

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



Report on Government Services 2025

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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Publication enquiries:

Phone 03 9653 2244 | email publications@pc.gov.au

Report on Government Services 2025

PART C: RELEASED ON 4 FEBRUARY 2025

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 is in the data tables under the relevant service area.

[Justice data tables \(XLSX 33.3 KB\)](#)

[Justice dataset \(CSV 41.7 KB\)](#)

Refer to 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.

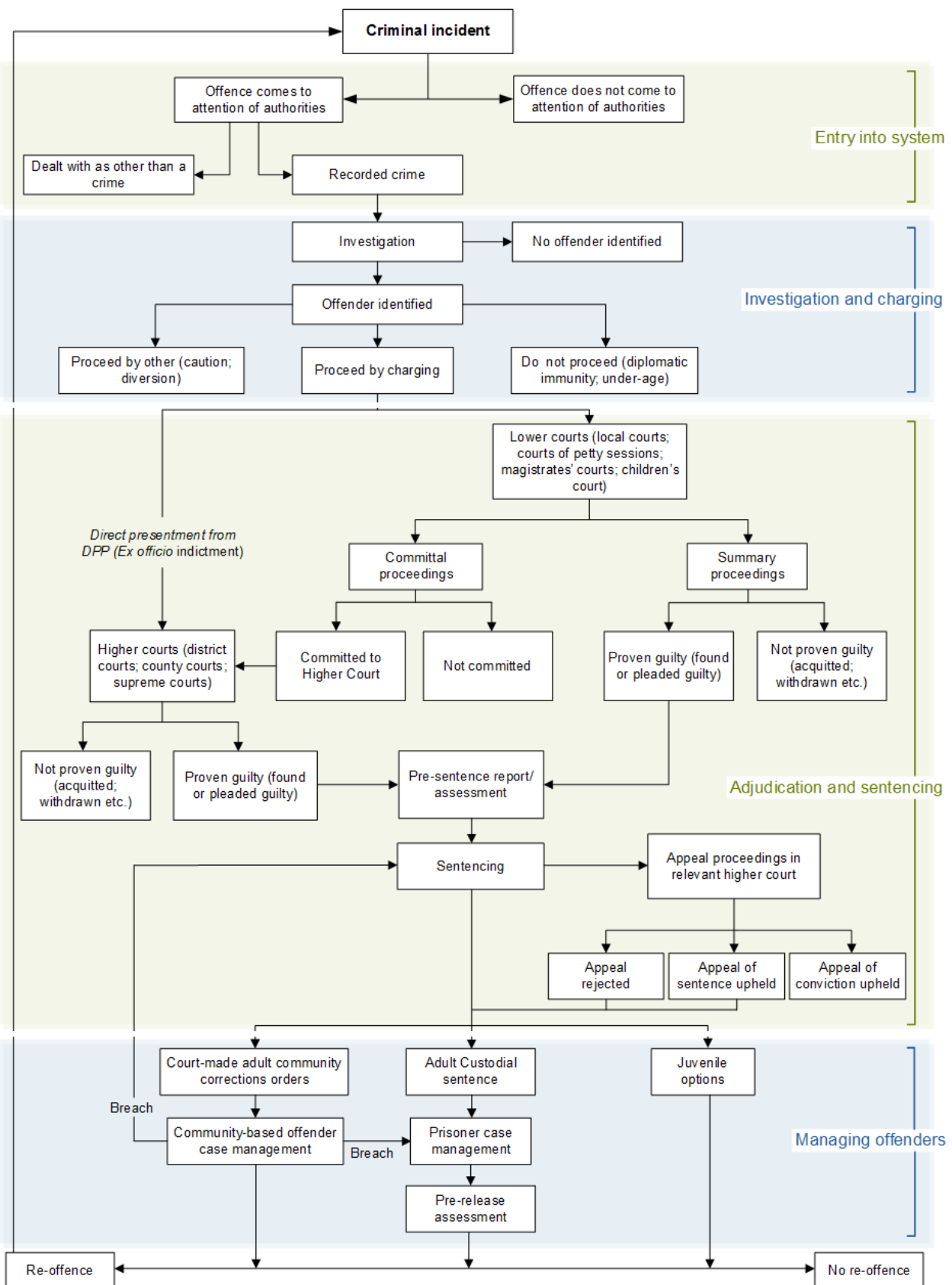
Government expenditure in the sector

Total government expenditure for the justice services in this report (less revenue from own sources) was almost \$25.2 billion in 2023-24, an average annual increase of 3.0% from 2019-20. Police services was the largest contributor (64.9%), followed by corrective services (25.9%) and courts (9.2%) (table CA.1). Nationally, expenditure per person on justice services was \$934 in 2023-24 (table CA.2). For the 2022-23 financial year (the most recent financial year for which data are available across all sections), this represented around 6.2% 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.

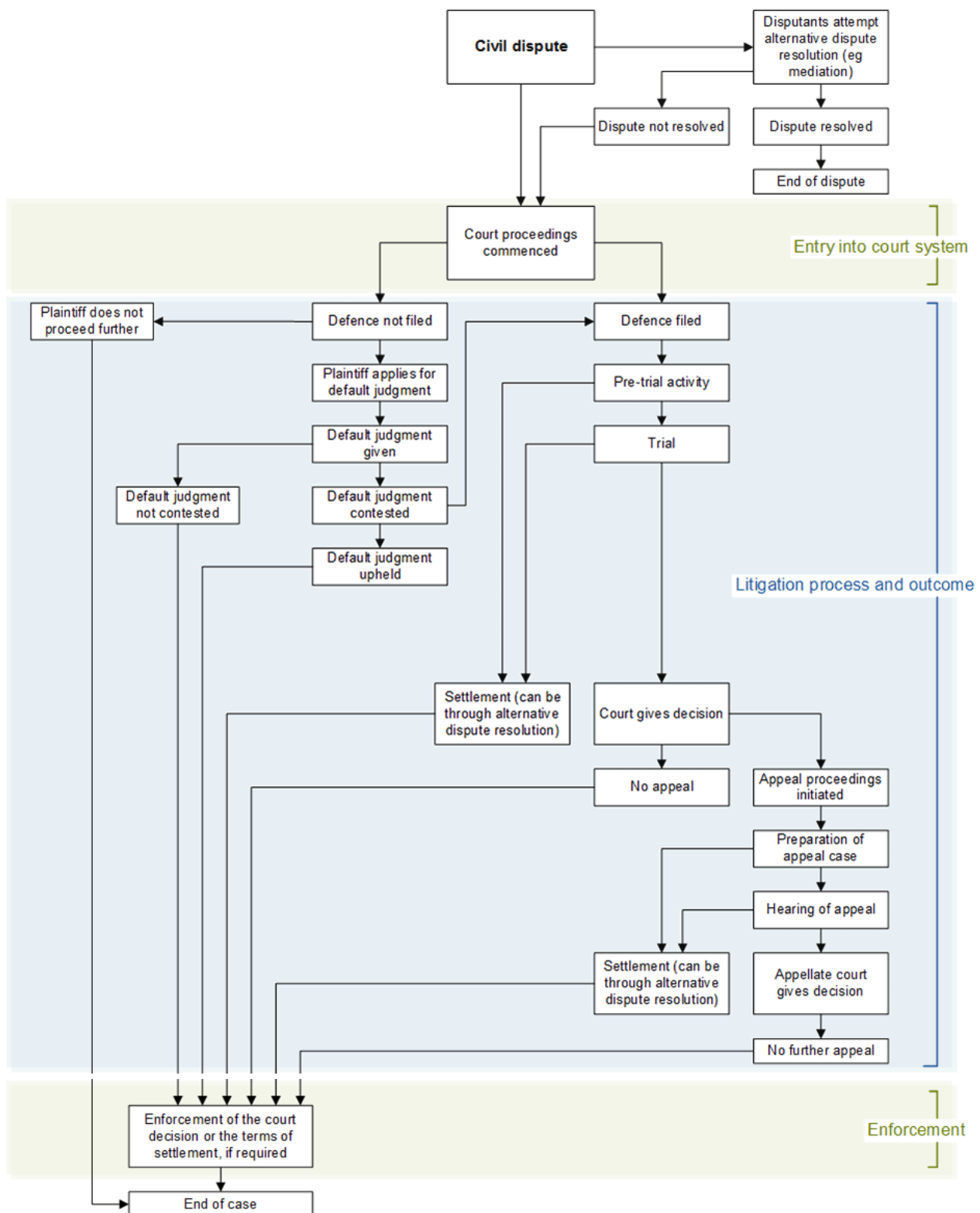
Figure C.1 Flows through the criminal justice system ^{a, b, c}



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, where data was not available), of people aged 10 years or over proceeded against by police in 2022-23, between 66% and 79% 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

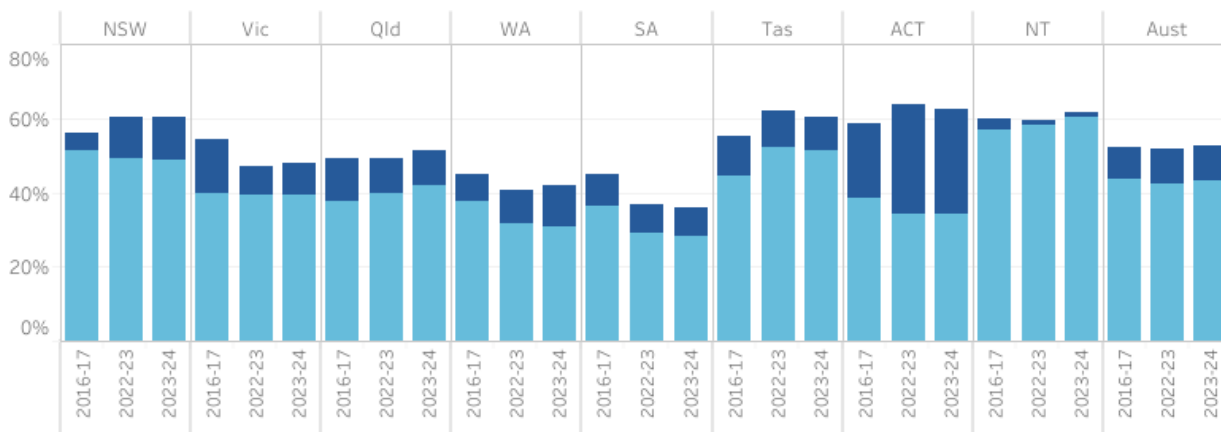
In 2023-24, 43.0% of prisoners released in 2021-22 after serving a sentence had returned to prison within two years (for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory this only included prisoners who had returned with a new sentence within two years, for Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory this also included prisoners who had returned to prison on remand within 2 years but were sentenced within 3 years). Some people returning to prison may also have received community corrections orders (figure C.3). In total, 52.5% of released prisoners had returned to corrective services within two years in 2023-24 (either prison or community corrections) (table CA.4). Returns to prison and corrective services were higher

in all states and territories for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 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) is available for download from above (in Excel and CSV format).



Adult offenders discharged from community corrections orders

In 2023-24, 15.4% of adults discharged during 2021-22 after serving orders administered by community corrections returned to community corrections within two years, and 25.0% returned to corrective services (prison or community corrections) (table CA.5).

Report on Government Services 2025

PART C, SECTION 6: RELEASED ON 4 FEBRUARY 2025

6 Police services

The focus of performance reporting in this section is 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 \(XLSX 439.6 KB\)](#)

[6 Police services dataset \(CSV 1.0 MB\)](#)

Refer to 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 \(PDF 288.5 KB\)](#)

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
- are capable of meeting current and projected future service demand.

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 Australian Capital Territory community policing function performed by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) under an arrangement between the Australian Capital Territory 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) is 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 2023-24, total real recurrent expenditure (including user cost of capital, less revenue from own sources and payroll tax) was \$17.0 billion with an average annual growth rate of 3.0% for the five years to 2023-24 (table 6A.1).

Size and scope

Client groups

All community members are recipients of policing services. Some members of the community have direct dealings with the police and 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-related incidents)
- people requiring police services for non-crime-related matters.

Staffing

Police staff comprise operational and non-operational staff.

An operational police staff member is any member whose primary duty is the delivery of police or police-related services.

Police staff are also 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 police staff is considered the primary estimate of the number of police staff actively engaged in the delivery of police-related services. Nationally in 2023-24, 87.9% of the total 81,848 police staff were operational. This proportion has decreased every year since 2017-18 (92.2%). There were 267 operational police per 100,000 people nationally in 2023-24. Rates varied across jurisdictions from 213 to 298, except the Northern Territory with a rate of 757 (figure 6.1 and table 6A.2).

The rate of operational sworn police staff is also reported to give greater context to police service provision across Australia. Nationally in 2023-24, 70.3% of the total 81,848 staff were operational sworn police. This proportion has decreased every year since 2019-20 (74.7%). There were 213 operational sworn police per 100,000 people nationally in 2023-24. Rates varied across jurisdictions from 168 to 235, except the Northern Territory with a rate of 513 (figure 6.1 and table 6A.2).

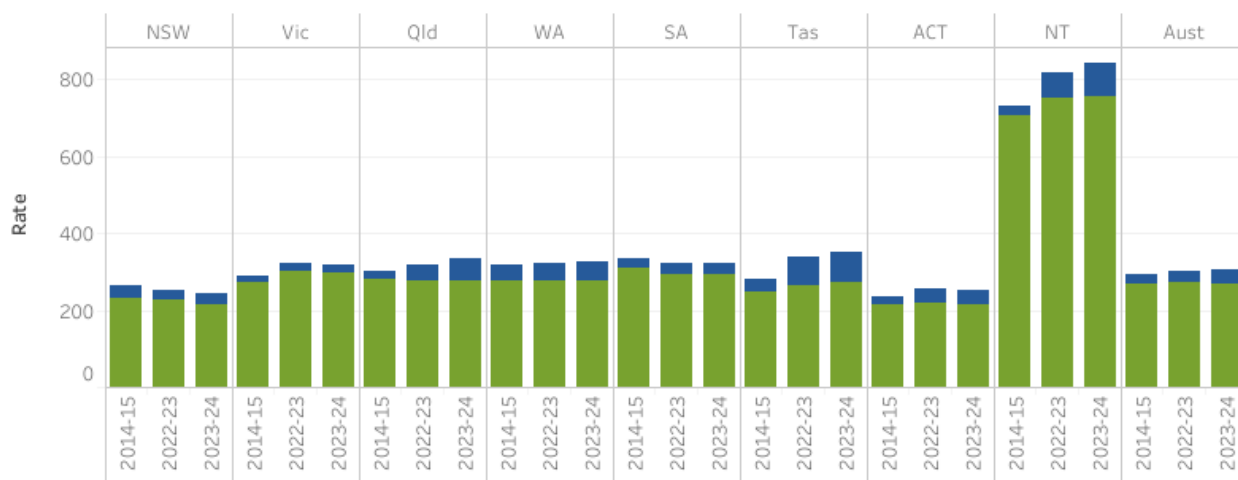
Select year(s):
Multiple values

Select staff type:
 Non-operational staff per 100,000 people & Operational staff per 100,000 people
 Operational sworn staff per 100,000 people

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

Figure 6.1 Full-time equivalent (FTE) police staff at 30 June

Rate of Non-operational staff per 100,000 people & Operational 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) is available for download above (in Excel and CSV format).

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 is complete and comparable in this report. For data that is 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 (refer to Context tab), the report's statistical context ([section 2](#)) contains data that may assist in interpreting the performance indicators presented in this section.

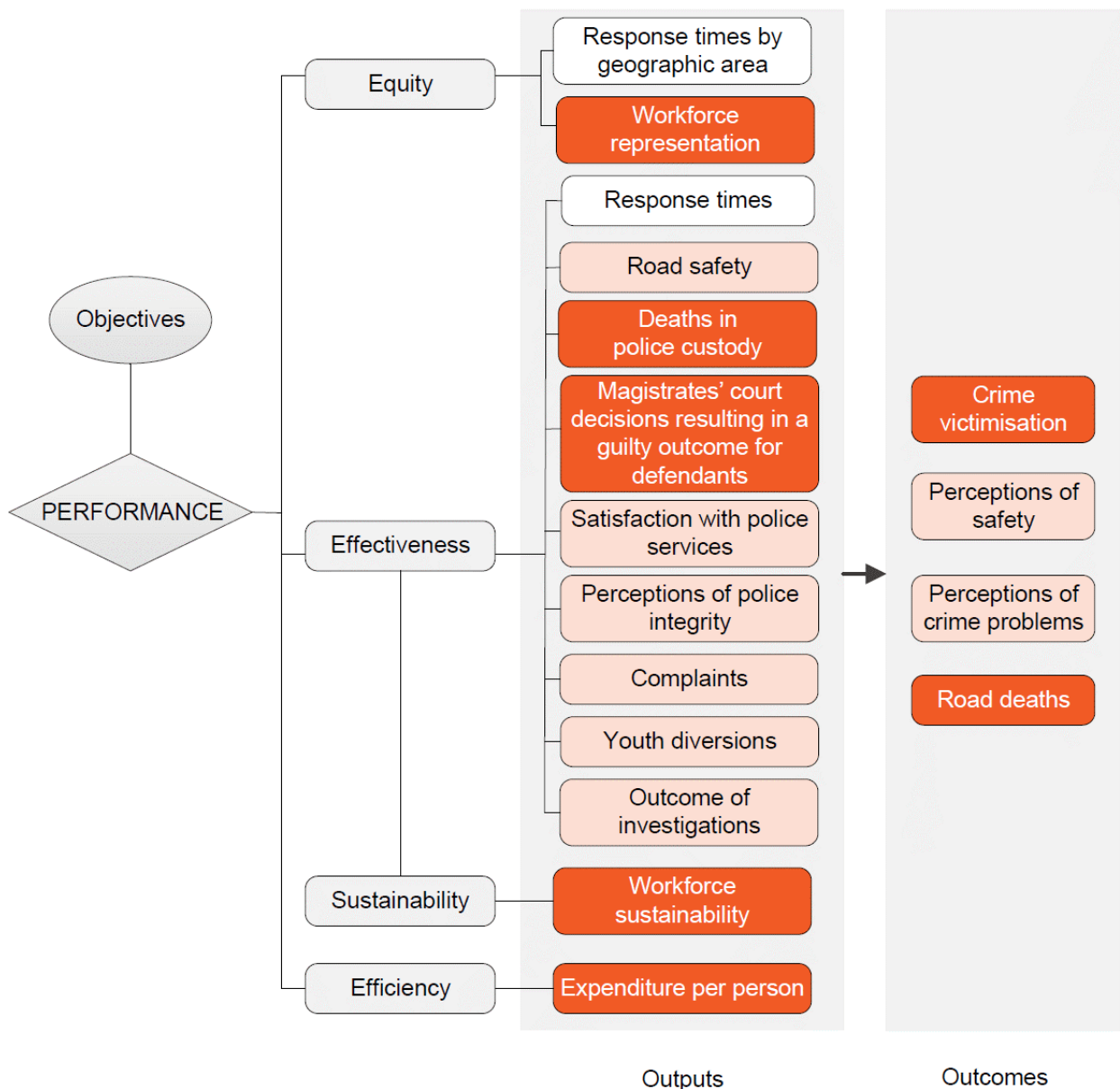
Improvements to performance reporting for police services are ongoing and include identifying data sources to fill gaps in reporting for performance indicators and measures and improving the comparability and completeness of data.

Outputs

Outputs are the services delivered (while outcomes are the impact of these services on the status of an individual or group) (refer to 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 (refer to section 1).



Key to indicators*

- Text Most recent data for all measures is comparable and complete
- Text Most recent data for at least one measure is comparable and complete
- Text Most recent data for all measures is 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

- Response times by geographic area – no data reported and/or no measures yet developed
- Workforce representation – most recent data for all measures is comparable and complete

Effectiveness

- Response times – no data reported and/or no measures yet developed
- Road safety – most recent data for all measures is either not comparable and/or not complete
- Deaths in police custody – most recent data for all measures is comparable and complete
- Magistrates' court decisions resulting in a guilty outcome for defendants – most recent data for all measures is comparable and complete
- Satisfaction with police services – most recent data for all measures is either not comparable and/or not complete
- Perceptions of police integrity – most recent data for all measures is either not comparable and/or not complete
- Complaints – most recent data for all measures is either not comparable and/or not complete
- Youth diversions – most recent data for all measures is either not comparable and/or not complete
- Outcome of investigations – most recent data for all measures is either not comparable and/or not complete

Effectiveness – Sustainability

- Workforce sustainability – most recent data for all measures is comparable and complete

Efficiency

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

Outcomes

- Crime victimisation – most recent data for all measures is comparable and complete
- Perceptions of safety – most recent data for all measures is either not comparable and/or not complete
- Perceptions of crime problems – most recent data for all measures is either not comparable and/or not complete
- Road deaths – most recent data for all measures is 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 this 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. Response times by geographic area

'Response times by geographic area' is an indicator of governments' objective to provide police services in an equitable manner. 'Response times by geographic area' is defined as the time taken in minutes between the initial receipt of a call for an urgent incident and arrival of the first police unit, by remoteness area. This indicator is under development.

2. 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) who 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 people.
- 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 an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.

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.

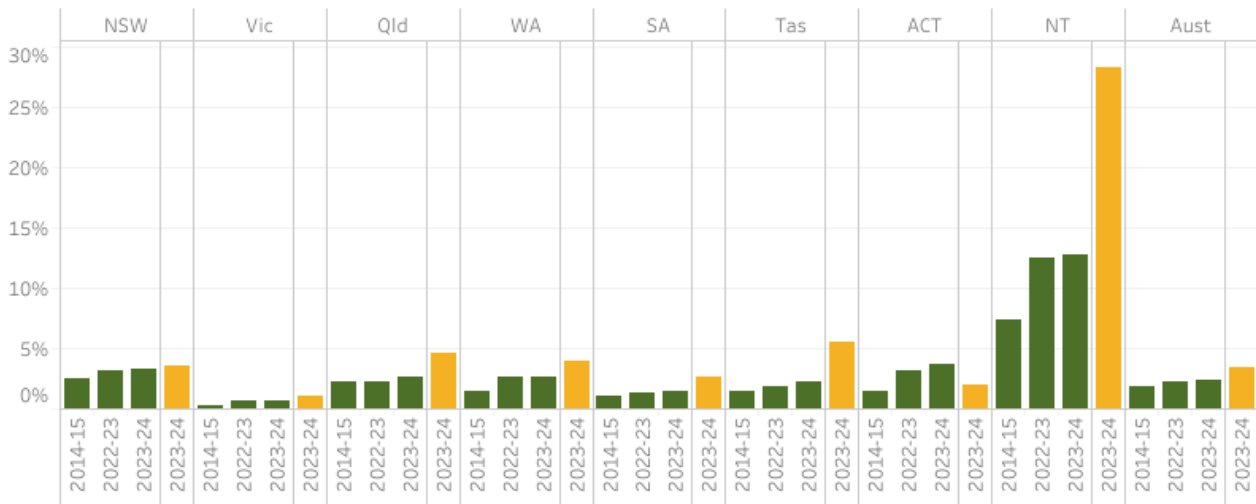
Nationally in 2023-24, 2.4% of police staff (operational and non-operational) identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (up from 2.3% in 2022-23) (figure 6.2). In all jurisdictions except the Australian Capital Territory, the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander police staff was lower than the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the population (figure 6.2).

- Data is comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
- Data is 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 people by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 6A.2

+ a b | e a u

Nationally in 2023-24, 35.8% of police staff (operational and non-operational) were female, slightly higher than in 2022-23 (35.1%), and higher than 10 years ago (32.1% in 2014-15) (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 2023-24, 27.9% of operational sworn police staff were female (proportions varied across jurisdictions from 22.9 to 35.2%) (table 6A.2).

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

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

Select year(s):

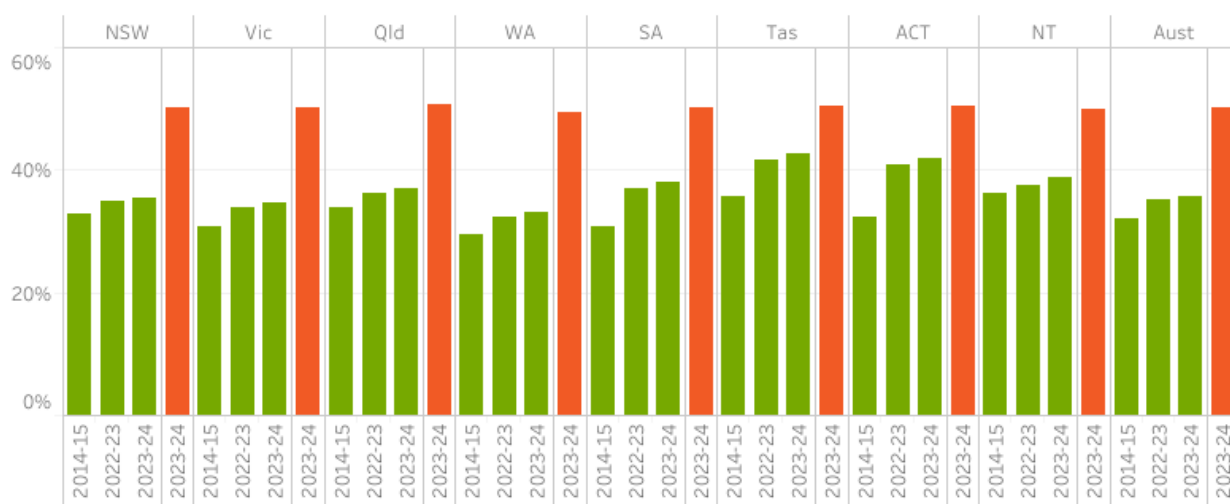
Multiple values

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

+ a b | e a u

3. Response times

'Response times' is an indicator of governments' objective to provide police services that are accessible and responsive. 'Response times' is defined as the time taken in minutes between the initial receipt of a call for an urgent incident and arrival of the first police unit. This indicator is under development.

While there is currently no consistent public reporting of response times across states and territories, New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory police publish response times data in annual reports. This information is summarised below.

- *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 2023-24, NSW Police Force responded to 218,551 urgent response calls, attending 79.8% of urgent response calls within the 12 minute target time (NSW Police Force 2024).
- *Queensland Police Service* report the percentage of code one and code two incidents attended within 12 minutes from triple 000 originating calls. Data includes geographic areas covered by the Queensland Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System. Code one and two 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 2023-24, Queensland Police Service attended 74.3% of urgent matters within the 12 minute target time (Queensland Police Service 2024).

- *WA Police Force* aim to respond to 80% of priority one and two 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 Force* report that they met this target in 85.8% of priority one and two incidents in 2023-24. The target for priority three incidents – situations that require routine attendance and include an offence in progress/suspect at the scene or the preservation of evidence – is 80% within 60 minutes in the Perth metropolitan area. *WA Police Force* report that they met this target in 84.2% of incidents in 2023-24 (*WA Police Force 2024*).
- *SA Police* reported that 92.0% of Grade one taskings in the metropolitan area were responded to within 15 minutes in 2023-24 (*SA Police 2024*). The target is 80% or above.
- *ACT Policing* report response time targets for three incident categories:
 - Priority one incidents (life threatening or critical situations) – Average length of time to respond should be 8.2 minutes or less (7.5 minutes on average in 2023-24)
 - Priority two incidents (situations where the information provided indicates that time is important but not critical) – Average length of time to respond should be 17.4 minutes or less (18.0 minutes on average in 2023-24)
 - 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% within 48 hours (95.2% achieved in 2023-24) (*ACT Policing 2024*).

Other jurisdictions do not report response times as part of their corporate reporting. Victoria cannot report response times due to current call taking and dispatch systems.

4. 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 six 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 six 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 six months and who reported that they had driven 10 kilometres per hour or more above the speed limit.

Road safety data is from the National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing (NSCSP). The NSCSP is an annual survey commissioned by all Australian state and territory police. The data is 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.) Due to a national change in the data collection methodology for the NSCSP, 2023-24 data is not comparable to results in previous years, is not comparable across jurisdictions and cannot be used to derive a national average.

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.

In 2023-24, of survey respondents who had driven in the past six months:

- the proportion that reported driving without wearing a seatbelt varied from 3.3% (Australian Capital Territory) to 8.1% (Northern Territory)
- the proportion that reported driving when possibly over the blood alcohol limit varied from 8.2% (Victoria) to 13.8% (Western Australia)
- the proportion that reported travelling 10 kilometres per hour or more above the speed limit varied from 58.8% (South Australia) to 70.8% (Western Australia) (figure 6.4).

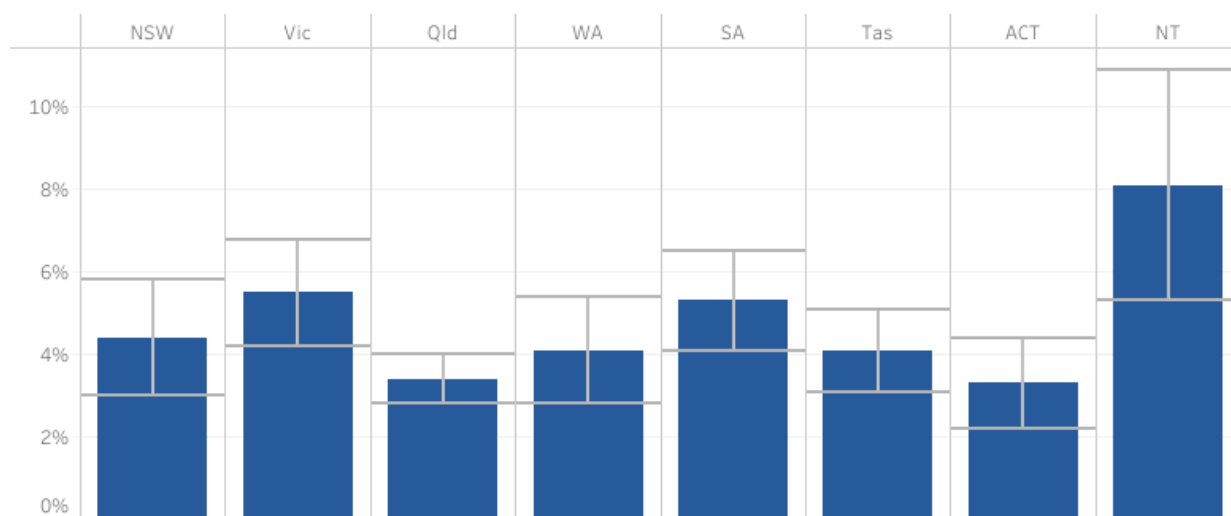
(all measures) Data is not comparable across jurisdictions.

(all measures) Data is not complete for the current reporting period. Data is not available for Australia for 2023-24.

Select measure:

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

Figure 6.4 People who had driven in the previous six months Without wearing a seat belt
By jurisdiction, 2023-24



Source: table 6A.3



5. 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 one: 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 two: 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 2023-24, 27 people died in police custody, 5 of whom were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The total number of deaths in police custody in 2023-24 is lower than 2022-23 (40 deaths), and the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who died in police custody in 2023-24 is lower than 2022-23 (10 deaths) (table 6.1).

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

■ Data is 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	2023-24	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	5
	2022-23	4	-	5	-	1	-	-	-	10
	2007-08	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	2	5
Non-Indigenous people	2023-24	5	4	6	6	-	1	-	-	22
	2022-23	12	3	10	2	1	2	-	-	30
	2007-08	6	8	4	4	2	1	-	3	28
Unknown Indigenous status	2023-24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2022-23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2007-08	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All people	2023-24	7	5	8	6	-	1	-	-	27
	2022-23	16	3	15	2	2	2	-	-	40
	2007-08	6	8	5	4	4	1	-	5	33

Source: table 6A.5
- Nil or rounded to zero.

6. 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 to support the judicial process to bring to justice 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.

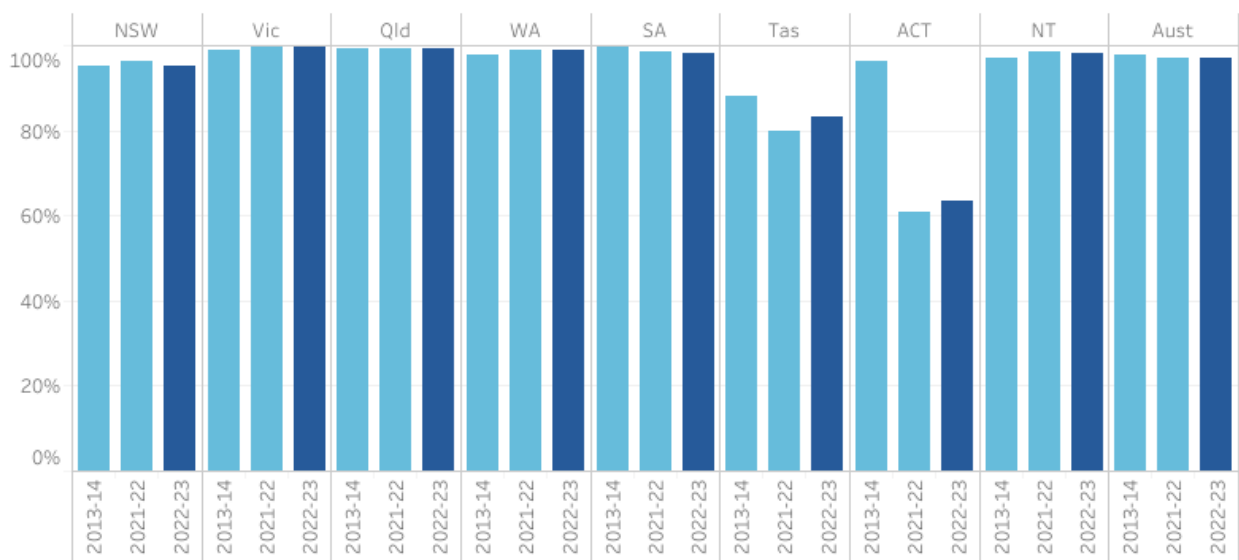
This indicator does not provide information on the number of cases where police have identified a likely offender but choose not to bring the likely offender to court due to several factors.

Nationally, in 2022-23, 97.2% of Magistrates’ court decisions resulted in a guilty outcome for defendants; a figure unchanged over the past three years (figure 6.5).

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

Select year(s):
Multiple values

Figure 6.5 Magistrates’ court decisions resulting in a guilty outcome for defendants
By jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 6A.6

7. 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 is from the National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing (NSCSP). The NSCSP is an annual survey commissioned by all Australian state and territory police. The data is 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.) Due to a national change in the data collection methodology for the NSCSP, 2023-24 data is not comparable to results in previous years, is not comparable across jurisdictions and cannot be used to derive a national average.

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

In 2023-24:

- the proportion of surveyed adults who reported they were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' in general with the services provided by police varied from 55.5% (Victoria) to 72.7% (Tasmania)
- the proportion of surveyed adults who had contact with police in the previous 12 months who reported they were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with their most recent contact varied from 66.8% (Northern Territory) to 75.0% (Western Australia)
- the proportion of surveyed adults who had contact with police in response to emergencies and disasters who reported they were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with police service responses varied from 58.9% (Northern Territory) to 79.6% (Tasmania) (figure 6.6).

(all measures) Data is not comparable across jurisdictions.

(all measures) Data is not complete for the current reporting period. Data is not available for Australia for 2023-24.

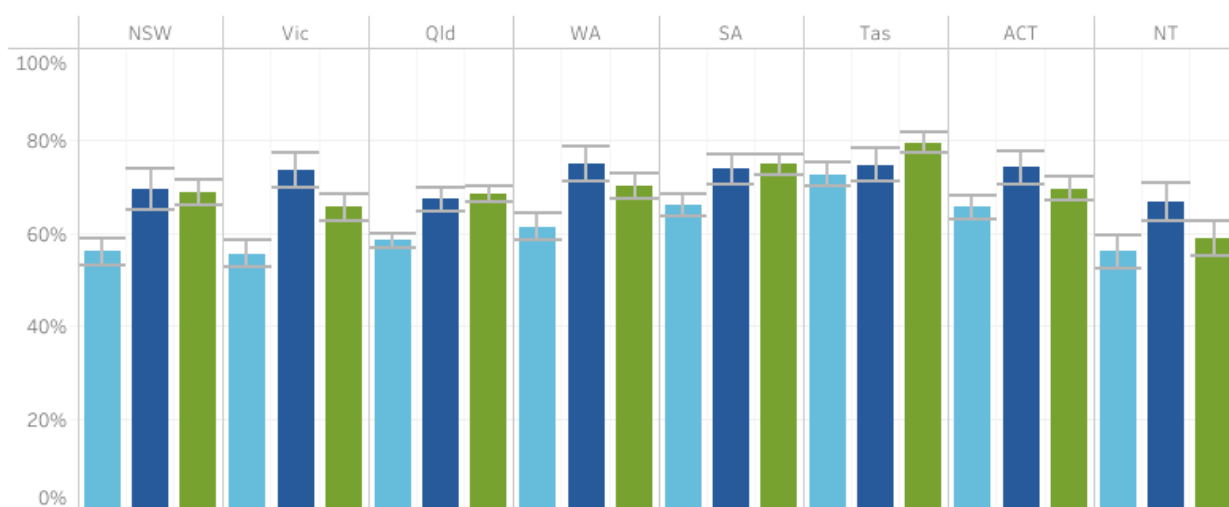
Measure:

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, 2023-24



Source: table 6A.7

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8. 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 is from the National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing (NSCSP). The NSCSP is an annual survey commissioned by all Australian state and territory police. The data is 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.) Due to a national change in the data collection methodology for the NSCSP, 2023-24 data is not comparable to results in previous years, is not comparable across jurisdictions and cannot be used to derive a national average.

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.

In 2023-24, the proportion of survey respondents who ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ that police:

- ‘treat people fairly and equally’ varied from 43.8% (New South Wales) to 67.2% (Tasmania)
- ‘perform their job professionally’ varied from 64.5% (New South Wales) to 79.3% (Tasmania)
- ‘are honest’ varied from 47.6% (New South Wales) to 68.1% (Tasmania) (figure 6.7).

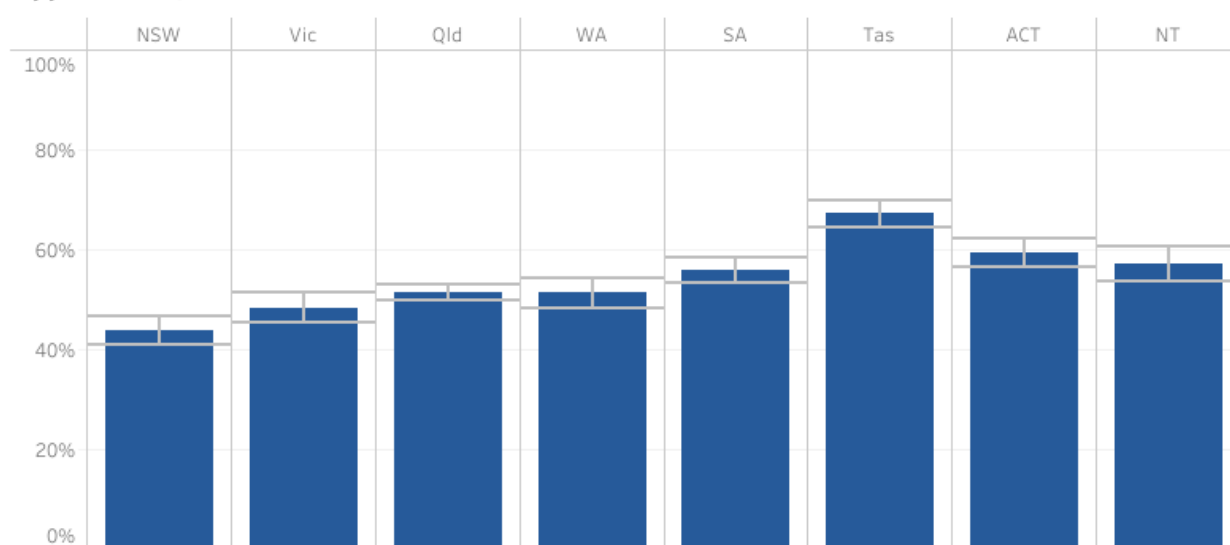
■ (all measures) Data is not comparable across jurisdictions.

■ (all measures) Data is not complete for the current reporting period. Data is not available for Australia for 2023-24.

Select measure:

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

Figure 6.7 People who ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ with the statement that ‘police treat people fairly and equally’
By jurisdiction, 2023-24



Source: table 6A.9



9. 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 sworn police staff by the public per 100,000 people in the population.

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 rate of complaints is desirable.

A high or increasing rate of complaints 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 rate of complaints to identify reasons for the changes and use this information to improve the manner in which police services are delivered.

Nationally in 2023-24, the rate of complaints per 100,000 people in the population varied across jurisdictions from 11 in Victoria, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory to 84 in South Australia (figure 6.8).

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

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

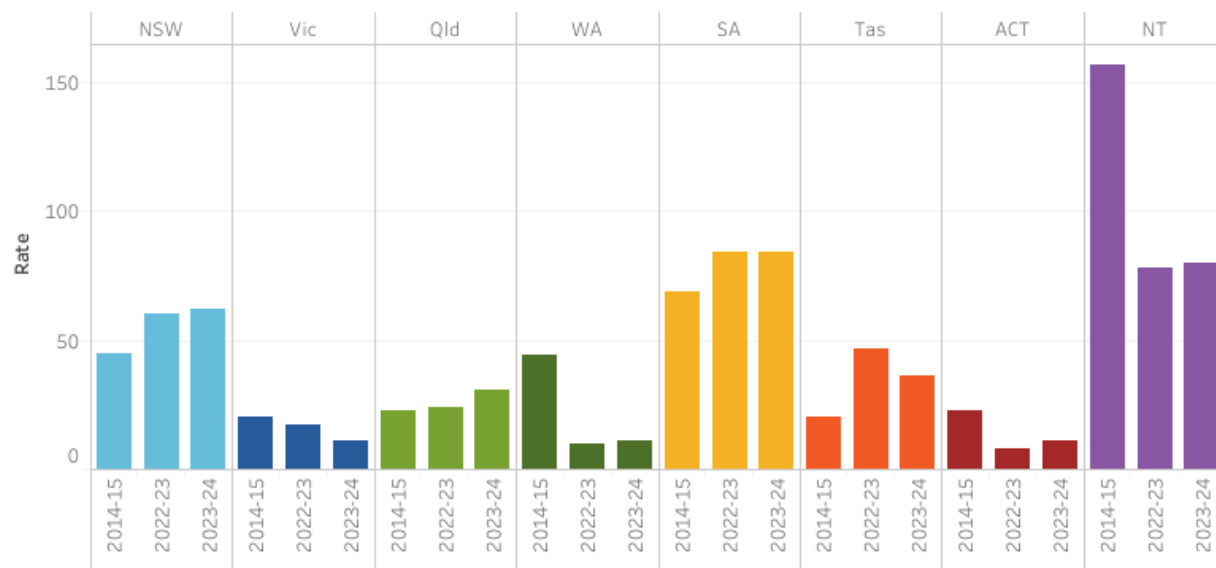
Select year(s):

Multiple values

Jurisdiction:

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

Figure 6.8 Complaints against police
Rate Per 100,000 people, by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 6A.11

Tableau

10. Youth diversions

'Youth diversions' is an indicator of governments' objective to provide police services that are accessible (in this case, access to non-court proceedings, where appropriate) and that support the judicial process to bring to justice 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. However, during the 2023-24 reporting period, the Northern Territory (August 2023) and the Australian Capital Territory (November 2023) raised the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 years of age to 12 years of age (AIHW 2023).

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 2023-24, four jurisdictions (Victoria, Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory) reported an increase from 2022-23 in the proportion of all young offenders diverted from the justice system, and two jurisdictions (Victoria and Western Australia) reported an increase in the proportion of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders diverted from the justice system. In all jurisdictions in 2023-24, a higher proportion of non-Indigenous young offenders were diverted than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young offenders, noting in 2023-24 the Northern Territory was unable to disaggregate youth diversions by Indigenous status (table 6.2).

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

■ Data is not complete for the current reporting period. Data is not available for the Northern Territory for 2023-24.

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	2023-24	%	27.6	37.0	26.0	36.3	20.4	20.6	8.0	na
	2022-23	%	32.9	32.6	26.4	33.8	22.5	28.1	10.9	32.1
	2014-15	%	30.5	14.9	23.5	35.6	28.8	42.1	22.5	31.2
Non-Indigenous people	2023-24	%	59.5	38.5	58.5	50.4	33.7	28.3	33.0	na
	2022-23	%	70.6	36.2	58.9	51.4	35.7	35.1	29.0	48.1
	2014-15	%	67.5	25.8	45.7	51.9	46.7	49.4	50.9	43.7
All people	2023-24	%	46.4	39.1	40.5	42.4	28.0	35.6	26.7	38.0
	2022-23	%	57.4	36.4	40.7	41.0	30.4	43.3	25.6	33.4
	2014-15	%	58.8	24.9	35.6	43.9	40.9	54.4	46.5	33.0

Source: table 6A.12
na Not available.

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11. 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 with proportions generally highest for homicide and related offences and lowest for sexual assault (figure 6.9a) In 2023:

- sexual assaults recorded the lowest proportion of personal crimes with investigations finalised within 30 days for NSW (24.3%), Queensland (42.0%), Western Australia (51.9%) Tasmania (32.0%) and the Australian Capital Territory (28.8%)
- homicide and related offences recorded the lowest proportion of personal crimes with investigations finalised within 30 days for South Australia (14.6%)
- unarmed robbery recorded the lowest proportion of personal crimes with investigations finalised within 30 days for Victoria (32.0%)
- unlawful entry with intent recorded the lowest proportion of property offences with investigations finalised within 30 days for Victoria (9.5%), Queensland (22.7%), Tasmania (16.9%) and the Australian Capital Territory (5.7%)
- motor vehicle theft recorded the lowest proportion of property offences with investigations finalised within 30 days for New South Wales (13.3%)
- other theft recorded the lowest proportion of property offences with investigations finalised within 30 days for Western Australia (26.9%) and South Australia (5.7%) (figure 6.9a).

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

■ Data is not complete for the current reporting period. Data is not available for the Northern Territory and Australia for 2023.

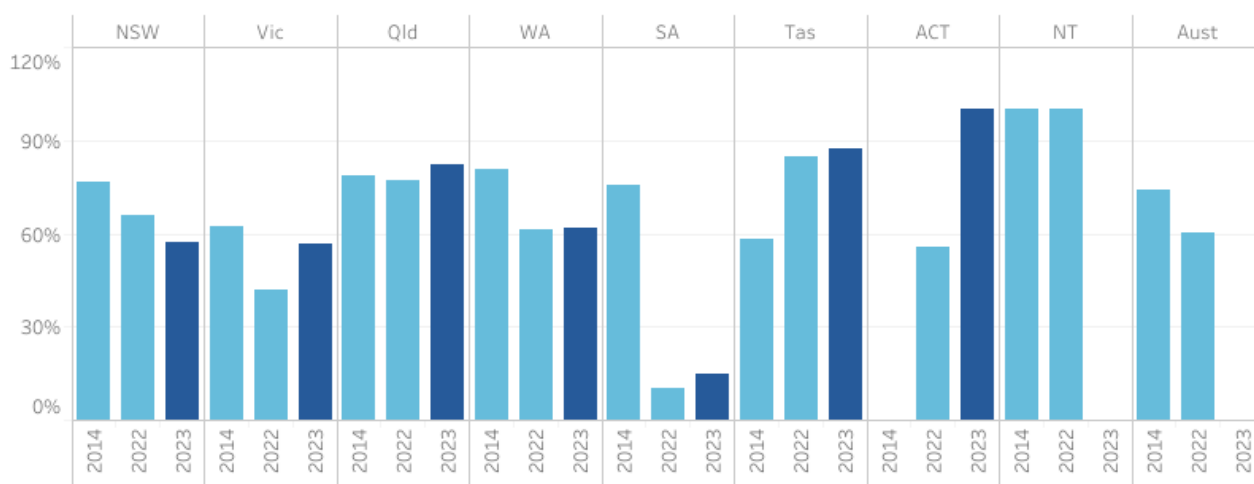
Select year(s):

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: Investigations finalised within 30 days
Homicide and related offences, by jurisdiction, by year (a), (b)



Source: table 6A.13

(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%. This is because the ABS randomly adjusts the cell values to avoid the release of confidential data. (b) Data for NT and Aust is not available for 2023.

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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 (figure 6.9b).

- Data is comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
- Data is not complete for the current reporting period. Data is not available for the Northern Territory and Australia for 2023.

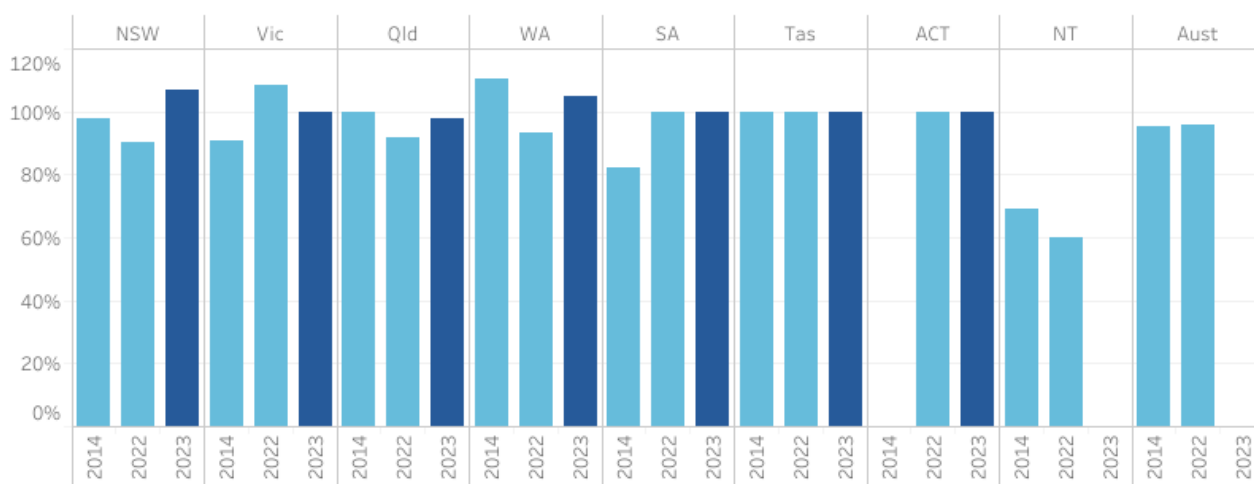
Select year(s):

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: Investigations finalised within 30 days, where an offender was proceeded against Homicide and related offences, by jurisdiction, by year (a), (b)



Source: table 6A.13

(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%. This is because the ABS randomly adjusts the cell values to avoid the release of confidential data. (b) Data for NT and Aust is not available for 2023.



12. Workforce sustainability

'Workforce sustainability' is an indicator of governments' objective to provide sustainable police services. Police workforce sustainability relates to the capacity of the police workforce to meet current and projected future service demand. Workforce sustainability is defined as the proportion of the operational and non-operational workforce in 10-year age groups (under 30, 30–39, 40–49, 50–59, and 60 and over).

A low or decreasing proportion of the workforce in younger age groups could suggest potential workforce sustainability problems as older age workers enter retirement.

This measure is not a substitute for a full workforce analysis that allows for training, migration, changing patterns of work and expected future demand. They can, however, indicate that further attention should be given to workforce planning for police services.

A measure of police workforce attrition is currently under development for reporting in the future.

Nationally in 2023-24, the proportion of the operational police workforce aged under 50 years was 71.1%, while the proportion of the non-operational police workforce aged under 50 years was 64.5% (figure 6.10).

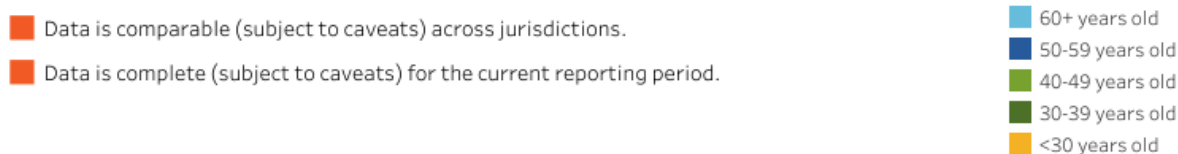
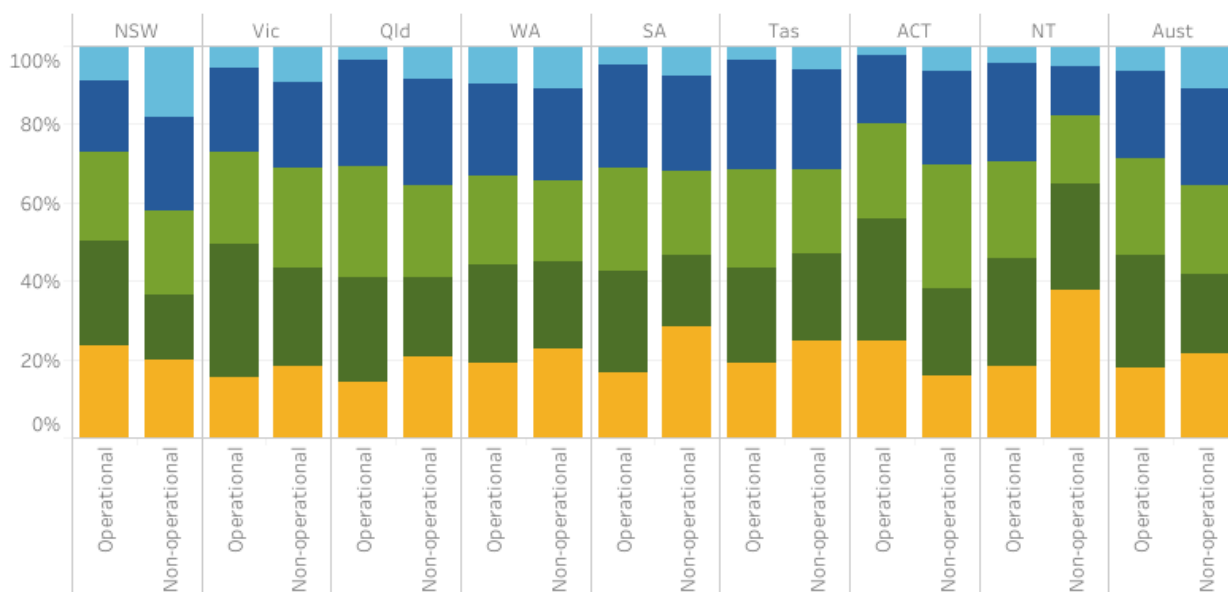


Figure 6.10 Measure 1: Police workforce
By age group, by operational status, by jurisdiction, 2023-24



Source: table 6A.2

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13. 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 is reported in table 6A.1. Information on treatment of assets by police agencies is presented in the [Explanatory material](#).

Nationally in 2023-24, real recurrent expenditure on policing was \$631 per person in the population. This figure has increased in real terms each year since 2016-17. Expenditure per person ranged from \$505 to \$739 across all jurisdictions, except the Northern Territory where it was \$1,927 per person (figure 6.11).

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

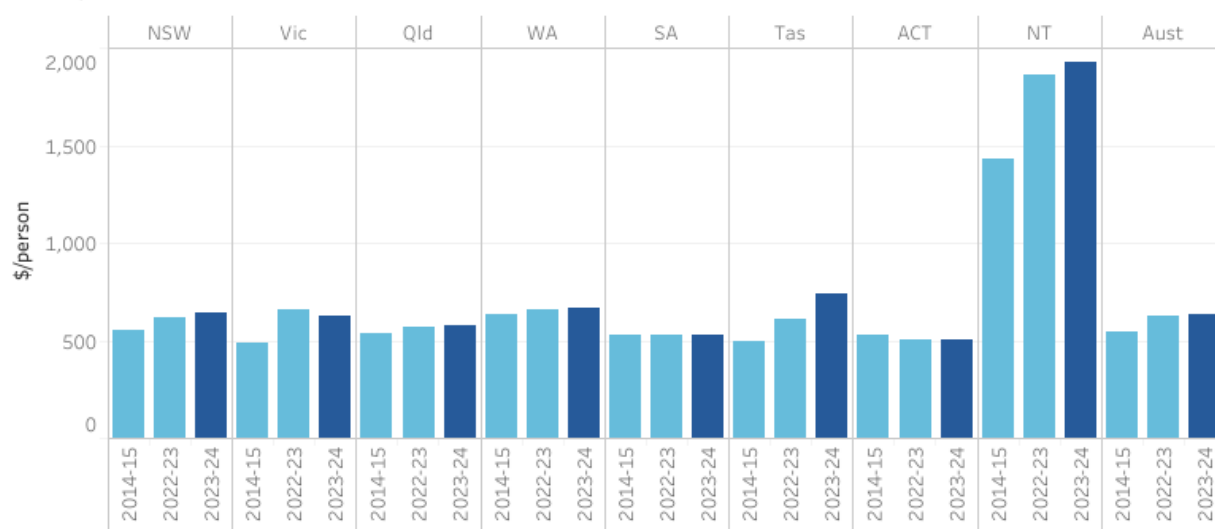
■ Data is complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year(s):

Multiple values

Figure 6.11 Recurrent expenditure per person

Including user cost of capital less revenue from own sources and payroll tax, by jurisdiction, by year (2023-24 dollars)



Source: table 6A.1

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14. 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 and is based on survey data from the Crime Victimisation Survey, a topic on the annual Multipurpose Household Survey conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Data is 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.

Personal crimes

ABS Crime Victimization Survey data

Nationally, in 2022-23, there were an estimated 1,718.6 victims of physical assault, 2,204.2 victims of threatened assault (face-to-face incidents only), 495.8 victims of sexual assault and 247.8 victims of robbery per 100,000 people (figure 6.12a).

The ABS Crime Victimization Survey also includes information on the proportion of survey respondents who experienced personal crimes and reported these crimes to police. Police reporting rates for personal crimes are available in table 6A.17. Nationally, in 2022-23, police reporting rates varied from 54.5% for surveyed victims of physical assault to 31.2% for surveyed victims of sexual assault.

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

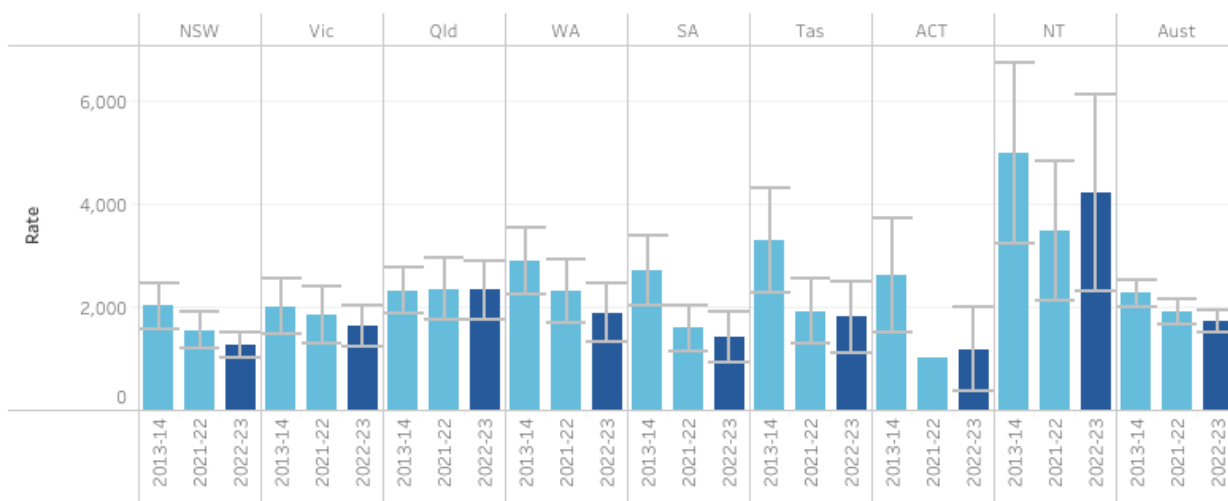
Select year(s):

Multiple values

Select personal crime type:

- Sexual assault
- Physical assault
- Robbery
- Threatened assault

Figure 6.12a Estimated victims of personal crimes (a)
Rate of Physical assault Per 100,000 people, by jurisdiction, by year (b)



Source: table 6A.15

(a) ABS Crime Victimization Survey data. (b) Robbery and sexual assault data was not published by the ABS at the state and territory level.



Police recorded crime victimisation data

Data on the rates of victims of police recorded crimes per 100,000 people for selected personal offences are available in table 6A.19 as context to ABS Crime Victimization Survey data. Rates varied by offence type. Nationally in 2023, there were a reported 1.5 victims of homicide and related offences per 100,000 people and 136.3 victims of sexual assault per 100,000 people.

A subset of police recorded crime victimisation data related to family and domestic violence is available in table 6A.21. This data highlights the extent of police recorded crime linked to family and domestic violence. Nationally in 2023, there were a reported 0.6 victims of family and domestic violence related homicide, 52.8 victims of family and domestic violence related sexual assault and 0.6 victims of family and domestic violence related kidnapping per 100,000 people (figure 6.12b).

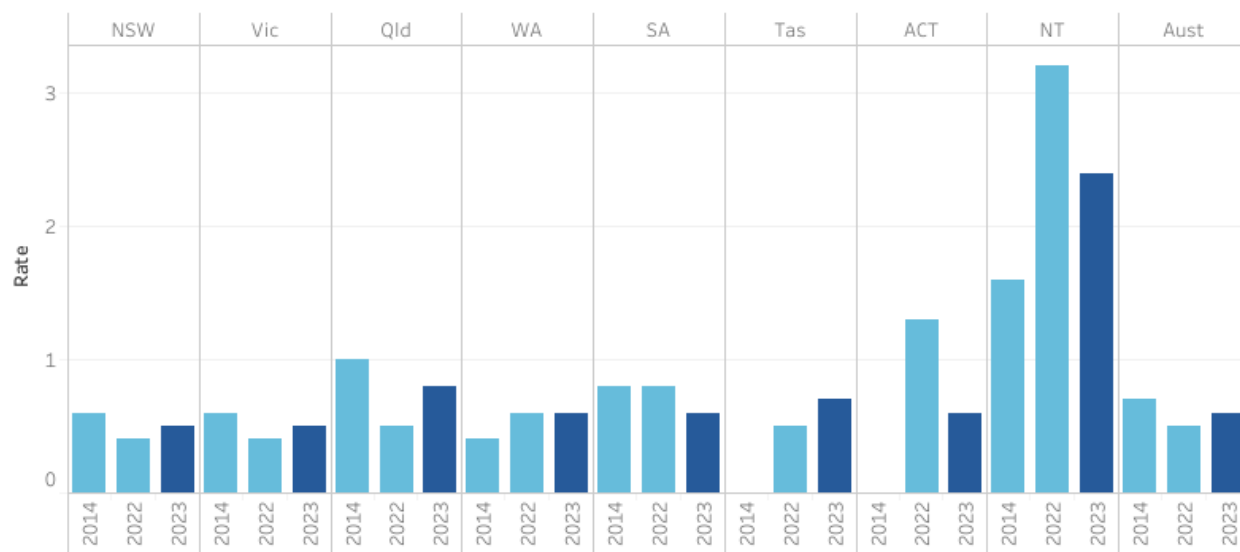
Data on police reported victims of sexual assault by age at incident is available in table 6A.22. In 2023, 57.6% of recorded victims of sexual assault were a child (under 18 years of age) at the time of the incident. As some offences reported in any given year might relate to historical offences, data is 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 2023, there were 12,347 reported victims of child sexual assault where the incident occurred within one year of the date of report. In comparison, there were 20,903 child victims of sexual assault who reported a sexual assault (recent or historical) to police in 2023.

Caution should be used when comparing police recorded crime victimisation data and ABS Crime Victimization Survey data. Data on police recorded victims of crime is obtained from police records and reflects victims of crime reported to, or detected by, police, whose details are subsequently recorded on police administrative systems. ABS Crime Victimization Survey data is based on survey respondents' perceptions of the behaviours they experienced and includes crimes that are not reported to or detected by police.

Select year(s):
Multiple values

Select offence type:
 Homicide and related offences
 Assault
 Sexual assault
 Kidnapping

Figure 6.12b Victims of recorded crime, Family and domestic violence related offences (a)
Rate of Homicide and related offences Per 100,000 people, by jurisdiction, by year (b)



Source: table 6A.21

(a) Police recorded crime victimisation data. (b) Assault data have not been published for Victoria, Queensland (until 2023) or Australia.

Property crimes

ABS Crime Victimization Survey data

Nationally, for every 100,000 households in 2022-23, an estimated 1,848.6 experienced a break-in, 1,942.3 an attempted break-in, 545.7 motor vehicle theft, 2,185.8 theft from a motor vehicle, 3,670.2 malicious property damage and 1,858.5 experienced other theft (figure 6.12c).

The ABS Crime Victimization Survey also includes information on the proportion of survey respondents who experienced property crimes and reported these crimes to police. Police reporting rates for property crimes are available in table 6A.18. Nationally, in 2022-23, police reporting rates varied from 85.9% for surveyed victims of motor vehicle theft to 36.4% for surveyed victims of other theft.

Police recorded crime victimisation data

Data on the rates of victims of police recorded crimes per 100,000 people for selected property offences are available in table 6A.20 as context to ABS Crime Victimization Survey data. Rates varied by offence type. Nationally in 2023 there were a reported 363.2 victims of unlawful entry where property was taken per 100,000 people and 226.8 victims of motor vehicle theft per 100,000 people.

As above, caution should be used when comparing police recorded crime victimisation data and ABS Crime Victimization Survey data.

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

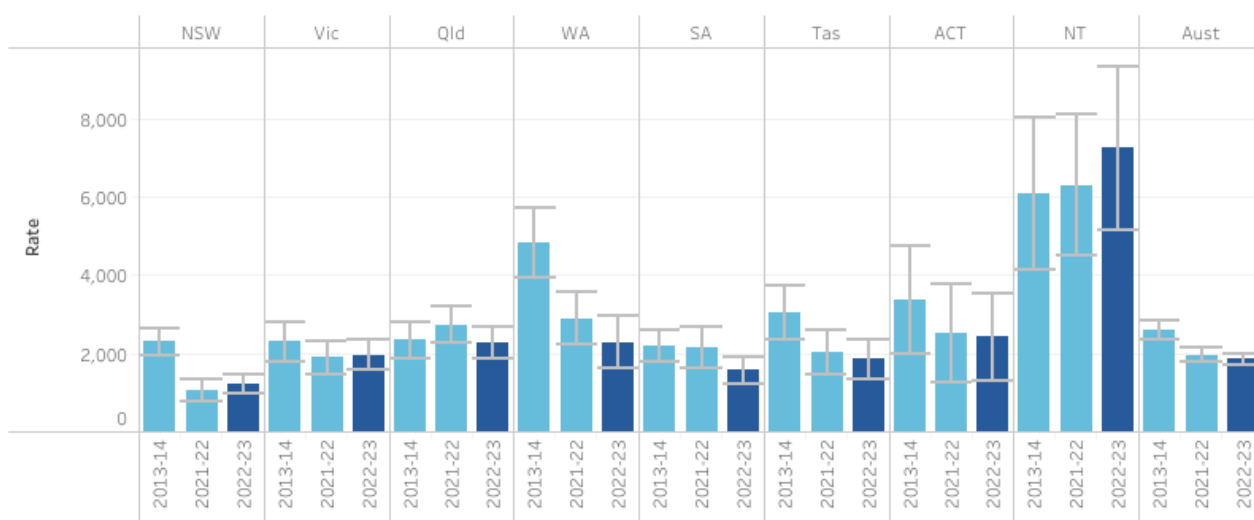
Select year(s):

Multiple values

Select property crime type:

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

Figure 6.12c Estimated victims of property crimes (a)
Rate of Break-in Per 100,000 households, by jurisdiction, by year (b)



Source: table 6A.16

(a) ABS Crime Victimization Survey data. (b) Motor vehicle theft data was not published by the ABS at the state and territory level for 2022-23.



15. 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 is from the National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing (NSCSP). The NSCSP is an annual survey commissioned by all Australian state and territory police. The data is 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.) Due to a national change in the data collection methodology for the NSCSP, 2023-24 data is not comparable to results in previous years, is not comparable across jurisdictions and cannot be used to derive a national average.

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

In 2023-24, the proportion of survey respondents who reported they felt 'safe' or 'very safe':

- home alone during the night varied from 58.3% (Northern Territory) to 89.2% (Australian Capital Territory)
- when walking locally during the night varied from 26.5% (Northern Territory) to 57.1% (Australian Capital Territory)
- when travelling on public transport during the night varied from 12.4% (Northern Territory) and 39.7% (New South Wales) (figure 6.13a).

 (all measures) Data is not comparable across jurisdictions or within jurisdictions over time.

 (all measures) Data is not complete for the current reporting period. Data is not available for Australia for 2023-24.

Select measure:

At home alone

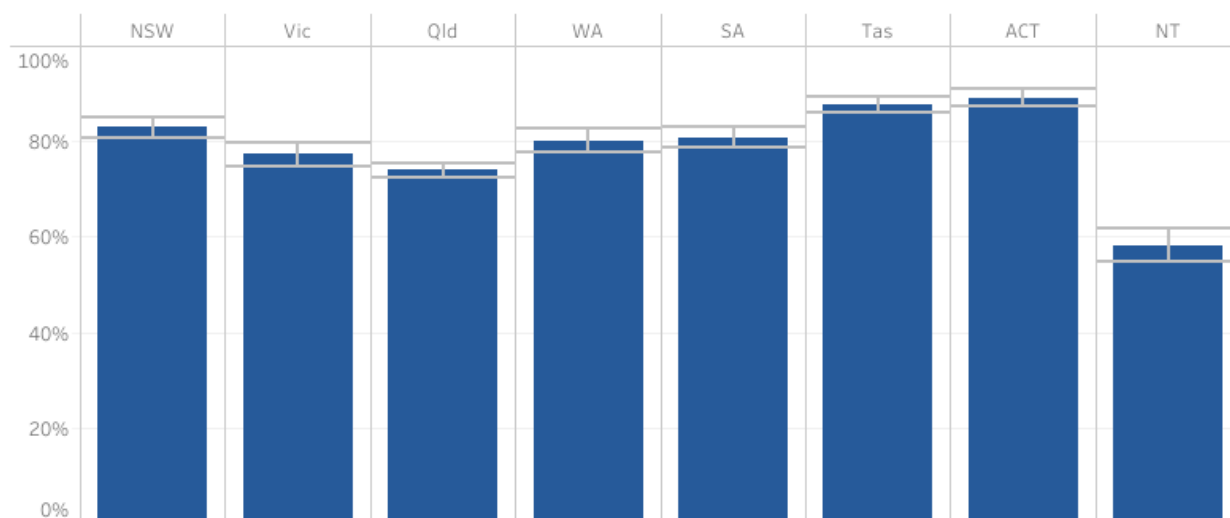
On public transport

Walking alone in your neighbourhood

Select time of day:

During the night

Figure 6.13a People who felt 'safe' or 'very safe'
At home alone, During the night, by jurisdiction, 2023-24

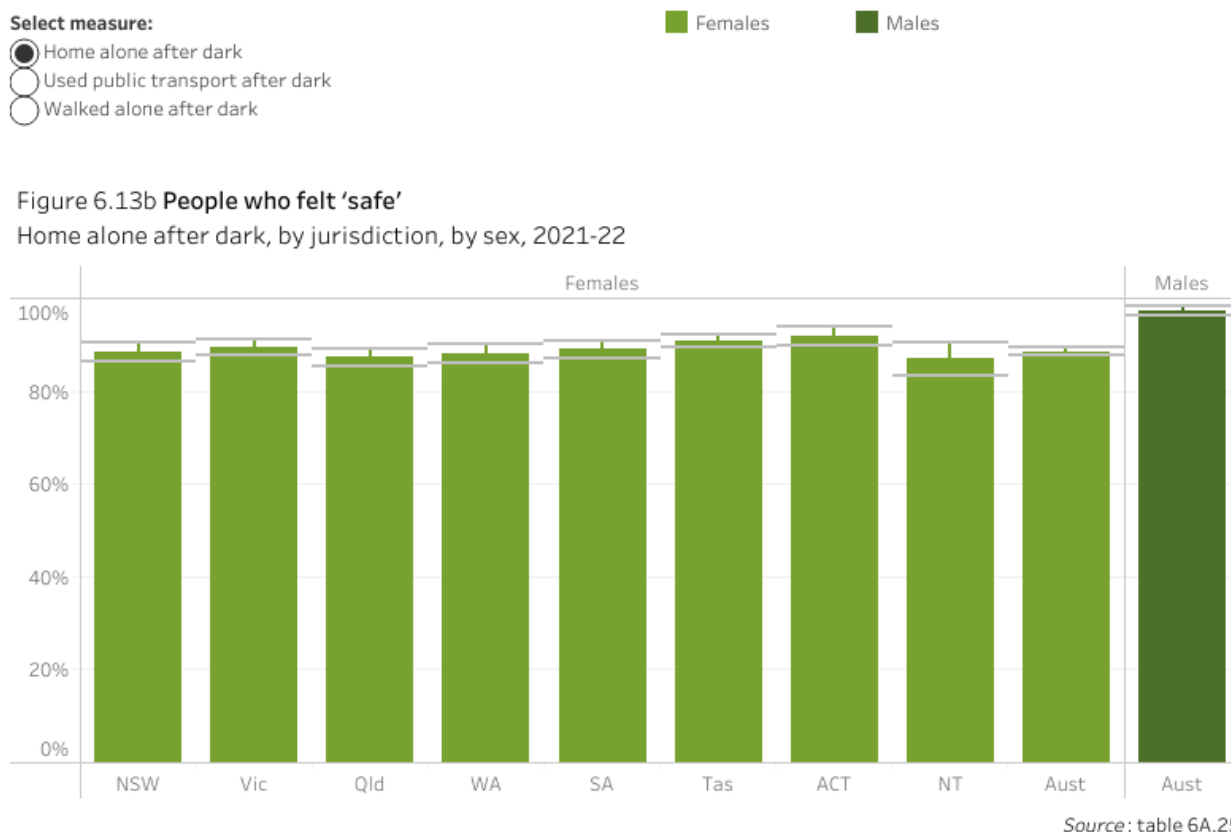


Source: table 6A.23

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Data from the 2021-22 ABS Personal Safety Survey on self-reported feelings of safety is available in table 6A.25 to supplement data on perceptions of safety sourced from the National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing. Data from this survey is reported for females aged 18 years and over disaggregated by state and territory, and nationally for males aged 18 years and over.

Nationally, 88.5% of females felt safe at home alone after dark, compared to 97.2% of males. In addition, 63.0% of females did not walk alone after dark compared to 30.8% of males (figure 6.13b).



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16. 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 is available in 6A.19 and 6A.20). Perceptions of crime data is sourced from the National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing (NSCSP). The NSCSP is an annual survey commissioned by all Australian state and territory police. Data is 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.) Due to a national change in the data collection methodology for the NSCSP, 2023-24 data is not comparable to results in previous years, is not comparable across jurisdictions and cannot be used to derive a national average.

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.

In 2023-24, the proportion of surveyed adults who reported illicit drugs to be either a 'major problem' or 'somewhat of a problem' in their neighbourhood varied from 37.9% (Australian Capital Territory) to 55.3% (Northern Territory). Also, the proportion of surveyed adults who thought speeding cars, dangerous or noisy driving to be a problem varied from 64.1% (Northern Territory) to 73.6% (Queensland) (figure 6.14).

(all measures) Data is not comparable across jurisdictions.

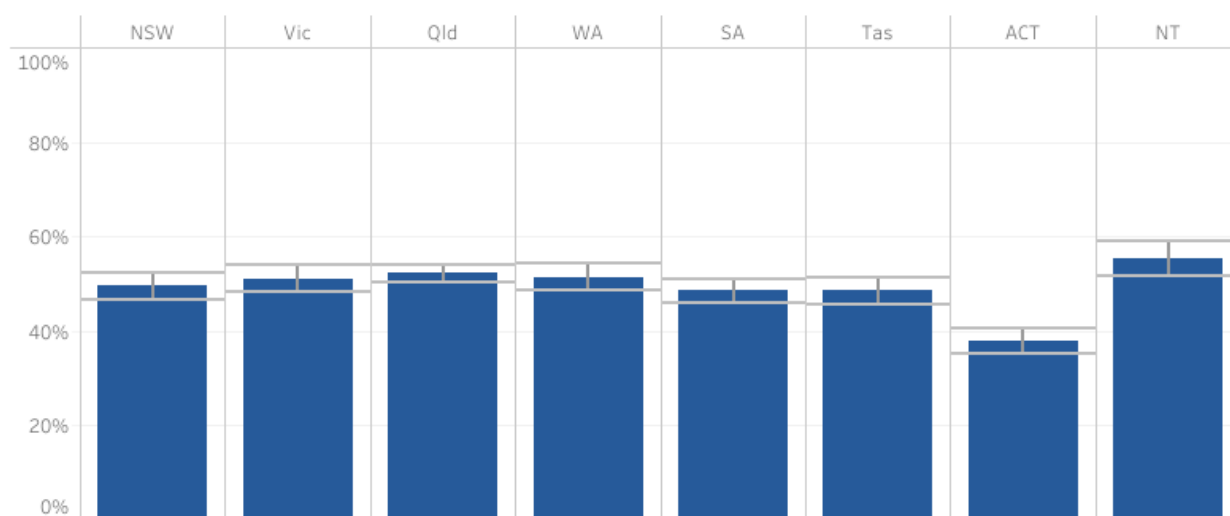
(all measures) Data is not complete for the current reporting period. Data is not available for Australia for 2023-24.

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

Figure 6.14 People's 'Opinion on whether illicit drugs are a problem in the neighbourhood'
By jurisdiction, 2023-24



Source: table 6A.26

+ a b | e a u

17. 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.

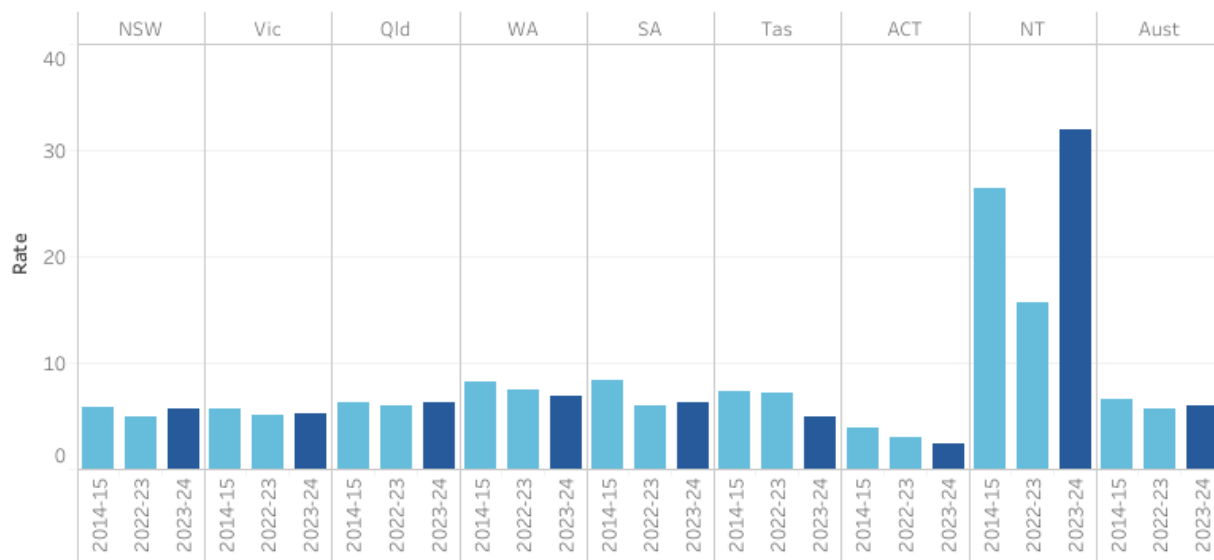
Nationally in 2023-24, there were 6.0 road deaths per 100,000 registered vehicles. This is down from a rate of 6.5 road deaths 10 years ago (2014-15) but is the highest rate in five years (from a low of 5.5 in 2019-20) (figure 6.14). The 2023-24 rate reflects 1,311 road deaths nationally (table 6A.28).

Contextual data on traffic accident hospitalisations is available in table 6A.29. Nationally in 2022-23, there were 166.0 traffic accident hospitalisations per 100,000 registered vehicles, an increase from 2021-22 (153.9 per 100,000 registered vehicles) (figure 6.15).

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

Select year(s):
Multiple values

Figure 6.15 Road deaths
Rate Per 100,000 registered vehicles, by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 6A.28

Indigenous data

Performance indicator data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in this section is 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.5	Deaths in police custody, by Indigenous status
Table 6A.12	Youth diversions as a proportion of offenders, by Indigenous status

Explanatory material

Interpreting efficiency data

Table 6.3 Treatment of assets by police agencies, 2023-24

		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

		NSW ^b	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT ^c	NT
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	1-15	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/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. Vic office equipment includes furniture. **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 five-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>
Motor vehicle theft	<p>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.</p>


Terms	Definition
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.
Property crimes	Total recorded crimes against property, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • break-in • attempted break-in • motor vehicle theft • theft from motor vehicle • malicious property damage • other theft.

Terms	Definition
Real expenditure	Actual expenditure is adjusted for changes in prices. Time series financial data is adjusted to 2023-24 dollars using the General Government Final Consumption Expenditure (GGFCE) chain price deflator (2023-24 = 100). Refer to table 2A.26 and section 2 for more details.
Recorded crime	Crimes reported to (or detected) and recorded by police.
Registered vehicles	Total registered motor vehicles, including motorcycles.
Revenue from own sources	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).
Robbery	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.

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% 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.

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PART C, SECTION 7: RELEASED ON 4 FEBRUARY 2025

7 Courts

The focus of this section is the court administration functions of Australian and state and territory courts.

Data is 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 \(XLSX 648.9 KB\)](#)

[7 Courts dataset \(CSV 2.1 MB\)](#)

Refer to 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 \(PDF 288.5 KB\)](#)

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 Western Australia.

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 (refer to 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 Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory 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, instead 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 in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland some appeals are also heard in 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 \$20,000 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: 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 \$5,000, 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 courts – specific elements

The datasets 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.

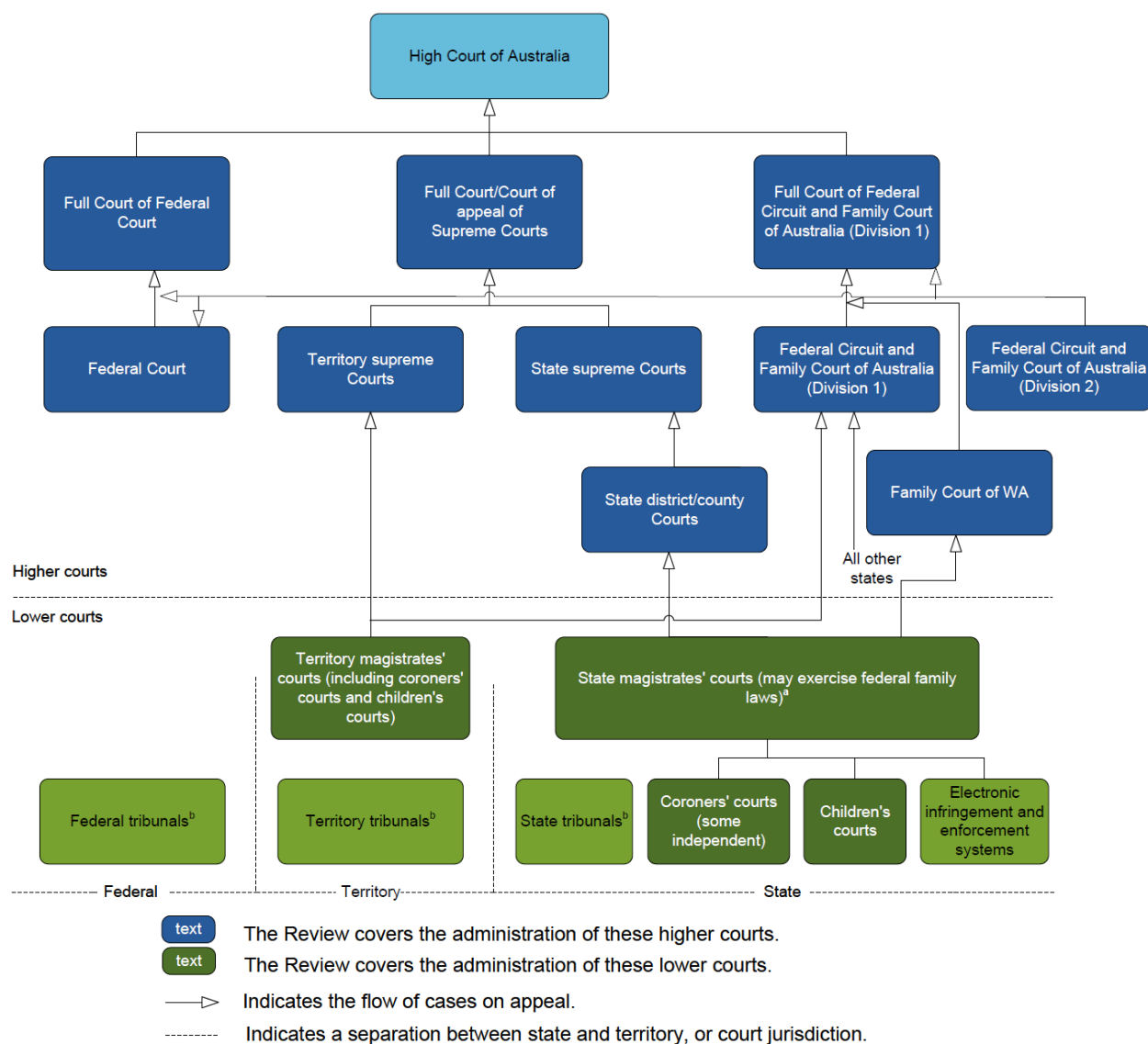
Coroners' courts

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 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 (refer to 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

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

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 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. 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 Australian Government, which is provided annually to the Western Australian Government. The Western Australian Government provides limited funding for proceedings brought under State legislation dealing with property disputes between de facto couples.

The FCFCOA (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 7.12](#).

Funding

Nationally in 2023-24, total recurrent expenditure (excluding payroll tax) by Australian, state and territory courts in this report was approximately \$2.67 billion (table 7.1). 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:

2023-24

Table 7.1 Courts' recurrent expenditure

By criminal and civil jurisdictions, by jurisdiction, 2023-24 (2023-24 dollars) (a), (b)

		All criminal courts	All civil courts (excl. the FCOA, the FCFCOA (Division 1&2), the WA Family court and the coroners' cour..)	Federal Court of Australia	FCFCOA (Division 1) and FCFCOA (Division 2)	Coroners'	Supreme (probate only)	All criminal and civil courts
NSW	\$'000	360,829	214,990	..	..	11,162	1,940	588,921
Vic	\$'000	379,363	294,057	..	..	28,818	1,250	703,487
Qld	\$'000	256,142	94,328	..	..	20,118	421	371,010
WA	\$'000	181,630	96,155	..	..	8,224	1,594	320,800
SA	\$'000	86,549	36,600	..	..	4,873	850	128,871
Tas	\$'000	25,061	11,412	..	..	1,745	382	38,600
ACT	\$'000	37,167	25,985	..	..	3,697	126	66,975
NT	\$'000	31,793	13,405	..	..	2,311	43	47,552
Aust cts	\$'000	..	..	105,530	296,413	..	..	401,943
Aust	\$'000	1,358,533	786,933	105,530	296,413	80,946	6,607	2,668,160

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

.. Not applicable.

(a) Payroll tax is excluded. (b) All criminal and civil courts includes WA family court.

Data tables are referenced above by a '7A' prefix and all data (footnotes and data sources) is 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 \$2.19 billion in 2023-24 (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, in 2023-24, 26.7% of costs were recovered through court fees in the Supreme courts, 19.4% in the Federal court, 44.3% in the District courts and 17.9% 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 7.2 shows that the proportions of total payable civil court fees which were waived or reduced in 2023-24 were highest in the Northern Territory Magistrates' court (56.1%) followed by the FCFCOA (Division 2) (39.3%) and the Family Court of Western Australia (19.4%).

Table 7.2 Proportion of total payable civil court fees that were waived or reduced
By jurisdiction, by court level, 2023-24 (a)

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust cts
Supreme courts (excl. probate)	%	0.6	1.4	na	7.9	6.0	4.5	3.3	1.4	..
District/county courts	%	0.5	0.5	na	8.9	3.5	..	..	..	..
Magistrates' courts	%	0.1	na	na	4.6	2.1	na	0.3	56.1	..
Federal Court of Australia	%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10.8
WA Family court/FCFCOA ..	Family law matters	..	..	..	19.4	..	..	..	..	17.7
FCFCOA (Division 2)	Non-family law matters	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39.3

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) is 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 2023-24, almost \$42.7 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 (refer to tables 7A.1–2 for further information).

State and territory courts

Nationally, there were 720,335 criminal lodgments registered in the supreme, district/county, magistrates' and children's courts in 2023-24 (table 7A.1). There was a decrease in criminal lodgments from 2022-23 across all states and territories except Western Australia and Tasmania.

Nationally, there were 406,862 civil lodgments (table 7A.2). An additional 93,001 probate matters were lodged in the supreme courts (table 7A.2).

In the coroners' courts, there were 29,490 deaths and 45 fires reported, with numbers varying across jurisdictions as a result of different reporting requirements (table 7A.2). There were an additional 13,735 lodgments in the Family Court of Western Australia.

There were more lodgments in the criminal courts than civil courts in all states and territories (figure 7.2). Most criminal and civil matters in Australia in 2023-24 were lodged in magistrates' courts (refer to 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 (refer to tables 7A.3 (criminal) and 7A.4 (civil) for data by state and territory).

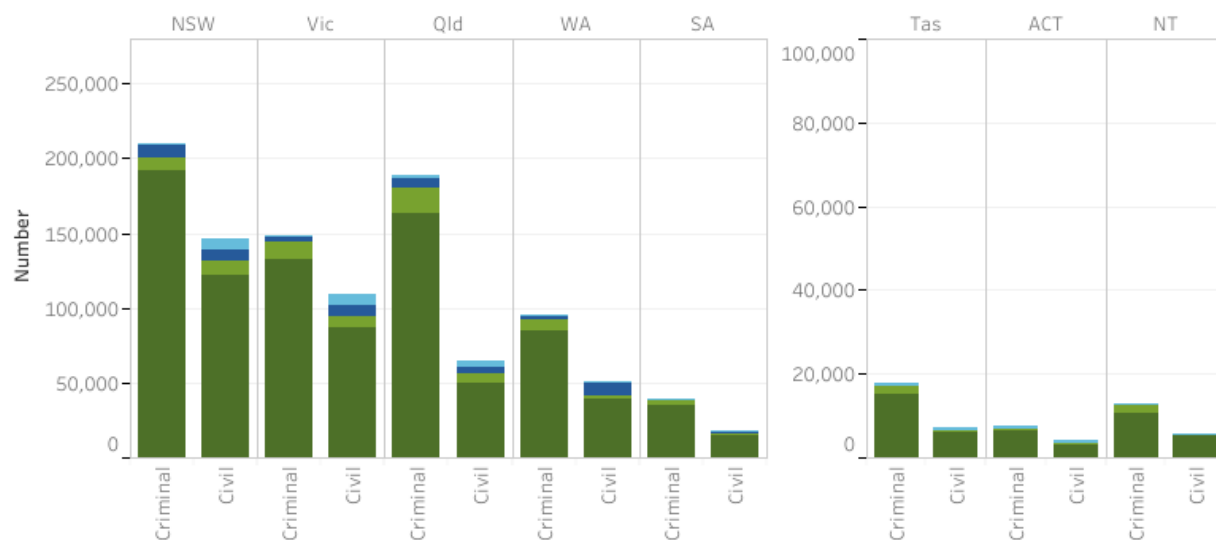
Select year:
2023-24

Supreme
District/county

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

Figure 7.2 Court lodgments

Criminal & Civil jurisdictions, by jurisdiction, by court level, 2023-24 (a)



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

(a) Excludes probate, Federal court of Australia, WA family court, FCFCOA (Division 1) and FCFCOA (Division 2), and coroners' courts.

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

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Australian Government courts

In 2023-24, there were 4,325 lodgments in the Federal Court of Australia, 7,655 lodgments in the FCFCOA (Division 2, non-family law matters) and 97,961 lodgments in the FCFCOA (Divisions 1 and 2, family law matters) (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 2023-24 varied from 1% to 70% in the supreme courts and from 7% to 18% in the district courts. Proportions in the magistrates' courts varied from 1% to 20% (state and territory court authorities and departments, unpublished).

State and territory courts

In 2023-24, there were 716,902 criminal finalisations in the supreme, district/county, magistrates' and children's courts and 385,389 civil finalisations in these courts (tables 7A.5–6).

There were an additional 28,366 cases finalised in the coroners' courts and 13,292 cases finalised in the Western Australian Family Court (table 7A.6). The number of finalisations per 100,000 people is available in tables 7A.7–8.

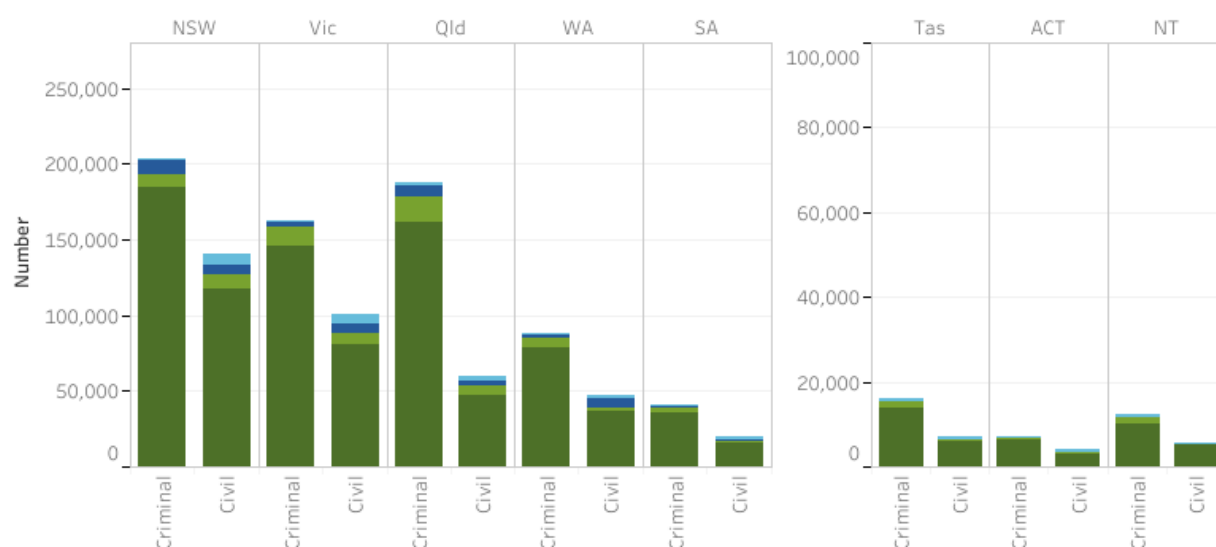
The pattern of finalisations across states and territories (figure 7.3) is similar to that of lodgments, but the number of lodgments will not equal the number of finalisations in any given year because not all matters lodged in one year will be finalised in the same year.

Select year: 2023-24

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

Figure 7.3 Court finalisations

Criminal & Civil jurisdictions, by jurisdiction, by court level, 2023-24 (a)



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

(a) Excludes probate, Federal court of Australia, WA family court, FCFCOA (Division 1) and FCFCOA (Division 2), and coroners' courts.

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

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Australian Government courts

In 2023-24, there were 4,266 cases finalised in the Federal Court of Australia, 99,460 cases finalised in the FCFCOA (Division 1 and Division 2, family law matters) and 6,776 cases finalised in the FCFCOA (Division 2, non-family law matters) (table 7A.6).

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

The proportion 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 7.3). 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 (New South Wales (data is available for the Supreme Court only), Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern

Territory). For other jurisdictions, data on Indigenous status is either not available or not currently considered to be of sufficient quality for publication.

Table 7.3 Non-appeal criminal court lodgments and finalisations involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants

By jurisdiction, by court level, 2023-24 (a), (b)

			NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Lodgments, criminal	Supreme	%	14.0	na	7.4	28.6	14.9	na	14.7	74.3
	District/county	%	na	na	21.7	34.2	14.5	..	..	..
	Magistrates' (total)	%	na	na	24.7	39.6	25.3	na	11.3	89.1
	Magistrates' (excl. children's)	%	na	na	22.0	37.8	22.5	na	9.7	89.8
	Children's	%	na	na	51.5	62.6	55.2	na	29.3	84.8
	All criminal courts	%	na	na	24.5	39.4	24.9	na	11.5	88.4
Finalisations, criminal	Supreme	%	6.8	na	7.8	15.6	12.5	na	13.4	74.8
	District/county	%	na	na	21.5	34.0	13.8	..	..	..
	Magistrates' (total)	%	na	na	24.7	39.0	23.9	na	10.4	81.3
	Magistrates' (excl. children's)	%	na	na	21.8	37.1	21.1	na	9.0	79.9
	Children's	%	na	na	52.0	61.6	53.5	na	27.8	89.8
	All criminal courts	%	na	na	24.5	38.9	23.5	na	10.5	81.0
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population..			4.2	1.2	5.2	4.3	2.9	6.1	2.1	30.7

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 tables are referenced above by a '7A' prefix and all data (footnotes and data sources) is 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 2023-24, across all magistrates' courts 41.9% 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 7.4). Proportions varied across states and territories, and was lower nationally compared with 2022-23 (table 7A.10).

The FCFCOA (Division 1) and FCFCOA (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 2023-24, data from the Notices filed with applications for final orders seeking parenting orders indicates that in 83% of matters, one or more parties alleged that they had experienced family violence (Commonwealth of Australia 2024, p. 9).

Table 7.4 Finalised civil cases in the Magistrates' court involving a finalised application for a domestic or family violence related protection order
By jurisdiction, 2023-24 (a), (b)

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
All civil cases finalised	'000	117.3	81.1	47.0	36.4	15.3	6.3	3.2	5.1	311.7
All finalised applications involving a domestic or family violence related protection order	'000	44.4	35.7	27.8	12.4	4.0	1.1	0.4	4.7	130.6
Percentage of all civil cases finalised	%	37.9	44.0	59.2	34.1	26.0	17.8	13.7	91.8	41.9

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) is 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 is complete and comparable in this report. For data that is 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 (refer to 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.

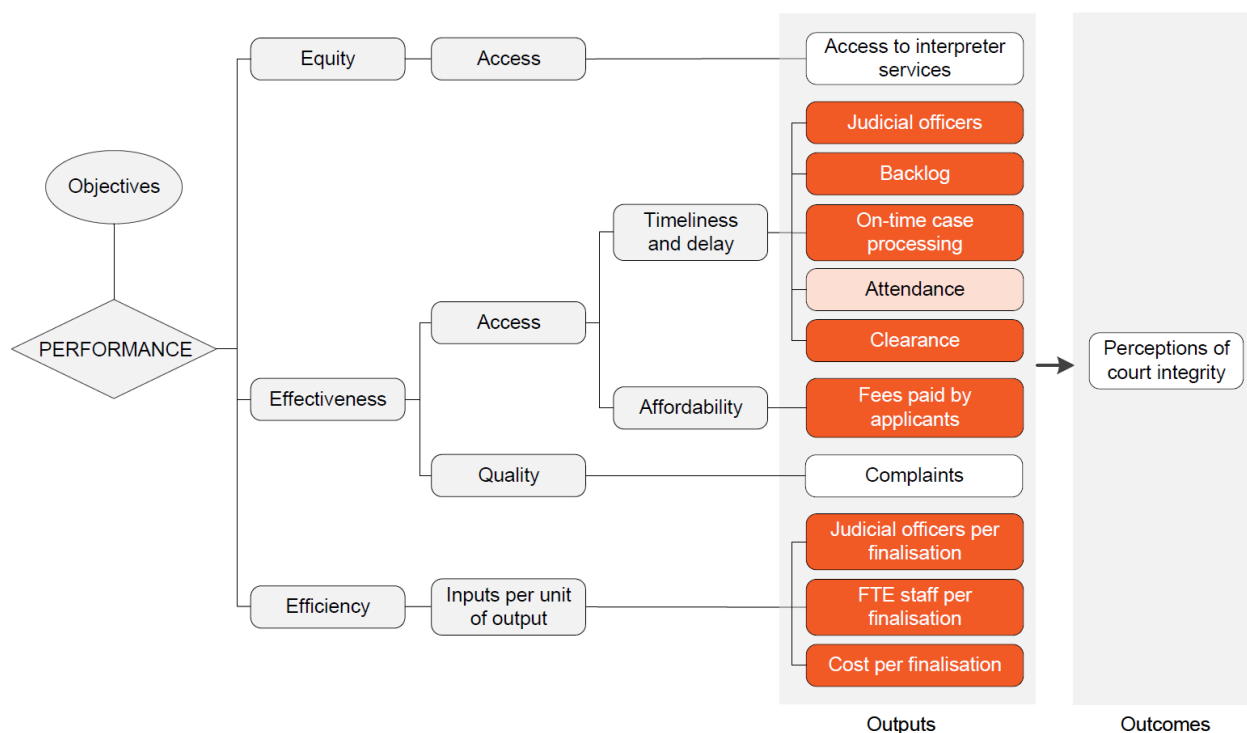
The Steering Committee recognises that this courts data collection (unlike some other data collections) does not have an intermediary data collector or validator akin to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare or the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The reporting process in this section is one 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) (refer to 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 (refer to section 1).



Key to indicators*

Text	Most recent data for all measures is comparable and complete
Text	Most recent data for at least one measure is comparable and complete
Text	Most recent data for all measures is 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

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

Effectiveness – Access – Affordability

- Fees paid by applicants – most recent data for all measures is 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 is comparable and complete
- FTE staff per finalisation – most recent data for all measures is comparable and complete
- Cost per finalisation – most recent data for all measures is comparable and 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 is 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 2024) – the ABS publication provides information about judicial decisions relating to finalised and adjudicated defendants.

Information to assist the interpretation of this data can be found with the indicators below and all data (footnotes and data sources) is available for download above as an excel spreadsheet and 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).

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.

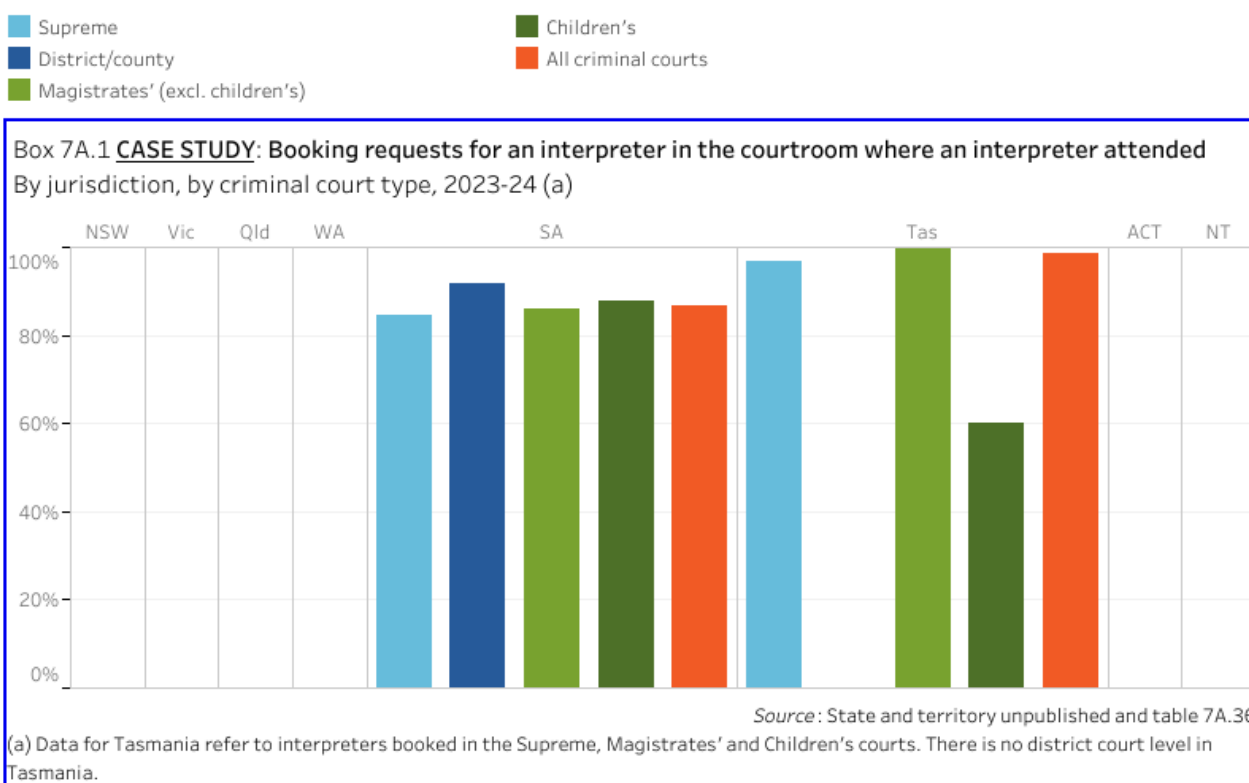
Data is not yet available for reporting against this indicator.

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 2023-24, booking requests for an interpreter where an interpreter attended in South Australia's criminal courts was 84.6% for the Supreme court, 91.9% for the District court, 86.1% for the Magistrates' court and 87.8% for the Children's courts (86.8% across all South Australian courts). In Tasmania's criminal courts, attendance was 96.7% for the Supreme court and 100.0% for the Magistrates' court and 60.0% for the Children's court (98.6% across all courts) (States and territory unpublished).

In South Australian criminal courts in 2023-24, a total of 3,401 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 211 booking requests were made for an interpreter (table 7A.36).

Data on interpreter attendance by language requested is 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 assesses the number of judicial officers relative to the size of the population as a measure of access to the judicial system.

'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 2023-24, there were 4.8 FTE judicial officers in the criminal and civil courts per 100,000 people in the population (table 7.5b).

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

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

Select year (applies to tables 7.5a and 7.5b):

2023-24

Select Criminal and/or Civil matters (applies to table 7.5b):

- Civil
 Criminal
 Criminal and civil

Table 7.5a Estimated resident population at 31 December ('000)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
2023-24	8,435	6,906	5,528	2,928	1,866	575	470	254	26,967

Source: table 2A.2

Table 7.5b Number of FTE judicial officers per 100,000 people

By jurisdiction, by court level, 2023-24 (rate)

			NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust cts	Aust
Supreme	Civil		0.5	0.8	0.3	0.8	0.4	0.5	0.6	1.8	..	0.6
	Criminal and civil		0.7	1.0	0.5	0.9	0.9	1.5	1.6	4.1	..	0.8
District/county	Civil		0.1	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3	..	..	..	..	0.2
	Criminal and civil		0.9	1.2	0.7	1.2	1.2	..	..	..	..	1.0
Magistrates' (excl. children's)	Civil		0.4	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.3	2.5	..	0.5
	Criminal and civil		1.5	2.2	1.8	2.0	1.9	2.2	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	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.7	..	0.3
Federal Court of Australia	Civil		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.2	0.2
Family/FCFCOA (Division 1) and FCFCOA (Division 2)	Civil	Family law matters	..	..	..	0.6	..	..	..	..	0.3	0.4
FCFCOA (Division 2)	Civil	Non-family law matters	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.1	0.1
Coroners'	Civil		0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.6	..	0.2
All criminal and civil courts	Criminal and civil		3.5	4.9	3.3	5.1	4.4	4.5	4.0	12.2	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% 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 Western Australia, coroners' courts and all appeals:

- no more than 10% 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 are 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 mean only 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 2024, 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 is available in tables 7A.20–21.

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

Select timeframe benchmark:

- Cases >12 months
- Cases >24 months

Select year:

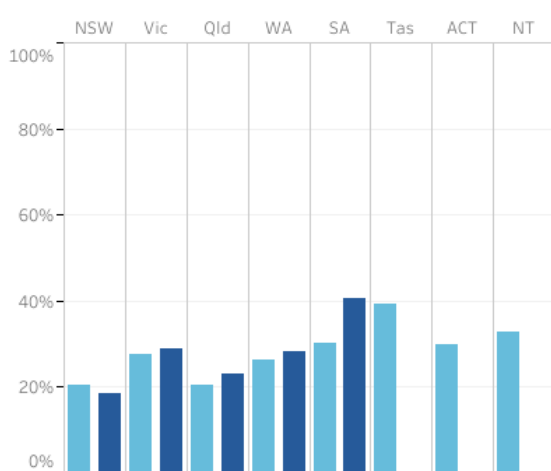
2023-24

- Supreme
- District/county

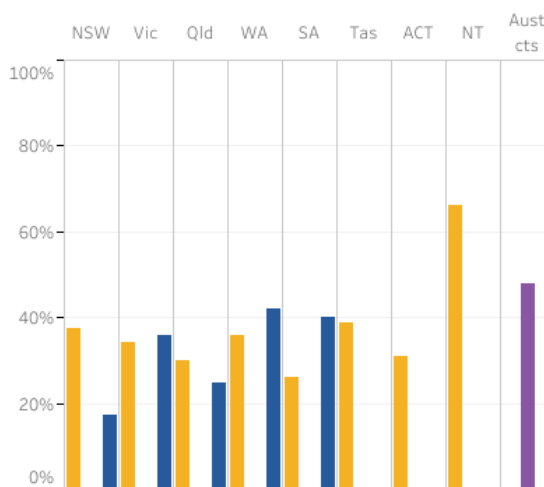
- Supreme (excl. probate)
- District/county
- Federal Court of Australia

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

2023-24, Criminal Cases >12 months



2023-24, Civil Cases >12 months

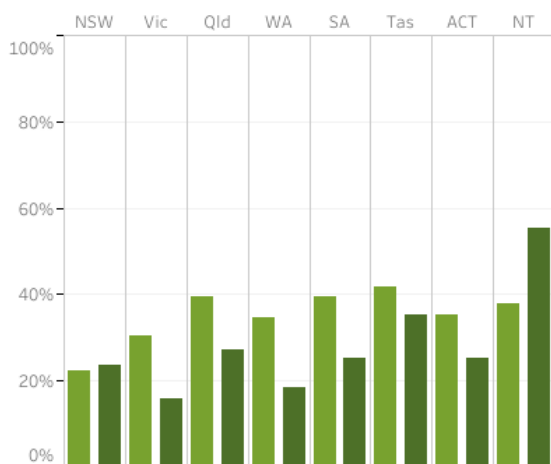


Select timeframe benchmark:

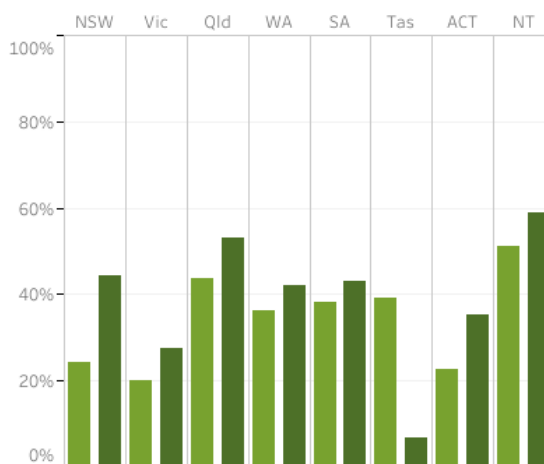
- Cases >6 months
- Cases >12 months

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

2023-24, Criminal Cases >6 months



2023-24, Civil Cases >6 months



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). Refer to 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 is available in tables 7A.22–23.

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

Select timeframe benchmark:

- Cases finalised <=12 months
- Cases finalised <=24 months

- Supreme
- District/country

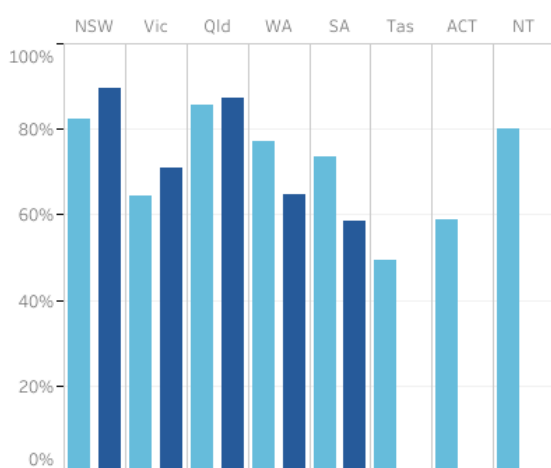
Select year:

2023-24

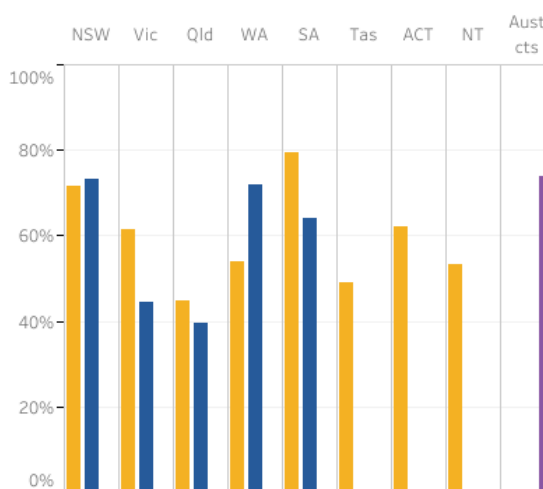
- Supreme (excl. probate)
- District/country
- Federal Court of Australia

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

2023-24, Criminal Cases finalised <=12 months



2023-24, Civil Cases finalised <=12 months

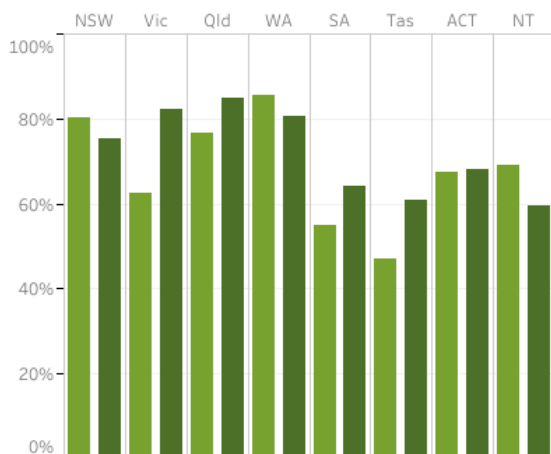


Select timeframe benchmark:

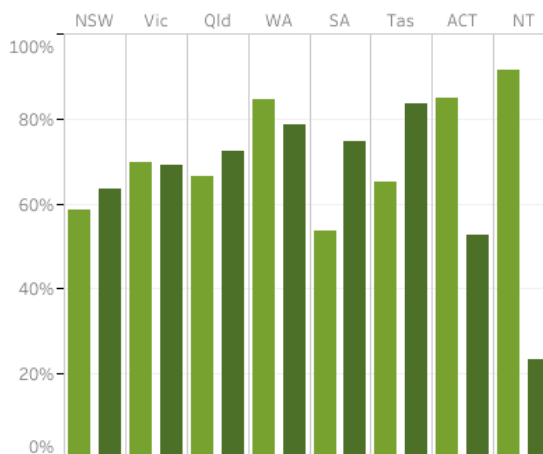
- Cases finalised <=6 months
- Cases finalised <=12 months

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

2023-24, Criminal Cases finalised <=6 months



2023-24, Civil Cases finalised <=6 months



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.

Data for attendance is available in table 7A.24.

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 7.6a and for civil courts in table 7.6b.

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

■ Data is not complete for the current reporting period. All required 2023-24 data was not available for the New South Wales Supreme court and was not provided by the Victorian Supreme court.

Select year (applies to tables 7.6a and 7.6b):

2023-24

Table 7.6a Attendance – criminal

Average attendances per finalisation, by jurisdiction, 2023-24

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Supreme	no.	na	na	3.7	3.5	4.6	16.7	11.5	8.7
District/county	no.	3.0	9.5	5.3	6.5	5.4	..	..	..
Magistrates' (excl. c..)	no.	3.1	3.5	5.1	3.4	4.6	5.9	5.2	5.4
Children's	no.	6.2	3.7	5.9	6.5	5.4	6.8	7.9	11.2

Source: table 7A.24

na Not available. .. Not applicable.

Table 7.6b Attendance – civil

Average attendances per finalisation, by jurisdiction, 2023-24

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust cts
Supreme (excl. probate)	no.	na	na	0.9	1.2	1.9	2.0	4.3	4.2	..
District/county	no.	1.1	1.0	0.3	0.6	3.6	..	..	..	..
Magistrates' (excl. children's)	no.	1.4	1.7	1.6	0.9	1.9	2.0	2.2	1.4	..
Children's	no.	5.0	6.1	4.0	3.6	6.2	3.9	9.8	4.7	..
Federal Court of Australia	no.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3.0
Family/FCFCOA (Division 1) and FCFC..	Family law matters no.	..	..	..	2.6	..	..	..	..	2.4
FCFCOA (Division 2)	Non-family law matters no.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.8
Coroners'	no.	6.0	2.9	3.2	1.1	0.6	3.8	1.0	1.8	..

Source: table 7A.24

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

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% 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% 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% 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 7.7. Disaggregation of these data by appeal/non-appeal is in tables 7A.25–27.

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

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

Select year:

2023-24

Select Criminal and/or Civil matters:

- Civil
 Criminal
 Criminal and civil

Table 7.7 Clearance indicator
 Appeal and non-appeal, by jurisdiction, 2023-24

			NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust cts	Aust	
Supreme (excl. probate)	Civil	%	87.6	92.1	87.9	90.0	131.6	95.2	101.5	102.7	..	92.2	
	Criminal and civil	%	88.9	91.9	91.2	91.5	124.6	82.5	86.3	97.8	..	92.0	
District/county	Civil	%	88.6	85.0	94.4	86.6	103.2	..	..	..	..	88.6
	Criminal and civil	%	97.3	91.1	98.2	86.8	101.6	..	..	..	..	94.3
Magistrates' (excl. children's)	Civil	%	96.5	93.6	94.1	92.7	104.4	101.2	94.7	97.0	..	95.3	
	Criminal and civil	%	96.4	103.3	97.7	92.2	103.1	93.9	97.2	95.2	..	98.0	
Children's	Civil	%	100.3	89.6	92.7	99.8	100.0	131.0	123.9	91.4	..	95.7	
	Criminal and civil	%	98.3	100.6	99.9	98.6	102.9	94.9	100.6	99.2	..	99.6	
Federal Court of Australia	Civil	%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	98.6	98.6
Family/FCFCOA (Division 1) and FCFCOA (Division 2)	Family law matters	Civil	%	96.8	101.5	100.9
FCFCOA (Division 2)	Non-family law matters	Civil	%	88.5	88.5
Coroners'	Civil	%	96.4	96.4	99.7	100.8	93.4	75.0	77.5	86.4	..	96.0	
All civil courts (excl. the FCOA, the FCFCOA (Divisi..	Civil	%	95.8	92.6	93.7	92.0	105.8	101.2	97.0	96.8	..	94.7	
All criminal and civil courts (excl. the Supreme..	Criminal and civil	%	96.4	102.0	97.8	92.8	103.0	92.5	96.0	95.6	100.5	98.0	

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

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

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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 2023-24, average civil court fees paid per lodgment were greater in supreme courts (excluding probate) than in district/county and magistrates' courts (table 7.8). The average fees collected by the Australian courts, and state and territory courts vary for many reasons and caution should be used in making direct comparisons.

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

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

Select year:

2023-24

Table 7.8 Real average civil court fees paid per lodgment

By jurisdiction, 2023-24 (2023-24 dollars)

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust cts	Aust
Supreme (excl. probate)	\$	5,053	2,209	2,003	3,602	2,686	524	5,148	2,656	..	3,313
District/county	\$	2,333	1,860	1,023	1,419	1,387	..	..	..	..	1,717
Magistrates' (total)	\$	162	207	112	168	150	81	176	3	..	162
Total magistrates' courts (incl. children's courts)											
Magistrates' (excl. children's)	\$	175	225	127	179	163	83	186	4	..	177
Children's	\$	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	..	-
Federal Court of Australia	\$	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,742	4,742
Family/FCFCOA (Division 1) and FCFCOA (Division 2)	\$	..	..	..	609	..	..	..	..	625	623
Family law matters											
FCFCOA (Division 2)	\$	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,892	1,892
Non-family law matters											
Supreme (probate only)	\$	2,158	590	793	382	2,055	1,348	1,921	1,363	..	1,291

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.

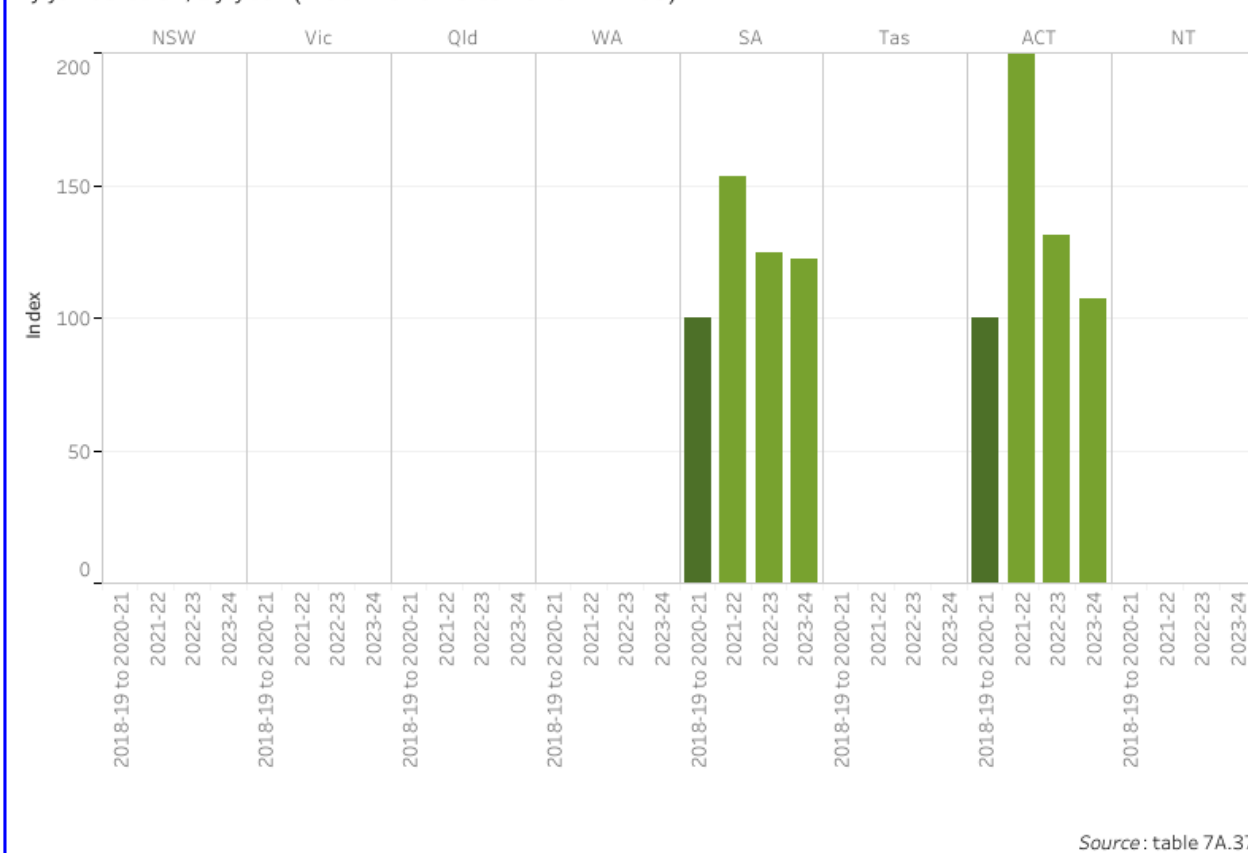
'Complaints' is defined as the number of complaints recorded by courts relating to administrative staff, services, policy or facilities per 100,000 people in the population, expressed in index form comparing trends within a jurisdiction over time.

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

Data is not yet available for reporting against this indicator.

A case study example in Box 7A.2 shows available data for the Australian Capital Territory and South Australian courts – this case study is presented to provide insight into the potential value of this measure when more courts become able to report. Complaints relating to administrative functions of courts increased in 2021-22 relative to the indexed baseline, but decreased relative to 2021-22 in 2023-24.

Box 7A.2 **CASE STUDY: Trends in complaints per 100,000 people**
By jurisdiction, by year (index 2018-19 to 2020-21=100)



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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 (FTE) judicial officers within each court level for the financial year by the total number of finalisations for the same period and multiplying by 1,000.

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 2023-24, in the criminal and civil courts there was 1.0 FTE judicial officer per 1,000 finalisations (table 7.9).

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

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

Select year:

2023-24

Select Criminal/Civil matter(s):

- Civil
 Criminal
 Criminal and civil

Table 7.9 Number of FTE judicial officers per 1,000 finalisations
By jurisdiction, 2023-24 (rate)

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust ..	Aust
Supreme	Civil	6.3	8.6	4.3	12.5	4.6	3.9	5.3	19.8	..	7.1
	Criminal and civil	7.8	10.2	5.1	13.5	9.0	6.7	8.9	11.6	..	8.5
District/county	Civil	1.3	3.9	1.6	0.7	4.5	..	..	..	..	2.0
	Criminal and civil	4.6	8.2	3.6	4.0	7.9	..	..	..	..	5.2
Magistrates' (excl. children's)	Civil	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.4	1.3	..	0.4
	Criminal and civil	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.6	1.0	1.1	..	0.5
Children's	Civil	1.6	2.5	0.5	1.0	2.8	0.5	2.8	1.6	..	1.6
	Criminal and civil	1.5	1.1	0.5	0.8	1.1	0.5	1.6	0.9	..	1.0
Federal Court of Australia	Civil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.7	11.7
Family/FCFCOA (Division 1) and FCFCOA (Division 2)	Family law matters Civil	..	..	..	1.2	..	..	..	..	0.9	0.9
FCFCOA (Division 2)	Non-family law matters Civil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2.8	2.8
Coroners'	Civil	1.0	1.7	1.6	1.2	0.9	3.5	4.0	4.4	..	1.5
All criminal and civil courts	Criminal and civil	0.8	1.2	0.7	1.0	1.3	1.1	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.0

Source: table 7A.29

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

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 1,000.

FTE staff include those employed directly by court authorities or by umbrella and other departments (refer to Explanatory material 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 2023-24, in the criminal and civil courts there were 7.3 FTE staff per 1,000 finalisations (table 7.10).

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

Select year(s):
Multiple values

Table 7.10 Full time equivalent staff per 1,000 finalisations
By jurisdiction, by year (rate)

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust cts	Aust
All criminal courts	2023-24	6.8	6.7	4.7	5.5	9.7	5.9	12.5	7.5	..	6.3
	2022-23	6.4	6.4	4.3	4.9	9.8	5.9	12.1	7.0	..	5.9
	2014-15	6.4	3.6	2.9	4.6	6.7	4.6	10.0	5.1	..	4.5
All civil courts (excl. the Federal Court of Australia, the FCFCOA (Division 1), the FCFCOA (Division 2), the WA Family court and the coroners' courts)	2023-24	6.1	9.6	6.0	6.6	8.6	7.1	16.9	7.6	..	7.3
	2022-23	6.5	10.4	5.8	7.9	8.9	7.3	16.5	7.4	..	7.8
	2014-15	6.5	6.2	4.2	4.7	5.1	4.7	11.4	6.8	..	5.8
Federal Court of Australia	2023-24	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	72.5	72.5
	2022-23	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	92.9	92.9
	2014-15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	77.7	77.7
WA Family court	2023-24	..	..	..	10.8	..	..	..	..	..	10.8
	2022-23	..	..	..	10.3	..	..	..	..	..	10.3
	2014-15	..	..	..	9.7	..	..	..	..	..	9.7
FCFCOA (Division 1) and FCFCOA (Division 2)	2023-24	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9.4	9.4
	2022-23	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8.7	8.7
	2014-15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	na	na
Coroners' courts	2023-24	6.9	17.9	15.2	11.6	7.3	6.7	35.8	20.3	..	12.5
	2022-23	6.7	15.8	13.3	9.9	8.3	8.9	47.1	21.8	..	11.5
	2014-15	7.2	11.2	12.6	14.7	8.7	10.8	8.3	16.5	..	10.4
All criminal and civil courts	2023-24	6.5	8.1	5.3	6.4	9.2	6.3	14.5	7.8	11.9	7.3
	2022-23	6.4	8.0	4.9	6.4	9.5	6.4	14.4	7.4	11.1	7.1
	2014-15	6.5	4.5	3.4	5.2	6.2	4.7	10.4	5.8	na	na

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 2023-24, the net cost per finalisation for:

- supreme courts was \$26,096 in the criminal courts and \$7,015 in the civil courts (figure 7.6)
- district/county courts criminal jurisdiction was \$13,564, 9 times that in the civil jurisdiction (\$1,503)
- magistrates’ and children’s courts, civil jurisdiction, was lower than in the criminal jurisdiction (\$801 compared with \$962) (tables 7A.31–32).

Nationally in 2023-24, the gross cost per finalisation in the criminal jurisdiction of:

- supreme courts (\$26,530) was higher than the civil jurisdiction (\$10,921)
- district/county courts (\$13,876) was higher than the civil jurisdiction (\$3,601)
- magistrates’ and children’s courts (\$1,011) was higher than in the civil jurisdiction (\$999) (tables 7A.34–35).

Nationally in 2023-24, 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 \$2,630 (table 7A.32).

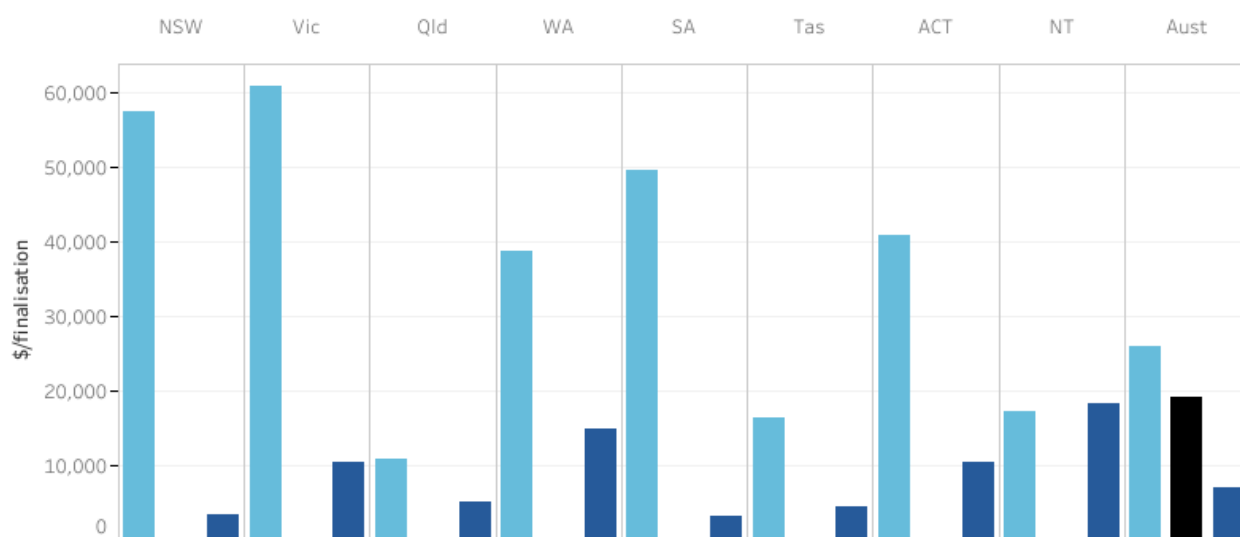
- Data is not comparable across jurisdictions, but are comparable (subject to caveats) within jurisdictions over time.
- Data is complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year:
2023-24

- Select court type:
- Supreme/Federal
 - District/county
 - Magistrates' (total)
 - Family/FCFCOA (Division 1) and FCFCOA (Division 2)

- Federal Court of Australia, Civil
- Supreme (excl. probate), Civil
- Supreme, Criminal

Figure 7.6 Real net recurrent expenditure per finalisation
Supreme/Federal, Criminal & Civil, by jurisdiction, 2023-24 (2023-24 dollars)



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

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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 is 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.

Table 7.11 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 2023-24. 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 7.11 Homicide and related offences, 2023-24^a

Supreme Court									
	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld^b	WA	SA	Tas^c	ACT	NT
Lodgments	no.	52	75	111	38	22	10	7	20
Finalisations	no.	71	66	112	24	21	16	9	14
Pending	no.	68	110	114	55	55	20	13	23
Backlog >12 mths	%	38.2	38.2	35.1	41.8	63.6	60.0	61.5	26.1
Backlog >24 mths	%	8.8	10.0	8.8	3.6	10.9	25.0	46.2	13.0
Attendance	no.	na	na	11.5	9.1	9.4	22.8	12.2	13.9
Clearance rate	%	136.5	88.0	100.9	63.2	95.5	160.0	128.6	70.0

District/County Court

	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld ^b	WA	SA	Tas ^c	ACT	NT
Lodgments	no.	71	36	3	14	12	..	..	..
Finalisations	no.	70	67	3	14	14	..	..	..
Pending	no.	69	19	–	9	15	..	..	..
Backlog >12 mths	%	27.5	42.1	..	11.1	33.3	..	..	..
Backlog >24 mths	%	7.2	–	..	–	–	..	..	..
Attendance	no.	4.8	12.1	1.7	5.6	6.9	..	..	..
Clearance rate	%	98.6	186.1	100.0	100.0	116.7	..	..	..

Magistrates' Court

	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld ^b	WA	SA	Tas ^c	ACT	NT
Lodgments	no.	261	126	121	90	59	12	12	15
Finalisations	no.	182	93	110	68	56	8	7	24
Pending	no.	287	49	237	61	40	15	6	12
Backlog >6 mths	%	51.9	30.6	77.6	34.4	47.5	66.7	50.0	41.7
Backlog >12 mths	%	16.4	6.1	52.7	9.8	10.0	53.3	16.7	8.3

	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld ^b	WA	SA	Tas ^c	ACT	NT
Attendance	no.	8.8	9.9	19.4	6.5	3.7	8.4	6.1	10.6
Clearance rate	%	69.7	73.8	90.9	75.6	94.9	66.7	58.3	160.0

Children's Court

	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld ^b	WA	SA	Tas ^c	ACT	NT
Lodgments	no.	18	7	8	7	2	np	1	1
Finalisations	no.	16	14	16	7	5	np	-	2
Pending	no.	22	1	9	1	1	np	1	-
Backlog >6 mths	%	54.5	100.0	66.7	-	-	np	-	..
Backlog >12 mths	%	22.7	100.0	-	-	-	np	-	..
Attendance	no.	14.5	8.8	13.8	6.9	6.6	np	..	12.0
Clearance rate	%	88.9	200.0	200.0	100.0	250.0	np	-	200.0

a Homicide and related offences' is defined according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC) 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 7.12.

Table 7.12 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	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 New South Wales, 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 is considered comparable if, (subject to caveats) it can be used to inform an assessment of comparative performance. Typically, data is considered comparable when it is 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 is considered complete if all required data is 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 is 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, Children's courts and 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) 2024, *Criminal courts, Australia, 2022-23*, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/criminal-courts-australia>  (accessed 2 October 2024).

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Report on Government Services 2025

PART C, SECTION 8: RELEASED ON 4 FEBRUARY 2025

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 \(XLSX 131.8 KB\)](#)

[8 Corrective services dataset \(CSV 222.7 KB\)](#)

Refer to 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 \(PDF 288.5 KB\)](#)

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 (New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia).

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 2023-24^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** New South Wales 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 2022-23.

Source: State and territory governments (unpublished).

Funding

Nationally in 2023-24, expenditure (net of revenue) on corrective services was \$5.02 billion for prisons and \$0.89 billion for community corrections² (table 8A.1). Expenditure plus depreciation (matching expenditure reporting by other justice sector agencies) was \$6.52 billion – a real increase of 3.4% from 2022-23 (table 8A.2). Changes in expenditure need to be considered in the context of the growth in corrective services populations over time.

- 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. Refer to table 8A.1 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats.

Size and scope

Prison custody

Corrective services operated 113 custodial facilities nationally at 30 June 2024, comprising 86 government operated prisons, 9 privately operated prisons, 4 transitional centres, and fourteen 24-

hour court cell complexes (holding prisoners under the responsibility of corrective services in New South Wales) (table 8A.3).

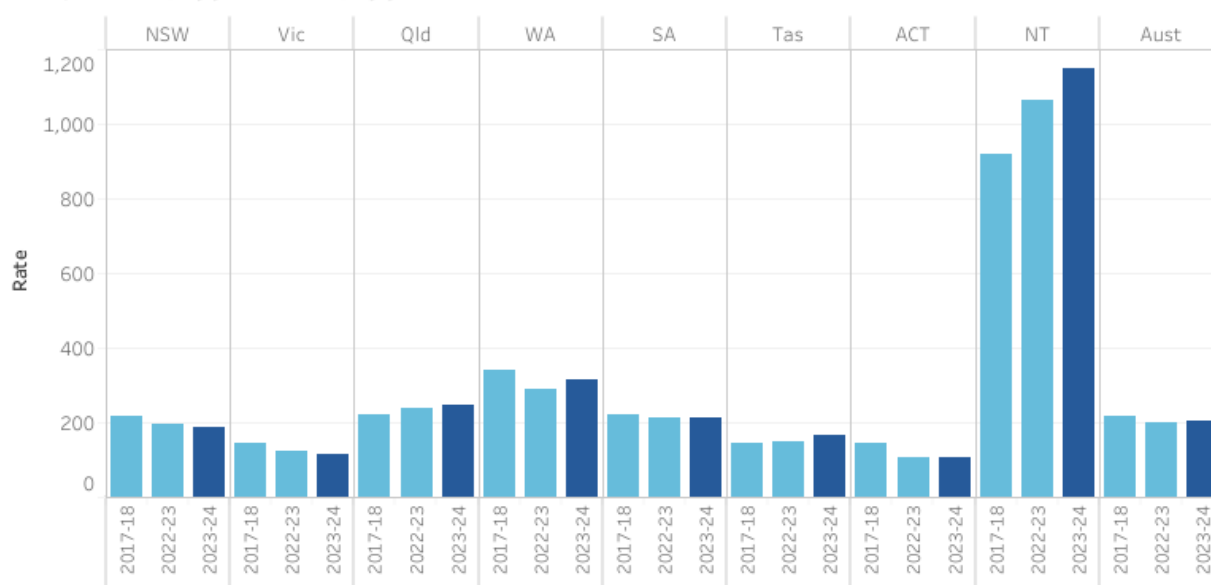
On average, 43,001 people per day were held in Australian prisons during 2023-24, of which 84.0% were held in secure facilities (table 8A.4). A daily average of 7,807 prisoners (18.2% of the prisoner population), were held in privately operated facilities during the year. Nationally, female prisoners represented 7.7% of the daily average prison population, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners represented 34.5% of the daily average population.

In 2023-24, the national imprisonment rate was 202.9 per 100,000 people in the relevant adult population (figure 8.1). There is a slight increase compared to 2022-23 and a decrease of 6.5% since 2017-18 (figure 8.1). The rate for males (381.1 per 100,000 males) was 12.5 times the rate for females (30.6 per 100,000 females) (table 8A.8).

Select year(s):
Multiple values

2017-18
2022-23
2023-24

Figure 8.1 Crude imprisonment rate per 100,000 adults
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) is available for download above (in Excel and CSV format).

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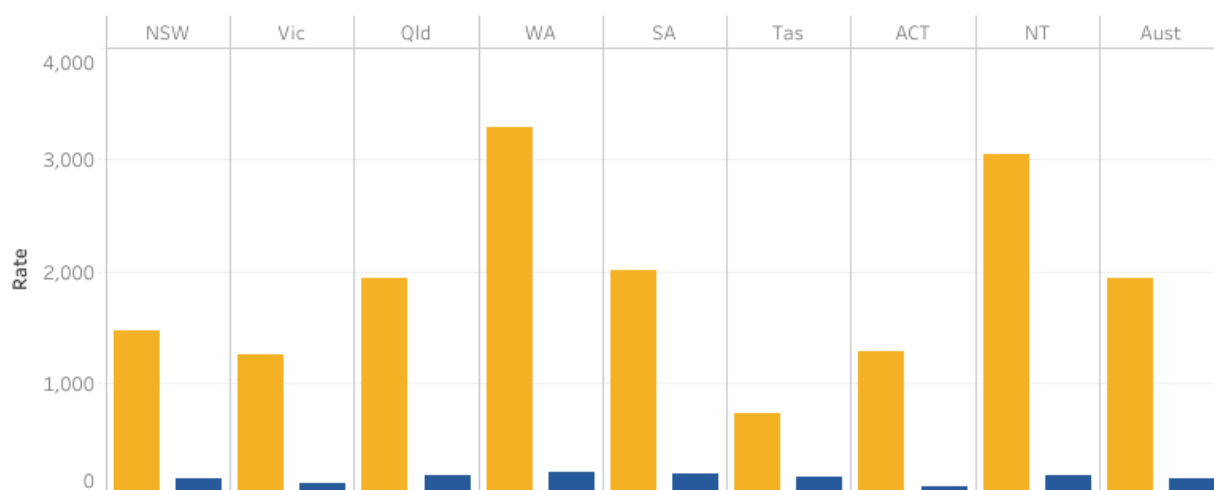
The national crude imprisonment rate per 100,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was 2,334.0 in 2023-24 compared with a rate of 135.1 for the non-Indigenous population (table 8A.8). Comparisons of imprisonment rates should be made with care, especially for states and territories with relatively 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 people in 2023-24 was 1,936.7, compared with a

corresponding rate of 145.6 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 13.3 times greater than for the non-Indigenous population. Imprisonment rates that do not take age profile differences into account are 17.3 times greater.

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

Figure 8.2 Age-standardised Imprisonment rate per 100,000 adults
By jurisdiction, by Indigenous status, 2023-24



Source: table 8A.8

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

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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. Seven-year trends in daily average numbers and rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous prisoners are reported in table 8A.5.

Community corrections

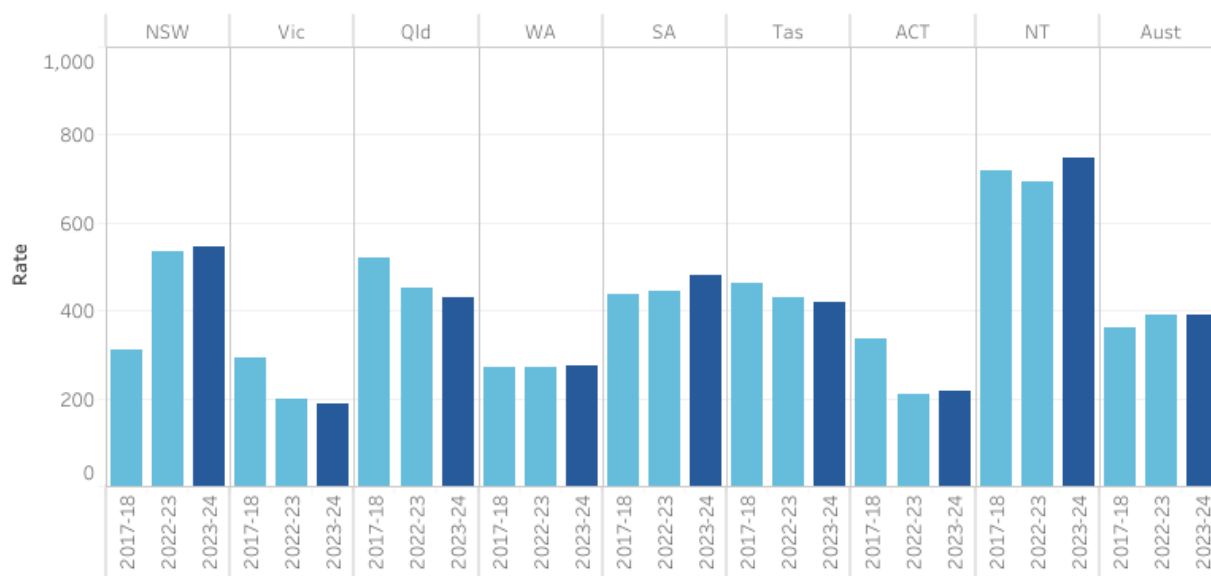
Nationally, on a daily average, there were 15.6 offenders for every (full time equivalent) community corrections staff member in 2023-24 (table 8A.9). Nationally, an average of 82,627 offenders per day were serving community corrections orders in 2023-24 (table 8A.7), with female offenders representing 19.4% of the offender population (higher than the proportion in the prison population), and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders representing 25.6% of the offender population (lower than the proportion in the prison population) (table 8A.6).

In 2023-24, the national crude community corrections rate was 389.9 per 100,000 relevant adult population. This is 8.0% higher than the rate of 360.9 in 2017-18 (figure 8.3). The rate for female offenders was 148.8 compared with 638.8 for male offenders (table 8A.8).

Select year(s):
Multiple values

- 2017-18
- 2022-23
- 2023-24

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



Source: table 8A.7

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

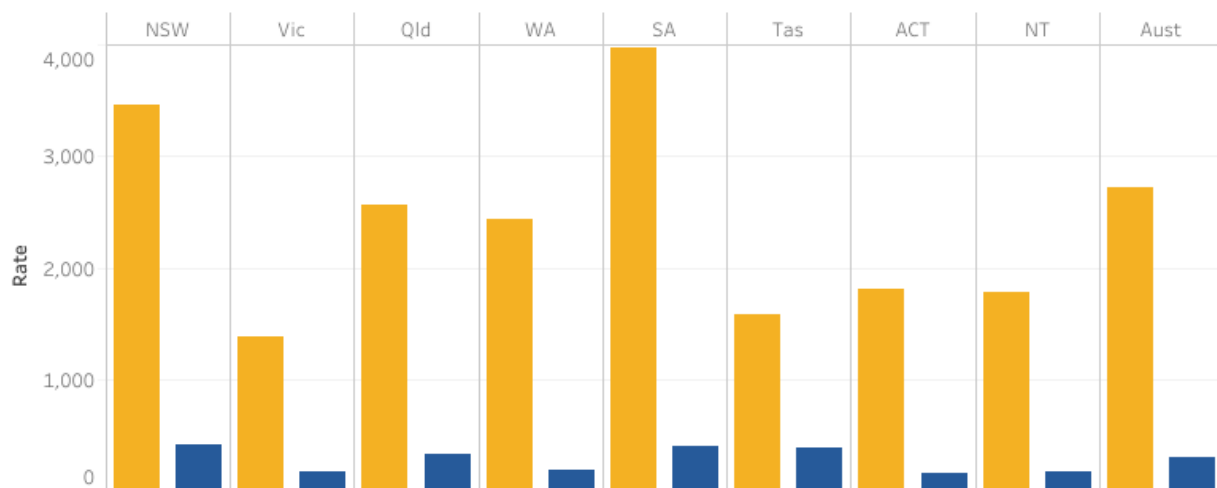


The national crude community corrections rate for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population was 3,325.0 offenders per 100,000 relevant adult population, compared with 288.6 offenders for the non-Indigenous population (table 8A.8). After adjusting for differences in population age structures, the age-standardised rate per 100,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in 2023-24 was 2,717.5, compared with a rate of 295.4 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 9.2 times greater than for the non-Indigenous population. Community corrections rates that do not take age profile differences into account are 11.5 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. Seven-year trends are reported in table 8A.7.

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

Figure 8.4 Age-standardised Community corrections rate per 100,000 adults
By jurisdiction, by Indigenous status, 2023-24



Source: table 8A.8

Data tables are referenced above by a '8A' prefix and all data (footnotes and data sources) is 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 is complete and comparable in this report. For data that is 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 (refer to Context tab), the report's statistical context ([section 2](#)) contains data that may assist in interpreting the performance indicators presented in this section.

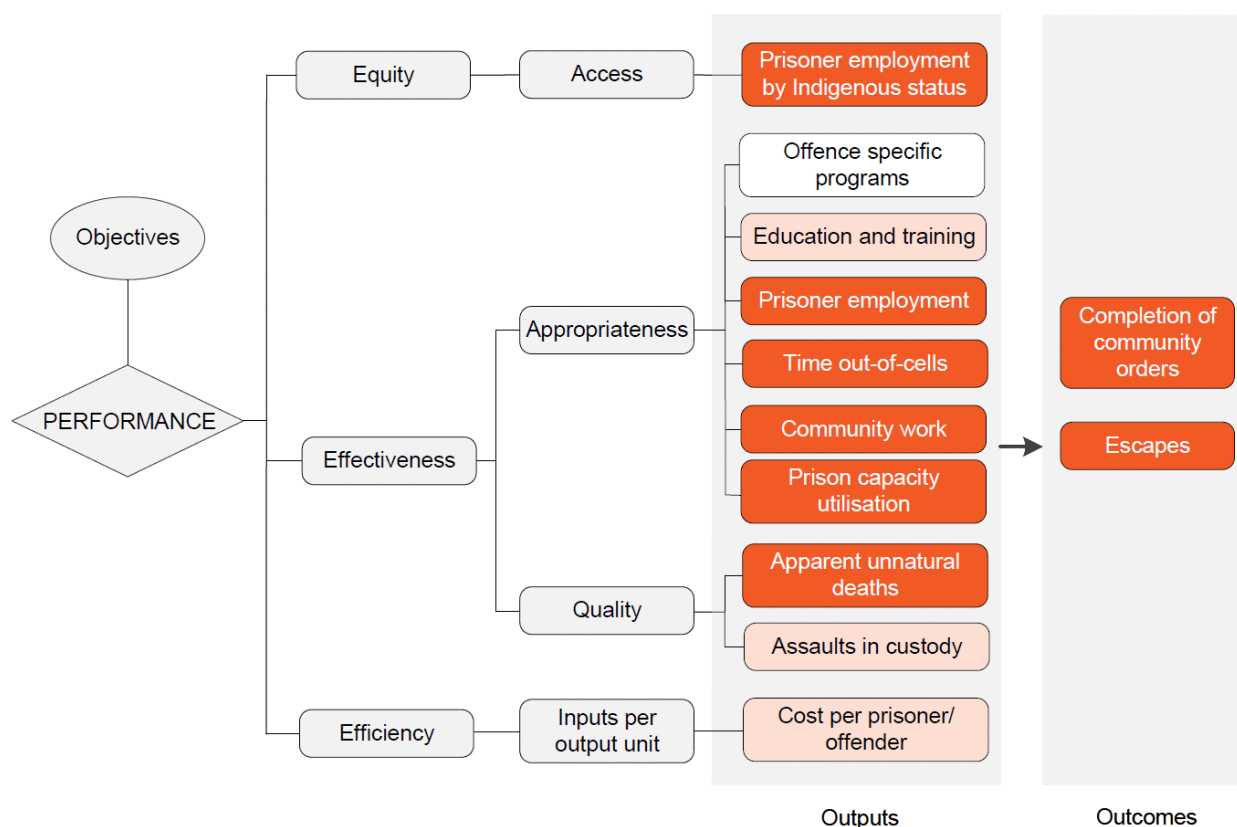
Improvements to performance reporting for corrective services are ongoing and will include identifying indicators to fill gaps in reporting against key objectives, improving the comparability and completeness of data and reviewing proxy indicators to see if more direct measures can be developed.

Outputs

Outputs are the actual services delivered (while outcomes are the impact of these services on the status of an individual or group) (refer to 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 (refer to section 1).

**Key to indicators***

Text	Most recent data for all measures is comparable and complete
Text	Most recent data for at least one measure is comparable and complete
Text	Most recent data for all measures is 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 is comparable and complete

Effectiveness – Appropriateness

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

Effectiveness – Quality

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

Efficiency – Inputs per output unit

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

Outcomes

- Completion of community orders – most recent data for all measures is comparable and complete
- Escapes – most recent data for all measures is 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 2023-24, 69.2% of the eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoner population was employed, compared with 84.2% of the eligible non-Indigenous prisoner population (figure 8.5).

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

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

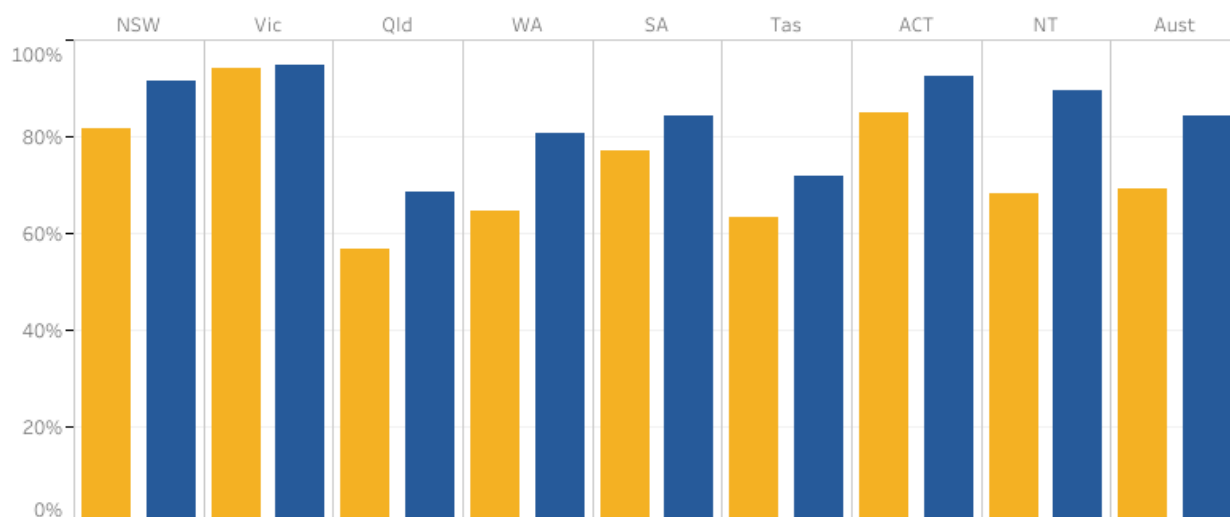
Select year:

2023-24

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

Figure 8.5 Prisoner employment

By jurisdiction, by Indigenous status, 2023-24



Source: table 8A.10

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2. Offence-specific programs

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

Data is not yet available for reporting against this indicator. Some information about offence-related programs in each jurisdiction is available below.

Table 8.2 Offence specific programs

Jurisdiction	Description

Jurisdiction	Description
New South Wales	<p>EQUIPS (Explore, Question, Investigate, Practice, Succeed) is a suite of therapeutic and educational programs developed by CSNSW to reduce the risk of re-offending. It is designed to increase participation opportunities for offenders in both custody and community settings. The five programs in the suite are: maintenance; foundation; aggression; addiction; and domestic and family violence.</p> <p>The Intensive Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program (IDATP) targets sentenced inmates whose alcohol and other drug use has been identified as a contributing factor of their offending behaviour. This cognitive behavioural program offers group work, peer support, educational and employment training as well as reintegration services.</p> <p>There are three programs available to treat sex offenders: High Intensity Sex Offender Program (HISOP); Moderate Intensity Sex Offender Program (MISOP); and Deniers Programs. HISOP and MISOP are custody based therapeutic programs for men who have sexually abused adults and/or children. The Deniers Program is for men who have been convicted of sexually abusing adults or children yet have maintained that they were wrongfully accused.</p> <p>The Violent Offenders Therapeutic Program (VOTP) provides offenders with the opportunity to understand the factors surrounding their offending behaviour, challenge cognitive distortions, identify their offence cycle, risk factors, warning signs and develop self-management plans.</p> <p>High Intensity Program Units (HIPUs) are located in seven correctional centres across New South Wales for inmates sentenced to shorter custodial sentences, who are assessed as a higher risk of re-offending. Programs which are delivered include: EQUIPS suite; a cultural strengthening program for Aboriginal offenders; parenting programs for men and women; programs to help female victims of domestic violence; and driving programs to address impaired driving and related risk taking behaviour.</p> <p>The Short Sentence Intensive Program (SSIP) is a services and programs package delivered in seven correctional centres across NSW for inmates with less than five months to serve when sentenced.</p>

Jurisdiction	Description
Victoria	<p>The Better Lives Program (BLP) is a group-based intervention delivered by Forensic Interventions Services (Corrections Victoria) and is based on literature review of contemporary sex offender treatment research. It is a Cognitive Behavioural Therapy-based psychotherapeutic program which incorporates Risk-Need-Responsivity principles, Self-Regulation Theory, and the Good Lives Model.</p> <p>The program allows treatment to be individualised for each service user in accordance with their identified treatment targets and unique Intervention plan. It is available to service users who are: male; have been convicted of a sexual offence or an offence with a sexual element; have been assessed as Average to Well Above Average risk of sexual recidivism; and have sufficient time remaining on their sentence/order to complete the program.</p> <p>The BLP is delivered in prison and community settings. A service user will engage in one of the program's three streams (BLP Mod-Low; BLP Mod-High; and BLP High) depending on their risk level. The program is a 72 to 150-hour Intervention with 24 to 35 sessions in the community and 24 to 50 sessions in prison, depending on the service user's risk level.</p> <p>The BLP contains seven modules including: Foundations; Offence pathway; Self-management; Healthy sexuality; Managing sexual scripts (omitted in the BLP Mod-Low); Healthy lifestyles; and Closure. The modules were developed with the aim of addressing empirically derived dynamic risk factors, such as lack of pro-social methods for meeting intimacy needs, sexual self-regulation, and negative social influences, to reduce the risk of sexual recidivism.</p> <p>The Violence Intervention Program is a group-based intervention designed to address violent offending behaviour for service users assessed as moderate or high risk of violent re-offending. The program has been developed in accordance with best practice principles, operates within a cognitive behavioural framework, and utilises current theory and research findings. It aims to reduce participants' risk of violent re-offending by increasing their self-awareness, self-management, and conflict resolution skills, and thereby assist participants to better regulate their affective responses and achieve positive behavioural outcomes. The program examines why participants use violence, assists them to develop skills to manage their violent behaviour and in doing so aims to help them reduce their chance of re-offending. The Violence Intervention Program is available across prisons and Community Correctional Services. The High Intensity Violence Intervention Program (HIVIP) is comprised of eight core modules, each addressing different treatment domains. The eight core modules include material related to emotion regulation, beliefs and thinking styles, offence-mapping, interpersonal relationships, victim awareness and goal setting/self-management. This program is delivered in a group format of 81 sessions over approximately eight and half months, totalling 202.5 hours. The Moderate Intensity Violence Intervention Program's (MIVIP) core modules are the same as the HIVIP, except for the interpersonal relationship's module, and are of a lower intensity (fewer sessions per module). They include emotion regulation, thoughts and beliefs, offence process, victim empathy/awareness, and self-management/goal setting, to better regulate emotional responses and behavioural outcomes. The program is delivered in a group format of 33 sessions over approximately four months, totalling 82.5 hours.</p>

Jurisdiction	Description
Queensland	<p>Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) delivers or funds external service providers to deliver offending behaviour programs and desistance programs.</p> <p>Offending behaviour programs delivered by QCS are measured against the National Offending Program and Facilitation Standards to ensure they align with accepted best practice. The programs directly target the causes of offending, are group-based and use structural behavioural and cognitive-behavioural approaches. Offending behaviour programs range in length depending on intensity, from six weeks to 12 months. Current programs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sexual offending programs: Getting Started Preparatory Program, Medium Intensity Sexual Offending Program, High Intensity Sexual Offending Program, Sexual Offending Maintenance Program, Inclusion Sexual Offending Program (for individuals with cognitive impairments) and Strong Solid Spirit (First Nations program) • violence programs: Living Without Violence, Disrupting Family Violence Program, Men’s Domestic Violence Education and Intervention Program • general offending programs: Turning Point Program and Making Choices Women’s Program. <p>Desistance programs are designed to address responsivity issues, address needs more broadly and support behaviour change to desist from offending. All programs have been accredited through an internal accreditation panel and range in length from six to 100 hours. Current programs include short substance intervention, low intensity substance intervention, moderate intensity substance intervention, high intensity substance intervention and substance abuse maintenance intervention; Positive Futures program (culturally specific for First Nations); and Build Don’t Break Resilience Program. Additionally, QCS works with community partners to deliver quality local interventions and funds selected external providers in the areas of education and employment, chaplaincy services, substance misuse, re-entry support services, specialised services, and parenting programs.</p>

Jurisdiction	Description
Western Australia	<p>The Rehabilitation and Reintegration business area of the Department of Justice, Corrective Services provides a range of offence related programs to adult offenders in the community and in custody across Western Australia. These programs and services seek to 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. Two examples of such programs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Choice, Change and Consequences (CCC) program which addresses factors associated with general offending is a generalist offending program developed specifically for female offenders with a wide range of offending behaviour (including substance use and violence). The program is a cognitive-behavioural, skills-based program and targets a range of general criminogenic needs including violence propensity; offence related emotions and cognitions; criminal associates and attitudes; impulsivity, risk taking and self-management; emotional regulation and distress tolerance; problem solving, relationships, lifestyle balance and victimisation; and drug and alcohol issues as they relate to offending. CCC is a moderate intensity criminogenic program. • The Criminal Conduct & Substance Abuse Treatment, referred to as the 'Pathways program' (PP), is designed to reduce problematic alcohol and other drug (AOD) use and related offending. The program design includes a cognitive-behavioural based program for offenders who have co-occurring issues of AOD abuse and criminal conduct. The program aims to prevent recidivism, and relapse into AOD abuse, and assist participants to live a responsible and meaningful life. PP is a high intensity criminogenic program. <p>Western Australia also has the following 'offence specific' programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choices, Change and Consequence – General offending program for female offenders in prison. • Medium Intensity Program – General Offending program for male offenders in prisons. • Pathways Program – Addictions offending program for male and female offenders in prison. • Wandoo Therapeutic Community – Addictions offending program for females in prison. • Solid Steps Therapeutic Community – Addictions offending program for males in prison. • Parole In-Reach Program (pilot) – Addictions and Family Domestic Violence Streams; provide a throughcare approach to program delivery for men, commencing in prison and finishing in the community. • Sex Offending Deniers Program – Sexual offending program for male prisoners who deny their offending.

Jurisdiction	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Based Sex Offending Treatment Program – Sexual offending program for males in the community. • Sex Offending Medium Treatment Program – Sexual offending program for males in prison. • Sex Offending Intensive Treatment Program – Sexual offending program for males in prison. • Violence Prevention Program – Violent offending program for males in prison. • Not Our Way – Family and Domestic Violence program for Aboriginal males in the community and prison. • Stopping Family Violence – Family and Domestic Violence program for males in prison and the community. • Connect and Respect – Family and Domestic Violence program for males in prison and the community.
<p>South Australia</p>	<p>The South Australian Department for Correctional Services delivers criminogenic programs to custodial (and some community-based) participants who have received a sufficiently long sentence to complete the program, and have been assessed as being at moderate or high risk of reoffending. Participants are referred to programs based on the offence types in their offending histories, including (but not limited to) their index offence, their assessed risk level, and other responsivity factors.</p> <p>Criminogenic programs are offered in the following streams, with specialisms available in each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violent offending programs (differentiated for moderate or high risk; low cognitive functioning; Aboriginal participants) • Sexual offending programs (differentiated for moderate or high risk; low cognitive functioning) • Domestic violence offending programs (differentiated for Aboriginal participants) • General offending programs (differentiated for female participants). <p>DCS also delivers additional programs that are designed to be therapeutic in nature, and offence-related.</p>

Jurisdiction	Description
Tasmania	<p>Tasmania offers a range of offence specific criminogenic programs and psychoeducational programs targeted at offending behaviour and developing protective factors to reduce reoffending.</p> <p>The Interventions and Reintegration Service multidisciplinary teams conduct a range of assessments including static and dynamic risk assessments and cognitive and mental health assessments to inform service triaging, delivery and treatment planning.</p> <p>Other programs delivered to prisoners include: a drug and alcohol brief intervention program and the Resilience Program (a CBT based skills acquisition program).</p> <p>Tasmania also funds non-government organisations to provide parenting programs, the Red Cross Volunteering for Change program and other peer mentoring, chaplaincy and accommodation support programs.</p> <p>Family Violence Offender Intervention Program (approx. 100 hours) is an evidence based treatment program which targets all aspects of abusive behaviours which are considered family violence.</p> <p>Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) is a comprehensive, evidence-based program that has been shown to be effective in treating many psychological problems such as mood disorders and substance abuse problems.</p> <p>Violence Prevention Program (VPP; approx. 170 hours) is an evidence based treatment program that targets both instrumental and expressive forms of violence.</p> <p>New Directions (approx. 78-300 hours) is a treatment program that draws its theoretical underpinnings from cognitive behavioural therapy, the Risk-Need-Responsivity Model, The Good Lives Model and the Self-Regulation Model.</p> <p>The Resilience Program is based on CBT and provides innovative coping and resilience skills for adults of all stages and walks of life.</p> <p>For offenders on community based orders, Tasmania offers the Family Violence Intervention Program (50 hours in the community) as outlined above as well as the EQUIPS suite of programs developed by Corrections New South Wales. The programs utilise CBT, whilst motivational interviewing techniques, strengths-based and stages of change perspectives also inform the programs. Each program consists of five modules which are completed over 20, two hour sessions.</p> <p>In addition, the Sober Driver program, developed in New South Wales, is an educational and skills-based group program that targets adult offenders who have been convicted of two or more drink driving offences within the last five years.</p>

Jurisdiction	Description
Australian Capital Territory	<p>The Australian Capital Territory Corrective Services (ACTCS) provide a range of programs to detainees in custody at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) and offenders supervised on community-based orders. In 2021-22, programs were reviewed and a new suite of contemporary, evidence-based programs was implemented as a result. This included the roll out of the EQUIPS (Explore, Question, Understand, Investigate and Plan to Succeed) suite of programs across the AMC and community corrections in the first half of 2022. EQUIPS is accessible for male and female sentenced detainees in the AMC and male and female offenders supervised in the community.</p> <p>The suite includes a total of five stand-alone offence specific and offence related programs, each with a 40-hour duration. Examples of offence related Programs are: EQUIPS Foundation and EQUIPS Addiction. Equips Foundation is a general therapeutic program available to all offenders assessed as higher risk of re-offending, regardless of their offence type. Equips Addiction is designed to address the addictive behaviour of eligible offenders and to provide participants with a pathway to support services for addictive behaviours.</p>

Jurisdiction	Description
Northern Territory	<p>The Northern Territory provides a number of offence-specific and offence related programs to assist prisoners address offending behaviour.</p> <p>Offence specific programs offered in the Northern Territory include: Sex Offender Treatment Programs (SOTP); Violent Offender Treatment Programs; and Recognising Anger and Gaining Empowerment Program (RAGE).</p> <p>The RAGE program is an intensive program for family and domestic violence offenders developed by clinicians in the Northern Territory with the support of Elders and Aboriginal staff.</p> <p>In addition, individual treatment programs are provided to prisoners with an identified need for specific treatment programs or for whom a group program is not recommended. The offence specific programs are facilitated by psychologists or social workers with experience in delivering rehabilitation programs and under the supervision of psychologists.</p> <p>The Northern Territory also offers the offence related program, Intensive Alcohol and Drug Program (IADP).</p> <p>Psycho-educational (preparatory) programs are also provided in the Northern Territory, recognising that many prisoners have limited experience in participating in structured learning/group activities. These programs include the Safe, Sober, Strong Program; Family Violence Program; and Addictive Behaviours Program. These programs are delivered by trained officers in the administrative stream supervised by psychologists. Northern Territory has endeavoured to have these roles filled by Aboriginal staff.</p> <p>Each program is delivered in accordance with the nominated program hours. The programs are structured to address cultural differences, language difficulties and lower literacy levels which prisoners in these programs may experience.</p> <p>The Northern Territory adult correctional centres have a disproportionately high number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in custody. Accordingly, input has been provided by an Indigenous Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee and from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees attached to the Offender Services and Programs Team to provide targeted, relevant and appropriate programs.</p>

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.

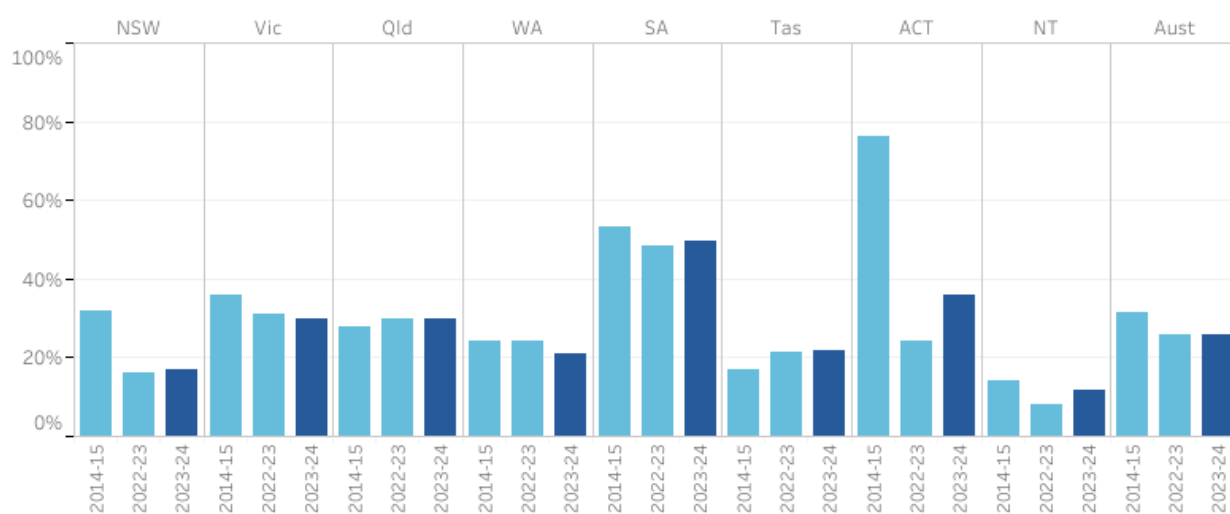
Nationally in 2023-24, 25.7% of eligible prisoners participated in accredited education and training courses, a decrease from its peak in 2018-19. Vocational education and training courses had the highest participation levels (17.3%), followed by pre-certificate Level 1 courses (6.7%), secondary school education (1.6%) and higher education (1.4%) (table 8A.11).

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

Select year(s):
Multiple values

- 2014-15
- 2022-23
- 2023-24

Figure 8.6 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 2023-24, 79.1% of the eligible prisoner population was employed (figure 8.7).

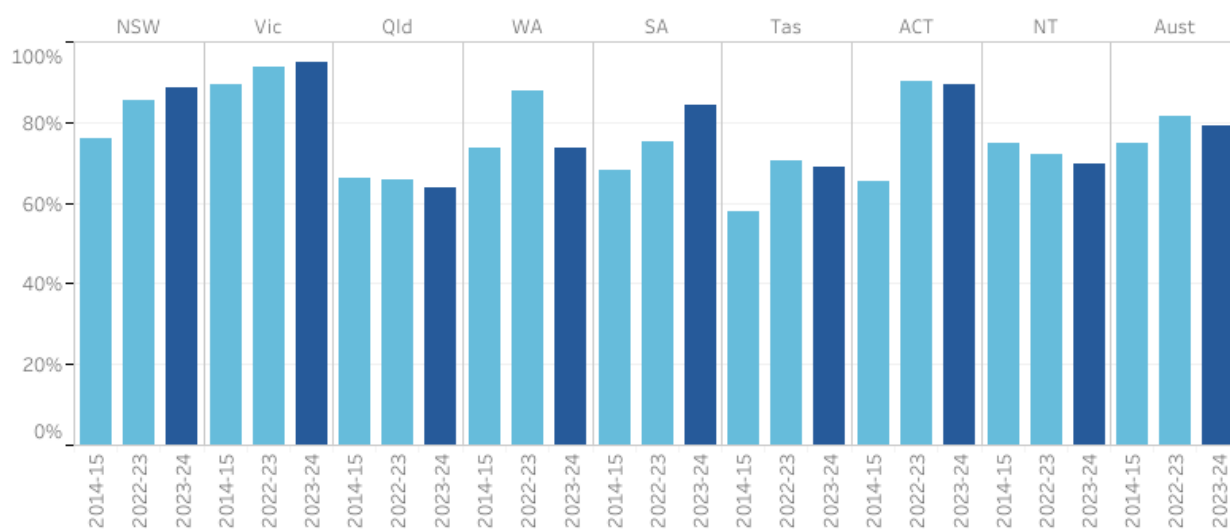
■ Data is comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

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

Select year(s):
Multiple values

■ 2014-15
■ 2022-23
■ 2023-24

Figure 8.7 Prisoner employment
By jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 8A.12

tableau

5. Time out-of-cells

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

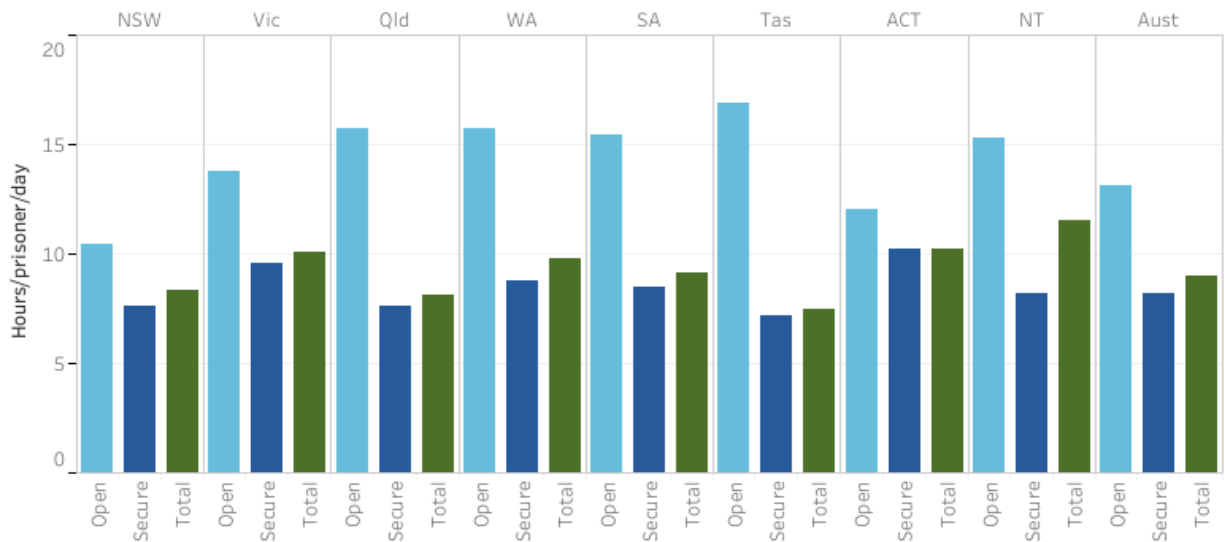
'Time out-of-cells' is defined as the average number of hours in a 24-hour period that prisoners are not confined to their cells or units. The periods during which prisoners are not confined to their cells or units provides them with the opportunity to participate in a range of activities that may include 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 2023-24, 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 (13.1 hours) than for those held in secure custody (8.2 hours) (figure 8.8a). Total time out-of-cells per prisoner per day is available by jurisdiction and year (figure 8.8b).

- Data is comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
 - Data is complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.
- Open ■ Secure ■ Total

Figure 8.8a Time out-of-cells per day
By custody type, by jurisdiction, 2023-24

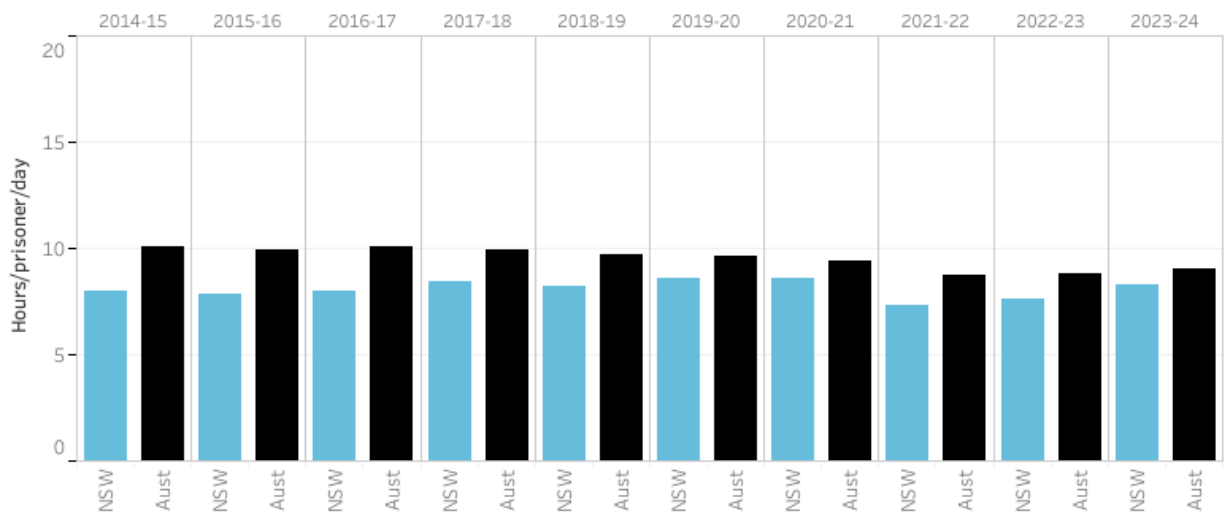


Source: table 8A.13

Select jurisdiction (for figure 8.8b):
Multiple values

■ NSW
■ Aust

Figure 8.8b Total Time out-of-cells per day
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 of 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, for example, 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.

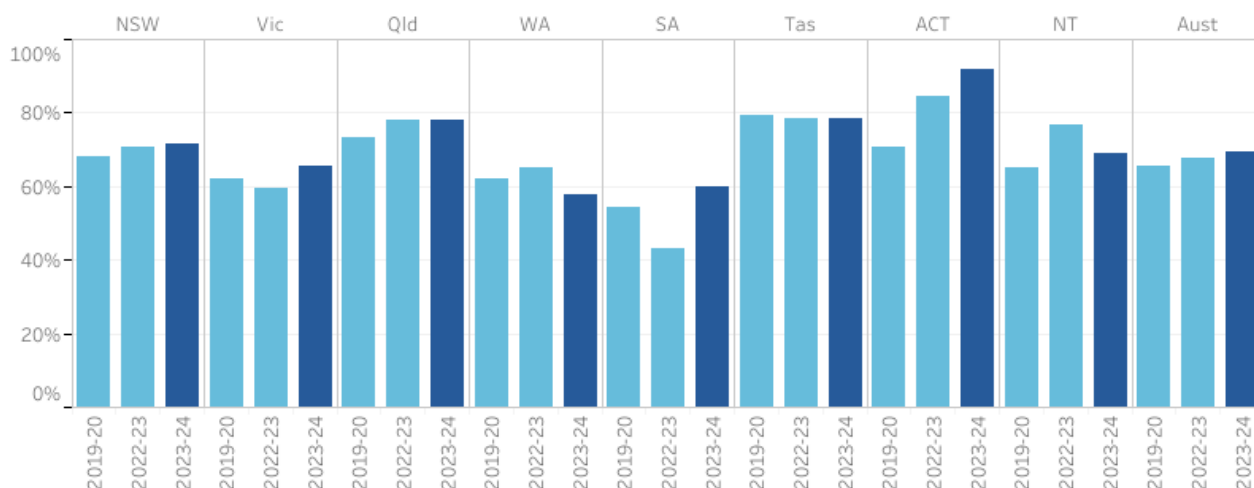
Nationally in 2023-24, for orders discharged during the financial year, the proportion of imposed hours of unpaid community work that was acquitted was 69.6%, an increase from 67.6% in 2022-23 (figure 8.9).

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

Select year(s):
Multiple values

- 2019-20
- 2022-23
- 2023-24

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



Source: table 8A.14



7. Prison capacity utilisation

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

‘Prison capacity utilisation’ reflects the extent to which the current total prison capacity (formally approved permanent and ongoing beds) meets the demand for prison accommodation. It is defined as the annual daily average prisoner population as a percentage of the annual average number of fixed prison beds which have been formally approved for permanent ongoing use on a daily basis. It excludes *contingency beds*, such as mattresses on the floor, or bunk beds which are not fixed and can be moved to different locations.

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% are desirable.

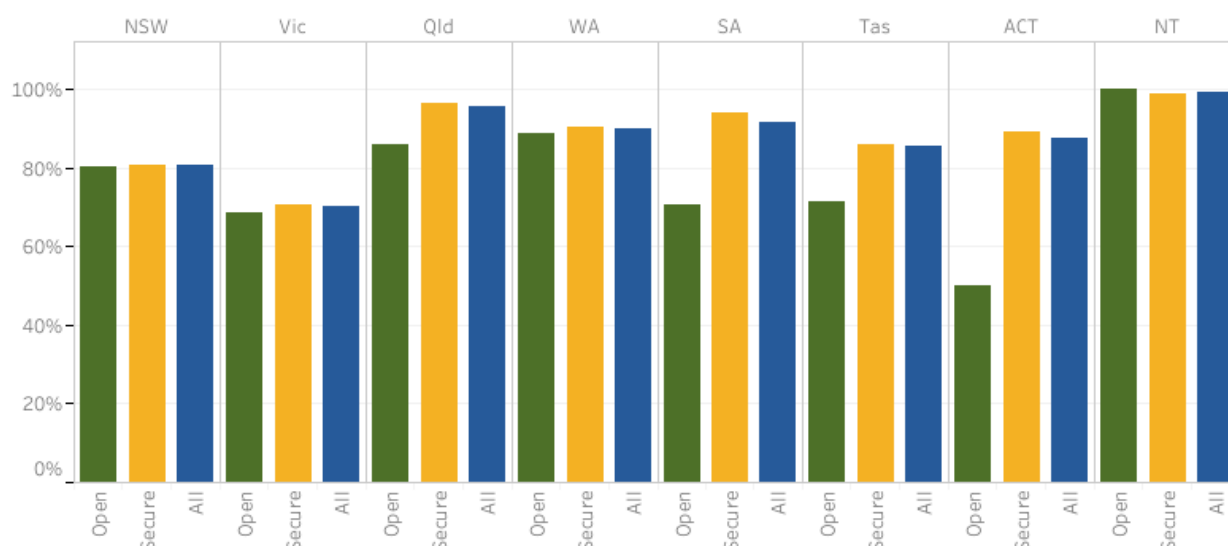
For all jurisdictions except the Northern Territory, prison capacity utilisation as a proportion of design capacity was higher for secure facilities compared to open prisons (figure 8.10).

■ Data is comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions.

■ Data is complete for the current reporting period.

■ All prisons ■ Open prisons ■ Secure facilities

Figure 8.10 Prison capacity utilisation
By jurisdiction, 2023-24



Source: table 8A.15

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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 2023-24 the overall rate of deaths of prisoners from apparent unnatural causes was 0.06 per 100 prisoners (table 8.2a). The rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners was 0.05 and for non-Indigenous prisoners was 0.06. There were 24 deaths reported as being due to unnatural causes, 7 of whom were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (table 8.2b).

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

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

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

2023-24

Table 8.2a Rate of deaths from apparent unnatural causes per 100 prisoner deaths
By Indigenous status, by jurisdiction, 2023-24 (a)

		Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners	Non-Indigenous prisoners	All prisoners
NSW	rate	0.08	0.06	0.06
Vic	rate	-	0.08	0.06
Qld	rate	0.02	0.08	0.06
WA	rate	0.06	0.07	0.07
SA	rate	0.12	-	0.03
Tas	rate	-	-	-
ACT	rate	-	-	-
NT	rate	-	-	-
Aust	rate	0.05	0.06	0.06

Table 8.2b Number of deaths from apparent unnatural causes
By Indigenous status, by jurisdiction, 2023-24 (a)

		Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners	Non-Indigenous prisoners	All prisoners
NSW	no.	3	5	8
Vic	no.	-	4	4
Qld	no.	1	5	6
WA	no.	2	3	5
SA	no.	1	-	1
Tas	no.	-	-	-
ACT	no.	-	-	-
NT	no.	-	-	-
Aust	no.	7	17	24

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

np Not published. - 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.

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 is not comparable across jurisdictions, but data is comparable (subject to caveats) within jurisdictions over time.

■ (all measures) Data is 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

			2014-15	2022-23	2023-24
Prisoner on prisoner	Serious assault	NSW	0.56	0.42	0.50
		Vic	0.90	1.26	0.99
		Qld	1.80	3.41	2.76
		WA	0.59	0.79	1.16
		SA	1.40	1.07	2.23
		Tas	2.14	1.48	1.43
		ACT	3.21	1.80	0.51
		NT	0.13	0.10	0.23
	Assault	NSW	15.07	20.93	24.33
		Vic	11.46	9.11	11.57
		Qld	5.00	10.94	9.80
		WA	5.42	6.34	6.38
		SA	5.86	6.02	11.50
		Tas	8.55	17.76	18.77
ACT		12.56	5.66	12.86	
NT		3.06	9.58	8.58	
Prisoner on officer	Serious assault	NSW	-	-	-
		Vic	0.08	0.12	0.26
		Qld	0.08	0.11	0.10
		WA	0.09	0.16	0.43
		SA	-	0.26	0.44
		Tas	-	0.44	0.13
		ACT	-	-	-
		NT	-	-	-
	Assault	NSW	0.51	1.83	2.41
		Vic	1.48	1.88	1.58
		Qld	0.25	0.93	0.78
		WA	1.98	1.10	1.75
		SA	0.79	0.42	0.94
		Tas	1.71	4.00	2.61
ACT		0.88	0.26	4.37	
NT		-	0.85	0.59	

Source: table 8A.18

— 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 2023-24, recurrent expenditure comprising net operating expenditure and capital costs was \$435.82 per prisoner per day (figure 8.11a), or \$30.80 per offender (table 8A.19).

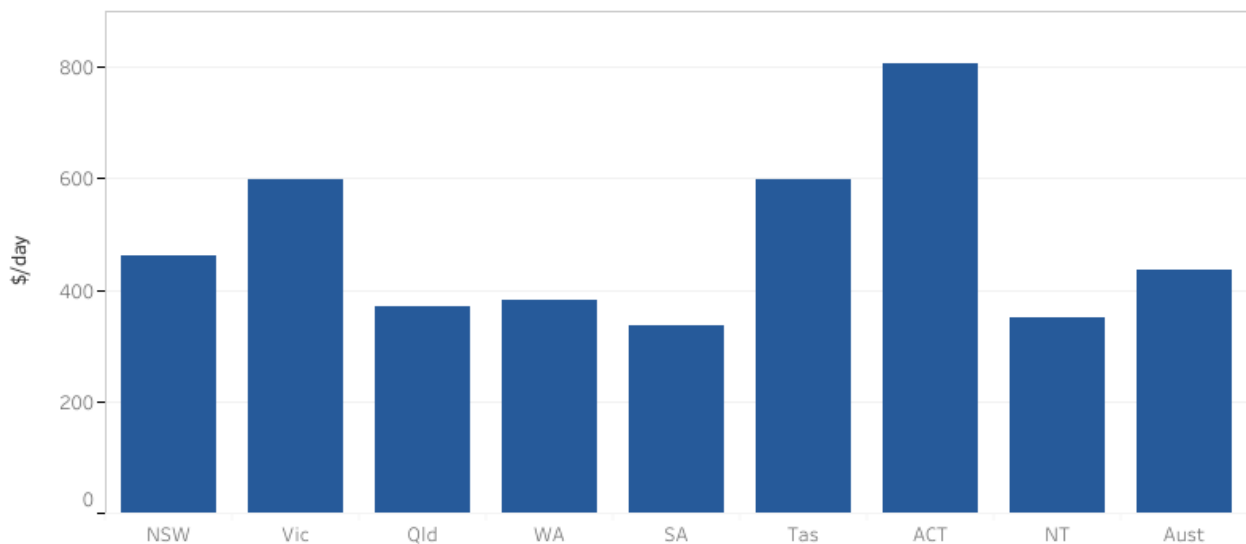
Data is not comparable across jurisdictions or over time.

Data is 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, by jurisdiction, 2023-24



Source: table 8A.19

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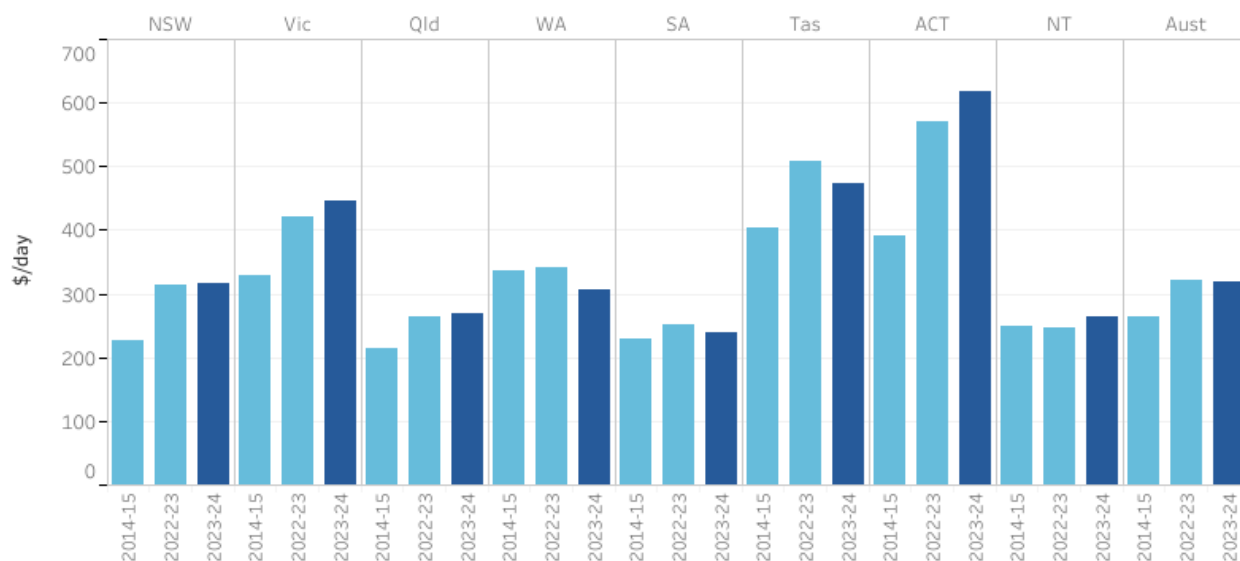
Nationally in 2023-24, excluding capital costs, the real net operating expenditure was \$319.37 per prisoner per day (figure 8.11b). This represents a 20.7% increase in real net expenditure per prisoner per day since 2014-15.

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

Select year(s):
Multiple values

■ 2014-15
■ 2022-23
■ 2023-24

Figure 8.11b Real net operating expenditure, per prisoner per day
By jurisdiction (excluding capital costs), by year (2023-24 dollars)



Source: table 8A.20



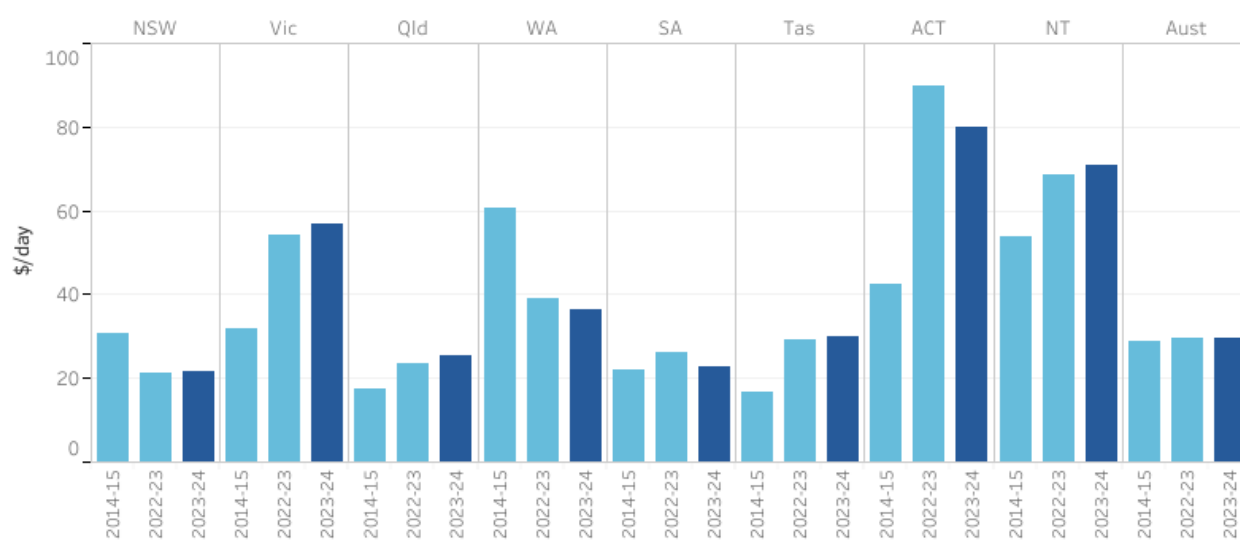
Nationally in 2023-24, excluding capital costs, the real net operating expenditure was \$29.65 per offender per day (figure 8.11c). This represents a 3.6% increase since 2014-15.

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

Select year(s):
Multiple values

■ 2014-15
■ 2022-23
■ 2023-24

Figure 8.11c Real net operating expenditure, per offender per day
By jurisdiction (excluding capital costs), by year (2023-24 dollars)



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 2023-24, 76.9% of community corrections orders were completed (figure 8.12).

Completions by order type were highest for supervision orders (77.1%), followed by reparation orders (76.3%) and restricted movement orders (72.7%) (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.

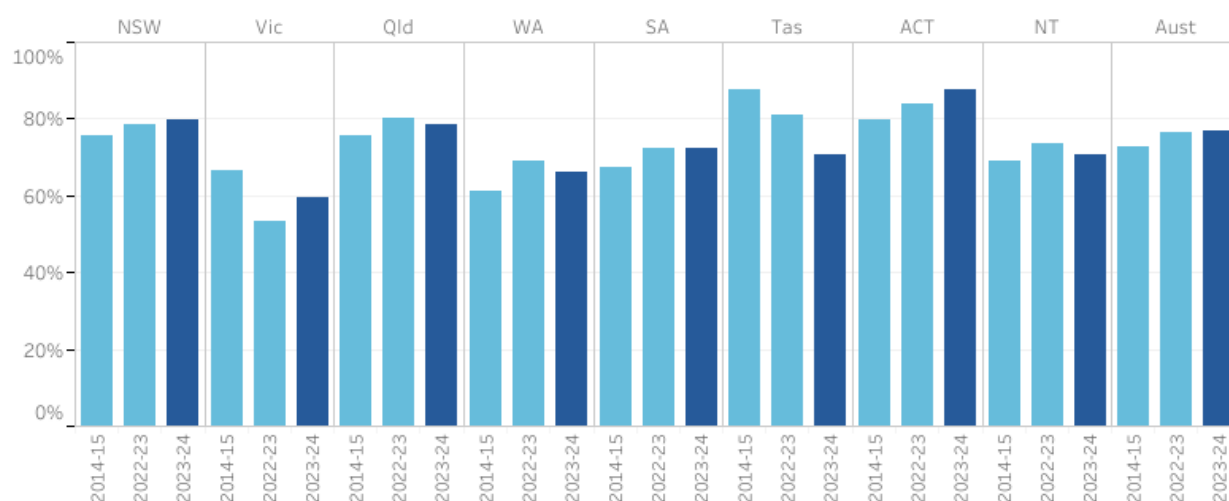
■ Data is comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

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

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

■ 2014-15
■ 2022-23
■ 2023-24

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
By jurisdiction, by type of order, Indigenous status and sex, 2023-24

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Restricted movement orders	80.0	..	..	46.1	76.7	76.6	..	90.0	72.7
Reparation orders	79.7	61.1	78.5	61.4	78.7	62.8	92.4	66.7	76.3
Supervision orders	79.7	58.9	78.4	67.7	68.0	73.5	87.4	71.1	77.1
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	71.1	42.9	69.4	55.4	57.8	64.0	87.6	68.7	68.6
Non-Indigenous	83.3	61.1	83.1	74.4	66.9	72.1	87.5	82.7	80.1
Female	82.9	59.2	86.4	66.2	62.1	73.4	89.4	77.0	79.9
Male	79.1	59.4	75.8	66.2	65.5	70.1	87.0	69.6	75.9

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 2023-24, the rate of escapes was 0.29 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 is comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

■ Data is 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

Rate per 100 prisoners, by jurisdiction, by secure and open custody, by year

			2014-15	2022-23	2023-24
NSW	rate	Open prison	0.13	0.03	0.10
		Secure prison	0.01	-	0.01
Vic	rate	Open prison	0.49	0.27	0.14
		Secure prison	-	-	0.04
Qld	rate	Open prison	0.82	1.18	2.01
		Secure prison	-	-	-
WA	rate	Open prison	0.52	0.11	0.10
		Secure prison	0.02	-	-
SA	rate	Open prison	1.07	-	-
		Secure prison	-	-	-
Tas	rate	Open prison	-	-	-
		Secure prison	-	0.15	-
ACT	rate	Open prison	-	-	-
		Secure prison	-	0.26	-
NT	rate	Open prison	1.33	1.36	0.10
		Secure prison	0.11	0.10	0.51
Aust	rate	Open prison	0.43	0.37	0.29
		Secure prison	0.01	0.01	0.02

Table 8.5b Number of prisoner escapes

By jurisdiction, by secure and open custody, by year

			2014-15	2022-23	2023-24
NSW	no.	Open prison	5	1	3
		Secure prison	1	-	1
Vic	no.	Open prison	5	2	1
		Secure prison	-	-	2
Qld	no.	Open prison	5	8	14
		Secure prison	-	-	-
WA	no.	Open prison	5	1	1
		Secure prison	1	-	-
SA	no.	Open prison	3	-	-
		Secure prison	-	-	-
Tas	no.	Open prison	-	-	-
		Secure prison	-	1	-
ACT	no.	Open prison	-	-	-
		Secure prison	-	1	-
NT	no.	Open prison	9	13	1
		Secure prison	1	1	6
Aust	no.	Open prison	32	25	20
		Secure prison	3	3	9

Source: table 8A.22

— 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. Supporting information can be found in the explanatory material tab and data tables.

Further information on the historical and ongoing context for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is available on the [Closing the Gap Information Repository website – Target 10](#)

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

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% 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 or 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 New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.</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 (refer to 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 New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. 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 (refer to 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 (refer to 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% to the value of government assets.