Children's Courts are specialist jurisdiction courts which sit within magistrates' courts. Depending on the State or Territory legislation, children's courts may hear both criminal and civil matters. These courts in the main deal with summary proceedings, however some jurisdictions have the power to also hear indictable matters.

Children's courts deal with complaints of offences alleged to have been committed by young people. In all states and territories, children aged under 10 years cannot be charged with a criminal offence. People aged under 18 years at the time the offence was committed are considered a child or juvenile in all states and territories. In February 2018, the *Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Act 2016* commenced in Queensland, increasing the age that a person can be charged as an adult from 17 to 18 years. This brought Queensland in line with all other Australian states and territories.

Children's courts may also hear matters where a child has been seriously abused or neglected. In these instances, the court has jurisdiction to determine matters relating to the child's care and protection. The majority of matters heard in the civil jurisdiction of children's courts are care and protection orders, although some jurisdictions also hear matters such as applications for intervention orders. In Tasmania, child protection matters are lodged in the criminal registry.

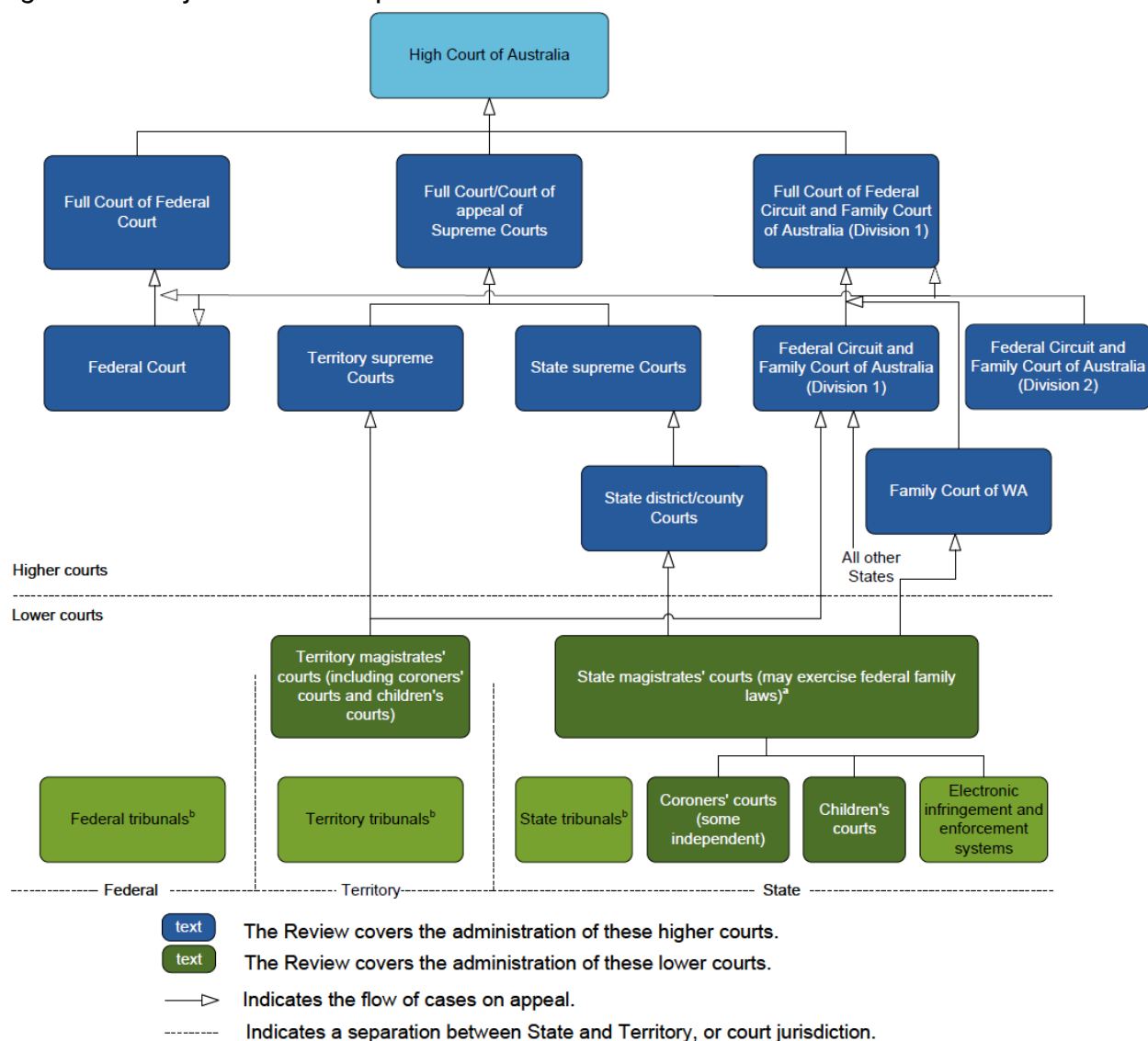
Coroners' courts

In all states and territories, coroners' courts (which generally operate under the auspices of State and Territory magistrates' courts) inquire into the cause of sudden and/or unexpected reported deaths. The definition of a reported death differs across states and territories, but generally includes deaths for which the cause is violent, suspicious or unknown. All coronial jurisdictions investigate deaths in accordance with their respective Coroners Act. Each Act defines what constitutes a 'reportable death' to determine which deaths must be investigated by a coroner. In some states and territories, the coroner has the power to commit for hearing, while in others the coroner is prohibited from making any finding of criminal or civil liability (but may refer the matter to the DPP). Suspicious fires are generally within the jurisdiction of the coroners' courts in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory but not in the other states and territories. In 2015-16, the scope of fires captured by the ACT Coroners' Act changed which has resulted in a substantial reduction in the number of fires reported to the coroner in the Australian Capital Territory.

Australian court levels

Australian courts hear and determine civil matters arising under laws made by the Australian Government. The hierarchy of Australian courts (see figure 7.1) is as follows:

- the High Court of Australia
- the Federal Court
- the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1)
- the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2).

Figure 7.1 Major relationships of courts in Australia ^{a,b}

a In some jurisdictions, appeals from lower courts or district/county courts may go directly to the full court or court of appeal at the supreme/federal level; appeals from the Federal Circuit Court can also be heard by a single judge exercising the Federal/Family Courts' appellate jurisdiction. **b** Appeals from federal, State and Territory tribunals may go to any higher court in their jurisdiction.

Australian government courts

The Federal Court of Australia, the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1) and the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2) are, for the purposes of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*, a single listed entity known as the Federal Court of Australia. On 1 September 2021, the Family Court of Australia and Federal Circuit Court of Australia were renamed as the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1) (FCFCOA (Division 1)) and the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2) (FCFCOA (Division 2)) respectively. The administrative arrangements for the two courts have been harmonised under a single, consistent structure. The FCFCOA (Division 1) deals only with family law matters while the FCFCOA (Division 2) deals with family law, migration and other general federal law matters. Since 1 September 2021, the FCFCOA (Division 2) is the single point of entry for all family law applications filed in the federal family law courts (including applications for final orders, associated interim orders, consent orders, and applications for divorce).

Federal Court of Australia

The Federal Court has jurisdiction to hear and determine any civil matter arising under laws made by the Federal Parliament, as well as any matter arising under the Constitution or involving its interpretation. The Federal Court also has original jurisdiction in respect of specific subject matter conferred by 240 statutes of the Federal Parliament. It sits in all capital cities on a continuous basis and elsewhere in Australia from time to time.

The Federal Court has a substantial and diverse appellate jurisdiction. It hears appeals from decisions of single judges of the Federal Court, decisions of the FCFCOA (Division 2) in non-family law matters, decisions of the Supreme Court of Norfolk Island and particular decisions of State and Territory supreme courts exercising federal jurisdiction. Non-appeal matters for the Federal Court include a significant number of Native Title matters which by nature are both long and complex.

The Federal Court has the power to exercise indictable criminal jurisdiction for serious cartel offences under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (formerly the Trade Practices Act). The Federal Court also exercises a very small summary criminal jurisdiction, but the cases are not separately counted. There are so few cases, these would not make a material difference by being included in the civil case totals.

Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1)

The FCFCOA (Division 1) has first instance jurisdiction in all states and territories except Western Australia (which has its own family court). It has jurisdiction to deal with matrimonial cases and associated responsibilities, including divorce proceedings, financial issues and children's matters such as who the children will live with, spend time with and communicate with, as well as other specific issues relating to parental responsibilities. It can also deal with ex nuptial cases involving children's matters. The most complex disputes are heard in the FCFCOA (Division 1).

The FCFCOA (Division 1) has appellate jurisdiction and hears all family law appeals from the FCFCOA (Division 1), FCFCOA (Division 2), the Family Court of Western Australia, and other state and territory courts exercising original jurisdiction in family law.

Family Court of Western Australia

The Family Court of Western Australia was established in 1976 as a state court exercising both state and federal jurisdiction. The Court deals primarily with disputes arising out of relationship breakdowns. It comprises judges, family law magistrates and registrars. Funding for the court is principally sourced through a grant from the Commonwealth Government, which is provided annually to the Western Australian government. The WA government provides limited funding for proceedings brought under State legislation dealing with property disputes between de facto couples.

The Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1) hears appeals involving the federal family law jurisdiction. In relation to the exercise of non-federal family law jurisdiction (pursuant to the *Family Court Act 1997 (WA)*) appeals are heard in the Court of Appeal of the Supreme Court of Western Australia.

Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2)

Since 1 September 2021, the FCFCOA (Division 2) is the single point of entry for all family law applications filed in the federal family law courts (including applications for final orders, associated interim orders, consent orders, and applications for divorce). As a result, the vast majority of family law applications continue to be case managed and heard in the FCFCOA (Division 2). The Court now also undertakes a triage function to ensure the most legally and/or factually complex cases are transferred to the FCFCOA (Division 1) for hearing.

The jurisdiction of the FCFCOA (Division 2) is broad and includes a number of varied and complex areas including family law and child support, administrative law, admiralty, anti-terrorism, bankruptcy, copyright, human rights, industrial, migration, privacy and trade practices.

Information on the manner in which court authorities value and treat assets is provided in [table 7.14](#).

Funding

Nationally in 2021-22, total recurrent expenditure (excluding payroll tax) by Australian, State and Territory courts in this Report was approximately \$2.31 billion (table 7.3). Expenditure in some states and territories is apportioned (estimated) between the criminal and civil jurisdictions of courts so caution should be used when comparing criminal and civil expenditure across states and territories.

Select year:

2021-22

Table 7.3 Courts' recurrent expenditure, 2021-22 dollars (a)
by criminal and civil jurisdictions, by jurisdiction

			All civil courts (excl. FCFCOA; the WA Family court and the coroners' courts)	All criminal courts	Coroners'	Supreme (probate only)	All criminal and civil courts
NSW	2021-22	\$'000	187,387	335,146	8,791	1,625	532,949
Vic	2021-22	\$'000	249,535	344,048	25,061	1,287	619,931
Qld	2021-22	\$'000	77,850	203,541	13,530	308	295,229
WA	2021-22	\$'000	85,437	146,443	6,381	1,252	269,090
SA	2021-22	\$'000	33,840	81,599	4,600	836	120,874
Tas	2021-22	\$'000	9,080	21,098	1,876	316	32,370
ACT	2021-22	\$'000	25,866	32,850	3,567	27	62,311
NT	2021-22	\$'000	11,537	27,294	1,497	41	40,369
Aust cts	2021-22	\$'000	91,160	..	..	..	337,321
Aust	2021-22	\$'000	771,691	1,192,018	65,304	5,692	2,310,443

Source: tables 7A.11 & 7A.12

.. Not applicable.

(a) Payroll tax is excluded.

Data tables are referenced above by a '7A' prefix and all data (footnotes and data sources) are available for download above (in Excel and CSV format).



Total recurrent expenditure less court income (excluding payroll tax) for the Australian, State and Territory courts in this Report was \$1.94 billion in 2021-22 (tables 7A.14–15). Court income is derived from court fees, library revenue, court reporting revenue, sheriff and bailiff revenue, probate

revenue, mediation revenue, rental income and any other sources of revenue (excluding fines). The civil jurisdiction of courts accounts for the vast majority of income received (table 7A.13).

Cost recovery and fee relief in the civil courts

Court fees are mainly collected in civil courts and in some jurisdictions are set by government rather than court administrators. The level of cost recovery from the collection of civil court fees varies across court levels and states and territories. Nationally, just over one fifth of costs in 2021-22 were recovered through court fees in the Supreme/Federal courts, 33 per cent in the District courts and 16 per cent in the Magistrates' courts (table 7A.16). Cost recovery tends to be low in the children's courts — in these courts many applications do not attract a fee.

Most courts in Australia are able to waive or reduce court fees to ameliorate the impact on vulnerable or financially disadvantaged parties (fee relief). Table 7.4 shows that the proportions of total payable civil court fees which were waived or reduced in 2021-22 were highest in the Northern Territory Magistrates' court (48.7 per cent) followed by the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2) (24.7 per cent) and the Family Court of Western Australia (20.8 per cent).

Table 7.4 Proportion of total payable civil court fees which were waived or reduced, 2021-22
by jurisdiction, by court level (a)

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust cts
Supreme (excl. probate)/Federal	%	1.0	1.2	na	7.0	6.3	1.7	3.9	3.2	6.1
District/county	%	0.5	0.8	na	11.0	3.2	..	..	..	..
Magistrates' (excl. children's)	%	0.2	na	na	5.0	1.2	na	1.9	48.7	..
Family/Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1)	%	..	..	..	20.8	..	..	..	..	5.7
Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2)	%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24.7

Source: table 7A.18

na Not available. .. Not applicable.

(a) Queensland has no provision for waiving fees and is currently unable to provide data on fee reductions.

Data tables are referenced above by a '7A' prefix and all data (footnotes and data sources) are available for download above (in Excel and CSV format).



Fee exemptions are also available in some courts — this is usually where legislation exists to exempt particular categories of fees from being payable. Fee exemptions are more common in the Federal courts than State and Territory courts (table 7A.19).

During 2021-22, almost \$46.2 million of civil court fees were either waived, reduced or exempted and therefore not recovered by courts (table 7A.19).

Size and scope

Staffing

Descriptive information on the numbers of judicial officers and full time equivalent staff can be found in tables 7A.28–30.

Lodgments

Lodgments are matters initiated in the court system and provide the basis for court workload as well as reflecting community demand for court services (see tables 7A.1–2 for further information).

State and territory courts

Nationally, there were 672 510 criminal lodgments registered in the supreme, district/county, magistrates' and children's courts in 2021-22 (table 7A.1) compared with 343 183 civil lodgments (table 7A.2). There was a decrease in criminal lodgments from 2020-21 across all states and territories except the ACT. An additional 84 443 probate matters were lodged in the supreme courts (table 7A.2). Lodgments were higher in the criminal courts than civil courts across all states and territories (figure 7.2). In the coroners' courts, there were 28 204 deaths and 113 fires reported, with numbers varying across jurisdictions as a result of different reporting requirements (table 7A.2). There were an additional 14 176 lodgments in the Family Court of WA.

Most criminal and civil matters in Australia in 2021-22 were lodged in magistrates' courts (see figure 7.2). The number of lodgments per 100 000 people can assist in understanding the comparative workload of a court in relation to the population of the State or Territory (see tables 7A.3 (criminal) and 7A.4 (civil) for data by State and Territory).

Select year:

2021-22

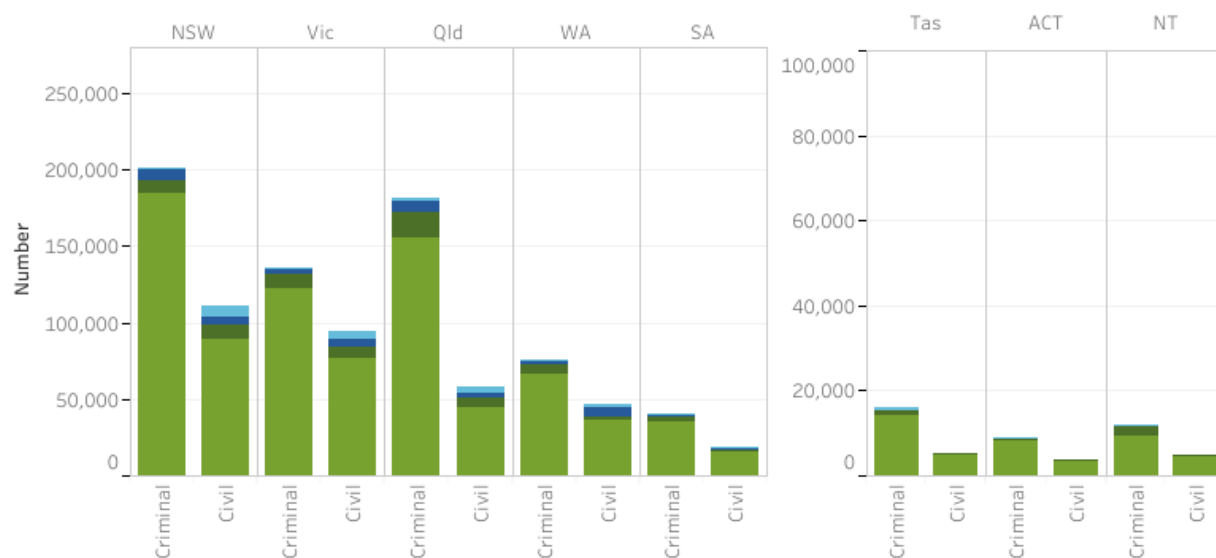
Supreme/Federal

District/county

Children's

Magistrates' (excl. children's)

Figure 7.2 Court lodgments, Criminal & Civil jurisdictions, 2021-22
by jurisdiction, by court level (a)



Source: tables 7A.1 & 7A.2

(a) Excludes probate, family, coroners' and federal circuit courts.

Data tables are referenced above by a '7A' prefix and all data (footnotes and data sources) are available for download above (in Excel and CSV format).

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Australian Government courts

In 2021-22, there were 3143 lodgments in the Federal Court of Australia, 6268 lodgments in the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1) and 98 689 lodgments in the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2) (table 7A.2).

Finalisations

Finalisations represent the completion of matters in the court system so that they cease to be an item of work for the court. Each lodgment can be finalised only once. Matters may be finalised by adjudication, transfer, or another non-adjudicated method (such as withdrawal of a matter by the prosecution or settlement by the parties involved)¹.

Most cases that are finalised in the criminal and civil courts do not proceed to trial. Generally, cases that proceed to trial are more time-consuming and resource-intensive. In the criminal courts the proportions of all finalised non-appeal cases that were finalised following the commencement of a trial in 2021-22 varied from two to 69 per cent in the supreme courts and from six to 19 per cent in the district courts. Proportions in the magistrates' courts varied from one to 15 per cent (State and Territory court authorities and departments, unpublished).

State and territory courts

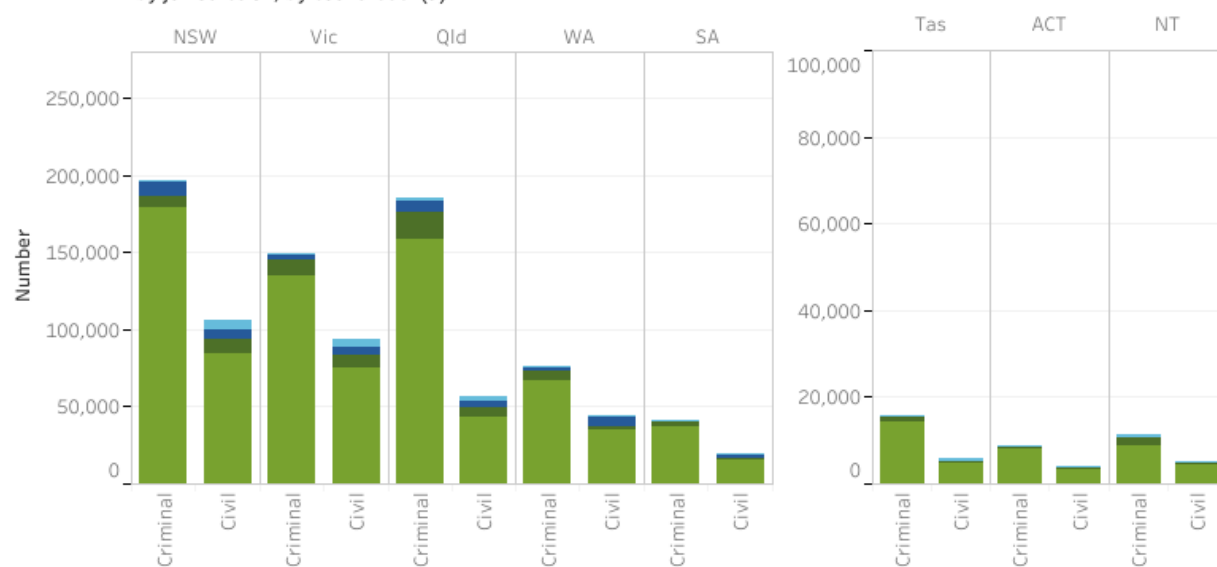
In 2021-22, there were 684 138 criminal finalisations in the supreme, district/county, magistrates' and children's courts and 334 789 civil finalisations in these courts (tables 7A.5–6). All jurisdictions experienced a reduction in civil finalisations in 2021-22. The pattern of finalisations across states

and territories (figure 7.3) is similar to that of lodgments, but lodgments will not equal finalisations in any given year because not all matters lodged in one year will be finalised in the same year. There were an additional 28 412 cases finalised in the coroners' courts and 14 421 cases finalised in the WA Family Court (table 7A.6). The number of finalisations per 100 000 people is available in tables 7A.7–8.

Select year: 2021-22

Supreme/Federal
District/county
Children's
Magistrates' (excl. children's)

Figure 7.3 Court finalisations, Criminal & Civil jurisdictions, 2021-22 by jurisdiction, by court level (a)



Source: tables 7A.5 & 7A.6

(a) Excludes probate, family, coroners' and federal circuit courts.

Data tables are referenced above by a '7A' prefix and all data (footnotes and data sources) are available for download above (in Excel and CSV format).

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Australian Government courts

In 2021-22, there were 3096 cases finalised in the Federal Court of Australia, 10 200 cases finalised in the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1) and 103 838 cases finalised in the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2) (table 7A.6).

Lodgments and finalisations in criminal courts – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

The proportions of all criminal non-appeal matters lodged and finalised in the Supreme, District, Magistrates' and Children's courts involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants, show that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are overrepresented in the criminal courts relative to their representation in the community (table 7.5). Indigenous status is based on self-identification by the individual who comes into contact with police, with this information transferred from police systems to the courts when the defendant's matter is lodged in the courts. Data for criminal courts are presented for six jurisdictions (NSW (data are available for the Supreme Court only), Queensland, WA, SA, the ACT and the NT). For other jurisdictions data on Indigenous status is either not available or not currently considered to be of sufficient quality for publication.

Table 7.5 Proportion of non-appeal criminal court lodgments and finalisations involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people defendants, 2021-22 (a), (b)
by jurisdiction, by court level

			NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Criminal lodgments	Supreme	%	11.7	na	7.9	24.5	14.7	na	15.7	71.9
	District/county	%	na	na	19.8	32.0	16.5	..	..	..
	Magistrates' (total)	%	na	na	24.3	33.9	22.4	na	7.0	81.9
	Magistrates' (excl. children's)	%	na	na	21.5	31.3	20.4	na	6.6	79.2
	Children's	%	na	na	50.2	61.4	45.8	na	15.0	94.8
	All criminal courts	%	na	na	23.9	33.8	22.1	na	7.3	81.4
Criminal finalisations	Supreme	%	18.9	na	8.4	20.0	14.0	na	17.8	69.4
	District/county	%	na	na	19.2	30.3	17.1	..	..	..
	Magistrates' (total)	%	na	na	23.6	33.1	22.4	na	6.2	82.2
	Magistrates' (excl. children's)	%	na	na	21.0	30.7	20.9	na	5.9	79.2
	Children's	%	na	na	48.0	60.1	43.6	na	13.7	96.0
	All criminal courts	%	na	na	23.3	33.0	22.2	na	6.6	81.5
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population		%	3.6	1.0	4.7	4.1	2.6	5.7	2.0	32.0

Source: table 7A.9

na Not available. .. Not applicable.

(a) NSW Supreme Court data may reflect an undercount due to Indigenous status not being available for all defendants. (b) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population at 31 December of the relevant financial year (derived as the average of two June estimates and projections) as a proportion of the total estimated resident population at 31 December of the relevant financial year. Data are based on the 2016 Census.

Data tables are referenced above by a '7A' prefix and all data (footnotes and data sources) are available for download above (in Excel and CSV format).



Finalisations in civil courts – applications for domestic and family violence protection orders

Domestic and family violence matters² are generally dealt with at the magistrates' court level. Applications for protection orders are civil matters in the court while offences relating to domestic and family violence (including breaches of violence orders and protection orders) are dealt with in criminal courts. Protection orders are the most broadly used justice response mechanism for addressing the safety of women and children exposed to domestic and family violence (Taylor et al. 2015).

In 2021-22, across all magistrates' courts approximately 51 per cent of all finalised civil cases involved applications for domestic and family violence-related protection orders (excludes interim orders and applications for extension, revocation or variation) (table 7.6). Proportions varied across states and territories and were higher in every jurisdiction (except ACT) compared with 2020-21.

The Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1) and Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2) do not issue family violence protection orders. Since 1 November 2020, it has been mandatory in both courts for each party to file a *Notice of Child Abuse, Family Violence or Risk* in every proceeding where parenting orders are sought. In 2021-22, data from the Notices filed with applications for final orders seeking parenting orders indicated that in 80 per cent of matters, one or more parties alleged that they had experienced family violence (FCFCOA Annual Report 2021-22).

Table 7.6 Finalised civil cases in the Magistrates' court involving a finalised application for a domestic or family violence related protection order, 2021-22 (a), (b)
by jurisdiction

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
All civil cases finalised	'000	84.9	75.1	43.5	35.3	15.2	4.9	3.5	4.4	266.9
All finalised applications involving a domestic or family violence related protection order	'000	44.9	40.7	29.1	11.2	3.9	0.9	0.5	4.2	135.4
Percentage of all civil cases finalised	%	52.9	54.1	66.9	31.6	25.7	18.8	13.2	95.1	50.7

Source: table 7A.10

(a) Includes originating applications only. (b) In Tasmania, police can issue Police Family Violence Orders (PFVOs) which are more numerous than court-issued orders. PFVOs are excluded from this table.

Data tables are referenced above by a '7A' prefix and all data (footnotes and data sources) are available for download above (in Excel and CSV format).



1. For the purposes of this Report, civil non-appeal lodgments that have had no court action in the past 12 months are counted (deemed) as finalised. The rationale for this is to focus on those matters that are active and part of a workload that the courts can progress. A case which is deemed finalised is considered closed — in the event that it becomes active again in the court after 12 months it is not counted again in this Report.
2. While 'domestic' and 'family' violence are distinct concepts, the former referring to violence against an intimate partner and the latter referring to broader family and kinship relationships, the terms are often used interchangeably and their definitions generally incorporate both domestic and family-related violence.

Indicator framework

The performance indicator framework provides information on equity, efficiency and effectiveness, and distinguishes the outputs and outcomes of courts. The framework of performance indicators for courts is based on common objectives for courts. The emphasis placed on each objective may vary across states and territories and court levels.

The performance indicator framework shows which data are complete and comparable in this Report. For data that are not considered directly comparable, text includes relevant caveats and supporting commentary. [Section 1](#) discusses data comparability and completeness from a Report-wide perspective. In addition to the contextual information for this service area (see Context tab), the Report's statistical context ([section 2](#)) contains data that may assist in interpreting the performance indicators presented in this section.

Improvements to performance reporting for courts are ongoing and will include identifying data sources to fill gaps in reporting for performance indicators and measures, and improving the comparability and completeness of data.

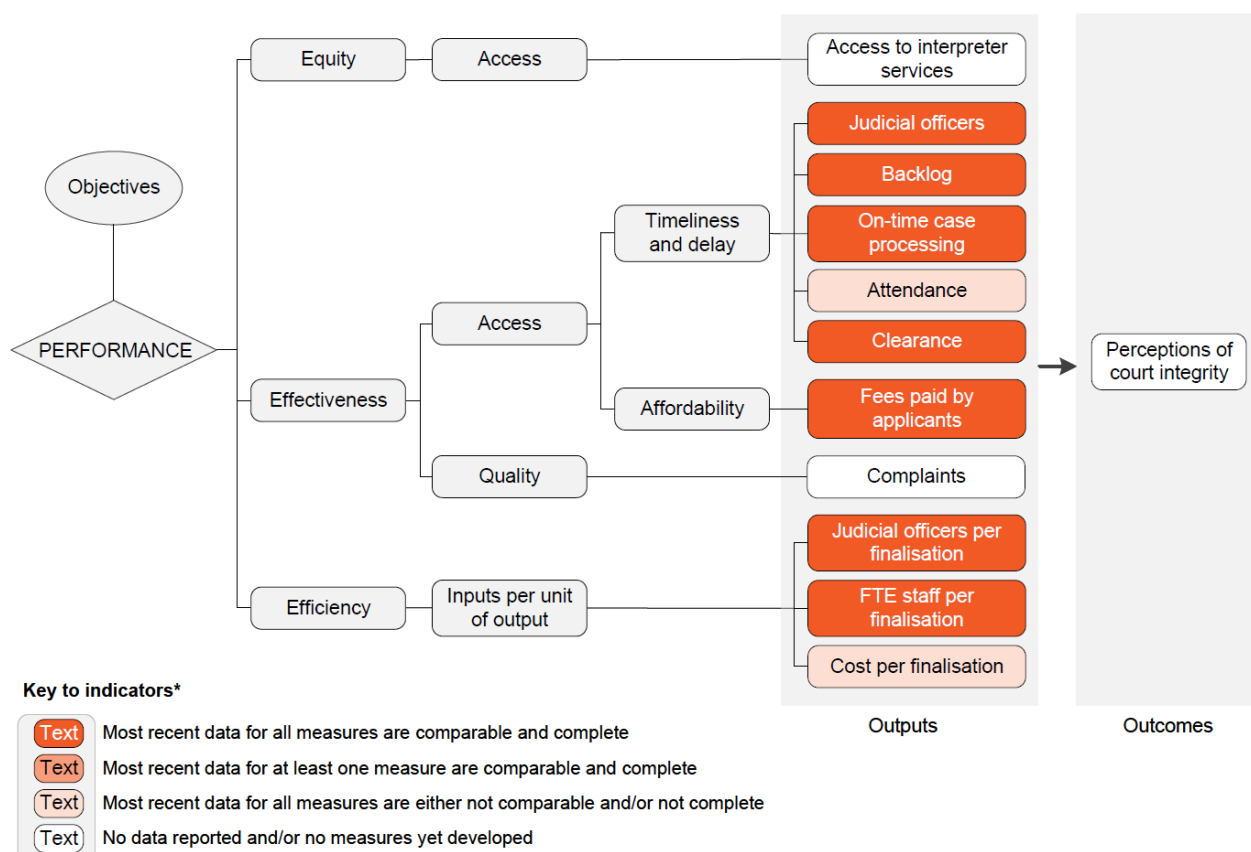
The Steering Committee recognises that this courts data collection (unlike some other data collections) does not have an intermediary data collector or validator akin to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare or the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The reporting process in this section is one of continual improvement and refinement, with the long-term aim of developing a national data collection that covers court processes across the Australian, State and Territory jurisdictions in a timely and comparable way.

Outputs

Outputs are the actual services delivered (while outcomes are the impact of these services on the status of an individual or group) (see section 1). Output information is also critical for equitable, efficient and effective management of government services.

Outcomes

Outcomes are the impact of services on the status of an individual or group (see section 1).



* A description of the comparability and completeness is provided under the Indicator results tab for each measure.

Text version of indicator framework

Performance – linked to Objectives

Outputs

Equity — Access

- Access to interpreter services – no data reported and/or no measures yet developed

Effectiveness — Access — Timeliness and delay

- Judicial officers – most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete
- Backlog – most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete
- On-time case processing – most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete
- Attendance – most recent data for all measures are either not comparable and/or not complete
- Clearance – most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete

Effectiveness — Access — Affordability

- Fees paid by applicants – most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete

Effectiveness — Quality

- Complaints – no data reported and/or no measures yet developed

Efficiency — Inputs per unit of output

- Judicial officers per finalisation – most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete
- FTE staff per finalisation – most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete
- Cost per finalisation – most recent data for all measures are either not comparable and/or not complete

Outcomes

- Perceptions of court integrity – no data reported and/or no measures yet developed

A description of the comparability and completeness is provided under the Indicator results tab for each measure.

Indicator results

An overview of the Courts performance indicator results are presented. Different delivery contexts, locations, caseloads, case mixes and government policies can affect the equity, effectiveness and efficiency of court services. The allocation of cases to different courts also differs across states and territories and Australian courts.

The courts data collection is based on national counting rules, so data presented in this section may differ from data published by individual jurisdictions in their annual reports. There also can be differences from the data reported in the ABS Criminal Courts publication (ABS 2022) — the ABS publication provides information about judicial decisions relating to finalised and adjudicated defendants.

Information to assist the interpretation of these data can be found with the indicators below and all data (footnotes and data sources) are available for download above as an excel spreadsheet and as a CSV dataset. Data tables are identified by a '7A' prefix (for example, table 7A.1).

Specific data used in figures can be downloaded by clicking in the figure area, navigating to the bottom of the visualisation to the grey toolbar, clicking on the 'Download' icon and selecting 'Data' from the menu. Selecting 'PDF' or 'Powerpoint' from the 'Download' menu will download a static view of the performance indicator results.

1. Access to Interpreter services

'Access to interpreter services' is an indicator of government's objective to provide court services in an equitable manner. One component of equity of access to court services in Australia is an ability to receive access to interpreter services for those who need assistance with understanding and communicating in the court system.

'Access to interpreter services' is defined as the number of booking requests made for an interpreter in the courtroom where the interpreter attended, divided by the number of booking requests made for an interpreter in the courtroom, multiplied by 100.

As Australia's population becomes increasingly diverse, there is a growing need to provide access to interpreters in the courtroom to accommodate the linguistic diversity of people coming before the courts. This is particularly the case for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with more than 100 languages and dialects spoken by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Northern Territory (Hurst 2019, available on North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency website).

The ability of courts to provide interpreters to meet demand is heavily dependent upon the availability of suitable interpreters. Factors affecting the suitability of an interpreter for a particular defendant can include qualifications in the relevant language, cultural factors such as familiarity with community, and sex (Judicial Council on Cultural Diversity 2017).

Demand for interpreter services in the courtroom is likely to be greater than the availability of appropriate and qualified interpreters. This gap will vary across states and territories as the diversity of language composition of state and territory populations differs.

High or increasing proportions of booking requests where an interpreter attended are desirable.

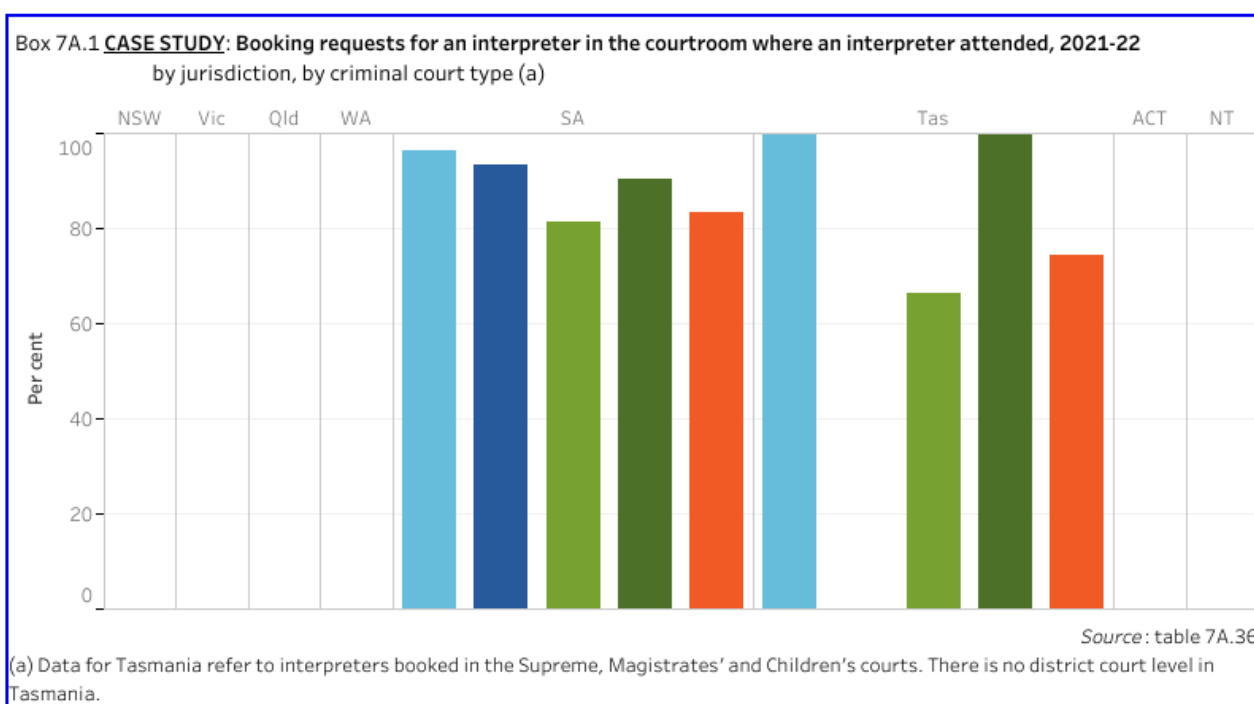
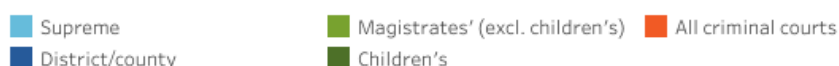
Data are not yet available for reporting against this indicator.

A case study example in box 7A.1 shows available pilot data for South Australian and Tasmanian criminal courts — this case study is presented to provide insights into the potential value of this measure when more courts become able to report.

In 2021-22, booking requests for an interpreter where an interpreter attended in South Australia's criminal courts was 96.3 per cent for the Supreme court, 93.4 per cent for the District court, 81.3 per cent for the Magistrates' court and 90.5 per cent for the Children's courts (83.3 per cent across all SA courts). In Tasmania's criminal courts, attendance was 100.0 per cent for the Supreme court and 66.3 per cent for the Magistrates' court. There was only one booking in the Tasmanian Children's court and an interpreter attended (74.4 per cent across all courts).

In South Australian criminal courts in 2021-22, a total of 3458 booking requests were made for an interpreter in the courtroom (involving over 60 different languages). In Tasmanian Supreme, Magistrates' and Children's criminal courts, a total of 117 booking requests were made for an interpreter (table 7A.36).

Data on interpreter attendance by language requested are available in table 7A.36.



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2. Judicial officers

'Judicial officers' is an indicator of governments' achievement against the objective of providing services that enable courts to be open, accessible and affordable. This indicator relates access to the number of judicial officers available to deal with cases in relation to population size.

'Judicial officers' is defined as the number of full time equivalent (FTE) judicial officers divided by the relevant resident population, multiplied by 100 000.

Judicial officers can make enforceable orders of the court. For the purposes of this Report, the definition of a judicial officer includes: judges; associate judges; magistrates; masters; coroners; judicial registrars; all other officers who, following argument and giving of evidence, make enforceable orders of the court. Where judicial officers have both judicial and non-judicial work, this refers to the proportion of time allocated to judicial work.

A high or increasing proportion of judicial officers in the population indicates potentially greater access to the judicial system.

Factors such as geographical dispersion, judicial workload and population density are also important to consider when comparing figures concerning judicial officers.

Nationally in 2021-22, there were 4.8 FTE judicial officers in the criminal and civil courts per 100 000 people in the population (table 7.7b).

■ Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

■ Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year (applies to tables 7.7a and 7.7b):

2021-22

Select Criminal and/or Civil matters (applies to table 7.7b):

- Civil
 Criminal
 Criminal and civil

Table 7.7a Estimated resident population at 31 December ('000)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
2021-22	8,095	6,560	5,265	2,762	1,807	570	453	249	25,767

Source: table 7A.28

Table 7.7b Number of FTE judicial officers per 100 000 people, 2021-22 (rate)
by jurisdiction, by court level

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust cts	Aust
Supreme/Federal	Civil	0.6	0.8	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.5	2.0	0.2	0.8
	Criminal and civil	0.7	1.0	0.5	0.9	0.9	1.4	1.6	4.2	0.2	1.0
District/county	Civil	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3	..	..	..	..	0.2
	Criminal and civil	0.9	1.4	0.7	1.2	1.2	..	..	..	..	1.0
Magistrates' (excl. children's)	Civil	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.4	2.6	..	0.5
	Criminal and civil	1.5	2.2	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.0	6.8	..	1.9
Children's	Civil	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	-	0.1	0.2	..	0.2
	Criminal and civil	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.7	..	0.3
Family/FCFCOA (Division 1)	Civil	..	..	..	0.5	..	..	..	..	0.1	0.2
FCFCOA (Division 2)	Civil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.3	0.3
Coroners'	Civil	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.5	-	0.6	..	0.2
All criminal and civil courts	Criminal and civil	3.6	5.1	3.4	5.0	4.6	4.2	3.8	12.4	0.6	4.8

Source: table 7A.28

.. Not applicable. - Nil or rounded to zero. FCFCOA = Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia.

3. Backlog

'Backlog' is an indicator of governments' achievement against the objective of processing matters in an expeditious and timely manner.

'Backlog' is a measure of the age of a court's active pending caseload at 30 June, against nominated time benchmarks. It is defined as the number of cases in the nominated age category as a proportion of the total pending caseload.

The following national benchmarks have been set.

For the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2), magistrates' and children's courts:

- no more than 10 per cent of lodgments pending completion are to be more than 6 months old
- no lodgments pending completion are to be more than 12 months old.

For Supreme courts, the Federal Court, district/county, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1), the Family Court of WA, coroners' courts and all appeals:

- no more than 10 per cent of lodgments pending completion are to be more than 12 months old
- no lodgments pending completion are to be more than 24 months old.

In the criminal jurisdiction lodgments that have bench warrants associated with them have been excluded from the pending count. In the civil jurisdiction lodgments that have not been acted upon in the last 12 months are deemed finalised and excluded from the pending count (the deeming rule does not apply to appeal cases). These exclusions are so that only those matters that are part of an active caseload are included in the pending count. Jurisdictions diverting from the national counting rule are footnoted.

Court backlog and timeliness of case processing can be affected by a number of factors, some of which may not be due to court delay. In addition to changes in lodgment and finalisation numbers, backlog in criminal courts may be influenced by: (a) the complexity of cases, which may vary across court levels and across jurisdictions; (b) whether cases have become inactive or remain an active part of the court's workload; (c) cases which require finalisation in another court level; (d) matters on interlocutory appeal; (e) cases delayed by related cases or co-accused; (f) unavailability of a witness or other participant. Backlog in civil matters may be influenced by: (a) different case flow management practices across court levels and across jurisdictions; (b) involvement of several related applications or issues that require judgements and decision by the court for a single case; (c) matters which may be adjourned at the instigation of, and by the consent of, the parties which are outside the control of the court; (d) the court employing case management or other dispute resolution processes (for example, mediation) as alternatives or prior to formal adjudication; (e) family law matters determined to be 'on hold'.

Performance relative to the benchmarks indicates effective management of caseloads and timeliness of court services.

Figure 7.4 shows the backlog in the Supreme/Federal, District, Magistrates' and Children's courts. At 30 June 2022, the backlog in civil courts was generally higher than criminal courts across most states and territories.

Detailed data on the backlog for criminal and civil matters (including appeal and non-appeal disaggregations and historical data) for all court levels are available in tables 7A.20–21.

- Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
- Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select timeframe benchmark:

- Cases >12 mths
- Cases >24 mths

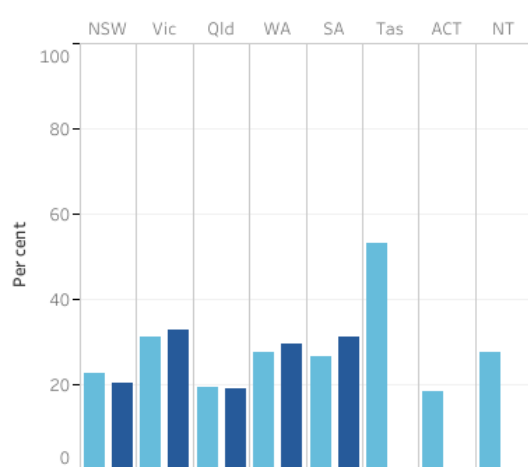
Select year:

2021-22

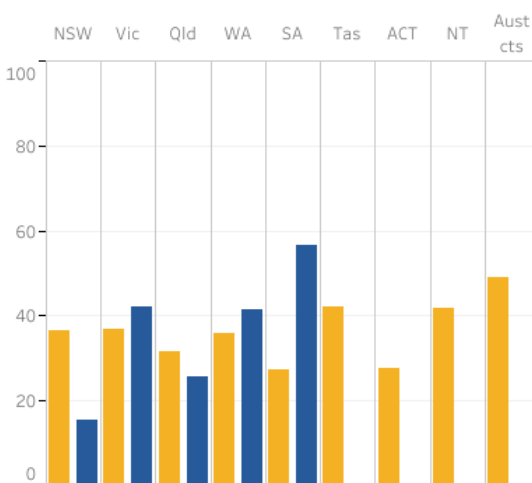
- Supreme
- District/country
- Supreme (excl. probate)/Federal
- District/country

Figure 7.4 Backlog in the courts — criminal and civil, by jurisdiction, at 30 June

2021-22, Criminal Cases >12 mths



2021-22, Civil Cases >12 mths

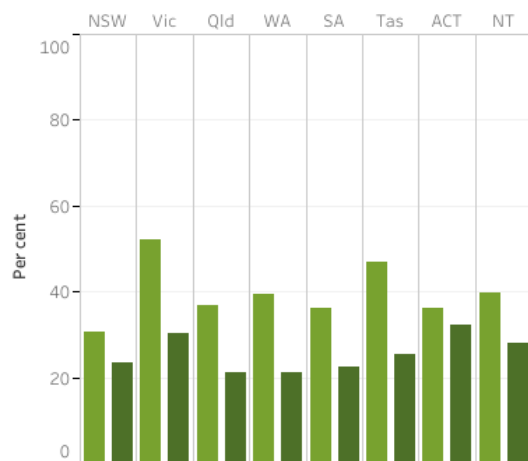


Select timeframe benchmark:

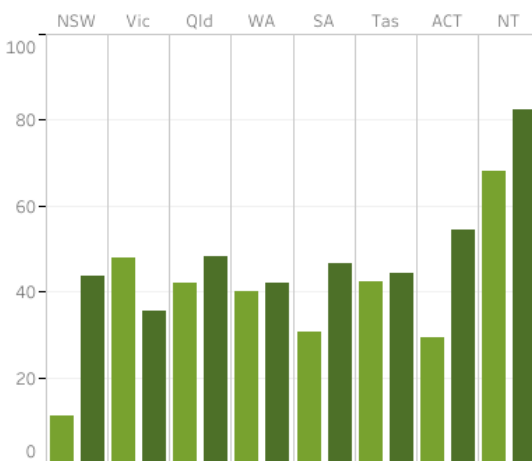
- Cases >6 mths
- Cases >12 mths

- Magistrates' (excl. children's)
- Children's

2021-22, Criminal Cases >6 mths



2021-22, Civil Cases >6 mths



Source: tables 7A.20-21
Aust cts refers to Federal Court of Australia.

4. On-time case processing

'On-time case processing' is an indicator of governments' achievement against the objective of processing matters in an expeditious and timely manner.

'On-time case processing' is a measure of the age of cases which have been finalised in the financial year, against nominated time categories. It is defined as the number of finalised cases at each court level which were finalised in less than or equal to 6, 12 or 24 months (dependent on court level), as a proportion of the total cases finalised during the financial year.

Higher proportions of cases finalised in these time categories indicates effective management of caseloads and timeliness of court services. The on-time case processing indicator should be considered in conjunction with the backlog indicator.

Time taken to process cases is not necessarily due to court delay. Some delays are caused by factors other than those related to the workload of the court (for example, a witness being unavailable). See tables 7A.22–23 for further information about factors which can impact on delay.

Figure 7.5 shows the proportion of finalised cases:

- in the Supreme/Federal and District courts (all matters) which were finalised in less than or equal to 12 or 24 months
- in the Magistrates' and Children's courts which were finalised in less than or equal to 6 or 12 months.

Data for on-time case processing for criminal and civil matters for all court levels are available in tables 7A.22–23.

- Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
- Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select timeframe benchmark:

- Cases finalised <=12 mths
- Cases finalised <=24 mths

Select year:

2021-22

■ Supreme

■ District/county

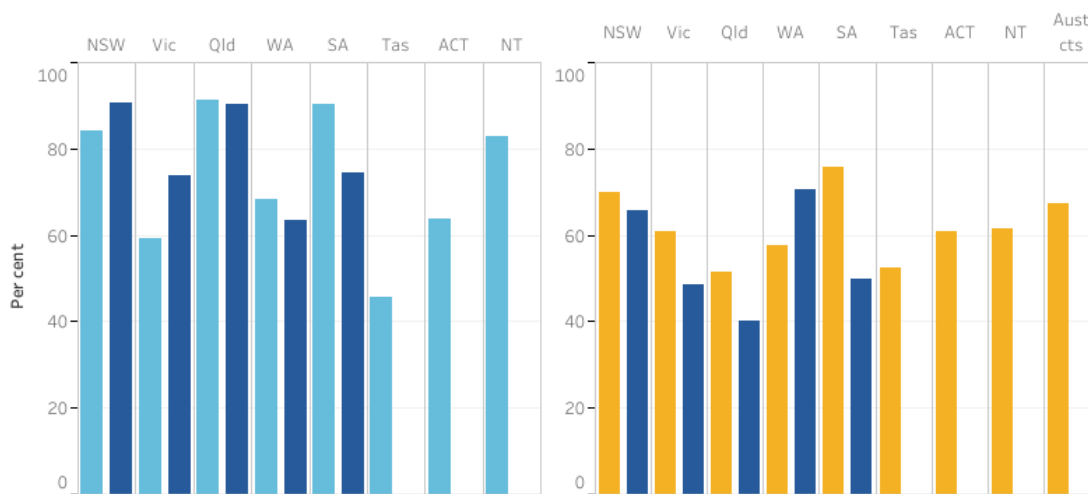
■ Supreme (excl. probate)/Federal

■ District/county

Figure 7.5 On-time case processing, criminal and civil, by jurisdiction

2021-22, Criminal Cases finalised <=12 mths

2021-22, Civil Cases finalised <=12 mths



Select timeframe benchmark:

- Cases finalised <=6 mths
- Cases finalised <=12 mths

■ Magistrates' (excl. children's)

■ Children's

2021-22, Criminal Cases finalised <=6 mths

2021-22, Civil Cases finalised <=6 mths



Source: tables 7A.22-23

Aust cts refers to Federal Court of Australia.

5. Attendance

'Attendance' is an indicator of governments' achievement against the objective of processing matters in an expeditious and timely manner.

'Attendance' is defined as the average number of attendances recorded (no matter when the attendance occurred) for those cases that were finalised during the year. The number of attendances is the number of times that parties or their representatives are required to be present in court to be heard by a judicial officer or mediator/arbitrator where binding orders can be made. The number includes appointments that are adjourned or rescheduled. A court appearance extending over more than one day is counted as one attendance.

Fewer attendances may suggest a more effective process. However, this should be balanced against the likelihood that the number of attendances will increase if rehabilitation or diversionary programs are used, or if intensive case management is used. Both of these paths are believed to improve the quality of outcomes as:

- rehabilitation and diversionary programs aim to provide therapeutic benefits for the offenders, and benefits of reduced recidivism for the community
- intensive case management is believed to maximise the prospects of settlement (and thereby reduce the litigant's costs, the number of cases queuing for hearing, and the flow of work on to appellate courts); alternatively, it can narrow the issues for trial (thus shortening trial time and also reducing costs and the queuing time for other cases waiting for hearing).

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) can resolve some types of matters out of court and thereby reduce the need for judicial hearings. Accordingly, differences across jurisdictions in the availability and use of ADR can affect the comparability of the attendance indicator.

Attendance data can be difficult to collect. Due to system limitations, some jurisdictions supply data on listed hearings rather than actual attendances in court. Attendance data for criminal courts are provided in table 7.8a and for civil courts are provided in table 7.8b.

Data are not comparable across jurisdictions, but are comparable (subject to caveats) within jurisdictions over time.

Data are incomplete for the current reporting period. All required 2021-22 data were not available for the NSW Supreme court and were not provided by the Victorian Supreme court.

Select year (applies to tables 7.8a and 7.8b):

2021-22

Table 7.8a Attendance — criminal, 2021-22

Average attendances per finalisation, by jurisdiction

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Supreme	no.	na	na	3.5	4.0	4.0	15.2	10.9	8.7
District/county	no.	3.8	9.2	4.8	6.0	5.0	..	..	..
Magistrates' (excl. children's)	no.	3.6	3.9	5.2	3.3	4.8	5.1	3.8	5.1
Children's	no.	5.8	4.6	5.4	6.1	5.2	5.5	7.1	10.5

Source: table 7A.24
na Not available. .. Not applicable.

Table 7.8b Attendance — civil, 2021-22

Average attendances per finalisation, by jurisdiction

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust cts
Supreme (excl. probate)/Federal	no.	na	na	1.2	1.6	3.1	2.1	3.7	4.3	3.6
District/county	no.	1.6	0.9	0.3	0.8	3.7	..	..	..	..
Magistrates' (excl. children's)	no.	2.3	1.9	1.7	1.1	1.9	2.0	2.4	1.7	..
Children's	no.	5.4	5.1	4.2	3.6	5.3	3.9	6.8	4.1	..
Family/FCFCOA (Division 1)	no.	..	..	..	2.7	..	..	..	..	4.0
FCFCOA (Division 2)	no.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.6
Coroners'	no.	5.5	2.1	3.3	1.1	2.6	3.6	3.0	0.8	..

Source: table 7A.24
na Not available. .. Not applicable. FCFCOA = Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia.

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6. Clearance

'Clearance' is an indicator of governments' achievement against the objective of processing matters in an expeditious and timely manner.

'Clearance' indicates whether a court's pending caseload has increased or decreased over the measurement period, by comparing the volume of case finalisations and case lodgments during the reporting period. It is measured by dividing the number of finalisations in the reporting period by the number of lodgments in the same period, multiplied by 100.

The following can assist in interpretation of this indicator:

- a figure of 100 per cent indicates that, during the reporting period, the court finalised as many cases as were lodged, and the pending caseload should be similar to the pending caseload 12 months earlier
- a figure greater than 100 per cent indicates that, during the reporting period, the court finalised more cases than were lodged, and the pending caseload should have decreased
- a figure less than 100 per cent indicates that, during the reporting period, the court finalised fewer cases than were lodged, and the pending caseload should have increased.

Higher or increasing proportions of cases cleared indicates effective management of caseloads. However the clearance indicator can be affected by external factors (such as those causing changes in lodgment rates), an increase or decrease in the numbers of cases proceeding to a hearing or trial and the time required to finalise them, as well as by changes in a court's case management practices. Results for this indicator need to be interpreted within the context of changes in the volumes of lodgments, finalisations and pending caseloads over time.

Clearance data for criminal and civil courts are provided in table 7.9. Disaggregation of these data by appeal/non-appeal is in tables 7A.25-27.

■ Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

■ Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year:

2021-22

Select Criminal and/or Civil matters:

- Civil
 Criminal
 Criminal and civil

Table 7.9 Clearance indicator (appeal and non-appeal), 2021-22
by jurisdiction

			NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust cts	Aust
Supreme (excl. probate)/Federal	Civil	%	88.8	96.7	95.1	87.7	92.0	124.3	103.3	94.1	98.5	94.0
	Criminal and civil	%	90.0	96.9	96.9	90.2	89.0	118.7	103.0	89.3	98.5	95.0
District/county	Civil	%	102.4	100.3	102.7	89.6	141.3	..	..	..	..	100.2
	Criminal and civil	%	102.7	98.6	98.5	92.6	105.6	..	..	..	..	99.1
Magistrates' (excl. children's)	Civil	%	95.2	98.5	97.7	97.5	98.7	99.3	101.4	95.6	..	97.2
	Criminal and civil	%	96.5	105.4	101.4	99.8	102.7	100.4	100.2	93.9	..	100.5
Children's	Civil	%	99.4	105.7	100.3	106.2	106.6	117.9	81.4	99.0	..	102.2
	Criminal and civil	%	97.2	112.6	99.5	97.1	94.0	79.7	85.8	94.5	..	100.6
Family/FCFCOA (Division 1)	Civil	%	..	..	..	101.7	..	..	..	..	162.7	120.4
FCFCOA (Division 2)	Civil	%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	105.2	105.2
Coroners'	Civil	%	110.4	104.8	101.2	81.5	87.0	94.2	92.3	80.7	..	100.3
All criminal and civil courts	Criminal and civil	%	97.0	105.4	101.0	98.9	101.1	99.6	99.6	93.5	108.4	101.1

Source: tables 7A.26 & 7A.27

.. Not applicable. FCFCOA = Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia.



7. Fees paid by applicants

'Fees paid by applicants' is an indicator of governments' achievement against the objective of enabling courts to be open, accessible and affordable.

'Fees paid by applicants' is defined as the average civil court fees paid per lodgment. It is derived by dividing the total civil court fees collected (filing, sitting, hearing and deposition fees) by the number of civil lodgments in a year. Court fees exclude enforcement, transcript and mediation fees.

Providing court service quality is held constant, lower court fees help keep courts accessible.

In 2021-22, average civil court fees paid per lodgment were greater in supreme courts (excluding probate) than in district/county and magistrates' courts (table 7.10). The average fees collected by the Australian, State and Territory courts vary for many reasons and caution should be used in making direct comparisons.

■ Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

■ Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year:

2021-22

Table 7.10 Real average civil court fees paid per lodgment, 2021-22
by jurisdiction, 2021-22 dollars

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust cts	Aust
Supreme (excl. probate)/Federal \$	4,726	2,562	1,789	3,567	2,900	1,113	3,687	2,272	4,781	3,488
District/county \$	2,213	1,777	952	1,450	1,602	..	..	..	..	1,645
Magistrates' (total) \$	151	154	91	160	138	88	174	5	..	139
Magistrates' (excl. children's) \$	166	169	103	169	150	92	185	5	..	152
Children's \$	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	7	..	-
Family/FCFCOA (Division 1) \$	..	..	..	504	..	..	..	..	677	557
FCFCOA (Division 2) \$	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	631	631
Supreme (probate only) \$	1,860	465	748	375	1,794	1,211	1,767	1,277	..	1,118

Source: table 7A.17

.. Not applicable. - Nil or rounded to zero. FCFCOA = Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia.

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8. Complaints

'Complaints' is an indicator of governments' objective to provide court services in a high quality manner.

'Complaints' is defined as the number of complaints recorded by courts relating to administrative staff, services, policy or facilities per 100 000 people in the population, expressed in index form comparing trends within a jurisdiction over time.

A low or decreasing trend in complaints per 100 000 people in the population (index score) is desirable.

Data are not yet available for reporting against this indicator.

9. Judicial officers per finalisation

'Judicial officers per finalisation' is an indicator of governments' achievement against the objective of providing court services in an efficient manner.

'Judicial officers per finalisation' is measured by dividing the number of full time equivalent judicial officers within each court level for the financial year by the total number of finalisations for the same period, and multiplying by 1000.

All else being equal, a lower or decreasing number of judicial officers per finalisation suggests greater efficiency. However efficiency data should be interpreted with caution as data could also reflect under-resourcing. The following points need to be considered in interpreting the results for this indicator:

- some finalisations take a short time and require few resources, whereas other finalisations may be resource intensive and involve complicated trials and interlocutory decisions
- factors such as geographical dispersion, judicial workload and population density are important considerations when comparing figures on judicial officers.

Nationally in 2021-22, in the criminal and civil courts there were 1.1 FTE judicial officers per 1000 finalisations (table 7.11).

■ Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

■ Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year:
2021-22

Select Criminal/Civil matter(s):

- Civil
 Criminal
 Criminal and civil

Table 7.11 Judicial officers per 1000 finalisations, 2021-22 (rate)
by jurisdiction

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust c..	Aust
Supreme/Federal	Civil	7.2	10.3	4.1	11.3	7.6	4.5	4.5	18.2	15.9	9.0
	Criminal and civil	8.4	12.1	4.4	11.8	13.4	7.2	7.7	12.5	15.9	9.6
District/county	Civil	2.0	4.4	1.7	1.1	3.7	..	..	..	..	2.4
	Criminal and civil	5.1	10.1	3.2	4.2	7.5	..	..	..	..	5.6
Magistrates' (excl. children's)	Civil	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	1.4	..	0.5
	Criminal and civil	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.8	1.3	..	0.6
Children's	Civil	1.6	1.9	0.5	1.4	2.3	0.9	3.7	2.0	..	1.5
	Criminal and civil	1.6	1.2	0.5	0.9	1.1	0.8	2.3	0.8	..	1.0
Family/FCFCOA (Division 1)	Civil	..	..	..	1.0	..	..	..	..	3.3	2.0
FCFCOA (Division 2)	Civil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.7	0.7
Coroners'	Civil	0.9	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.4	3.6	0.6	4.9	..	1.4
All criminal and civil courts	Criminal and civil	0.9	1.3	0.7	1.0	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.9	1.3	1.1

Source: table 7A.29

.. Not applicable. FCFCOA = Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia.

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10. Full time equivalent staff (FTE) per finalisation

'FTE staff per finalisation' is an indicator of governments' achievement against the objective of providing court services in an efficient manner.

'FTE staff per finalisation' is measured by dividing the total number of FTE staff employed by courts for the financial year by the total number of finalisations for the same period, and multiplying by 1000.

FTE staff include those employed directly by court authorities or by umbrella and other departments (see section 7.4 for further details).

All else being equal, a lower or decreasing number of full time equivalent staff per finalisation suggests greater efficiency. However efficiency data should be interpreted with caution as data could also reflect under-resourcing. The following points need to be considered in interpreting the results for this indicator:

-
- some finalisations take a short time and require few resources, whereas other finalisations may be resource intensive and involve complicated trials and interlocutory decisions
 - additional staff may sometimes be appointed to undertake project work (eg. ICT or new buildings) or deliver restorative justice approaches (like liaison officers) that do not directly contribute to the resolution of cases
 - factors such as geographical dispersion, court workload and population density are important considerations when comparing figures on FTE staff.

Nationally in 2021-22, in the criminal and civil courts there were 7.3 FTE staff per 1000 finalisations (table 7.12).

- Data are comparable across jurisdictions and over time.
- Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year(s):
Multiple values

Table 7.12 Full time equivalent staff per 1000 finalisations (rate)
by jurisdiction, by year

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust cts	Aust
All criminal courts	2021-22	7.0	7.2	4.1	5.0	9.5	5.3	9.7	8.0	..	6.2
	2020-21	5.9	8.2	3.5	5.2	8.3	5.3	11.0	7.1	..	5.7
	2012-13	7.0	4.4	3.7	5.8	6.5	4.5	9.4	4.2	..	5.2
All civil courts (excl. FCFCOA; the WA Family court and the coroners' courts)	2021-22	7.3	9.5	5.8	8.0	8.8	7.2	17.0	8.6	94.7	8.8
	2020-21	6.0	8.7	5.2	7.3	8.2	6.5	13.1	7.1	99.5	7.7
	2012-13	6.2	5.0	4.8	4.3	5.7	4.0	11.1	6.5	46.5	6.0
Family/FCFCOA (Division 1)	2021-22	..	..	..	9.4	..	..	..	..	22.6	14.8
	2020-21	..	..	..	8.1	..	..	..	..	10.3	9.4
	2012-13	..	..	..	9.4	..	..	..	..	18.8	14.6
FCFCOA (Division 2)	2021-22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7.0	7.0
	2020-21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6.7	6.7
	2012-13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.0	5.0
Coroners'	2021-22	5.4	16.5	11.9	13.1	9.6	10.3	32.2	25.7	..	11.5
	2020-21	5.9	17.5	12.3	16.9	9.7	11.0	34.2	24.5	..	12.4
	2012-13	7.3	15.3	14.2	13.8	12.0	5.1	3.5	12.7	..	11.6
All criminal and civil courts	2021-22	7.1	8.3	4.7	6.6	9.3	6.0	12.5	8.5	10.7	7.3
	2020-21	5.9	8.7	4.0	6.4	8.3	5.8	12.2	7.3	9.7	6.6
	2012-13	6.6	4.8	4.2	5.6	6.4	4.3	9.4	5.0	9.6	5.8

Source: table 7A.30

.. Not applicable. np Not published. FCFCOA = Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia.

11. Cost per finalisation

'Cost per finalisation' is an indicator of governments' achievement against the objective of providing court services in an efficient manner.

'Cost per finalisation' is measured by dividing the total recurrent expenditure (gross and net – excluding payroll tax) within each court for the financial year by the total number of finalisations for the same period. This indicator is not a measure of the actual cost per case.

All else being equal, lower expenditure per finalisation suggests greater efficiency. However efficiency data should be interpreted with caution as data could also reflect under-resourcing. The following points need to be considered in interpreting the results for this indicator:

- some finalisations take a short time and require few resources, whereas other finalisations may be resource intensive and involve complicated trials and interlocutory decisions
- additional funding may sometimes be allocated to undertake project work (eg. ICT or new buildings) or deliver restorative justice approaches (like liaison officers) that do not directly contribute to the resolution of cases
- expenditure data may include arbitrary allocation between criminal and civil jurisdictions
- net expenditure is calculated by deducting income (court fees and other sources of revenue, excluding fines) from total expenditure, and for civil courts is impacted by court fee relief and exemptions
- a number of factors are beyond the control of jurisdictions, such as geographic dispersion, economies of scale and socioeconomic factors.

Nationally in 2021-22, the net costs per finalisation for:

- supreme courts were \$25 292 in the criminal courts and \$11 953 in the civil courts (figure 7.6)
- district/county courts criminal jurisdiction (\$16 331) was five times that in the civil jurisdiction (\$3116)
- magistrates' and children's courts, civil finalisation was lower than in the criminal jurisdiction (\$914 compared with \$978) (tables 7A.31–32).

Nationally in 2021-22, the gross cost per finalisation in the criminal jurisdiction of:

- supreme courts (\$25 526) was greater than the civil jurisdiction (\$15 930)
- district/county courts (\$16 528) was greater than the civil jurisdiction (\$4896)
- magistrates' and children's courts (\$1010) was slightly higher than in the civil jurisdiction (\$1072) (tables 7A.34–35).

Nationally in 2021-22, net expenditure per reported death and fire in coroners' courts (excluding costs associated with autopsy, forensic science, pathology tests and body conveyancing fees) was approximately \$2271 (table 7A.32).

■ Data are not comparable across jurisdictions, but are comparable (subject to caveats) within jurisdictions over time.

■ Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year:

2021-22

Select court type:

● Supreme/Federal

○ District/county

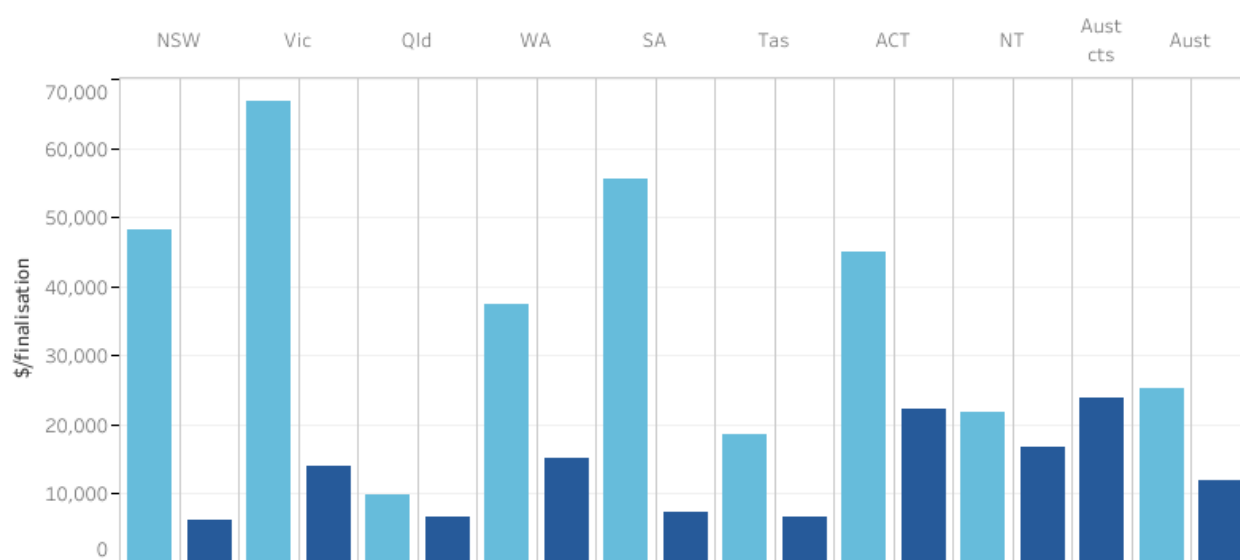
○ Magistrates' (total)

○ Family, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1 & Division 2)

■ Supreme, Criminal

■ Supreme (excl. probate)/Federal, Civil

Figure 7.6 Real net recurrent expenditure per finalisation, Supreme/Federal, 2021-22
by jurisdiction, Criminal & Civil, 2021-22 dollars



Source: tables 7A.31 & 7A.32

tableau

12. Perceptions of court integrity

'Perceptions of court integrity' is an indicator of government's objective to encourage public confidence and trust in the courts. Community confidence and trust in the fairness and equality of court processes and procedures is integral to a willingness to engage with courts and comply with court outcomes. High levels of perceived integrity of courts is an indicator of community confidence and trust that courts treat people fairly and appropriately and that court processes are administered in a consistent and unbiased manner.

'Perceptions of court integrity' is defined as the proportion of the community who believe that courts in Australia treat people fairly, equally and respectfully.

High or increasing proportions of perceived court integrity are desirable.

Data are not yet available for reporting against this indicator.

Homicide and related offences

Case-type can have a significant impact on performance against certain indicators – some case-types will inherently require more court time and judicial resources than other case types, which may impact on backlog and clearance results. Aggregating performance across all case-types can mask differences in case composition between jurisdictions and court levels.

Homicide data have been selected to be presented by indicator in the section because of the seriousness of the offence. Table 7.13 presents indicator data for backlog, attendance and clearance results for homicide and related matters processed by the Supreme, District, Magistrates' and Children's courts during 2021-22. Given that homicide-related lodgments are generally small in number, percentages in the table should be interpreted with caution.

A lodgment for homicide is counted where any criminal matter initiated, commenced, lodged or filed in a particular court level includes a charge of murder, attempted murder, manslaughter or driving causing death. Lodgments are based on a count of defendants, not a count of charges (a defendant may have multiple charges) and are counted independently at each court level. The charge(s) against a defendant may change once a matter has been lodged in the courts and proceeds through the court process and the data do not reflect whether or not a defendant has been found guilty.

Table 7.13 Homicide and related offences, 2021-22^a

Supreme Court									
	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld^b	WA	SA	Tas^c	ACT	NT
Lodgments	no.	64	82	108	44	20	6	11	18
Finalisations	no.	61	54	94	43	17	5	7	8
Pending	no.	111	126	94	43	46	8	14	17
Backlog >12 mths	%	49.5	9.5	34.0	27.9	63.0	25.0	28.6	17.6
Backlog >24 mths	%	10.8	1.6	10.6	11.6	8.7	-	21.4	11.8
Attendance	no.	na	na	9.2	10.8	14.1	46.6	23.6	17.4
Clearance rate	%	95.3	65.9	87.0	97.7	85.0	83.3	63.6	44.4

District/County Court

	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld ^b	WA	SA	Tas ^c	ACT	NT
Lodgments	no.	67	18	2	17	17	..	..	..
Finalisations	no.	81	56	2	17	14	..	..	..
Pending	no.	74	13	1	16	14	..	..	..
Backlog >12 mths	%	40.5	69.2	–	25.0	21.4	..	..	..
Backlog >24 mths	%	13.5	30.8	–	–	14.3	..	..	..
Attendance	no.	7.2	10.3	5.0	6.2	4.8	..	..	..
Clearance rate	%	120.9	311.1	100.0	100.0	82.4	..	..	..

Magistrates' Court

	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld ^b	WA	SA	Tas ^c	ACT	NT
Lodgments	no.	178	124	151	71	89	16	10	19
Finalisations	no.	165	141	109	69	87	6	13	13
Pending	no.	191	94	231	40	58	–	2	14
Backlog >6 mths	%	55.0	48.9	71.4	42.5	36.2	..	50.0	35.7
Backlog >12 mths	%	17.3	14.9	39.8	7.5	24.1	..	50.0	7.1

	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld ^b	WA	SA	Tas ^c	ACT	NT
Attendance	no.	9.8	12.4	15.8	7.2	5.0	4.3	7.3	10.8
Clearance rate	%	92.7	113.7	72.2	97.2	97.8	37.5	130.0	68.4

Children's Court

	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld ^b	WA	SA	Tas ^c	ACT	NT
Lodgments	no.	18	9	33	6	2	np	2	–
Finalisations	no.	10	5	11	4	1	np	–	–
Pending	no.	18	10	31	3	2	np	2	–
Backlog >6 mths	%	50.0	10.0	87.1	33.3	50.0	np	–	..
Backlog >12 mths	%	–	10.0	3.2	–	50.0	np	–	..
Attendance	no.	12.2	7.6	15.2	6.3	3.0	np	..	..
Clearance rate	%	55.6	55.6	33.3	66.7	50.0	np	–	..

a Homicide and related offences' is defined according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC) coding and includes murder, attempted murder, manslaughter and driving causing death. **b** Data for Queensland do not include offences for dangerous driving causing death. **c** Homicide data for the Tasmanian children's court are not published in order to minimise re-identification risks due to the small number of homicide and related offences in this court. **na** Not available. **np** Not published. **..** Not applicable. **–** Nil or rounded to zero.

Source: Australian, State and Territory court authorities and departments (unpublished).

Explanatory material

Interpreting efficiency data

Information on the manner in which court authorities value and treat assets is provided in table 7.14.

Table 7.14 Treatment of assets by court authorities

		Federal Court of Australia	FCFCOA (Division 2)	FCFCOA (Division 1)	NSW ^a	Vic	Qld ^b	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Revaluation method	Land	na	na	na	Fair value	na	..	Market	Fair value	Fair value	Fair value	Fair value
	Buildings	Fair value	Fair value	Fair value	Fair value	na	..	Market	Fair value	Fair value	Fair value	Fair value
	Other assets	Fair value	Fair value	Fair value	Fair value	na	..	..	Fair value	Cost	Fair value	Fair value
Frequency of revaluations	Land	3 yrs	3 yrs	3 yrs	5 yrs	5 yrs	5 yrs	na	6 yrs	5 yrs	3 yrs	Sufficient regularity to avoid material mis-statement
	Buildings	3 yrs	3 yrs	3 yrs	5 yrs	5 yrs	5 yrs	na	6 yrs	5 yrs	3 yrs	
	Other assets	3 yrs	3 yrs	3 yrs	..	..	..	na	na	na	3 yrs	
Useful asset lives ^c	Buildings	na	na	na								
	General equipment	4-10 yrs	4-10 yrs	4-10 yrs	4-10 yrs	5-10 yrs	3-7 yrs	5-10 yrs	5-54 yrs	3-25 yrs	3-20 yrs	5-10 yrs
	IT	3-5 yrs	3-5 yrs	3-5 yrs	3-4 yrs	3-5 yrs	3-4 yrs	3-10 yrs	3-25 yrs	na	4-5 yrs	3-6 yrs
	Office equipment	4-8 yrs	4-8 yrs	4-8 yrs	4-10 yrs	10 yrs	3-5 yrs	5-10 yrs	3-25 yrs	na	3-20 yrs	5-10 yrs
	Vehicles	na	na	na	na	5 yrs	na	2-8 yrs	na	na	na	na
Library material	10-40 yrs	na	na	na	na	Infinite	na	25 yrs	5-40 yrs	50 yrs	na	

		Federal Court of Australia	FCFCOA (Division 2)	FCFCOA (Division 1)	NSW ^a	Vic	Qld ^b	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Capitalisation threshold	Buildings	2 000	2 000	2 000	3 000	na	10 000	1 000	5 000	10 000	5 000	5 000
	IT	2 000	2 000	2 000	3 000	na	5 000	1 000	5 000	10 000	50 000 ^d	5 000
	Other assets	2 000	2 000	2 000	3 000	5 000	5 000	1 000	5 000	10 000	5 000	5 000

a In NSW, land and buildings are revalued at least every five years. Property, plant and equipment are measured on an existing use basis, where there are no feasible alternative uses in the existing natural, legal, financial and socio-political environment. The straight line method of depreciation is used. **b** In Queensland, non-current physical assets measured at Fair value are comprehensively revalued at least every five years with interim valuations, using appropriate indices, being otherwise performed on an annual basis where there has been a material variation in the index. **c** Asset lives for some assets have been grouped with other classifications. For some jurisdictions, IT equipment includes software. **d** For software only. **na** Not available. **..** Not applicable.

Source: Australian, State and Territory court administration authorities and departments

Key terms


Terms	Definition
Active pending population	A lodgment that is yet to be finalised but is part of the active case management of court administrators.
Attendance indicator	An attendance is defined as the number of times that parties or their representatives are required to be present in court (including any appointment which is adjourned or rescheduled) for all finalised matters during the year. The actual attendance is one that is heard by a judicial officer or mediator/arbitrator.
Case	The measurement of workload in the civil jurisdiction. It is the issues, grievances or complaints that constitute a single and related series of disputes brought by an entity (or group of entities) against another entity (or group).
Comparability	Data are considered comparable if, (subject to caveats) they can be used to inform an assessment of comparative performance. Typically, data are considered comparable when they are collected in the same way and in accordance with the same definitions. For comparable indicators or measures, significant differences in reported results allow an assessment of differences in performance, rather than being the result of anomalies in the data.


Terms	Definition
Completeness	Data are considered complete if all required data are available for all jurisdictions that provide the service.
Cost recovery	The amount of court fees collected divided by the amount of court expenditure.
Court fees collected	Total court income from fees charged in the civil jurisdiction. Can include filing, sitting hearing and deposition fees, and excludes transcript fees.
Electronic infringement and enforcement system	A court with the capacity to produce enforceable orders against defendants (such as fines, licence cancellation and incarceration) and to process infringements, on-the-spot fines and summary offences.
Excluded courts and tribunals	This includes such bodies as guardianship boards, environment resources and development courts, and administrative appeals tribunals. The types of excluded courts and tribunals vary among the states and territories.
Finalisation	The formal completion of a matter before the court. The date of finalisation in the criminal courts occurs when all charges against a defendant have been completed and the defendant ceases to be an active unit of work to be dealt with by the court. The date of finalisation in the civil courts occurs when all matters pertaining to a file cease to be an active unit of work for the court. In the civil jurisdiction, (with the exception of appeals heard in the Supreme and District courts, the Federal Court of Australia, and all matters finalised in the Federal Circuit Court and the Family court of Australia), cases are deemed finalised if there is no action on a file for more than 12 months.
FTE staff	<p>Full time equivalent (FTE) staff can include the following categories of staff employed directly by court authorities or by umbrella and other departments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • judicial officers, judicial support staff and registry court staff • court security, bailiff and sheriff type staff • court reporters • library and information technology staff • counsellors, mediators and interpreters • cleaning, gardening and maintenance staff • first line support staff and probate staff • corporate administration staff and umbrella department staff.

Terms	Definition
Income	Income derived from court fees, library revenue, court reporting revenue, sheriff and bailiff revenue, probate revenue, mediation revenue, rental income and any other sources of revenue (excluding fines).
Judicial officer	Judges, magistrates, masters, coroners, judicial registrars and all other officers who, following argument and giving of evidence, make enforceable orders of the court. The data are provided on the basis of the proportion of time spent on the judicial activity.
Lodgment	The initiation or commencement of a matter before the court. The date of commencement is counted as the date of registration of a court matter. In the criminal courts lodgment counts are based on the number of defendants per case. Unless otherwise noted, matters excluded from the criminal court lodgment data in this collection are: any lodgment that does not have a defendant element (for example, applications for telephone taps), extraordinary driver's licence applications, bail procedures (including applications and review), directions, warrants, and secondary processes - for example, interlocutory matters, breaches of penalties (that is, bail, suspended sentences, probation). In the civil courts, lodgment counts are based on: the number of cases (except in children's courts where, if more than one child can be involved in an application, the counting unit is the number of children involved), and the number of reported deaths (and, if relevant, reported fires) for coroners' courts. Unless otherwise noted, the following types of matters are excluded from the civil lodgment data reported in this collection: admissions matters (original applications to practice and mutual recognition matters), extraordinary drivers licence applications, cross-claims, directions, secondary processes - for example, interlocutory matters, breaches of penalties (that is, bail, suspended sentences, probation), and applications for default judgments (because the application is a secondary process).

Terms	Definition
Matter	<p><i>Coronial matters:</i> Deaths and fires reported to the coroner in each jurisdiction, including all reported deaths and fires regardless of whether the coroner held an inquest or inquiry. Coronial jurisdictions can extend to the manner of the death of a person who was killed; was found drowned; died a sudden death of which the cause is unknown; died under suspicious or unusual circumstances; died during or following the administration of an operation of a medical, surgical, dental, diagnostic or like nature; died in a prison remand centre or lockup; or died under circumstances that (in the opinion of the Attorney-General) require that the cause of death be more clearly ascertained. Deaths which are reported to the coroner can include deaths which are considered (a) 'reportable' because they fall within the legislative scope of the coroner or (b) 'non-reportable' because they do not fall within the legislative scope of the coroner. The Report on Government Services counts 'reportable' deaths.</p> <p><i>Criminal matters:</i> Matters brought to the court by a government prosecuting agency, which is generally the Director of Public Prosecutions but could also be the Attorney-General, the police, local councils, traffic camera branches or other government agencies.</p> <p><i>Civil matters:</i> Matters brought before the court by individuals or organisations against another party, such as small claims and residential tenancies, as well as matters dealt with by the appeal court jurisdiction.</p> <p><i>Excluded matters:</i> Extraordinary driver's licence applications; any application on a pending dispute; applications for bail directions or judgment; secondary processes (for example, applications for default judgments); interlocutory matters; investigation/examination summonses; firearms appeals; escort agents' licensing appeals; pastoral lands appeals; local government tribunals; police promotions appeals; applications appealing the decisions of workers compensation review officers.</p> <p><i>Probate matters:</i> Matters such as applications for the appointment of an executor or administrator to the estate of a deceased person.</p>
Real expenditure	<p>Actual expenditure adjusted for changes in prices using the general government final consumption expenditure (GGFCE) chain price index deflator and expressed in terms of current year prices (i.e. for the courts section with 2020-21 as the base year). Additional information about the GGFCE index can be found in section 2.</p>
Recurrent expenditure	<p>Expenditure that does not result in the creation or acquisition of fixed assets (new or second hand). It consists mainly of expenditure on wages, salaries and supplements, purchases of goods and services, and the consumption of fixed capital (depreciation).</p>
Specialist jurisdiction court	<p>A court which has exclusive jurisdiction in a field of law presided over by a judicial officer with expertise in that area. Examples of these types of courts which are within the scope of this Report are the family courts, the Children's courts and the Coroners' courts. Examples of specialist jurisdiction courts which are excluded from this Report include Indigenous and circle sentencing courts and drug courts.</p>

References

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2022, *Criminal courts, Australia, 2020-21*, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/criminal-courts-australia>  (accessed 7 October 2022).

Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCFCOA) annual report 2021-22, https://www.fcfoa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-10/fcfoa_annual_report_21-22.pdf  (accessed 21 October 2022).

Taylor, A., Ibrahim, N., Wakefield, S. and Finn, K. 2015, *Domestic and family violence protection orders in Australia: An investigation of information sharing and enforcement*, State of knowledge paper Issue 16, Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety, Sydney.

Impact of COVID-19 on data for the Courts section

COVID-19 may affect data in this Report in a number of ways. This includes in respect of actual performance (that is, the impact of COVID-19 on service delivery from 2020 to 2022 which is reflected in the data results), and the collection and processing of data (that is, the ability of data providers to undertake data collection and process results for inclusion in the Report).

For the Courts section, there has been some impact on the data that is attributable to COVID-19 but this has not affected either the comparability or completeness of any indicators. Impacts may continue to flow through to indicators which utilise lodgment, finalisation or financial data, such as clearance rates, backlog, on-time case processing, judicial officers per finalisation and cost per finalisation, and may vary across jurisdictions and court levels.

Some specific footnoting identifies some additional technical matters in the data tables which may be applicable to individual jurisdictions.

Report on Government Services 2023

PART C, SECTION 8: RELEASED ON 31 JANUARY 2023

8 Corrective services

This section reports on prison custody and a range of community corrections orders and programs for adult offenders which are delivered separately by the eight states and territories.

The **Indicator results** tab uses data from the data tables to provide information on the performance for each indicator in the **Indicator framework**. The same data in the data tables are also available in CSV format.

Data downloads

[8 Corrective services data tables \(XLSX - 154 Kb\)](#)

[8 Corrective services dataset \(CSV - 182 Kb\)](#)

See the corresponding table number in the data tables for detailed definitions, caveats, footnotes and data source(s).

[Guide: How to find what you need in RoGS \(PDF - 298 Kb\)](#)

Context

Objectives for corrective services

Corrective services aim to contribute to the protection and creation of safer communities through the effective management of offenders and prisoners, commensurate with their needs and the risks they pose to the community, by providing:

- a safe, secure and humane custodial environment
- appropriate management of community corrections orders
- programs and services that address the causes of offending, maximise the chances of successful reintegration into the community, and encourage offenders to adopt a law abiding way of life.

Governments aim for corrective services to meet these objectives in an equitable and efficient manner.

Service overview

The operation of corrective services is significantly influenced by, and in turn influences, other components of the criminal justice system such as police services and courts. The management of prisoners and of offenders serving community corrections orders is the core business of all corrective services agencies. However, the legislative frameworks governing and impacting on corrective services, for example sentencing acts, vary widely. The scope of the responsibilities of these agencies also varies, for example, functions administered by corrective services in one jurisdiction may be administered by a different justice sector agency in another, such as the management of prisoners held in court cells.

This section reports on the performance of corrective services, which include prison custody and a range of community corrections orders and programs for adult offenders¹ (for example, parole and community work orders). Both public and privately operated correctional facilities are included; however, the scope of this section generally does not extend to:

- youth justice (reported on in [section 17](#), Youth justice services)
- prisoners or alleged offenders held in forensic mental health facilities to receive psychiatric care (who are usually the responsibility of health departments)
- prisoners held in police custody (reported on in [section 6](#), Police services)
- people held in facilities such as immigration detention centres.

1. Adult offenders in prison and community corrections are aged 18 years and over in all Australian states and territories.

Roles and responsibilities

Corrective services are the responsibility of State and Territory governments, which may deliver services directly, purchase them through contractual arrangements or operate a combination of both arrangements. All jurisdictions maintained government operated prison facilities during the reporting period while private prisons operated in five jurisdictions (NSW, Victoria, Queensland, WA and SA).

Community corrections is responsible for administering a range of non-custodial sanctions and also manages prisoners who are released into the community and continue to be subject to corrective services supervision. These services vary in the extent and nature of supervision, the conditions of the order (such as a community work component or a requirement to attend an offender program) and the level of restriction placed on the offender's freedom of movement in the community (for example, home detention).

No single objective or set of characteristics is common to all jurisdictions' community corrections services, other than that they generally provide a non-custodial sentencing alternative or a post-custodial mechanism for reintegrating prisoners into the community under continued supervision. In some jurisdictions, community corrections responsibility includes managing offenders on supervised bail orders. Table 8.1 shows the range of sanctions involving corrective services that operated in each jurisdiction during the reporting period.

Table 8.1 Sanctions administered by corrective services during 2021-22^a

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Community corrections	Supervised bail	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Conditionally deferred or suspended conviction/sentence	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
	Fine option/conversion order	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
	Community service order	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Probation, community based order, Supervised good behaviour bond	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Supervised suspended sentence ^b	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
	Intensive corrections/intensive supervision order	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
	Home detention order ^{c,d}	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
	Post-prison order e.g. parole, release on licence	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Post-sentence supervision order	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Prison custody	Remand (unconvicted or unsentenced)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Periodic detention^e	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
	Imprisonment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Transition/re-entry order	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
	Post-sentence detention order	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓

✓ Sanction administered ✗ Sanction not administered

a This table relates to whether there are offenders or prisoners being managed by corrective services in accordance with the requirements of the particular sanction at 30 June of the reporting period. It may therefore show as applicable a sanction that is no longer in force as a sentencing option for the jurisdiction at that time because there are still offenders/prisoners within the corrective service population that have not yet completed an order handed down by the court before that type of sanction was removed as an option for courts to use. **b** NSW is no longer administering new supervised suspended sentences although there are still a number of offenders currently being supervised under this sanction. **c** Includes home detention as a condition of bail where supervised by corrective services. **d** In Tasmania, legislation allowing sentencing to Home Detention Orders was proclaimed in December 2018. The first such orders commenced in March 2019. **e** No jurisdiction operated periodic detention in 2021-22.

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished).

Funding

Nationally in 2021-22, expenditure (net of revenues) on corrective services was just over \$4.44 billion for prisons and \$0.80 billion for community corrections² (table 8A.1). Expenditure plus depreciation (matching expenditure reporting by other justice sector agencies) was \$5.77 billion — a real increase of 3.7 per cent from 2020-21 (table 8A.2). Changes in expenditure need to be considered in the context of the growth in corrective services populations over time.

2. This expenditure is net of operating revenues and excludes capital costs (depreciation, user cost of capital and debt service fees), payroll tax, and expenditure on transport/escort services and prisoner health. Some jurisdictions are unable to fully disaggregate transport costs and/or health expenditure from other prison operating costs. See table 8A.1 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats.

Size and scope

Prison custody

Corrective services operated 116 custodial facilities nationally at 30 June 2022, comprising 89 government operated prisons, 9 privately operated prisons, four transitional centres, and fourteen

24-hour court cell complexes (holding prisoners under the responsibility of corrective services in NSW) (table 8A.3).

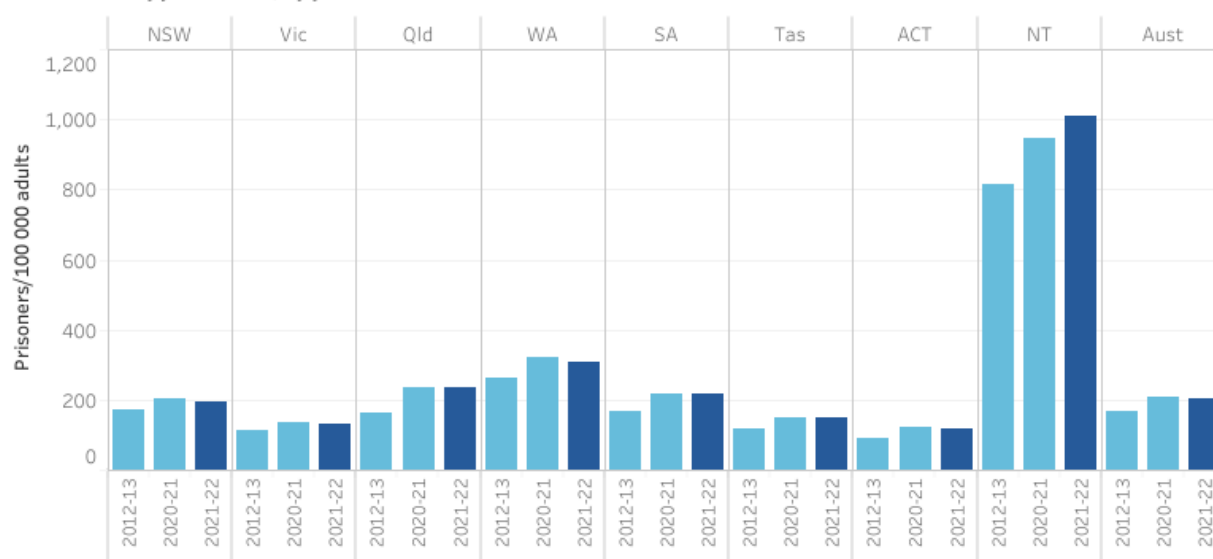
On average, 41 176 people per day were held in Australian prisons during 2021-22, of which 83.8 per cent were held in secure facilities (table 8A.4). A daily average of 8061 prisoners (19.6 per cent of the prisoner population), were held in privately operated facilities during the year. Nationally, female prisoners represented 7.5 per cent of the daily average prison population, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners represented 31.0 per cent of the daily average population.

In 2021-22, the national imprisonment rate was 204.5 per 100 000 people in the relevant adult population (figure 8.1). While this represents an increase of 20.9 per cent since 2012-13 (figure 8.1) it is also the third consecutive annual decrease nationally in the 10 years of reported data. The rate for males (385.9 per 100 000 males) was almost 13 times the rate for females (30.0 per 100 000 females) (table 8A.5).

Select year(s):
Multiple values

2012-13
2020-21
2021-22

Figure 8.1 Imprisonment rate per 100 000 adults, Crude, Total prisoners by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 8A.5

Data tables are referenced above by a '8A' prefix and all data (footnotes and data sources) are available for download above (in Excel and CSV format).

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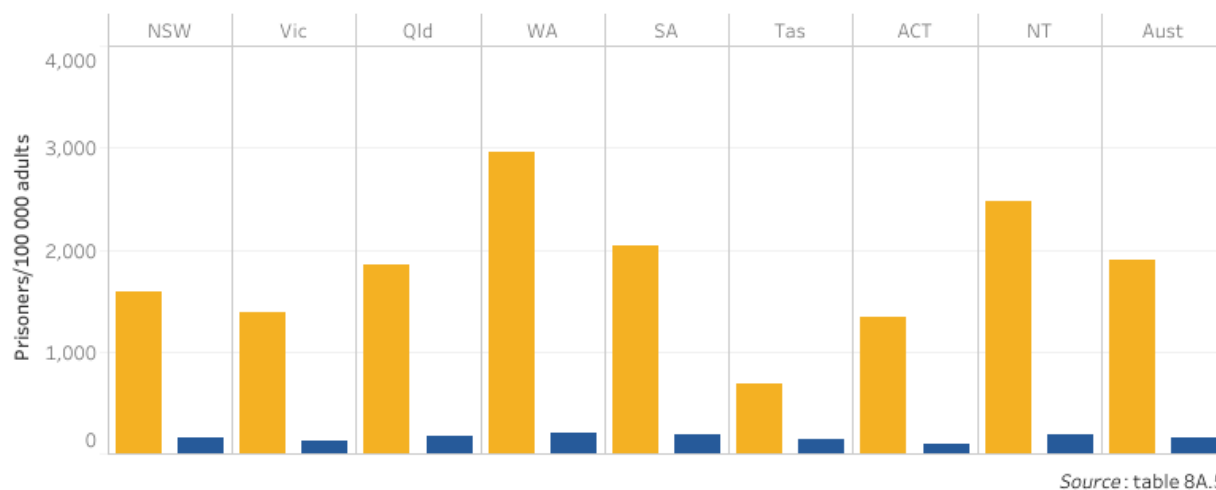
The national crude imprisonment rate per 100 000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population was 2335.1 in 2021-22 compared with a rate of 142.6 for the non-Indigenous population (table 8A.5). Comparisons of imprisonment rates should be made with care, especially for states and territories with relatively small Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations. Small changes in prisoner numbers can cause variations in rates that do not accurately represent either real trends over time or consistent differences from other jurisdictions.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population has a younger age profile compared with the non-Indigenous population, which contributes to higher crude imprisonment rates. After adjusting for differences in population age structures, the national age-standardised imprisonment rate per 100 000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in 2021-22 was 1897.1, compared with a

corresponding rate of 156.1 for the non-Indigenous population (figure 8.2). Therefore, after taking into account the effect of differences in the age profiles between the two populations, the national imprisonment rate for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is 12.2 times greater than for the non-Indigenous population. Rates that do not take age profile differences into account are 16.4 times greater.

■ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people ■ Non-Indigenous people

Figure 8.2 Age standardised Imprisonment rate per 100 000 adults, 2021-22
by jurisdiction, by Indigenous status



Data tables are referenced above by a '8A' prefix and all data (footnotes and data sources) are available for download above (in Excel and CSV format).

tableau

While imprisonment rates for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, whether calculated on a crude or age-standardised basis, are higher than those for the non-Indigenous population, the majority of daily prisoners are non-Indigenous. Ten-year trends in daily average numbers and rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous prisoners are reported in table 8A.6.

Community corrections

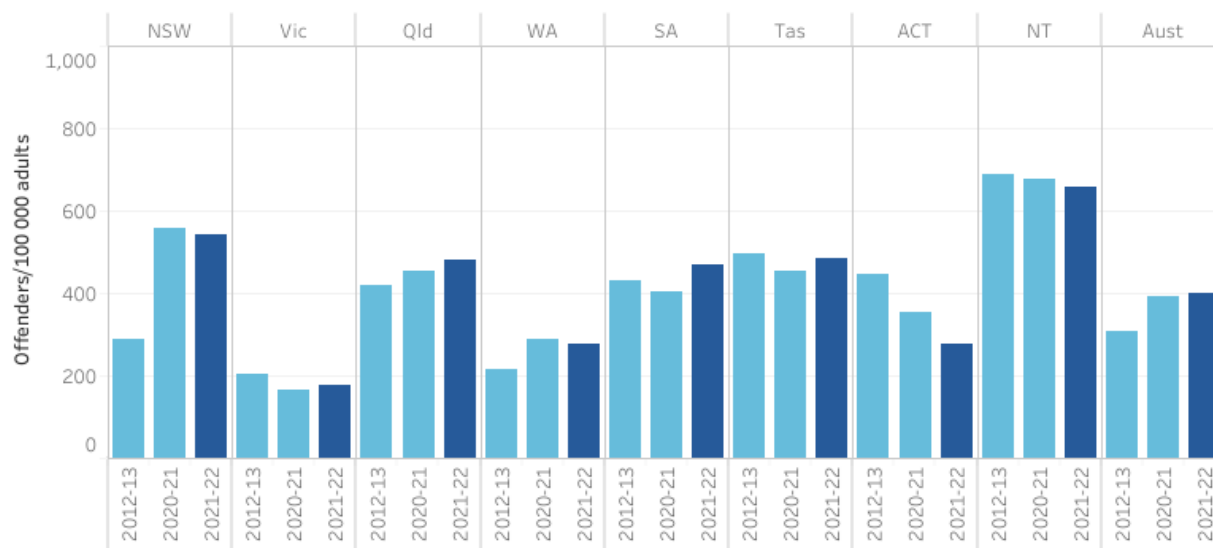
Nationally, on a daily average, there were 15.9 offenders for every one (full time equivalent) community corrections staff member in 2021-22 (table 8A.7). Nationally, an average of 80 144 offenders per day were serving community corrections orders in 2021-22 (table 8A.8), with female offenders representing 19.2 per cent of the offender population (higher than the proportion in the prison population), and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders representing 23.3 per cent of the offender population (lower than the proportion in the prison population).

In 2021-22, the national crude community corrections rate was 398.1 per 100 000 relevant adult population. This is 29.6 per cent higher than the rate of 307.1 in 2012-13 (figure 8.3). The rate for female offenders was 150.0 compared with 655.6 for male offenders (table 8A.5).

Select year(s):
Multiple values

2012-13
2020-21
2021-22

Figure 8.3 Community corrections rate per 100 000 adults, Crude, Total offenders by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 8A.5

Data tables are referenced above by a '8A' prefix and all data (footnotes and data sources) are available for download above (in Excel and CSV format).

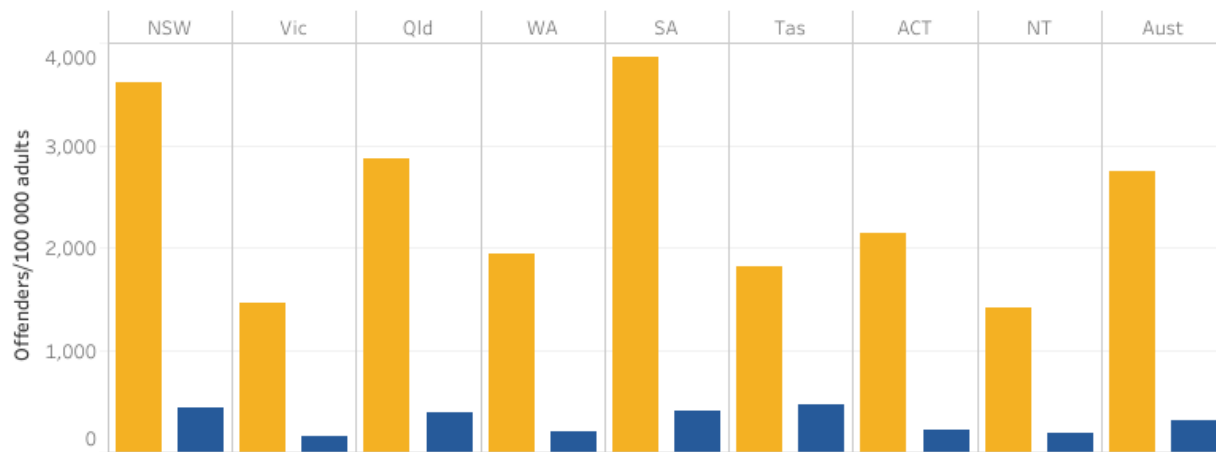
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The national crude rate for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population was 3414.1 offenders per 100 000 relevant adult population, compared with 303.0 offenders for the non-Indigenous population (table 8A.5). After adjusting for differences in population age structures, the age-standardised rate per 100 000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in 2021-22 was 2746.9, compared with a rate of 314.2 for the non-Indigenous population (figure 8.4). Therefore, after taking into account the effect of differences in the age profiles between the two populations, the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community corrections rate is 8.7 times greater than for the non-Indigenous population. Rates that do not take age profile differences into account are 11.3 times greater.

As with prisoners, comparisons should be made with care because small changes in offender numbers in jurisdictions with relatively small Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations can cause variations in rates that do not accurately represent either real trends over time or consistent differences from other jurisdictions. Ten-year trends are reported in table 8A.9.

■ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
 ■ Non-Indigenous people

Figure 8.4 Age standardised Community corrections rate per 100 000 adults, 2021-22
by jurisdiction, by Indigenous status



Source: table 8A.5

Data tables are referenced above by a '8A' prefix and all data (footnotes and data sources) are available for download above (in Excel and CSV format).

Indicator framework

The performance indicator framework provides information on equity, efficiency and effectiveness, and distinguishes the outputs and outcomes of corrective services.

The performance indicator framework shows which data are complete and comparable in this Report. For data that are not considered directly comparable, text includes relevant caveats and supporting commentary. [Section 1](#) discusses data comparability and completeness from a Report-wide perspective. In addition to the contextual information for this service area (see Context tab), the Report's statistical context ([section 2](#)) contains data that may assist in interpreting the performance indicators presented in this section.

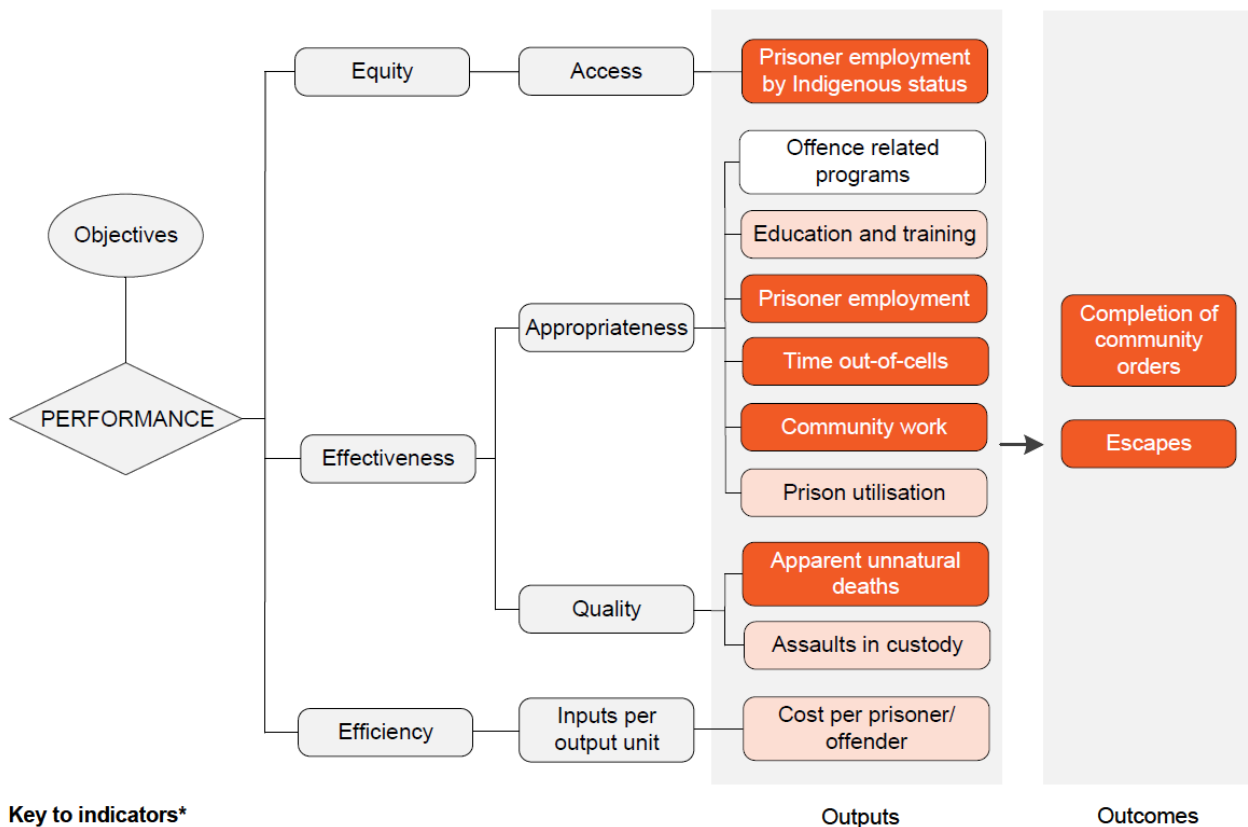
Improvements to performance reporting for corrective services are ongoing and will include identifying indicators to fill gaps in reporting against key objectives, improving the comparability and completeness of data and reviewing proxy indicators to see if more direct measures can be developed.

Outputs

Outputs are the actual services delivered (while outcomes are the impact of these services on the status of an individual or group) (see section 1). Output information is also critical for equitable, efficient and effective management of government services.

Outcomes

Outcomes are the impact of services on the status of an individual or group (see section 1).



Key to indicators*

- Text Most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete
- Text Most recent data for at least one measure are comparable and complete
- Text Most recent data for all measures are either not comparable and/or not complete
- Text No data reported and/or no measures yet developed

* A description of the comparability and completeness is provided under the Indicator results tab for each measure.

Text version of indicator framework

Performance – linked to Objectives

Outputs

Equity — Access

- Prisoner employment by Indigenous status – most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete

Effectiveness — Appropriateness

- Offence related programs – no data reported and/or no measures yet developed
- Education and training – most recent data for all measures are either not comparable and/or not complete
- Prisoner employment – most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete
- Time out-of-cells – most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete
- Community work – most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete
- Prison utilisation – most recent data for all measures are either not comparable and/or not complete

Effectiveness — Quality

- Apparent unnatural deaths – most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete
- Assaults in custody – most recent data for all measures are either not comparable and/or not complete

Efficiency — Inputs per output unit

- Cost per prisoner/offender – most recent data for all measures are either not comparable and/or not complete

Outcomes

- Completion of community orders – most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete
- Escapes – most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete

A description of the comparability and completeness is provided under the Indicator results tab for each measure.

Indicator results

An overview of the Corrective services performance indicator results are presented. Jurisdictional differences in service delivery settings, geographic dispersal and prisoner/offender population profiles have an impact on the effectiveness and efficiency of correctional service systems.

Information to assist the interpretation of these data can be found with the indicators below and all data (footnotes and data sources) are available for download above as an excel spreadsheet and as a CSV dataset. Data tables are identified by a '8A' prefix (for example, table 8A.1).

Specific data used in figures can be downloaded by clicking in the figure area, navigating to the bottom of the visualisation to the grey toolbar, clicking on the 'Download' icon and selecting 'Data' from the menu. Selecting 'PDF' or 'Powerpoint' from the 'Download' menu will download a static view of the performance indicator results.

1. Prisoner employment by Indigenous status

'Prisoner employment by Indigenous status' is an indicator of governments' objective to provide programs and services in an equitable manner.

'Prisoner employment by Indigenous status' is defined as the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners employed as a percentage of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners eligible to work, compared with the percentage of employed non-Indigenous prisoners.

Prisoners who are eligible to work excludes those unable to participate in work programs because of full time education and/or training, ill health, relatively short periods of imprisonment, prisoners whose protection status precludes their access to employment, fine defaulters who are in prison custody for only a few days, hospital patients or aged prisoners who are unable to work, prisoners at centres where the jurisdiction's policy is not to provide work or where work is not available (for example 24-hour court cells), and remandees who choose not to work.

Similar proportions of employment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous prisoners indicates equity of access to participate in work programs. These employment opportunities develop work skills and qualifications to assist in obtaining employment after release from custody.

This indicator should be interpreted with caution because of factors outside the control of corrective services, such as local economic conditions, which affect the capacity to attract commercially viable prison industries, particularly where prisons are remote from large population centres.

Nationally in 2021-22, 70.7 per cent of the eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoner population was employed, compared with 84.1 per cent of the eligible non-Indigenous prisoner population (figure 8.5).

■ Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

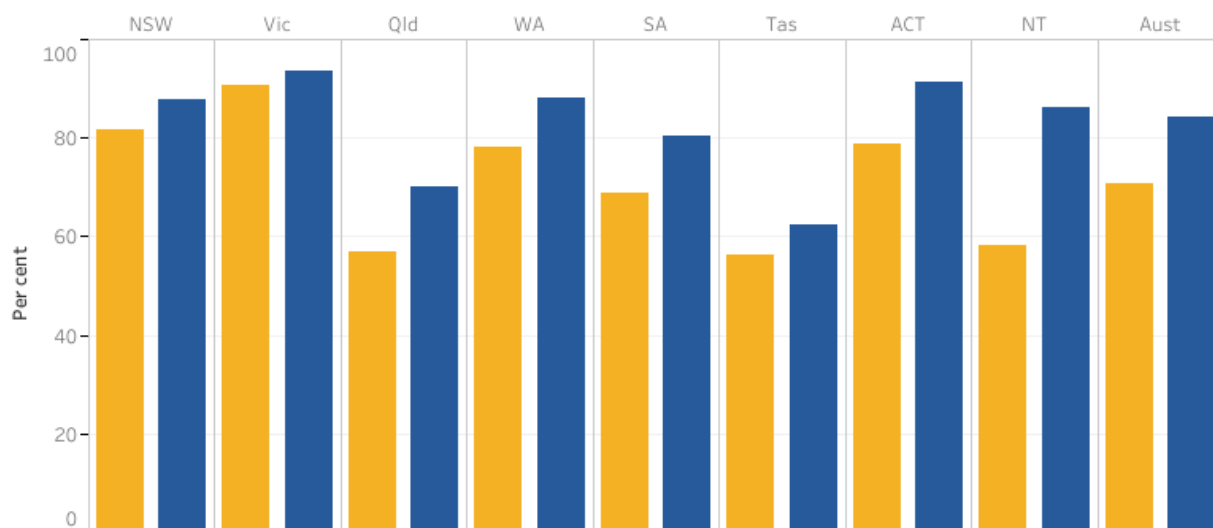
■ Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year:

2021-22

■ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people ■ Non-Indigenous people

Figure 8.5 Prisoner employment by Indigenous status, 2021-22
by jurisdiction



Source: table 8A.10

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2. Offence-related programs

'Offence-related programs' is an indicator of governments' objective to provide programs and services that address the causes of offending, maximise the chances of successful reintegration into the community, and encourage offenders to adopt a law-abiding way of life.

'Offence-related programs' measures the delivery of programs to prisoners and offenders by corrective services that target specific factors related to their risk of reoffending.

Data are not yet available for reporting against this indicator.

3. Education and training

'Education and training' is an indicator of governments' objective of providing programs and services that address the causes of offending, maximise the chances of successful reintegration into the community, and encourage offenders to adopt a law abiding way of life.

'Education and training' is defined as the number of prisoners participating in one or more accredited education and training courses, as a percentage of those eligible to participate. Classification of education courses is based on the Australian Qualifications Framework. The Vocational Education and Training category includes advanced diplomas, diplomas, and certificates I to IV. The secondary schools education category includes senior secondary and certificate of education. The higher education category includes doctoral and masters degrees, graduate diplomas, bachelor degrees, diplomas and advanced diplomas.

Prisoners who are eligible exclude those unable to participate for reasons of ill health, relatively short periods of imprisonment, hospital patients who are medically unable to participate, fine defaulters who are incarcerated for only a few days at a time, prisoners held at centres where education programs are not provided as a matter of policy (for example, 24-hour court cells), and remandees for whom access to education is not available. Education and training data do not include participation in non-accredited education and training programs or a range of offence-related programs that are provided in prisons, such as drug and alcohol programs, psychological programs, psychological counselling and personal development courses which are not AQF accredited. Percentages are based on an average of the number of prisoners enrolled on the first day of the month. Any deviation from this is noted in data table footnotes.

High or increasing education and training participation rates of prisoners are desirable. The rates reported for this indicator should be interpreted with caution as the indicator does not assess participation relative to individual prisoner needs, or measure successful program completion.

Education rates can fluctuate between years due to various external factors, such as government funding for particular initiatives that may not continue into future years and corrective services responses to such changes, as well as for other reasons such as active targeting of particular types of courses, for example, completion of specific pre-certificate courses as a prerequisite for vocational training courses.

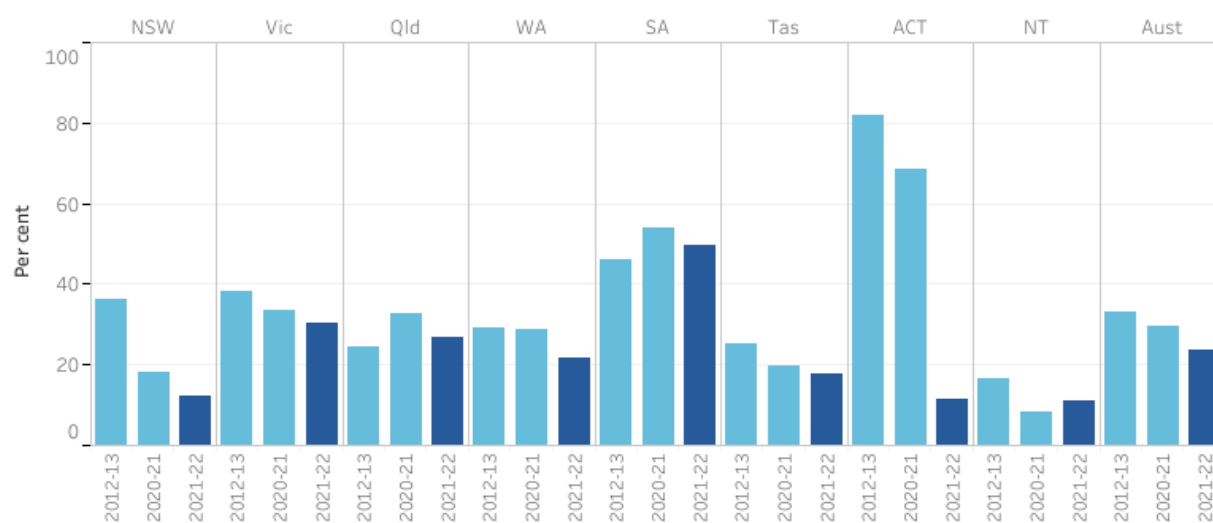
Nationally in 2021-22, 23.7 per cent of eligible prisoners participated in accredited education and training courses, the lowest proportion for the 10 years of reported data (figure 8.6) and reflecting the third consecutive drop in participation since 2018-19. Vocational education and training courses had the highest participation levels (16.6 per cent), followed by pre-certificate Level 1 courses (5.5 per cent), secondary school education (1.8 per cent) and higher education (1.6 per cent) (table 8A.11).

- Data are not comparable across jurisdictions or over time.
- Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year(s):
Multiple values

■ 2012-13
■ 2020-21
■ 2021-22

Figure 8.6 Percentage of eligible prisoners in education and training by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 8A.11

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4. Prisoner employment

'Prisoner employment' is an indicator of governments' objective of providing programs and services that address the causes of offending, maximise the chances of successful reintegration into the community, and encourage offenders to adopt a law-abiding way of life.

'Prisoner employment' is defined as the number of prisoners employed as a percentage of those eligible to work.

Prisoners who are eligible exclude those unable to work for reasons of ill health, relatively short periods of imprisonment, prisoners in full-time education or other full-time programs, prisoners whose protection status precludes their access to employment, fine defaulters in prison custody for only a few days, hospital patients or aged prisoners who are unable to work, prisoners at centres where the jurisdiction's policy is not to provide work or where work is not available (for example 24-hour court cells), and remandees who choose not to work.

High or increasing percentages of prisoners in employment are desirable, as addressing the limited vocational skills and poor employment history of some prisoners has been identified as a key contributor to decreasing the risk of reoffending.

This indicator should be interpreted with caution because of factors outside the control of corrective services, such as local economic conditions, which affect the capacity to attract commercially viable prison industries, particularly where prisons are remote from large population centres.

Nationally in 2021-22, 80.1 per cent of the eligible prisoner population was employed (figure 8.7).

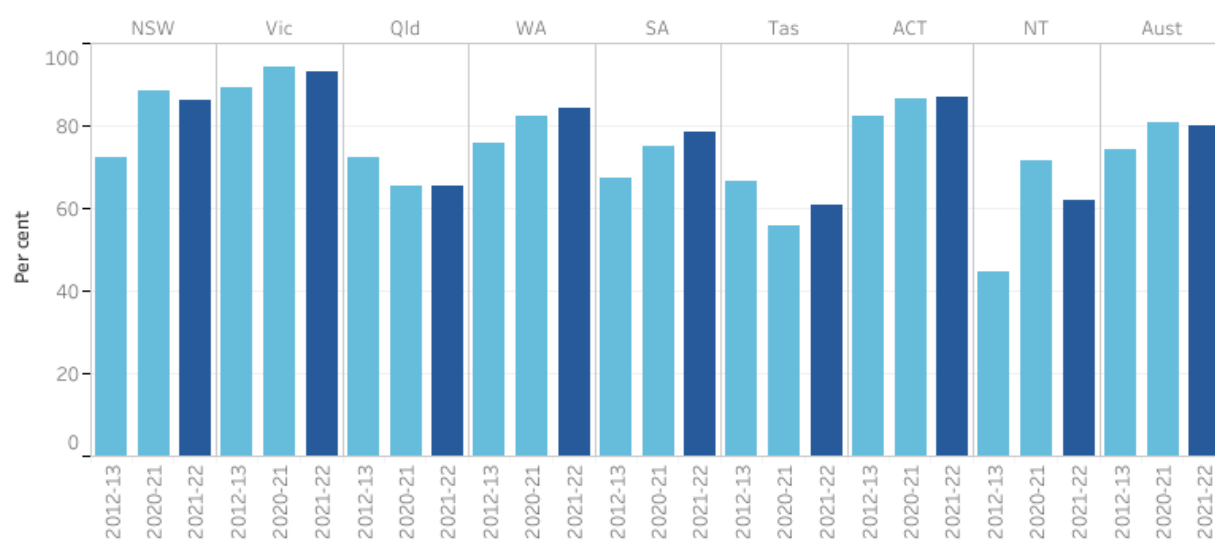
■ Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

■ Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year(s):
Multiple values

- 2012-13
- 2020-21
- 2021-22

Figure 8.7 Prisoner employment by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 8A.12



5. Time out-of-cells

'Time out-of-cells' is an indicator of governments' objective of providing a safe, secure and humane custodial environment.

'Time out-of-cells' is defined as the average number of hours in a 24-hour period that prisoners are not confined to their cells or units. The periods during which prisoners are not confined to their cells or units provides them with the opportunity to participate in a range of activities that may include work, education and training, wellbeing, recreation and treatment programs, the opportunity to receive visits, and interacting with other prisoners and staff.

A relatively high or increasing average time out-of-cells per day is desirable. Prison systems with higher proportions of prisoners who need to be accommodated in more secure facilities because of the potentially greater risk that they pose to the community are more likely to report relatively lower time out-of-cells.

Nationally in 2021-22, the average number of hours of time out-of-cells per prisoner per day was 9.0. Average time out-of-cells was higher for prisoners in open custody (12.8 hours) than for those held in secure custody (8.3 hours) (figure 8.8a). Total time out-of-cells per prisoner per day is available by jurisdiction and year in figure 8.8b.

■ Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

■ Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

■ Open ■ Secure ■ Total

Figure 8.8a Time out-of-cells per day, 2021-22
by jurisdiction, by custody type



Source: table 8A.13

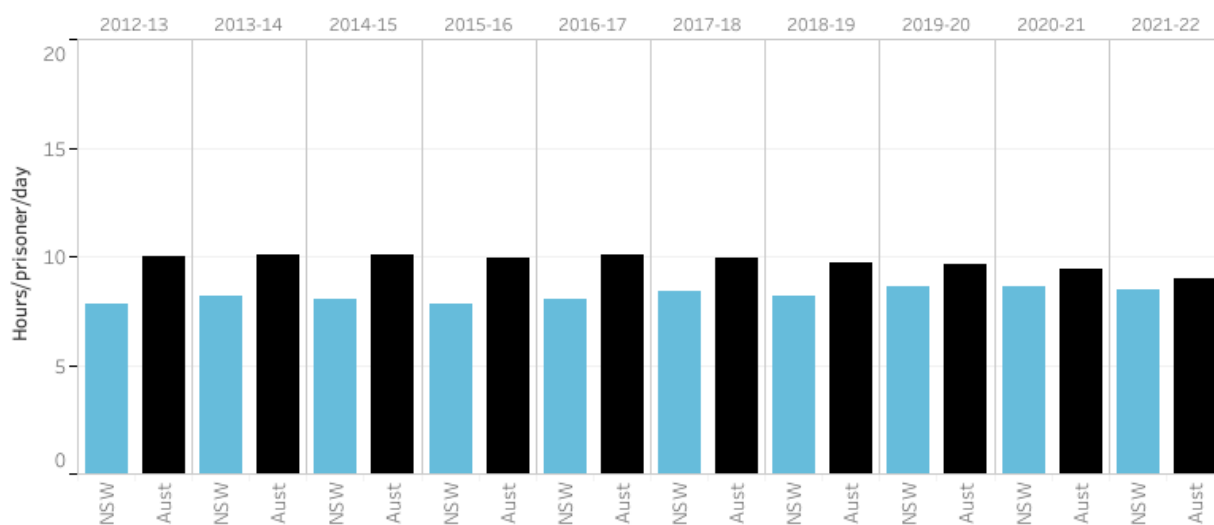
Select Jurisdiction (for figure 8.8b):

Multiple values

■ NSW

■ Aust

Figure 8.8b Time out-of-cells per day, Total custody
by year, NSW & Aust



Source: table 8A.13

6. Community work

'Community work' is an indicator of governments' objective to provide appropriate management of community corrections orders.

'Community work' is defined as the number of hours unpaid community work acquitted on eligible community corrections orders as a percentage of the total hours that were imposed on the orders, for orders that were discharged during the reference period.

Eligible orders are community corrections orders issued by a court with a condition that the offender perform a specified number of hours of unpaid community work. These data do not include hours on orders that were not issued directly by a court, e.g. community work orders made in default of payment of a fine. A discharged order refers to an order which has been finalised by corrective services due to being:

- a. successfully completed (all requirements on the order were met)
- b. revoked or breached (either due to a new charge being laid or other reasons).

Hours of community work are generally acquitted by undertaking the unpaid work, but in some jurisdictions hours may also be acquitted through participation in other approved programs or activities.

The percentage of hours completed can be affected by the general levels of compliance across all offenders required to do unpaid community work as a condition of their order. Community work may only be one component of an order alongside other requirements and non-compliance with the other requirements can result in a breach of the whole order and therefore affect an offender's capacity to successfully complete the community work hours in full.

A high or increasing percentage of ordered hours acquitted is desirable.

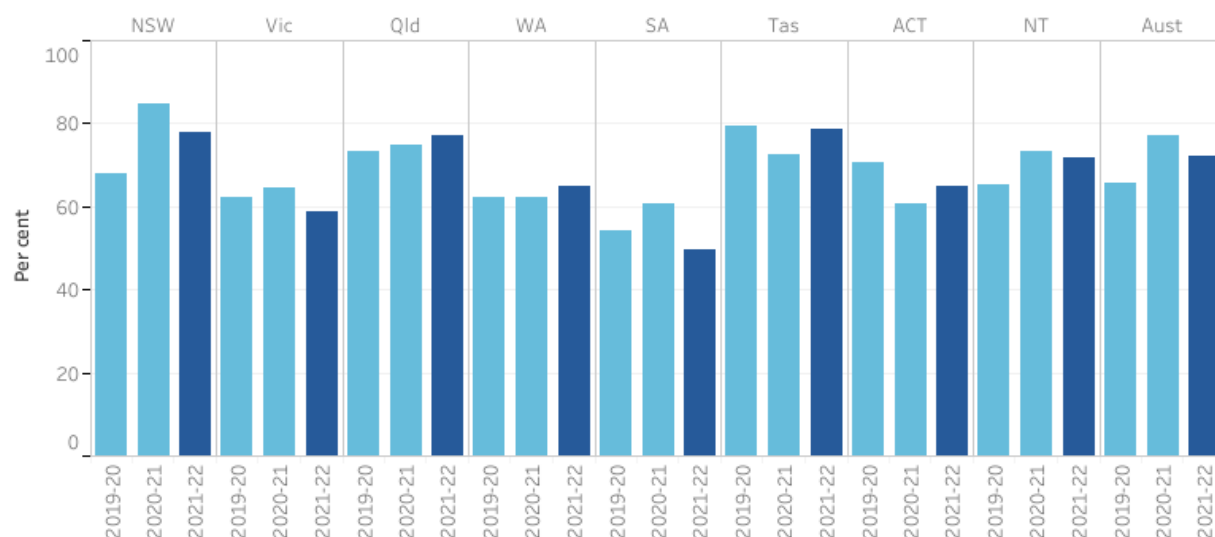
Nationally in 2021-22, for orders discharged during the financial year, the proportion of imposed hours of unpaid community work that was acquitted was 72.2 per cent, a decrease from 77.0 per cent in 2020-21 (figure 8.9).

■ Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

■ Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

■ 2019-20 ■ 2020-21 ■ 2021-22

Figure 8.9 Proportion of Imposed hours unpaid community work acquitted by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 8A.14

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7. Prison utilisation

'Prison utilisation' is an indicator of governments' objective of providing a safe, secure and humane custodial environment.

'Prison utilisation' reflects the extent to which prison design capacity meets demand for prison accommodation. It is defined as the annual daily average prisoner population as a percentage of the number of single occupancy cells and designated beds in shared occupancy cells provided for in the design capacity of the prisons.

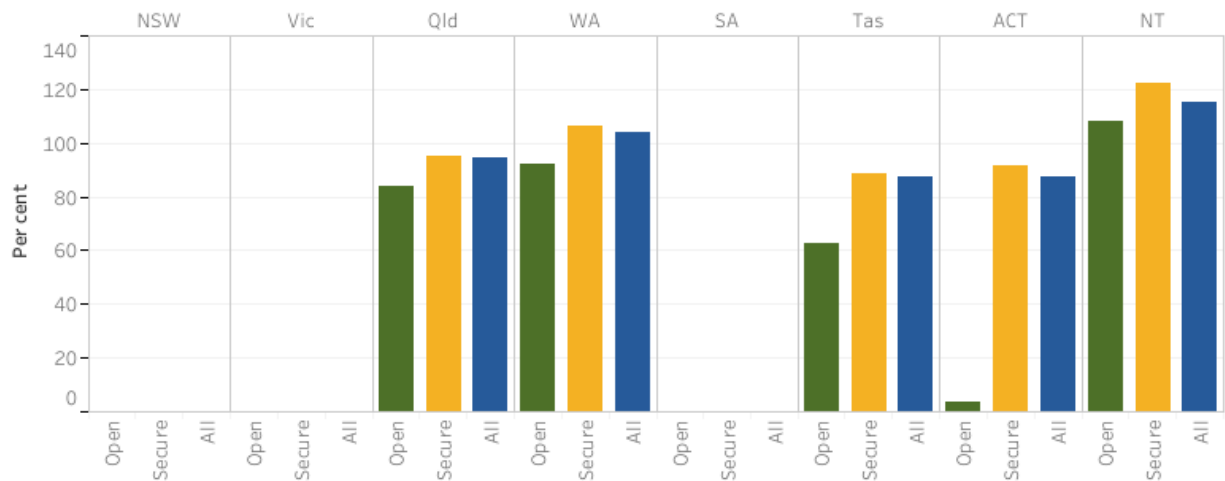
It is generally accepted that prisons require spare capacity to cater for the transfer of prisoners, special-purpose accommodation such as protection units, separate facilities for males and females and different security levels, and to manage short-term fluctuations in prisoner numbers. Therefore, percentages close to but not exceeding 100 per cent are desirable.

For all jurisdictions (with available data), prison utilisation as a proportion of design capacity was higher for secure facilities compared to open prisons (figure 8.10a). Total prison utilisation for all available jurisdictions is presented by year in figure 8.10b.

■ Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
■ Data are not complete for the current reporting period. Data for 2021-22 were not provided by NSW, Victoria or SA.

■ All prisons ■ Open prisons ■ Secure facilities

Figure 8.10a Prison design capacity utilisation, 2021-22 by jurisdiction (a)



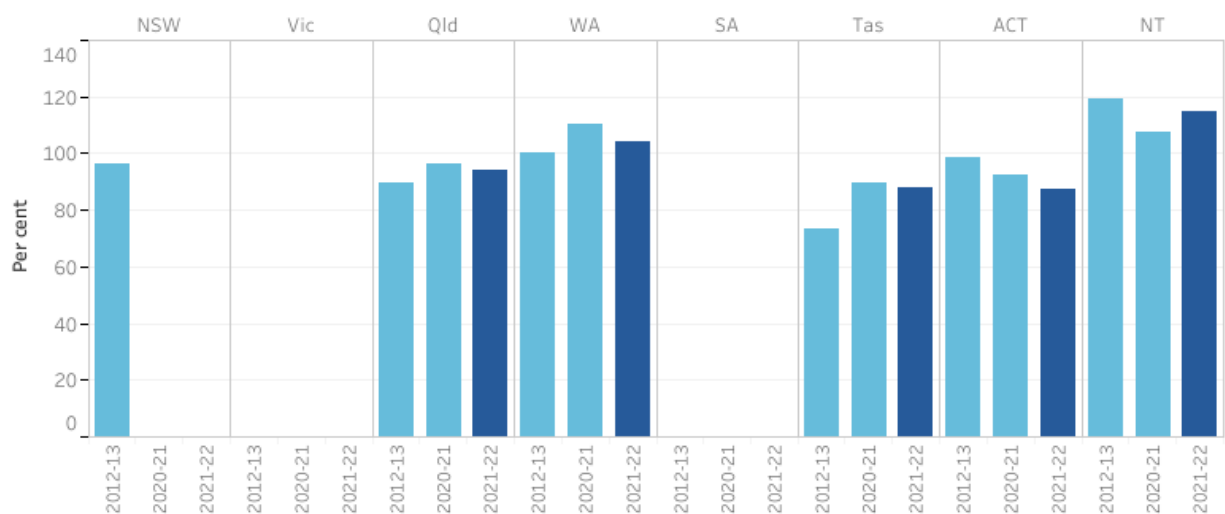
Source: table 8A.15

(a) Data were not available for NSW, Victoria and SA.

Select year(s) (for figure 8.10b):
 Multiple values

■ 2012-13
■ 2020-21
■ 2021-22

Figure 8.10b Prison design capacity utilisation, total prisons by jurisdiction, by year (a)



Source: table 8A.15

(a) Data were not available for Victoria and SA for all years and NSW from 2017-18.

8. Apparent unnatural deaths

'Apparent unnatural deaths' is an indicator of governments' objective of providing a safe, secure and humane custodial environment.

'Apparent unnatural deaths' is defined as the number of deaths, divided by the annual average prisoner population, multiplied by 100 (to give the rate per 100 prisoners), where the likely cause of death is suicide, drug overdose, accidental injury or homicide.

Zero, low or decreasing rates of apparent unnatural deaths are desirable.

The rates for this indicator should be interpreted with caution. A single incident in a jurisdiction with a relatively small prisoner population can significantly increase the rate in that jurisdiction but would have only a minor impact in jurisdictions with larger populations. A relatively high rate in a jurisdiction with a small prisoner population can represent only a very small number of deaths.

Nationally in 2021-22 the overall rate of deaths of prisoners from apparent unnatural causes was 0.04 per 100 prisoners (table 8.2a). The rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners was 0.04 and for non-Indigenous prisoners was 0.04. There were 17 deaths reported as being due to unnatural causes, 5 of whom were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (table 8.2b).

■ Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

■ Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year (applies to tables 8.2a and 8.2b):

2021-22

Table 8.2a Rate per 100 prisoner deaths from apparent unnatural causes, 2021-22
by Indigenous status, by jurisdiction (a)

		Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners	Non-Indigenous prisoners	All prisoners
NSW	rate	0.06	0.08	0.07
Vic	rate	-	0.02	0.01
Qld	rate	-	-	-
WA	rate	0.04	0.03	0.03
SA	rate	0.14	-	0.03
Tas	rate	-	0.42	0.31
ACT	rate	-	0.35	0.26
NT	rate	0.06	-	0.05
Aust	rate	0.04	0.04	0.04

Table 8.2b Number of prisoner deaths from apparent unnatural causes, 2021-22
by Indigenous status, by jurisdiction (a)

		Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners	Non-Indigenous prisoners	All prisoners
NSW	no.	2	7	9
Vic	no.	-	1	1
Qld	no.	-	-	-
WA	no.	1	1	2
SA	no.	1	-	1
Tas	no.	-	2	2
ACT	no.	-	1	1
NT	no.	1	-	1
Aust	no.	5	12	17

Source: table 8A.16 & 8A.17

— Nil or rounded to zero.

(a) 'Non-Indigenous' includes deaths where Indigenous status was unknown.

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9. Assaults in custody

'Assaults in custody' is an indicator of governments' objective of providing a safe, secure and humane custodial environment.

'Assaults in custody' is defined as the number of victims of acts of physical violence committed by a prisoner that resulted in physical injuries reported over the year, divided by the annual daily average prisoner population, multiplied by 100 (to give the rate per 100 prisoners). Rates are reported for two measures:

- assaults against another prisoner by seriousness of impact
- assaults against a member of staff by seriousness of impact.

'Assaults' refer to acts of physical violence resulting in a physical injury but not requiring overnight hospitalisation or ongoing medical treatment. 'Serious assaults' refer to acts of physical violence resulting in injuries that require treatment involving overnight hospitalisation in a medical facility or ongoing medical treatment, as well as all sexual assaults.

Data include assaults by a prisoner in corrective services legal custody, whether held in a prison or other facility under the supervision of corrective services staff, and includes those occurring during prisoner transport and escorts. Prior to 2014-15, assaults that occurred within a 24-hour court cell complex were excluded.

Zero, low or decreasing rates of assaults in custody are desirable. The rates reported for this indicator should be interpreted with caution. A single incident in a jurisdiction with a relatively small prisoner population can significantly increase the rate in that jurisdiction but would have only a minor impact in jurisdictions with larger prisoner populations. A relatively high rate in a jurisdiction with a small prisoner population may represent only a very small number of actual incidents.

There are different reporting practices and variation in service delivery arrangements for delivering prisoner health care, whereby not all jurisdictions have access to the medical information needed to accurately classify incidents into the assault categories used in this indicator.

Table 8.3 shows the rates of assault per 100 prisoners, committed against another prisoner or member of staff, by seriousness of impact. Australian averages have not been calculated due to different reporting practices and variation in service delivery arrangements for delivering prisoner health care across jurisdictions.

■ (all measures) Data are not comparable across jurisdictions, but data are comparable (subject to caveats) within jurisdictions over time.

■ (all measures) Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year(s):

Multiple values

Table 8.3 Rate of prisoner assaults (against another prisoner or member of staff) per 100 prisoners by year, by jurisdiction, by seriousness of impact

			2012-13	2020-21	2021-22
Prisoner on prisoner	Serious assault	NSW	0.28	0.27	0.26
		Vic	1.60	0.99	0.90
		Qld	0.63	2.88	3.02
		WA	0.36	1.08	0.66
		SA	0.51	2.39	0.85
		Tas	1.27	1.87	1.09
		ACT	2.63	1.22	0.26
		NT	0.49	0.29	0.32
	Assault	NSW	14.86	24.62	17.41
		Vic	10.94	14.14	10.47
		Qld	3.35	9.89	8.34
		WA	5.94	6.45	5.06
		SA	9.14	6.72	3.31
		Tas	7.83	17.49	16.36
ACT		3.76	8.28	5.66	
NT		1.53	6.29	8.20	
Prisoner on officer	Serious assault	NSW	0.01	0.01	0.01
		Vic	0.06	0.07	0.12
		Qld	0.07	0.12	0.11
		WA	0.18	0.21	0.16
		SA	-	0.07	0.26
		Tas	-	-	0.31
		ACT	-	0.24	-
		NT	-	0.06	-
	Assault	NSW	0.58	1.80	1.76
		Vic	1.56	1.26	1.27
		Qld	0.36	0.87	0.79
		WA	1.25	0.75	0.86
		SA	0.51	0.39	0.26
		Tas	1.90	2.65	4.52
ACT		-	1.46	0.51	
NT		-	0.97	1.07	

Source: table 8A.18

na Not available. — Nil or rounded to zero.



10. Cost per prisoner/offender

'Cost per prisoner/offender' is an indicator of governments' objective to provide corrective services in an efficient manner.

'Cost per prisoner/offender' is defined as the average daily cost of providing corrective services per prisoner and per offender, reported separately for net operating expenditure and for capital costs per prisoner and offender and for secure and open custody for prisoners.

A low or decreasing cost is desirable in achieving efficient resource management. Efficiency indicators are difficult to interpret in isolation and should be considered in conjunction with effectiveness indicators. A low cost per prisoner, for example, can reflect less emphasis on providing prisoner programs to address the risk of reoffending.

Factors that can affect the results for this indicator include: the composition of the prisoner population requiring different accommodation and/or management; the size and dispersion of the

geographic area across which services are delivered; the potential (or lack of) for economies of scale; and, the impact of the wider criminal justice system policies and practices.

Nationally in 2021-22, recurrent expenditure comprising net operating expenditure and capital costs was \$405.18 per prisoner per day (figure 8.11a), or \$28.65 per offender (table 8A.19).

■ Data are not comparable across jurisdictions or over time.

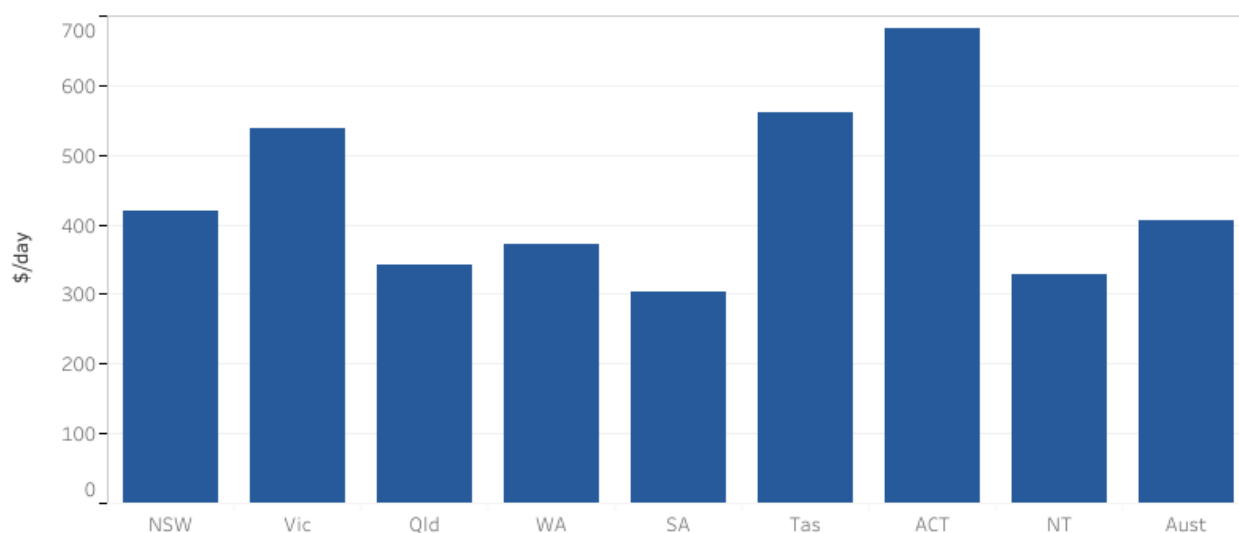
■ Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select disaggregation:

Per prisoner

Per offender

Figure 8.11a Real net recurrent expenditure, per prisoner per day, 2021-22
by jurisdiction



Source: table 8A.19

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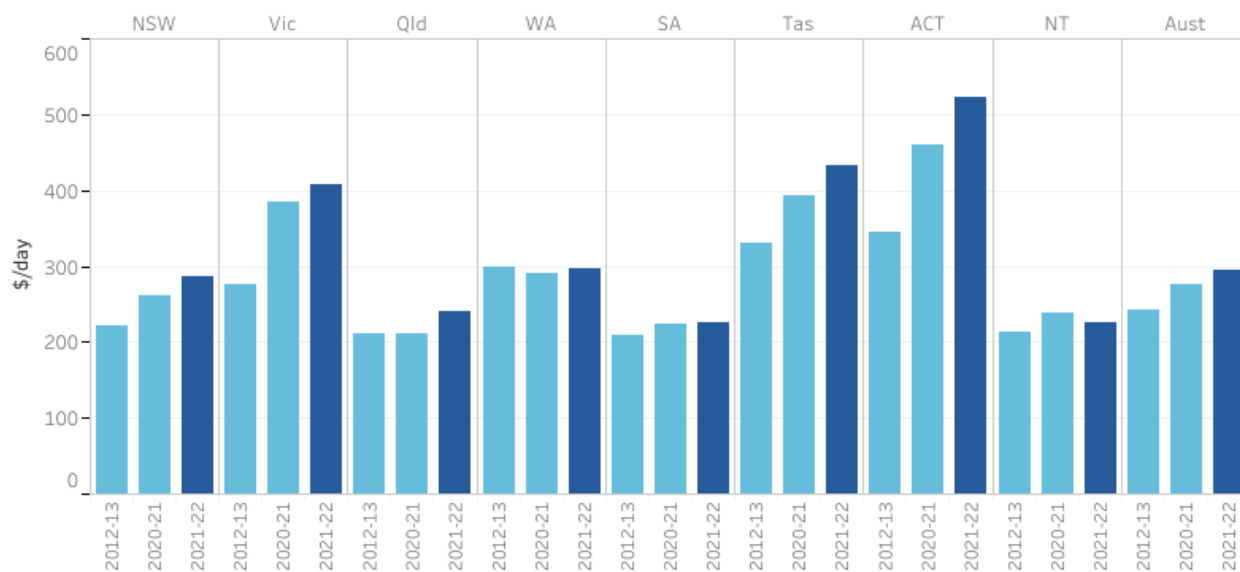
Nationally in 2021-22, excluding capital costs, the real net operating expenditure was \$294.90 per prisoner per day (figure 8.11b). This represents a 21.5 per cent increase in real net expenditure per prisoner per day since 2012-13.

- Data are not comparable across jurisdictions or over time.
- Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year(s):
Multiple values

■ 2012-13
■ 2020-21
■ 2021-22

Figure 8.11b Real net operating expenditure (excluding capital costs), per prisoner per day by jurisdiction, by year, 2021-22 dollars



Source: table 8A.20



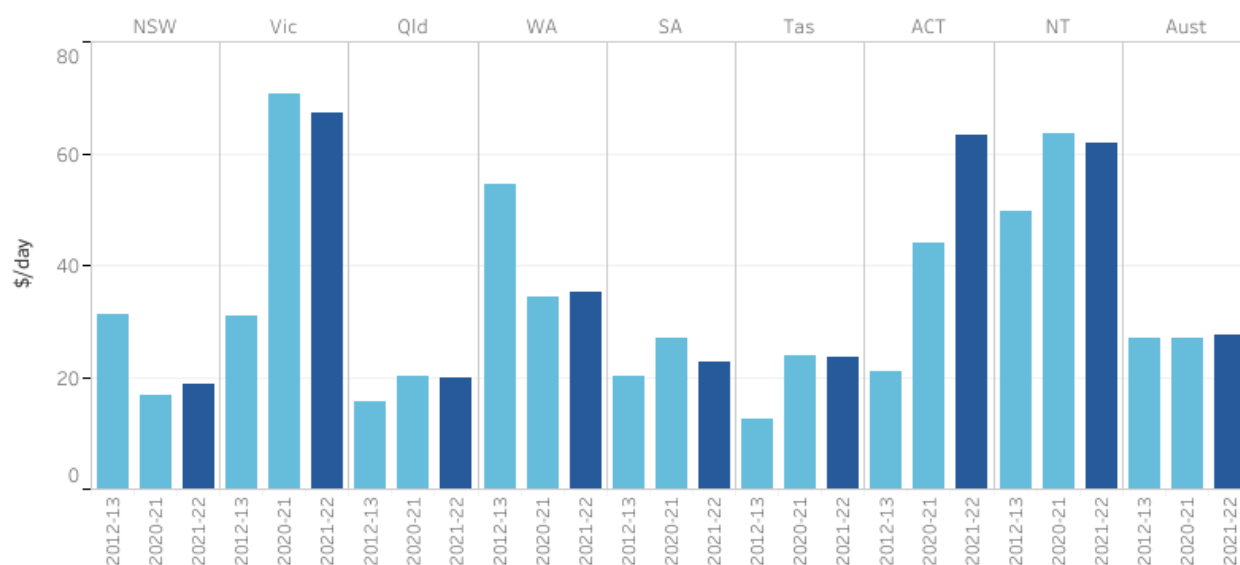
Nationally in 2021-22, excluding capital costs, the real net operating expenditure was \$27.44 per offender per day (figure 8.11c). This represents less than a two per cent increase since 2012-13.

- Data are not comparable across jurisdictions or over time.
- Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year(s):

Multiple values

Figure 8.11c Real net operating expenditure (excluding capital costs), per offender per day by jurisdiction, by year, 2021-22 dollars (a)



Source: table 8A.20

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11. Completion of community orders

'Completion of community orders' is an indicator of governments' objective to contribute to the protection and creation of safer communities through the effective management of offenders.

'Completion of community orders' is defined as the percentage of community corrections orders completed during the year that were not breached for failure to meet the order requirements or because further offences were committed. Order requirements may involve restrictions on the offender's liberty (as with home detention), a requirement to undertake community work or other specified activity (such as a drug or alcohol program), regularly attending a community corrections centre as part of supervision requirements, or other conditions.

High or increasing percentages of order completions are desirable. Completion rates should be interpreted with caution. The indicator is affected by differences in the overall risk profiles of offender populations, and risk assessment and breach procedure policies. High-risk offenders subject to higher levels of supervision have a greater likelihood of being detected when conditions of orders are breached. High breach rates could therefore be interpreted as a positive outcome reflecting the effectiveness of more intensive offender management. Alternatively, a high completion rate can mean either high compliance or a failure to detect or act on breaches of compliance.

Nationally in 2021-22, 78.6 per cent of community corrections orders were completed (figure 8.12).

Completions by order type were highest for supervision orders (78.9 per cent), followed by reparation orders (77.6 per cent) and restricted movement orders (75.3 per cent) (table 8.4). Completion of community corrections orders were higher for non-Indigenous people compared to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and for females compared to males.

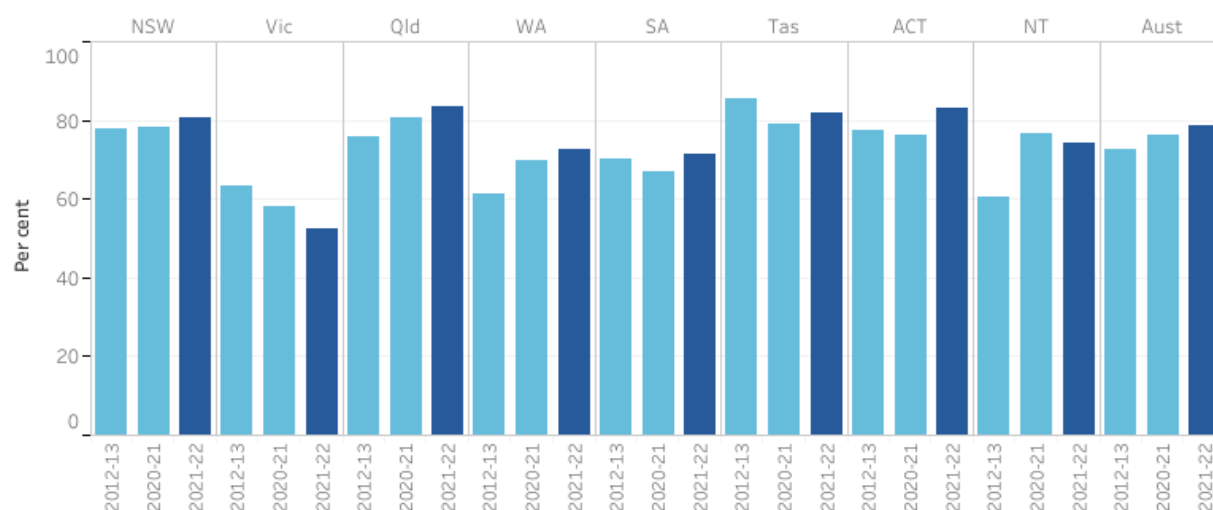
■ Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

■ Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year(s) (applies to figure 8.12):
Multiple values

■ 2012-13
■ 2020-21
■ 2021-22

Figure 8.12 Completion of community corrections orders, All orders by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 8A.21

Table 8.4 Completion of community corrections orders, 2021-22 by jurisdiction, by type of order, Indigenous status and sex

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Restricted movement orders	82.5	..	..	45.7	74.2	88.5	..	97.6	75.3
Reparation orders	82.7	49.6	77.4	71.0	69.8	73.4	75.2	69.3	77.6
Supervision orders	80.5	53.2	84.1	73.7	70.4	84.2	83.3	74.4	78.9
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	74.1	39.3	76.8	61.5	64.9	76.2	79.0	71.9	72.6
Non-Indigenous	83.1	53.7	86.3	77.9	73.5	83.0	84.1	86.1	80.8
Female	82.9	55.2	89.4	73.0	70.9	85.7	81.6	79.8	81.3
Male	80.4	52.1	81.3	72.2	76.0	80.8	83.4	73.1	78.2

Source: table 8A.21

.. Not applicable.

12. Escapes

'Escapes' is an indicator of governments' objective to contribute to the protection and creation of safer communities through the effective management of prisoners.

'Escapes' is defined as the number of escapes divided by the annual average prisoner population, multiplied by 100 (for a rate per 100 prisoners), and is reported separately for prisoners escaping from secure custody and from open custody.

Numbers and rates exclude 'other escape' incidents such as: prisoners failing to return from unescorted leave, work release or day leave or found at unlawful locations, prisoners in work parties or participating in activities outside the perimeter without direct one-to-one supervision, prisoners found outside the perimeter of the correctional centre but within the centre precinct, or 'walk-offs' from work camps or outstations linked to prisons.

Zero, low or decreasing rates are desirable. Escape rates should be interpreted with caution. A single incident in a jurisdiction with a relatively small prisoner population can significantly increase the rate in that jurisdiction but would have only a minor impact in jurisdictions with larger populations. A relatively high rate in a jurisdiction with a small prisoner population can represent only a very small number of actual incidents.

Nationally in 2021-22, the rate of escapes was 0.39 per 100 prisoners held in open custody and 0.02 per 100 prisoners held in secure custody (table 8.5a). The number of escapes in open and secure custody are shown in table 8.5b.

■ Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

■ Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year(s) (applies to tables 8.5a and 8.5b):

Multiple values

Table 8.5a Rate of prisoner escapes
by jurisdiction, by secure and open custody, by year

			2012-13	2020-21	2021-22
NSW	rate	Open prison	0.17	0.08	0.09
		Secure prison	0.02	0.02	0.01
Vic	rate	Open prison	0.44	0.14	-
		Secure prison	-	-	0.02
Qld	rate	Open prison	-	0.61	1.91
		Secure prison	-	-	-
WA	rate	Open prison	0.38	-	0.41
		Secure prison	0.08	0.04	-
SA	rate	Open prison	0.46	-	-
		Secure prison	-	0.04	0.04
Tas	rate	Open prison	-	-	-
		Secure prison	0.21	-	0.32
ACT	rate	Open prison	-	-	-
		Secure prison	-	-	0.26
NT	rate	Open prison	1.41	0.35	0.67
		Secure prison	0.21	-	0.10
Aust	rate	Open prison	0.32	0.15	0.39
		Secure prison	0.03	0.01	0.02

Table 8.5b Number of prisoner escapes
by jurisdiction, by secure and open custody, by year

			2012-13	2020-21	2021-22
NSW	no.	Open prison	6	3	3
		Secure prison	1	2	1
Vic	no.	Open prison	3	1	-
		Secure prison	-	-	1
Qld	no.	Open prison	-	4	13
		Secure prison	-	-	-
WA	no.	Open prison	4	-	4
		Secure prison	3	2	-
SA	no.	Open prison	1	-	-
		Secure prison	-	1	1
Tas	no.	Open prison	-	-	-
		Secure prison	1	-	2
ACT	no.	Open prison	-	-	-
		Secure prison	-	-	1
NT	no.	Open prison	7	3	6
		Secure prison	2	-	1
Aust	no.	Open prison	21	11	26
		Secure prison	7	5	7

Source: table 8A.22

.. Not applicable. — Nil or rounded to zero.

Indigenous data

Performance indicator data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in this section are available in the data tables listed below. Further supporting information can be found in the explanatory material tab and data tables.

Corrective Services data disaggregated for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Table number	Table title
Table 8A.10	Prisoner employment by Indigenous status
Table 8A.17	Deaths from apparent unnatural causes by Indigenous status, number and rate per 100 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander/non-Indigenous prisoners
Table 8A.21	Completion of community corrections orders (per cent)

Explanatory material

Key terms

Terms	Definition
24-hour court cell	Cells located in a court and/or police complex that are administered by corrective services.
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	People identifying themselves as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders if they are accepted as such by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community.
Assault	<p>An act of physical violence committed by a prisoner that resulted in physical injuries. An assault is recorded where either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a charge is proved either by a jurisdictional correctional authority, a Governor’s hearing or a court of law, or • there is evidence that an assault took place because at least one of the following circumstances apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ there is at least one apparently reliable witness to the assault, or the victim claims assault and there is no obvious reason to doubt this claim, or ◦ a visible injury has occurred and there is sufficient circumstantial or other evidence to make an assault the most likely cause of the injury on the basis of the balance of probabilities. <p>The rate is based on a count of victims of assaults not incidents, that is, an assault by two prisoners on one other prisoner is counted as one assault, whereas a single incident in which one prisoner assaults two other prisoners is counted as two assaults.</p>

Terms	Definition
Apparent unnatural death	<p>The death of a person who is in corrective services custody (which includes deaths that occur within prisons, during transfer to or from prison, within a medical facility following transfer from prison, or in the custody of corrective services outside a custodial facility):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whose death is caused or contributed to by traumatic injuries sustained, or by lack of proper care, while in such custody • who dies or is fatally injured in the process of prison officers attempting to detain that person • who dies or is fatally injured in the process of that person escaping or attempting to escape from prison custody • where there is sufficient evidence to suggest, subject to a Coroner's finding, that the most likely cause of death is homicide, suicide, an accidental cause or a drug overdose.
Capital costs	<p>Combined depreciation costs, the user cost of capital (calculated as 8 per cent of the value of government land and other assets), and debt servicing fees – interest portion of the repayment of the finance lease repayment incurred by governments as part of contracts for privately owned prisons and prisons built under Public-Private Partnership arrangements.</p>
Community corrections	<p>Community-based management of court-ordered sanctions, post-prison orders and administrative arrangements and fine conversions for offenders, which principally involve one or more of the following requirements: supervision; program participation; or community work.</p>
Community corrections offender rate	<p>The annual average number of adults with community corrections orders per 100 000 population aged 18 years or over. For 2017-18 and earlier years, Queensland rates were calculated against adult population figures for people aged 17 years and over. Male/female and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander/non-Indigenous breakdowns are calculated against the relevant population, that is, per 100 000 male, female, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and non-indigenous adults respectively.</p>
Community work (offenders)	<p>Unpaid community work (hours) by offenders serving community corrections orders during the counting period.</p>
Debt servicing fees	<p>The interest portion of the repayment of the financial lease repayments incurred by governments as part of the contracts for privately owned prisons and prisons built under Public-Private Partnership arrangements, comparable to the user cost of capital for government owned facilities. This item is only applicable to NSW, Victoria, WA and the NT.</p>

Terms	Definition
Escapes	The escape of a prisoner under the direct supervision of corrective services officers or private providers under contract to corrective services, including escapes during transfer between prisons, during transfer to or from a medical facility, escapes that occurred from direct supervision by corrective services outside a prison, for example during escort to a funeral or medical appointment.
Health expenditure	Expenditure on primary, secondary and tertiary health services for prisoners incurred either directly by corrective services or indirectly by other departments, agencies or service providers on behalf of Corrective Services. There are differences across jurisdictions in the extent to which the cost of health services to prisoners is incurred by corrective services or funded through health departments.
Home detention	A corrective services program requiring offenders to be subject to supervision and monitoring by an authorised corrective services officer while confined to their place of residence or a place other than a prison.
Imprisonment rate	The annual average number of prisoners per 100 000 population aged 18 years or over. For 2017-18 and earlier years, Queensland rates were calculated against adult population figures for people aged 17 years and over. Male/female and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander/non-Indigenous breakdowns are calculated against the relevant population, that is, per 100 000 male, female, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and non-indigenous adults respectively.
Net operating expenditure	Operating expenditure minus operating revenues.
Net operating expenditure per prisoner/offender	The daily cost of managing a prisoner/offender, based on operating expenditure net of operating revenues (see definitions below) divided by (i) the number of days spent in prison or detention by the daily average prisoner population and the daily average periodic detention population on a 2/7th basis or (ii) the number of days spent under community corrections supervision by the daily average community corrections population respectively.
Offender	An adult person subject to a non-custodial order administered by corrective services, which includes bail orders if those orders are subject to supervision by community corrections.
Open prison	A custodial facility where the regime for managing prisoners does not require them to be confined by a secure perimeter physical barrier, irrespective of whether a physical barrier exists.

Terms	Definition
Operating expenditure	Expenditure of an ongoing nature incurred by government in the delivery of corrective services, including salaries and expenses in the nature of salary, other operating expenses incurred directly by corrective services, grants and subsidies to external organisations for the delivery of services, and expenses for corporate support functions allocated to corrective services by a broader central department or by a 'shared services agency', but excluding payroll tax and excluding prisoner health and transport/escort costs where able to be disaggregated by jurisdictions.
Operating revenues	Revenue from ordinary activities undertaken by corrective services, such as prison industries.
Operational staff	<p>Staff whose main responsibility involves the supervision or provision of support services directly to offenders in community corrections. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probation/parole/community corrections officers • Unit/team leaders, senior community corrections officers • Home Detention Officers (excluding HD officers based at Head Office) • Specialist community corrections officers (e.g. Drug Courts, Domestic Violence Courts) • Case Managers/Community Corrections Assistants/Community Support Officers • Community Development Officers • Community Service Order Supervisors/Field Supervisors • Court Advice Workers • Program Co-ordinators • Psychologists/social workers and other community corrections staff who provide psychological/therapeutic services.
Periodic detention	An order requiring a person be detained in a legally proclaimed prison or periodic detention facility for two consecutive days per week. Periodic detention only applied in NSW and the ACT. As of 2017-18, periodic detention did not operate in any jurisdiction.
Prison	A legally proclaimed prison or remand centre for adult prisoners.
Prisoner	A person held in full time custody under the jurisdiction of an adult corrective services agency. This includes sentenced prisoners serving a term of imprisonment and unsentenced prisoners held on remand, in both public and privately operated prisons.

Terms	Definition
Private prison	A government or privately owned prison (see prison) managed under contract by a private sector organisation.
Recurrent expenditure	The combined total of net operating expenditure (i.e. operating expenditure excluding operating revenues) and capital costs (see previous definitions).
Reparation order	A subcategory of community-based corrections orders with a community service bond/order or fine option that requires them to undertake unpaid work.
Restricted movement order	A subcategory of community-based corrections orders that limits the person's liberty to their place of residence unless authorised by corrective services to be absent for a specific purpose, for example, Home Detention Orders.
Secure prison	A custodial facility where the regime for managing prisoners requires them to be confined by a secure perimeter physical barrier.
Supervision order	A subcategory of community-based corrections orders that includes a range of conditions other than those categorised as restricted movement or reparation.
Transitional Centres	Transitional Centres are residential facilities administered by corrective services where prisoners are prepared for release towards the end of their sentences.
Transport and escort services	Services used to transport prisoners between prisons or to/from external locations (for example, court), whether by corrective services officers or external contractors involved in escorting prisoners as part of the transport arrangements.
User cost of capital	The cost of funds which are tied up in government capital used to deliver services and identifies the opportunity cost of this capital (the return forgone by using the funds to deliver services rather than investing them elsewhere or using them to retire debt). User cost of capital is calculated by applying a nominal rate of 8 per cent to the value of government assets.

Impact of COVID-19 on data for the Corrective services section

COVID-19 may affect data in this Report in a number of ways. This includes in respect of actual performance (that is, the impact of COVID-19 on service delivery from 2020 to 2022 which is reflected in the data results), and the collection and processing of data (that is, the ability of data providers to undertake data collection and process results for inclusion in the Report).

Government lockdowns implemented by State and Territory Governments during 2020 and 2021 in some jurisdictions impacted the number of people being received into and discharged from prison. These impacts may potentially flow through to indicators on prison utilisation and costs per prisoner/offender per day to various extents in jurisdictions depending on the length and scale of lockdowns experienced. COVID-19 may also have impacted on movement within facilities, time-out-of-cells, education and training, and community corrections.

Some specific footnoting identifies some additional technical matters in the data tables which may be applicable to individual jurisdictions.