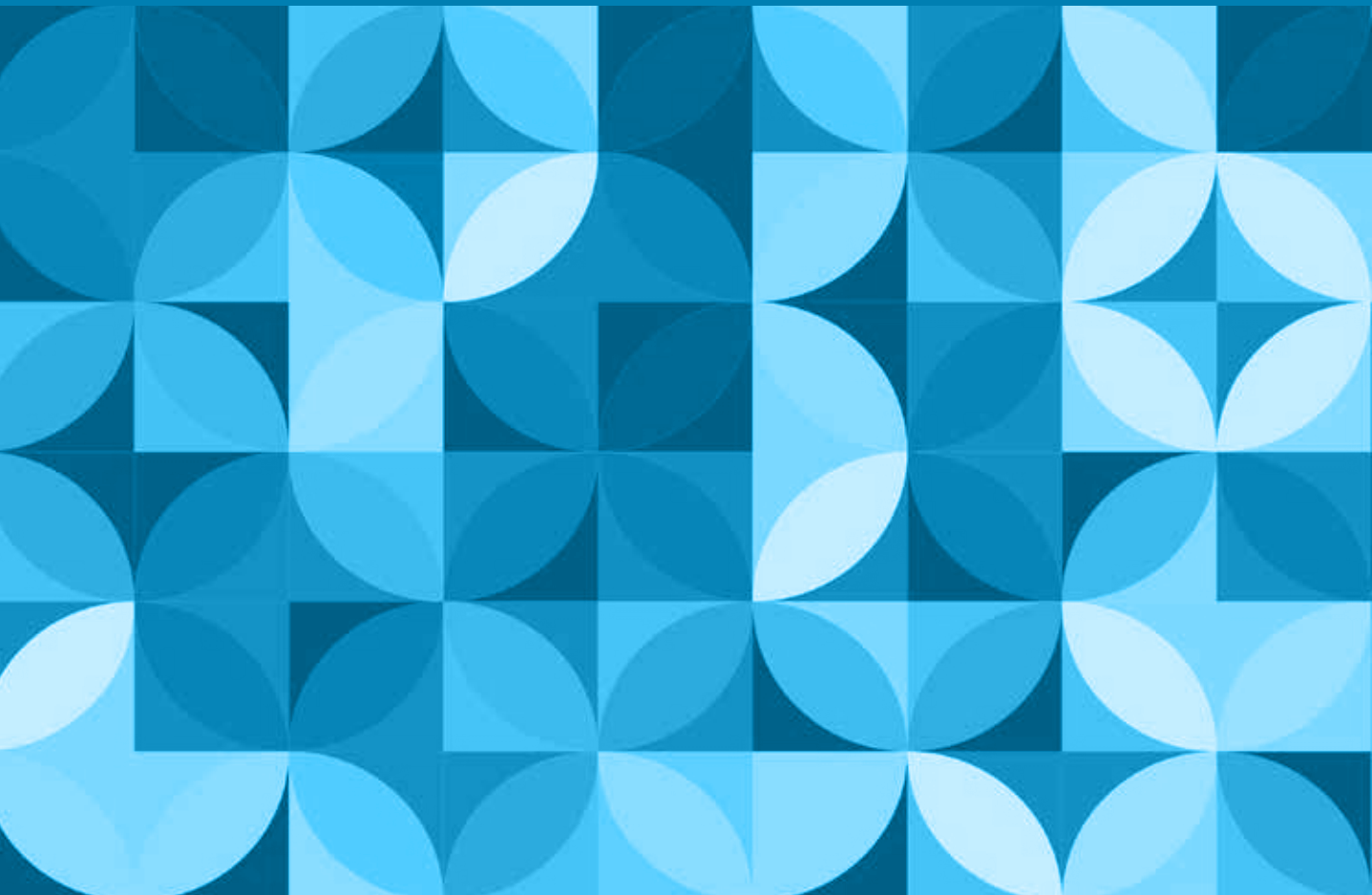
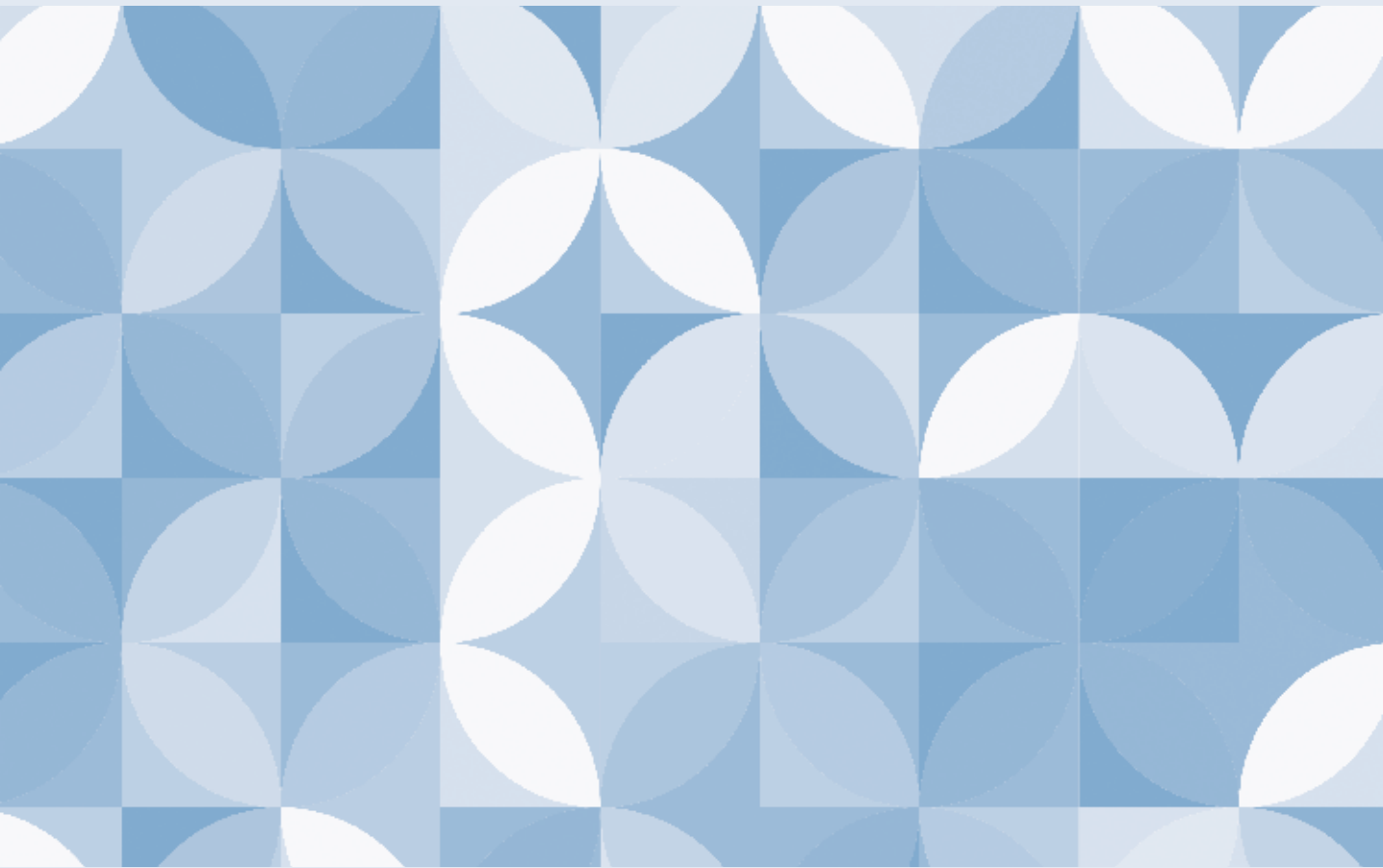


# Local Court of New South Wales Annual Review 2013



**Local Court**  
of New South Wales



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## Foreword by Chief Magistrate of New South Wales

It is with pleasure that I present the Local Court Annual Review for 2013.

The past year was another busy one for the Court, in which it maintained its outstanding performance in the management of a large and diverse caseload. I extend my warm thanks to the magistrates and court staff for their daily hard work in ensuring that the Local Court continued to provide an accessible, just and efficient forum for the many thousands of members of the community who came into contact with the legal system in 2013.

The Productivity Commission's annual *Report on Government Services* indicated that, as it has for the previous nine years, the Local Court again achieved the lowest level of backlogs in its criminal jurisdiction of any magistrates' court in the country. The Court performed equally strongly in its civil jurisdiction, recording the lowest proportion of matters outstanding beyond 6 and 12 months.

In light of the fact that across its jurisdictions the Local Court has one of the highest levels of lodgements of any court in Australia, these outcomes are particularly commendable. Moreover, they have been achieved notwithstanding the decision by Government to reduce judicial resources, which took effect in 2013. With the loss of a total of eight magistrates' positions by mid-2015, a rising challenge doubtless lies ahead for the Court in managing its workload in circumstances where an ever-increasing range of complex and serious offences are being brought before it.

Since the passage in 1995 of the *Criminal Procedure Amendment (Indictable Offences) Act*, which introduced a system where the Local Court effectively shares jurisdiction with the District Court in relation to a range of more serious criminal offences known as 'Table' offences, the number of charges finalised in the Local Court has risen by over one third. With this increase, the complexity of the criminal jurisdiction has grown as it has become clear that the option of having Table offences determined within the Local Court has become an important and realistic one for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Statistics for recent years indicate that the vast majority of Table offences – about 95% – are now heard in the Local Court. More often, they require a greater amount of court time to finalise, with a higher proportion of defendants choosing to have their matters proceed to a defended hearing than in cases involving summary charges. In view of the comparative resource effectiveness to the State of conducting a summary hearing in the Local Court as against a trial in the District Court, the figure for Table offences finalised in the Local Court has risen from about 70,000 to more than 88,000 charges in the last decade. It appears unlikely that current patterns in the distribution of the Table offences caseload will change.

In such an environment, while not a panacea for the challenges ahead, the Court has continued to embrace technology and explore possibilities for its use in the courtroom. Following the recent roll-out of iPads, in 2013 magistrates transitioned to the exclusive use of electronic rather than hard copy editions of bench books and received training in the use of other electronic legal resources.

Options for utilising mobile tablet technology in the hearing of proceedings are also being trialled, with the Court participating in a project managed by NSW Police prosecutors where in suitable cases witnesses are able to give evidence via a videoconferencing application in courtrooms where AVL facilities are not available.

Further details of these and the other operations and activities of the Local Court in 2013 are outlined in this Review.

Judge Graeme Henson  
Chief Magistrate

# 1 An overview of the Local Court

- Jurisdictions and divisions
- The Magistrates
- Chief Magistrate's Executive Office
- The work of the Local Court registries

## Jurisdictions and divisions

The Local Court is the first point of contact many people have with the justice system in New South Wales. In order of ascension, the District Court, Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal and Criminal Appeal, and the High Court of Australia follow.

The Local Court deals with a wide range of matters across several jurisdictions. As at 31 December 2013, there were 131 magistrates (123 full time magistrates and 8 part time) who preside at 150 sitting locations throughout New South Wales.

### Criminal jurisdiction

The Local Court deals with over 90% of all criminal matters in the State, including the finalisation of charges for summary offences and the summary hearing of particular indictable offences nominated under the *Criminal Procedure Act 1986*. The Court also conducts committal proceedings to determine whether or not indictable offences are to be committed to the District and Supreme Courts.

Magistrates are involved in the majority of criminal proceedings from the time a matter first comes before the court, to the time it is either:

- Finalised by a plea of guilty,
- Finalised at a hearing upon a not guilty plea, at which the defendant is found guilty or acquitted;
- Committed for sentence to the Supreme Court or District Court after a plea of guilty;
- Committed for trial in the Supreme Court or District Court where the matter is to be defended; or
- Withdrawn by the prosecuting authority, and therefore dismissed.

Prosecutions in the criminal jurisdiction include matters that are:

- Brought under Federal law by the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions; and
- Brought under State law either by the NSW Director of Public Prosecutions, NSW Police Force, or Local Councils and regulatory bodies.

When the Local Court deals with criminal matters, depending on the type of offence, a wide range of penalties and sentences can be imposed, such as:

- **Non-custodial sentences**, including:
  - A dismissal or good behaviour bond without a conviction being recorded against the offender
  - A conviction without further punishment
  - A fine with conviction
  - A good behaviour bond with conviction
  - A Community Service Order with conviction
- **Custodial sentences**, including:
  - A suspended sentence, in which the offender is sentenced to imprisonment but is placed on a good behaviour bond. The offender does not serve the sentence of imprisonment unless he/she breaches the conditions of the bond and it is revoked by the Court.
  - An Intensive Correction Order, in which the offender serves a sentence of imprisonment ‘in the community’ and is required to comply with requirements such as a curfew, completion of work, and/or completion of rehabilitative or treatment programs.
  - Home Detention, where the offender serves the sentence of imprisonment in his/her home.
  - Full time imprisonment.

Custodial alternatives to full time imprisonment often involve the offender being externally assessed as suitable before the sentence is delivered.

The maximum term of full time imprisonment that can be imposed by the Local Court is a term of 2 years for any singular offence where gaol is the maximum penalty, or an accumulation of up to 5 years for multiple offences where the maximum penalty for each offence is a term of imprisonment.

### Civil jurisdiction

The Local Court also exercises a civil jurisdiction, in which it deals with civil matters where people, companies or business owners may make claims for up to and including \$100,000 for recovery of debts, demands or damages.

The civil caseload of the Court is split between two Divisions:

- The **Small Claims Division**, which deals with claims with a monetary value of up to \$10,000. Proceedings in the Small Claims Division are conducted with as little formality and technicality as is needed for the proper consideration of the issues in dispute. The hearing is generally an informal process where the Court considers statements and documents provided by the parties. The parties are also given the opportunity to comment upon the evidence.
- The **General Division**, which deals with claims between the amounts of \$10,000 and \$100,000 (except in claims relating to personal injury or death, where a jurisdictional limit of \$60,000 applies). Matters where the monetary value of the claim is less than \$10,000 may also be transferred to the General Division in circumstances where the issues in dispute are complex, difficult, or of such importance that they should more properly be dealt with in the General Division.

### Coronial jurisdiction

All magistrates, by virtue of their office, are coroners. A coroner has jurisdiction to conduct an inquest if a person has died a violent unnatural death, a sudden death cause unknown, or under suspicious or unusual circumstances.

A death must be reported to the State Coroner or Deputy State Coroner where a person dies during the course of a police operation or whilst in custody, and an inquest must be conducted into the circumstances of that death. The State Coroner or a Deputy State Coroner also has sole jurisdiction in relation to deaths of children in care or at risk of harm and certain deaths of people with disabilities.

Coroners also have jurisdiction to hold an inquiry into the cause and origin of fires and explosions where property has been damaged or destroyed.

The State Coroner is responsible for overseeing and co-ordinating all coronial services in New South Wales.

### Industrial jurisdiction

An industrial jurisdiction may be conferred on magistrates under the *Industrial Relations Act 1996*. Following the death of Chief Industrial Magistrate Greg Hart in 2012, all magistrates of the Local Court were appointed as industrial magistrates in 2013.

The industrial jurisdiction deals with such matters as:

- Recovery of money owing under industrial instruments, such as Awards, Enterprise Agreements and statutory entitlements;
- Prosecutions for breach of industrial instruments;
- Appeals from various administrative decisions; and
- Prosecutions for statutory breaches.

## The Magistrates

The judicial officers of the Court are the magistrates. The Governor of New South Wales appoints magistrates pursuant to section 13 of the *Local Court Act 2007* on the advice of the Executive Council.

The *Local Court Act* also provides that the Governor may appoint a Chief Magistrate and Deputy Chief Magistrates.

In 2013, the judicial officers of the Court were as follows:

### Chief Magistrate

His Honour Judge Graeme Leslie Henson

### Deputy Chief Magistrates

Her Honour Magistrate Jane Ellen Mottley

Her Honour Magistrate Jane Ariane Culver

Her Honour Magistrate Mary Stella Jerram  
(State Coroner, until 1 November 2013)

### Magistrates

His Honour Magistrate Darryl John Pearce

His Honour Magistrate Richard Peter Miszalski

His Honour Magistrate Christopher James Bone

His Honour Magistrate William Grenville Pierce

Her Honour Magistrate Dr Patricia O'Shane AM  
(until 19 June 2013)

His Honour Magistrate Wayne Henry Evans

His Honour Magistrate Jeffrey Alan Linden

His Honour Magistrate Thomas Hugh Hodgson

Her Honour Magistrate Janet Christina Ruth  
Stevenson

Her Honour Magistrate Daphne Anne Kok

His Honour Magistrate Geoffrey Edward Bradd

His Honour Magistrate Scott Mitchell (until 18  
November 2013)

Her Honour Magistrate Carolyn Jane Barkell  
(until 17 April 2013)

His Honour Magistrate Allan Wilson Railton

His Honour Magistrate Dr Roger Alasdair Brown

Her Honour Magistrate Jennifer Ethel Betts

His Honour Magistrate Douglas Raymond Dick

His Honour Magistrate Shaughan McCosker

Her Honour Magistrate Sharron Maree Crews

His Honour Magistrate Hugh Christopher Bryant  
Dillon

Her Honour Magistrate Julie Anne Huber

His Honour Magistrate Michael Stoddart

His Honour Magistrate Brian Vincent Maloney  
(until 22 October 2013)

Her Honour Magistrate Jacqueline Mary Milledge

Her Honour Magistrate Lee Anne Gilmour

Her Honour Magistrate Janet Wahlquist

Her Honour Magistrate Jennifer Anne Giles

His Honour Magistrate Christopher Longley

His Honour Magistrate Anthony Kevin Murray

His Honour Magistrate Garry James Still

His Honour Magistrate William John Brydon

Her Honour Magistrate Christine Mary Haskett

Her Honour Magistrate Jayeann Carney

His Honour Magistrate Robert Scott Rabbidge

Her Honour Magistrate Beverley Anne Schurr

His Honour Magistrate David Michael Heilpern

His Honour Magistrate Roger David Prowse

Her Honour Magistrate Suzanne Gaye Seagrave

Her Honour Magistrate Eve Wynhausen

His Honour Magistrate Ian James Guy

His Honour Magistrate Daniel Reiss

Her Honour Magistrate Joanne Keogh

His Honour Magistrate Paul Raymond Mulroney

His Honour Magistrate Terence Timothy Lucas

His Honour Magistrate Terence Murphy PSM

Her Honour Magistrate Elaine Truscott

Her Honour Magistrate Paula Mary Russell

Her Honour Magistrate Helen Gay Barry

Her Honour Magistrate Georgia Knight

Her Honour Magistrate Carmel Ann Forbes

Her Honour Magistrate Lisa Veronica Stapleton

His Honour Magistrate Robert Allen Walker

Her Honour Magistrate Margaret Quinn PSM

His Honour Magistrate John Andrews

His Honour Magistrate Howard Charles Hamilton  
(until 1 February 2013)

His Honour Magistrate James Coombs

Her Honour Magistrate Fiona Toose



His Honour Magistrate Graeme Curran  
 Her Honour Magistrate Joan Margaret Baptie  
 Her Honour Magistrate Elizabeth Anne Ellis  
 Her Honour Magistrate Clare Farnan  
 Her Honour Magistrate Nancy Louise Hennessy  
 Her Honour Magistrate Dorelle Pinch  
 His Honour Magistrate Paul Anthony MacMahon  
 His Honour Magistrate Jeffrey Raymond Hogg  
 His Honour Magistrate Ronald John Maiden  
 His Honour Magistrate Michael North Holmes  
 Her Honour Magistrate Vivien Margaret Swain  
 His Honour Magistrate Graham Thomas Blewitt  
 AM  
 His Honour Magistrate Timothy Bernard Keady  
 His Honour Magistrate Peter Sampson Dare SC  
 Her Honour Magistrate Annette Christine Sinclair  
 Her Honour Magistrate Robyn Eva Denes  
 Her Honour Magistrate Sharon Claire Freund  
 Her Honour Magistrate Geraldine Beattie  
 Her Honour Magistrate Jacqueline Maree Trad  
 His Honour Magistrate Glenn James Bartley  
 His Honour Magistrate Antony Edward Townsden  
 (until 3 May 2013)  
 His Honour Magistrate Leslie William Mabbutt  
 His Honour Magistrate John Daniel Favretto  
 Her Honour Magistrate Dr Gabriel Catherine  
 Fleming  
 Her Honour Magistrate Alison Mary Viney  
 His Honour Magistrate Christopher Gerard  
 O'Brien  
 His Honour Magistrate Mark Richardson  
 His Honour Magistrate Robert Hilary Williams  
 His Honour Magistrate Geoffrey James Dunlevy  
 Her Honour Magistrate Sharon Lee Holdsworth  
 His Honour Magistrate Michael John Connell  
 His Honour Magistrate Geoffrey Graeme Hiatt  
 His Honour Magistrate Brian van Zuylen  
 His Honour Magistrate Peter Bugden  
 Her Honour Magistrate Margot Gai Stubbs  
 His Honour Magistrate Roger James Clisdell  
 His Honour Magistrate Michael Gary Dakin  
 Her Honour Magistrate Michelle Norma Goodwin  
 His Honour Magistrate Stephen Corry  
 Her Honour Magistrate Susan McIntyre  
 His Honour Magistrate Michael Gerard Allen  
 Her Honour Magistrate Elizabeth Ryan  
 His Honour Magistrate Glenn Walsh  
 Her Honour Magistrate Ellen Skinner  
 His Honour Magistrate Mark Buscombe  
 His Honour Magistrate Ian Cheetham  
 His Honour Magistrate John Chicken  
 His Honour Magistrate Albert Sbrizzi  
 His Honour Magistrate Bruce Williams  
 Her Honour Magistrate Susan McGowan  
 Her Honour Magistrate Teresa O'Sullivan  
 His Honour Magistrate Gregory Groggin  
 Her Honour Magistrate Sue Duncombe  
 Her Honour Magistrate Estelle Hawdon  
 His Honour Magistrate Alexander Mijovich  
 Her Honour Magistrate Harriet Grahame  
 His Honour Magistrate David Degnan  
 His Honour Magistrate Andrew Eckhold  
 Her Honour Magistrate Jennifer Atkinson  
 Her Honour Magistrate Megan Greenwood  
 His Honour Magistrate Caleb Franklin  
 His Honour Magistrate David Day  
 His Honour Magistrate Michael Antrum  
 His Honour Magistrate Theo Tsavdaridis  
 Her Honour Magistrate Margaret Mary McGlynn  
 Her Honour Magistrate Louise McManus  
 His Honour Magistrate Shane McAnulty  
 Her Honour Magistrate Mary Ryan  
 Her Honour Magistrate Karen Stafford  
 His Honour Magistrate Michael Barko  
 His Honour Magistrate Robert Stone  
 His Honour Magistrate Peter Feather  
 His Honour Magistrate Derek Jonathan Lee  
 Her Honour Magistrate Karen Robinson  
 (from 25 February 2013)  
 His Honour Magistrate Mark Douglass  
 (from 25 February 2013)  
 Her Honour Magistrate Carolyn Huntsman  
 (from 15 July 2013)  
 His Honour Magistrate Michael Barnes  
 (from 26 August 2013)

## Judicial appointments in 2013

### Karen Robinson

Prior to her appointment to the Local Court, Karen Robinson practised law for more than 20 years in western NSW. After growing up in Sydney and studying law at the University of Sydney, Ms Robinson moved to Dubbo in 1992. She was admitted to the Bar in 2008 and was one of a small number of barristers in Dubbo. Practising primarily in criminal law, Ms Robinson appeared in a range of Local and District Court matters, including trials, sentences and appeals.

Prior to joining the Bar, Ms Robinson served as a Senior Solicitor in Crime at Legal Aid in Dubbo for five years. She also spent more than 11 years in a private general litigation practice where she was involved in criminal, civil and family law. During that time, she became a Law Society accredited specialist in advocacy. Ms Robinson was also Secretary of the Orana Law Society from 1995 to 2005.

In addition to her work in court, Ms Robinson has lectured for a driver education program, been involved in the education of local solicitors, including delivering conference papers, been a member of a community justice panel, and been a Young Lawyers representative for the Orana region.

Ms Robinson was sworn in as a magistrate on 25 February 2013.

### Mark Douglass

Mark Douglass was a solicitor for almost 15 years, working primarily in Nowra. He was the principal solicitor at Douglass and Ford Criminal Law and the President of the Shoalhaven Regional Law Society prior to his appointment as a magistrate.

Mr Douglass has wide ranging legal experience, representing parties in a large number of matters involving criminal, civil, family and care law. He frequently appeared in the Local, Children's and District Courts and instructed counsel in matters before the Supreme Court and Court of

Criminal Appeal. He has conducted prosecutions for government bodies in matters relating to education, fisheries and human resources. He has also lectured in law at Wollongong University.

Prior to establishing his own practice in 2003, Mr Douglass worked as a criminal lawyer at the Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS). While at the ALS, he established a legal component for the Serious Traffic Offender's Program in Nowra.

Mr Douglass performed extensive community work in the Shoalhaven area. As a coach of rugby league and rugby union teams, he worked with disadvantaged Aboriginal young people and encouraged them to participate in sport and gain an education. He also assisted the Schizophrenia Fellowship with fundraising and appeared as a guest speaker at a number of its events.

Mr Douglass was sworn in as a magistrate on 25 February 2013.

### Carolyn Huntsman

Prior to her appointment as a magistrate, Carolyn Huntsman was a judicial member of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal and had served on a range of other tribunals including the Mental Health Review Tribunal and the Guardianship Tribunal.

In the course of her career Ms Huntsman has also worked as a solicitor, specialising in criminal, immigration and administrative law, and has appeared in the Local, Children's and District Courts of NSW as well as the Federal Court of Australia and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Early in her career, Ms Huntsman worked extensively on legal issues facing Aboriginal people. She was a solicitor at the National Aboriginal and Legal Services Secretariat and a researcher for the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

Ms Huntsman was sworn in on 15 July 2013.

### **Michael Barnes**

Prior to his appointment to the Local Court of NSW, Michael Barnes served as Queensland's inaugural State Coroner and periodically as the Acting Deputy Chief Magistrate of Queensland.

Before joining the Queensland judiciary, Mr Barnes was Head of the School of Justice Studies at the Queensland University of Technology. He has also worked as a chief officer of the Complaint Section of the Queensland Criminal Justice Commission, a principal solicitor of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service and as a solicitor and partner in a small legal firm.

Mr Barnes was sworn in as a magistrate of the Local Court on 26 August 2013, and took up an appointment as the NSW State Coroner on 6 January 2014 following the retirement of State Coroner Mary Jerram.

### **Magistrate appointed as District Court judge**

His Honour Magistrate Antony Townsden was appointed a Judge of the District Court and was sworn in on 3 May 2013.

### **Judicial retirements during 2013**

His Honour Magistrate Howard Charles Hamilton (retired 1 February 2013)

Her Honour Magistrate Carolyn Jane Barkell (retired 17 April 2013)

Her Honour Magistrate Dr Patricia O'Shane AM (retired 19 June 2013)

Her Honour Magistrate Mary Jerram, State Coroner (retired 1 November 2013)

His Honour Magistrate Scott Mitchell (retired 18 November 2013)

The Court was saddened by the death of his Honour Magistrate Brian Maloney in October 2013.

### **Acting Magistrates in 2013**

The Court could not continue to achieve the outstanding service to the administration of justice that makes it a leader within the Commonwealth without the energy and assistance of acting magistrates. Recently retired magistrates may be commissioned as acting magistrates under section 16 of the *Local Court Act 2007* for a limited tenure.

Acting magistrates are used to preside at weekend bail courts. They may also be used to cover absences on sick leave and extended leave.

Acting magistrates in 2013 were:

Mr Robert Joseph Abood  
Mr Peter Frederick Ashton  
Mr John Anthony Bailey  
Ms Carolyn Jane Barkell (from 1 July 2013)  
Mr Leslie Brennan  
Mr John Ormonde Crawford  
Mr Colin Alan Elliott  
Mr Kevin Charles Flack  
Mr Andrew John Benson George  
Mr Stephen Vaughan Jackson  
Mr Bernard Joseph Kennedy  
Mr Brian Anthony Lulham  
Mr Paul Lyon  
Mr Malcolm MacPherson (from 1 July 2013)  
Mr Anthony Marsden  
Mr John McIntosh  
Mr Ian Duncan McRae  
Mr Christopher McRobert  
Mr Carl Milovanovich  
Mr Allan Darroll Moore  
Mr Michael Morahan  
Mr David Patrick O'Connor  
Mr Michael Kevin Price  
Mr Mark Robert Shepherd  
Mr Anthony Alfred Spence  
Mr George Zdenkowski

### **Small Claims assessors in 2013**

Small Claims assessors sit at various Local Court locations in the Sydney metropolitan area in the Small Claims Division, which deals with civil claims of less than \$10,000. In other locations Small Claims matters are dealt with by the magistrate.

Small Claims assessors in 2013 were:

Ms Danae Harvey  
Ms Janice Connelly  
Mr Stephen Olischlager

## Chief Magistrate's Executive Office

In 2013, the Executive Office consisted of seven staff:

### **Executive Officer**

Jacinta Haywood

### **Policy Officer**

Alison Passé-de Silva

### **Listing and Rostering Co-ordinator**

Helena Potter

### **Courts Co-ordinator**

Phillip Suitor

### **Executive Assistant to the Chief Magistrate**

Theresa Parkinson

### **Judicial Support Officer**

Linda McRae

### **Administrative Assistant**

Lance Andrews

The New South Wales Local Court has the largest number of Judicial Officers in a summary jurisdiction in Australia. Under the direction of the Chief Magistrate, the staff of the Chief Magistrate's Executive Office provide statewide administrative support to magistrates and acting magistrates.

One of the primary functions of the Chief Magistrate's Executive Office is to assist the Chief Magistrate in organising and managing the sittings of the Local Court at approximately 150 locations throughout the State. The Executive Office is responsible for the publication of sittings schedules, rosters, Chief Magistrate's circulars, Local Court Practice Notes, listing of cases and collation of statistical information. The Executive Office co-ordinates magistrates' travel across the State to ensure requirements for sittings are

met and co-ordinates magistrates' attendance at various conferences throughout the year. The Executive Office also assists the Chief Magistrate in discharging ceremonial functions such as the swearing in of newly appointed magistrates.

Under the supervision of the Chief Magistrate and Deputy Chief Magistrates, the Executive Office is responsible for the day to day listing management and co-ordination of the Downing Centre and Central Local Courts, the largest Local Court complex in the State.

The Executive Office also facilitates strategic and effective working relationships with clients and stakeholders. In particular, members of the Executive Office provide advice to and represent the Chief Magistrate on committees and working groups regarding matters that affect the Court, including the use and installation of audio visual and other technology. The members of the Office also assist the Chief Magistrate by providing research and project support relating to changes in legislation and policy.

Further information about the NSW Local Court can be found on the Local Court website at: <http://www.localcourt.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/localcourts/index.html>

## The work of the Local Court registries

The Local Court would be unable to operate effectively without the valued assistance and expertise of the many registry staff throughout the State. Each registry provides administrative and clerical support to the Local Court. The Local Court is responsible for dealing with a complex range of matters from different jurisdictions and registry staff are required to have a sound operational knowledge.

Staff at each registry are responsible for checking and accepting various documents filed at the Court, securing and maintaining court records, issuing court process and providing assistance to a variety of court users. A large number of Local Court users are not legally represented and it therefore falls upon registry staff to explain the various court processes in a manner that is easily understood.

### Registrars

Registrars are appointed to the Local Court by the Governor pursuant to section 18 of the *Local Court Act 2007*. Registrars have a number of quasi-judicial functions conferred upon them by legislation.

The work of the registrar includes:

- Conduct of call-overs in both the civil and criminal jurisdiction;
- Conduct of pre-trial reviews in civil claims and small claims hearings;
- Issuing of search warrants;
- Determining various applications and motions in all jurisdictions;
- Management and supervision of the court registry;
- Swearing in of Justices of the Peace; and
- Limited responsibilities in relation to births, deaths and marriages.

## 2 Court operations during 2013

- Criminal jurisdiction
- Civil jurisdiction
- Coronial jurisdiction

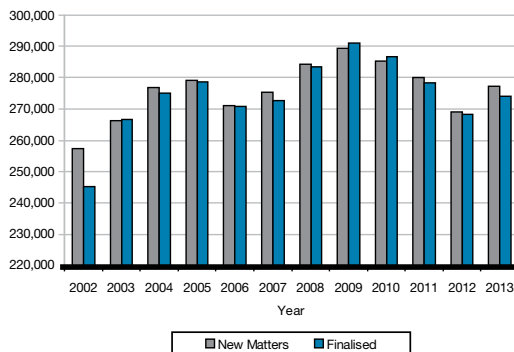
## Criminal jurisdiction

### Criminal matters in 2013

Between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2013:

- 277,224 criminal matters were commenced in the Local Court, representing an increase of 2.94% from the previous year.
- 274,194 criminal matters were finalised, giving a clearance ratio for the period of 99.12%.

### Criminal matters commenced and finalised



*Note: Due to source differences, no direct comparison can be made between figures for 2009 onwards and previous years.*

### Timeliness

In accordance with published time standards, the Court aims to finalise 100% of summary criminal trials and indictable matters discharged or committed for trial or sentence to the Supreme or District Court within 12 months of commencement.

In 2013:

- 96.03% of matters were completed within 6 months of commencement.
- 99.33% of matters were completed within 12 months of commencement.

### Developments in 2013

#### Bail law

A new *Bail Act* was passed by the Parliament in 2013, and commenced on 20 May 2014 following a period for education and training of judicial officers, legal practitioners, police and court staff. Magistrates took part in seminars on the new Act as part of the 2013-14 judicial education program. Several magistrates of the Local Court also participated in a project, led by the Judicial Commission of NSW, to develop an educational DVD on different procedural aspects of the new bail regime. The DVD was launched in April 2014.

#### Trial of Facetime for witness' evidence

A new initiative led by NSW Police prosecutors commenced, in which mobile tablet devices may be used in court to enable witnesses to appear from remote locations using the video call app Facetime in appropriate cases. Trials have been conducted at Local Court locations across NSW and are expected to continue throughout 2014.

### Domestic and personal violence

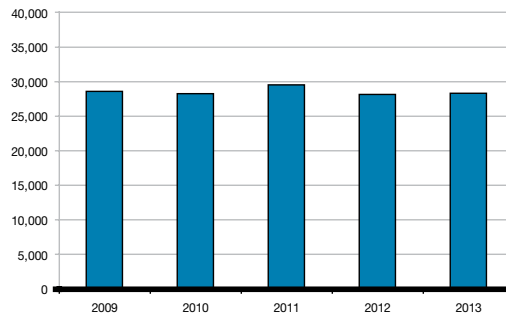
Final domestic violence orders increased from 22,362 in 2012 to 23,177 in 2013. Final personal violence orders also decreased from 5,874 in 2012 to 5,150 in 2013.

## Apprehended Violence Statistics 2013

Domestic Violence	2012	2013
<i>Lodgements</i>		
Total lodgements*	33,912	34,789
<i>Finalisations</i>		
Final Orders made	22,362	23,177
Complaints withdrawn/ dismissed	9,890	8,775
Complaints dismissed after hearing	516	447
Application not served	284	221
Orders varied/revoked	2,373	2,607
Application to vary/revoke withdrawn/dismissed	521	520
Total finalisations	35,946	35,747
<b>Personal Violence</b>		
<i>Lodgements</i>		
Total lodgements*	10,522	9,062
<i>Finalisations</i>		
Final Orders made by Court	5,874	5,150
Complaints withdrawn/ dismissed	4,502	3,709
Complaints dismissed after hearing	175	140
Application not served	140	104
Orders varied/revoked	260	230
Application to vary/revoke withdrawn/dismissed	93	77
Total finalisations	11,044	9,410

\* Note: Data as to the breakdown of lodgements into the categories of provisional orders, application notices and applications for variation/revocation was not able to be extracted from JusticeLink for 2013 as in previous years.

## Final domestic and personal violence orders



The Local Court acknowledges the important work of, and the assistance received in 2013 from:

- The Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Program that provides support and assistance for applicants in AVO proceedings. Designated rooms and other support services are provided at most courts.
- Police Domestic Violence liaison officers, who provide assistance on list days.
- Community Justice Centres in facilitating mediation of complaints between private parties in personal violence order proceedings.

## Domestic Violence Intervention Court Model

The Domestic Violence Intervention Court Model (DVICM) continued to operate in the Local Court during 2013 at Wagga Wagga and Campbelltown.

The DVICM aims to apply good practice in the criminal justice process for domestic violence matters and improve the coordination of services to victims and defendants. By agreement with magistrates, the victim is only required to attend Court on the first mention. There are regular, although not specialist, police prosecutors at both locations. Police are being encouraged and supported to submit high quality briefs to the Court at the earliest stage possible, preferably on the first mention.

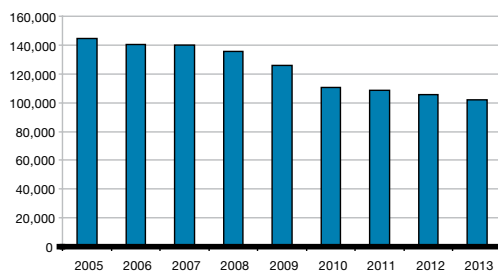


## Civil jurisdiction

### Civil matters in 2013

In the period 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2013, 102,257 civil actions were commenced (decreasing from 106,274 in 2012). 82,682 matters were filed in the Small Claims Division and 15,348 were filed in the General Division. Overall, 101,494 civil actions were finalised.

### Civil actions commenced



*Note: Due to source differences, no direct comparison can be made between figures for 2009 onwards and previous years.*

### Timeliness

The Local Court's published Time Standards provide for the finalisation of:

- 90% of civil cases – within 6 months of the initiation of the proceedings in the Court
- 100% of civil cases – within 12 months of the initiation of proceedings in the Court.

In 2013:

- In the Small Claims Division – 98% of matters were finalised within 12 months; and
- In the General Division – 95% of matters were finalised within 12 months.

### Developments in 2013

#### Practice Note Civ 1

The Court's consolidated civil practice note Civ 1 was reissued in January 2013 to add and update standard procedures intended to aid the Court's overriding purpose of facilitating the just, quick and cheap resolution of proceedings, as set out in section 56 of the *Civil Procedure Act 2005*.

Specific provisions include:

- Arrangements for appearances of parties or witnesses via audio visual link (AVL) facilities;
- The making of "guillotine" orders in circumstances where a party does not serve evidence within the timeframes allowed by the court;
- The limitation of disclosure (discovery) orders to situations where there are exceptional circumstances why such an order is necessary for resolving the real issues in the proceedings. Ordinarily, a disclosure order is not to be made until the parties have served their evidence;
- Arrangements in relation to expert evidence, including for a single expert to be used wherever possible or, if the court permits each party to call their own expert witness, for the preparation of a joint report and the giving of concurrent evidence at the hearing.

#### Sydney civil registry

In October 2013, the civil registry at the Sydney Downing Centre relocated to level 4 of John Maddison Tower at 88 Goulburn Street, Sydney. Following the move, registry functions and some court listings are conducted at John Maddison Tower, including:

- Filings in civil proceedings
- Examinations by the civil registrar
- Small Claims Division matters
- General Division callover and motions lists

## Coronial jurisdiction

Her Honour Magistrate Mary Jerram was appointed as State Coroner until her retirement in November 2013.

His Honour Magistrate Hugh Dillon, Deputy State Coroner, was appointed Acting State Coroner from November 2013 until 31 December 2013.

In 2013, the Deputy State Coroners were:

- His Honour Magistrate Hugh Dillon
- His Honour Magistrate Paul MacMahon
- Her Honour Magistrate Sharon Freund (shared position)
- Her Honour Magistrate Carmel Forbes (shared position)
- His Honour Magistrate Ian Cheetham (Newcastle)
- Her Honour Magistrate Geraldine Beattie (Wollongong)
- His Honour Magistrate Scott Mitchell (retired November 2013)

His Honour Magistrate Michael Barnes was appointed NSW State Coroner commencing 6 January 2014. The appointment is for a period of 5 years.

### Reduction of delays in coronial jurisdiction

The NSW Coroners jurisdiction has again maintained a high clearance rate overall in comparison to other states and territories in the Productivity Commission's *Report on Government Services*. In 2012/13 the coronial jurisdiction achieved a clearance rate of nearly 110.9%. Since 2010/11, the coronial jurisdiction has been able to achieve clearance rates over the 100% benchmark.

Ongoing consultation and discussions with the Department of Forensic Medicine have also seen a reduction in time for the finalisation of post mortem reports that equates to matters being finalised in a more timely manner.

### Lecture, talks and conferences

During 2013, the State Coroner and Deputy State Coroners presented numerous lectures and papers to various stakeholders and groups including:

- The NSW Bar Association
- The NSW Law Society
- Barristers Chambers
- The NSW Police Academy
- Forensic Odontologists Course
- NSW Fire Services
- Forensic Sciences Conference
- NSW Nurses
- NSW Health
- The Asia Pacific Coroners Annual Conference
- Law students from Sydney University, the University of NSW and the College of Law

### Asia Pacific Coroners Conference

In November 2013, the Annual Asia Pacific Coroners Conference was hosted in Darwin, the theme of the conference being 'Coronial Law and Practice in the 21st Century'. The NSW coronial jurisdiction was represented by Deputy State Coroners MacMahon and Dillon.

### Deaths in custody and deaths during or as a result of a police operation

Section 23 of the *Coroners Act 2009* requires that if a person dies during the course of a police operation or whilst in custody, that death must be reported to the State Coroner or Deputy State Coroner and an inquest must be conducted into the circumstances of the death. A summary of all section 23 deaths is provided to the Attorney General for each twelve-month period.

During 2013, 43 deaths were reported pursuant to the requirement of section 23 (unchanged from the number of deaths reported in 2012). 36 inquests were held by the State or Deputy State Coroners into these types of deaths, a small decrease from 39 inquests held in the previous year.

### Children in care or disability deaths

Under section 24 of the *Coroners Act 2009*, it is mandatory to report to the State Coroner or Deputy State Coroner the deaths of:

- Children in care;
- Children who have been at risk of harm in the past three years;
- Siblings of children who have been at risk of harm in the past three years;
- Children whose deaths are, or may be, due to abuse, neglect or occurring in suspicious circumstances;
- Persons living in or temporarily absent from residential care provided by a service provider and authorised or funded under the *Disability Services Act 1993* or a residential care centre for handicapped persons; and
- Persons who are in a target group within the meaning of the *Disability Services Act 1993* and receive from a service provider, assistance to enable independent living in the community.

Whilst section 24 ensures mandatory reporting, unlike deaths reported pursuant to section 23, there is no mandatory requirement to conduct an inquest. Should an inquest be necessary, however, only the State Coroner or Deputy State Coroner may conduct it.

In 2013, 211 such deaths were reported to the State Coroner, compared to 206 in 2012.

### State Coroners Court premises

The State Coroners Court at Glebe only has available 2 courts to cater for 5 magistrates, which presents constant logistical difficulties. The Coroners continue to use a courtroom at the Parramatta Local Court complex as a third Coroners court. The Industrial Relations Commission was considered carefully as an alternative premises in 2012, but was ultimately found to be unsuitable.

### Domestic Homicide Review Team

The NSW Domestic Violence Death Review Team was established in July 2010 to systematically review deaths occurring in the context of domestic violence. It conducts in-depth reviews of, and maintains a database about, such deaths.

The Team is convened by the NSW State Coroner and is constituted by representatives from 11 key government stakeholders, including law enforcement, justice, health and social services, as well as four representatives from non-government agencies.

The Team is currently preparing its third annual report, and is undergoing statutory review, scheduled for completion by mid-2014.

## Coroner's Court Statistics 2013

	2011	2012	2013
<b>Deaths reported</b>			
Glebe:	3128	2864	2807
Other statewide:	2566	2505	2533
<b>Total:</b>	<b>5694</b>	<b>5369</b>	<b>5340</b>
<b>Inquests dispensed with*</b>			
Glebe:	3805	2185	2305
Other statewide:	2134	1989	2209
<b>Total:</b>	<b>5939</b>	<b>4174</b>	<b>4514</b>
<b>Inquests conducted</b>			
Glebe:	215**	111**	98**
Other statewide:	75	37	44
<b>Total:</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>142</b>

\* The term "inquest dispensed with" does not adequately explain the work of the Coroner in considering whether or not to dispense with the holding of an inquest. In each and every case, the decision to dispense with the holding of an inquest involves a reading and assessment of a sometimes lengthy and complex brief of evidence. Much of the Coroner's time is spent in requisitioning and reviewing material for cases, which ultimately do not proceed to inquest, as well as those that do.

\*\* This figure represents the number of inquests conducted by the State or Deputy State Coroners and includes inquests conducted by them in regional NSW throughout the year.

Following the closure of Westmead Coroners Court in 2008 there was a substantial increase in the numbers of deaths reported to Glebe with no extra staff being allocated to Glebe to cater for the extra workload.

## Fires

Section 30 of the *Coroners Act 2009* gives the coroner jurisdiction to hold an inquiry into the cause and origin of fires and explosions where property has been damaged or destroyed. Generally, fires account for less than 10% of matters reported to a Coroner and much fewer result in an inquiry.

### 3 Diversionary programs and other aspects of the Court's work

- Diversionary programs
- Technology in the Local Court

## Diversionsary programs

### Magistrates Early Referral Into Treatment Program

The Magistrates Early Referral Into Treatment Program (MERIT) is a pre-plea three-month drug treatment and rehabilitation program based in the Local Court that provides adult defendants an opportunity to break the drug crime related cycle.

MERIT is a Commonwealth and State initiative. Funding is provided through the Australian Health Care Agreement. The Court works in partnership with the NSW Department of Police and Justice, the NSW Police Force, NSW Health, the Legal Aid Commission and a network of drug and alcohol agencies in the delivery, expansion and development of MERIT.

The MERIT program is designed to allow defendants to focus on treating drug problems independently from their legal matters. Treatment commences prior to any pleas being entered, with the adjournment of court matters until the completion of the program. Defendants are closely case-managed by the MERIT team throughout the program and the magistrate receives regular reports on the participant. The final hearing and/or sentence proceedings generally coincide with the completion of the MERIT program. Magistrates are then able to consider the defendant's progress in treatment as part of final sentencing.

Magistrates are an integral part of the MERIT process. Undertaking an increased level of judicial supervision is a core element of the program. This may involve additional court appearances for mention to establish how a defendant is progressing and to offer encouragement or admonishment as appropriate. MERIT also relies on many dedicated staff at NSW Health and the Local Court remains committed to this partnership.

During 2013, the program was available in 65 Local Court locations, within all of the State's Local Health Districts. 3,357 defendants were referred to MERIT and 2,028 were accepted on to the program. In 2013, 1,283 defendants successfully completed the program.

### Alcohol MERIT

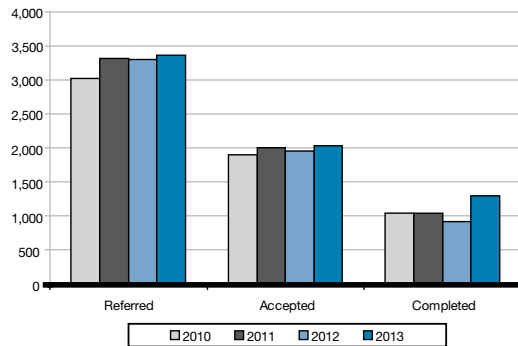
The Alcohol MERIT model is identical to MERIT in terms of eligibility and suitability criteria, referral pathways and court reporting. However, the clinical treatment provided is tailored to the specific needs of defendants with alcohol problems.

In 2013, some courts offering MERIT received additional resources such that defendants whose primary concern was alcohol were also eligible for the program. Alcohol MERIT was available in the following Local Court locations:

- Albion Park
- Bathurst
- Broken Hill
- Campbelltown
- Coffs Harbour
- Dubbo
- Fairfield
- Hornsby
- Kiama
- Liverpool
- Manly
- Newcastle
- North Sydney
- Orange
- Port Kembla
- Ryde
- Wellington
- Wilcannia
- Wollongong

The referral, entry and completion figures above and below include Alcohol MERIT participants.

## MERIT Program Statistics



It is important to note when interpreting these statistics that the annual number of program completions is not proportional to the annual number of program referrals.

The MERIT program is of 3 months duration. Some persons referred to the program after September 2013 will still be on the program at 31 December 2013, and therefore not accounted for in the completion figures. Similarly, the completion figures include persons who commenced MERIT from September to December 2012 and completed their contact with the program in 2013.

### Circle Sentencing (Circle Courts)

Circle Sentencing is an alternative sentencing court for adult Aboriginal offenders. Based on traditional Indigenous forms of dispute resolution and customary law, Circle Courts are designed for more serious repeat Aboriginal offenders and are aimed at achieving full community involvement in the sentencing process. Circle Sentencing directly involves local Aboriginal people in the process of sentencing offenders, with the aims of making the sentencing process more meaningful and improving confidence in the criminal justice system. It also empowers Aboriginal people to address criminal behaviour within their local communities.

As set out in clause 35, Criminal Procedure Regulation 2010, the aims of Circle Sentencing are to:

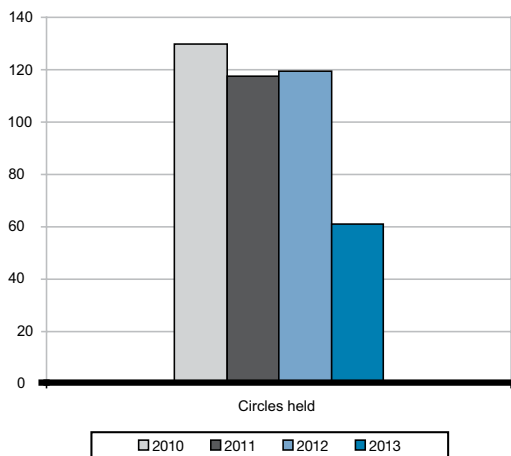
- Include members of Aboriginal communities in the sentencing process,
- Increase the confidence of Aboriginal communities in the sentencing process,
- Reduce barriers between Aboriginal communities and the courts,
- Provide more appropriate sentencing options for Aboriginal offenders,
- Provide effective support to victims of offences by Aboriginal offenders,
- Provide for the greater participation of Aboriginal offenders and their victims in the sentencing process,
- Increase the awareness of Aboriginal offenders of the consequences of their offences on their victims and the Aboriginal communities to which they belong, and
- Reduce recidivism in Aboriginal communities.

In 2013, Circle Sentencing was available in the following communities:

- Armidale
- Blacktown\*
- Brewarrina
- Bourke
- Dubbo
- Kempsey
- Lismore
- Moree\*
- Mt Druitt
- Nambucca Valley\*
- Nowra
- Walgett

\* At these locations, Circle Sentencing is facilitated by a staff member from a neighbouring community attending to administer the program, rather than a Circle Sentencing staff member allocated to the community.

The number of Circles held is dependent on factors including defendants opting to participate, the sentence a defendant is likely to receive, and the appropriateness of defendants to participate due to links to the local Aboriginal community. In 2013, 61 Circle Sentencing matters were finalised.



### Forum Sentencing

Criminal Justice Interventions in the Department of Police and Justice manages the Forum Sentencing program. Forum Sentencing is open to eligible adult offenders who have committed offences that expose them to the likely prospect of imprisonment. Certain offences, including serious violence and domestic violence offences and some regulatory driving offences, are excluded.

Forum Sentencing brings an offender and victim together with a facilitator, police officer, support people and others affected by an offence. The group discuss what happened and the harm caused by the offence, and prepare an intervention plan for the offender.

The program is available post-plea and provides magistrates with another sentencing option. An intervention plan may be taken into account by the sentencing court. Completion of the plan may form part of the offender’s sentence and include the making of an apology, cash payments, or other reparation to the victim; participation in

an appropriate rehabilitative program; and other measures aimed at repairing the harm caused and helping offenders address their offending behaviour.

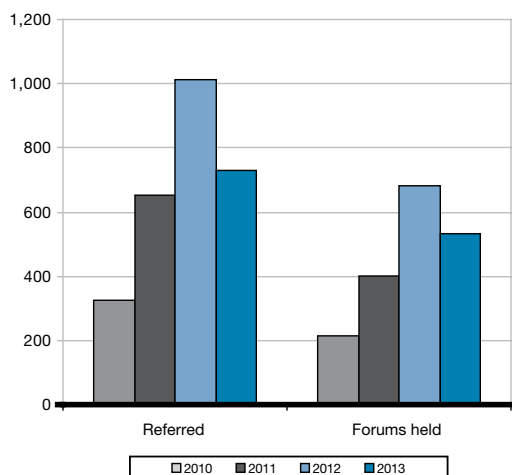
Forum Sentencing currently operates at:

- Ballina
- Balmain
- Bankstown
- Bellingen
- Belmont
- Burwood
- Byron Bay
- Campbelltown
- Camden
- Casino
- Central
- Cessnock
- Coffs Harbour
- Dungog
- East Maitland
- Fairfield Foster
- Gloucester
- Gosford
- Grafton
- Kempsey
- Kurri Kurri
- Kogarah
- Kyogle
- Lismore
- Liverpool
- Macksville
- Maclean
- Maitland
- Moss Vale
- Mullumbimby
- Murrurundi
- Murwillumbah
- Muswellbrook
- Newcastle
- Newtown
- Parramatta
- Picton
- Port Macquarie
- Scone
- Singleton
- Sutherland
- Sydney Downing Centre
- Taree
- Toronto
- Tweed Heads
- Wauchope
- Waverley
- Woy Woy
- Wyong

In 2013, significant reforms to the Forum Sentencing operating model were made. The new operating model places greater focus on victim engagement and broadens the eligibility criteria to include offenders guilty of less serious offences. Implementation of the new model commenced in March 2014.



Due to the remodelling of the program, there was a reduction in the number of Forums held in 2013 compared to the previous year. 728 offenders were referred to the program and 536 Forums took place. 58 per cent of Forums were attended by one or more victims.



### Statewide Community Court Liaison Services

Statewide Community Court Liaison Services (the Mental Health Liaison Service) assist the Local Court to appropriately manage people with psychiatric illnesses by providing full time mental health nurses at a number of Local Court locations to enable early diagnosis of defendants and facilitate treatment in conjunction with progress through the criminal justice system.

SCCLS operated in 20 Local Court locations in 2013:

- Blacktown
- Burwood
- Campbelltown
- Central Sydney
- Coffs Harbour
- Dubbo
- Gosford
- Kempsey
- Lismore
- Liverpool
- Milton
- Nowra
- Parramatta
- Penrith
- Port Macquarie
- Sutherland
- Tamworth
- Wagga Wagga
- Wollongong
- Wyong

In 2013, 11,438 people were screened for mental health problems in court cells. Of this number, 2,541 received a comprehensive mental health assessment, of which 2,156 were found to have a mental illness.<sup>1</sup>

### Traffic Offender Intervention Program

The Traffic Offender Intervention Program (TOIP) is targeted at defendants who have pleaded guilty to, or been found guilty of, a traffic offence. A magistrate is able to refer a defendant to an approved traffic course provider on application by the defendant or their legal representative, or on the Court's own motion. A referral is made prior to sentencing, with the proceedings adjourned to allow sufficient time for the nominated course to be completed.

Although traffic offender programs were historically the product of ad hoc local arrangements, the Regulations made under the *Criminal Procedure Act 1986* now provide for the referral of offenders to a TOIP.

There are currently 3 traffic course providers operating in 52 locations across the State to whom referrals may be made.

In 2013:

- 11,795 individuals participated in and 9,898 individuals completed a TOIP (83.9%).
- Driving with a prescribed concentration of alcohol (i.e. drink driving) represented the most frequent offence type (60% of offences). Other categories included speeding (23%) and licence infringement offences (17%).
- The majority of participants (79%) were male, with the most frequent age group being those aged 20-24 years (41%).

<sup>1</sup> Figures obtained from Justice Health

### Court Referral of Eligible Defendants Into Treatment

The Court Referral of Eligible Defendants Into Treatment (CREDIT) program commenced as a trial program in 2009. It presently operates in Burwood, Tamworth and Quirindi Local Courts.

CREDIT aims to provide Local Court defendants with access to a wide range of treatment options and services to assist them to reduce their likelihood of re-offending. These may include assistance in areas such as accommodation, financial counselling, mental health assessment or drug and alcohol treatment. The program is a pre-plea program with defendants being referred to the program prior to entering a plea, unless referred by a magistrate.

### CREDIT Program Statistics

For the period 1 January 2013 until 31 December 2013:

- 343 referrals were made to the program and 308 assessments were undertaken,
- 210 defendants met CREDIT's eligibility criteria and entered the program,
- 182 case management plans were agreed upon and signed by the participant and CREDIT officer, and
- 121 participants successfully completed their case management plan.

### Life on Track

In August 2013 a new case management service, Life on Track, commenced in two start-up sites servicing the Local Court at Bankstown, Sutherland, Kogarah, Lismore, Ballina, Casino and Kyogle. Following a competitive open tender process, Mission Australia secured the contract to deliver Life on Track at both sites.

Life on Track offers person-centred support and case management to eligible and suitable Local Court defendants. The service provides assistance to identify and address the issues that contribute to a defendant's likelihood of re-offending, including by linking defendants with available services and programs in their local area. It also seeks to promote a strengths-based approach through enhancement of social engagement, significant relationships, recreation and pursuit of personal goals.

The strategic plan *NSW 2021: A plan to make NSW number one* establishes as a goal of Government the prevention and reduction of reoffending. To achieve the biggest impact on re-offending, Life on Track targets participants at the highest risk of re-offending with the highest service level at the earliest possible stage. It offers case management for longer timeframes (of up to nine months) for defendants with high support needs or a high risk of reoffending and can be continued beyond the duration of a defendant's court matter.

From 19 August 2013 until 31 December 2013:

- 139 referrals were made to the program and 69 comprehensive assessments were undertaken;
- 58 case management plans were agreed upon and signed by the participant and Life on Track officer;
- 6 participants completed the service, while 72% of participants continued to receive case management.

## Technology in the Local Court

### Audio Visual Link Technology (AVL)

Video conferencing involves the delivery of images and sounds to and from a remote location. The Court's audio visual link is two-way, which enables real time conversations to take place. The benefits provided include a reduction in transportation of prisoners to and from courthouses, especially in regional locations, and increased security. It improves the management of custodial matters within the Local Court and produces significant reductions in recurrent expenditure for government.

In 2012/13, AVL was used to conduct over 34,000 appearances in the Local and Children's Courts, including 5,385 appearances at weekend bail courts. AVL facilities were available at 411 cross justice agency locations across the State, including the following Local Court locations:

- Albury
- Armidale
- Bankstown
- Bateman's Bay
- Bathurst
- Blacktown
- Bourke
- Broken Hill
- Burwood
- Campbelltown
- Central
- Cessnock
- Coffs Harbour
- Deniliquin
- Downing Centre
- Dubbo
- Gosford
- Goulburn
- Grafton
- Griffith
- Lismore
- Liverpool
- Maitland
- Manly
- Moree
- Mount Druitt
- Newcastle
- Nowra
- Orange
- Parkes
- Parramatta
- Penrith
- Port Kembla
- Port Macquarie
- Raymond Terrace
- Sutherland
- Tamworth
- Taree
- Tweed Heads
- Wagga Wagga
- Walgett
- Waverley
- Wellington
- Wentworth
- Wilcannia
- Wollongong
- Woy Woy
- Wyong

### CCTV – Remote Witnesses

Closed circuit television (CCTV) facilities have also been installed in 83 courts, allowing vulnerable witnesses to give evidence in sensitive matters (such as sexual assaults) from a remote location. This facility is highly utilised and provides some measure of comfort and security to victims of crime.

Data on the use of remote witness facilities was not available for 2013.

### Court lists online

The provision of online access to daily court lists for Local Court locations across New South Wales enhances public accessibility to the Court. Court users are able to access the online facility through the Local Court website or the Online Registry site within Lawlink: [http://www.onlineregistry.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/onlineregistry/onlineregistry\\_index.html](http://www.onlineregistry.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/onlineregistry/onlineregistry_index.html)

### Electronic lodgement

#### Civil claims

Electronic lodgement of civil claims allows court users to lodge initiating process and file for default judgment. Electronic lodgement results in increased timeliness in court practices and procedures.

#### Criminal processes

NSW Police are able to interface and upload new cases from Police Charge Management System (COPS) to the Court's case management system, JusticeLink. Electronic lodgement facilities also provide an interface between the Court and NSW Police to enable the updating of an offender's criminal antecedents following a court hearing. This process continues to provide significant benefits to the Court and court users.

#### Apprehended violence orders (AVOs)

NSW Police are able to file applications for AVOs electronically into JusticeLink, overcoming the need for manual processing by court registry staff. Information about court orders is also electronically submitted to police.

### **Local Court website**

The Local Court website on Lawlink provides access information including Local Court Practice Notes, as well as forms and fees. The website can be found at:

<http://www.localcourt.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/localcourts/index.html>

Due to the large number of cases magistrates deal with, the majority of judgments in the Local Court are delivered orally. Selected written judgments continue to be published on the Caselaw NSW website. These decisions can be found at:

<http://caselaw.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/>

## 4 Judicial education and community involvement

- Judicial education and professional development

## Judicial education and professional development

The Local Court, in partnership with the Judicial Commission of New South Wales, provides a relevant and practical continuing judicial education program designed to:

- Enhance professional expertise;
- Facilitate the development of judicial knowledge and skills; and
- Promote the pursuit of juristic excellence.

With a focus on interactive learning, the program is based on enhancing skills, attitudes and knowledge in a judicially relevant environment.

Sessions range from orientation programs for new magistrates to specialist seminars on practical matters, social awareness issues and legislative changes. The Local Court offers each magistrate a minimum five days of judicial education each year, with a focus on sentencing, important legal developments, improving knowledge in difficult areas of legal practice and procedure, and the development of judicial skills.

The Local Court Education Committee, composed of magistrates and the Judicial Commission's Education Director, develops each education program based on the identified needs of magistrates. Magistrates are involved in the development and delivery of the education program to ensure its relevance to the judicial role. The Chair of the Committee is also a member of the Judicial Commission's Standing Advisory Committee on Judicial Education.

### Conferences and Seminars

During 2013 magistrates continued to receive training tailored to meet their educational needs:

- Magistrates attended 729 days of face-to-face judicial education, an average of 5.5 days per magistrate.
- The four newly appointed magistrates attended a pre-bench training session designed to familiarise them with Local Court practice and procedure.
- The Local Court Annual Conference was held over three days in July/August 2013 for all New South Wales magistrates. The program focused on practical and interactive sessions

that related directly to the daily work of magistrates. Topics included civil and criminal law updates, the *Evidence Act*, applications on the iPad, intensive correction orders, sentencing tips, violence and family law, an information services project update, logic and legal reasoning, and the operations of Corrective Services.

- Smaller, interactive metropolitan and regional seminars were attended by all magistrates. These interactive sessions structured around discussion and peer-based learning facilitate the development of judicial knowledge and skills. Topics included sentencing for domestic violence, a sentencing workshop, developments in the Judicial Information Research System (JIRS), case management, forensic procedures, electronic legal research, an introduction to the industrial jurisdiction and subpoenas.
- Continuing the focus on skills development:
  - 6 magistrates attended a facilitation skills workshop at the beginning of the year, which was designed to help regular presenters and Education Committee Members enhance their facilitation skills for future seminars and presentations to a large group.
  - 10 magistrates attended a judgment writing workshop to help them develop and refine the ability to write clear, concise, well-structured judgments. Over 50% of magistrates have now attended one of these workshops.
  - 2 magistrates attended a judgment writing refresher workshop to build upon the skills previously learnt in writing clear, concise, well-structured judgments.
  - 3 magistrates also attended a cross-jurisdictional twilight seminar on legislative changes brought about by the *Evidence Amendment (Evidence of Silence) Act* and the *Criminal Procedure Amendment (Mandatory Pre-trial Defence Disclosure) Act*.

- 5 magistrates attended a residential orientation program. This five-day program, which focuses on court craft and judicial skills for new magistrates, received a 100% satisfaction rating from participants.
- 3 magistrates attended a “Logic and Legal Reasoning” workshop to help with decision-making in Court.
- Magistrates continued to participate in the Judicial Commission’s Ngara Yura Program, which aims to increase awareness among judicial officers about contemporary Aboriginal society, customs and traditions, and their effect on Aboriginal people in the justice system. Magistrates were well represented in the visit organised by the Judicial Commission to the Campbelltown community, and at the seminars on “Understanding Kinship” and “Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians”.

#### **Publications and Training in the use of iPads**

- The Court continued to work with the Judicial Commission to ensure the *Local Court Bench Book* was regularly updated by magistrates to reflect developments in the law and sentencing practice.
- The NSW Department of Attorney General and Justice (now Police and Justice) provided iPads to every magistrate in NSW from 2012 and the Judicial Commission has continued specialised training for magistrates to learn how to use their iPads effectively. The Commission has also developed an application and voice recognition function so that magistrates can quickly access their online publications and the Commission’s Judicial Information Research System (JIRS). The availability of iPads has allowed the move to the provision of electronic-only bench books. In addition, the Commission is well prepared to deliver all of its education and research resources through iPads and tablet PCs.

#### **Magistrates who attended the facilitation skills training workshop**

Her Honour Magistrate Joan Baptie  
 Her Honour Magistrate Sharon Freund  
 His Honour Magistrate Greg Grogin  
 His Honour Magistrate Ian Guy  
 His Honour Magistrate Les Mabbutt  
 His Honour Magistrate Antony Townsend

#### **Magistrates who attended the twilight cross-jurisdictional seminar on evidence and criminal procedure amendments**

His Honour Magistrate Mark Buscombe  
 His Honour Magistrate Greg Grogin  
 Her Honour Magistrate Beverley Schurr

#### **Magistrates who attended Ngara Yura seminar on kinship**

His Honour Magistrate Glenn Bartley  
 His Honour Magistrate Mark Douglass  
 Her Honour Magistrate Nancy Hennessy  
 His Honour Magistrate Peter Miszalski  
 Her Honour Magistrate Elizabeth Ryan

#### **Magistrates who attended Orientation**

His Honour Magistrate Michael Barko  
 Her Honour Magistrate Karen Stafford  
 His Honour Magistrate Peter Feather  
 His Honour Magistrate Robert Stone  
 His Honour Magistrate Derek Lee

#### **Magistrates who attended the cross-jurisdictional judgment writing refresher course**

Her Honour Magistrate Gabriel Fleming  
 His Honour Magistrate Les Mabbutt

### **Magistrates who attended the judgment writing workshop**

His Honour Magistrate Michael Barko  
His Honour Magistrate Mark Douglass  
His Honour Magistrate Derek Lee  
His Honour Magistrate Alex Mijovich  
Her Honour Magistrate Teresa O'Sullivan  
Her Honour Magistrate Karen Robinson  
Her Honour Magistrate Mary Ryan  
His Honour Magistrate Albert Sbrizzi  
His Honour Magistrate Brian van Zuylen  
His Honour Magistrate Bruce Williams

### **Magistrates who attended the cross-jurisdictional workshop on logic and legal reasoning in judicial decision-making**

Her Honour Magistrate Geraldine Beattie  
His Honour Magistrate Greg Grogin  
Her Honour Magistrate Lisa Stapleton

### **Magistrates who attended twilight seminar on constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians**

Her Honour Magistrate Jaye Carney  
Her Honour Magistrate Nancy Hennessy

### **Magistrates who attended community visit to Campbelltown**

Her Honour Magistrate Geraldine Beattie  
His Honour Magistrate Graham Blewitt AM  
Her Honour Magistrate Jaye Carney  
His Honour Magistrate Doug Dick  
Her Honour Magistrate Sue Duncombe  
Her Honour Magistrate Mary Ryan  
His Honour Magistrate Albert Sbrizzi  
His Honour Magistrate Brian van Zuylen



## Legal education in the community and participation in external bodies

In 2013, magistrates continued to be involved in legal education, with a number of magistrates regularly volunteering their time to preside over College of Law practice hearings and pleas of mitigation.

Magistrates' activities in 2013 are summarised below:

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### His Honour Chief Magistrate Graeme Henson

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#### Membership of organisations:

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Member, Judicial Commission of New South Wales

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Member, Uniform Rules Committee

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Member, Judicial Conference of Australia Executive Committee

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Member, University of Wollongong Faculty of Law Advisory Committee

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Member, Australian Catholic University Faculty of Law Advisory Committee

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#### Speaking engagements and other activities:

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Aug            Judicial Commission of NSW Community Awareness Program – Self-represented Litigants

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#### Conferences and events:

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Mar, Nov     Council of Chief Magistrates

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Apr            District Court of NSW Annual Conference

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### Her Honour Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Mottley

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#### Membership of organisations:

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Member, Ngara Yura Committee

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Member, JusticeLink Steering Committee

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Member, MERIT Steering Committee

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Chair, Marine Appeals Tribunal

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Part-time commissioner, NSW Law Reform Commission

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#### Speaking engagements and other activities:

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May, Nov     Presentation to Police Prosecutors domestic violence course

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Aug            Judicial Commission of NSW Community Awareness Program – Bail

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Sep            Presentation to Bar Association bar readers' program

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### Her Honour Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Culver

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#### Membership of organisations:

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Member, Criminal Law Committee of the Law Society of NSW

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Member, NSW Caselaw Governance Committee

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Member, Standing Advisory Committee on Judicial Education

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Member, John Maddison Tower/Downing Centre Building Committee

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Member, AGD Libraries Committee

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#### Speaking engagements and other activities:

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Aug Judicial Commission of NSW Community Awareness Program – Self-represented Litigants

---

Aug Corrective Services NSW Women's Advisory Council

---

Sep Police Leadership Skills program

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Sep Corrective Services NSW – ICOs and other sentences

---

Sep Goulburn Police Academy – Senior detectives course

---

Presenter, Notre Dame University criminal law course

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### His Honour Magistrate Michael Antrum

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#### Speaking engagements and other activities:

---

May Presentation to military officers at Forces Command, Sydney – “Defence Members and Civilian Offences”

---

Nov MC, Sustainable Living Festival, Wagga Wagga Lutheran School

---

Nov Presentation to young people at Rotary Youth Exchange, Borombola

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### His Honour Magistrate Graham Blewitt AM

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#### Speaking engagements and other activities:

---

Apr – Dec Mentor, Sydney University Law Society Careers Mentoring program

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Supervisor, Wollongong University law student thesis, “War crimes investigations in Australia”

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### His Honour Magistrate Hugh Dillon

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#### Speaking engagements and other activities:

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Apr Instructor, Criminal Trial & Appellate Advocacy Intensive Workshop, Master of Laws (Criminal Prosecutions) program, University of Wollongong Law School

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May Lecture to UNSW Law School JD/LLB students, “The Coronial Jurisdiction”

---

May Address to Documentation and Audit Tool Seminar, Northern Sydney Local Health District, Royal North Shore Hospital, “Coronial Perspectives”

---

Aug Macquarie University, Sydney Living Museums, NSW Justice and Police Museum, “Documentation from a coronial perspective”

---

Aug Hickson Health Law Conference, Sydney, “Medical inquests”

---

---

Keynote address, Australasian Custodial Health Medical Officers Conference 2013 (North Sydney)  
“Deaths in custody, the Coroner’s perspective”

---

Appointment as Adjunct Professor, University of New South Wales Law School, as part-time lecturer

---

Supervisor, graduate law student undertaking Practical Legal Training

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Co-presenter, National Judicial College of Australia Coronial Training Program (Brisbane)

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Co-author and facilitator, National Judicial College of Australia, online coronial training program 2013

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Co-designer and developer, National Judicial College of Australia, “Decision making for magistrates”  
program

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### **His Honour Magistrate Andrew Eckhold**

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#### **Speaking engagements and other activities:**

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Reviewing officer, Australian Royal Navy Reserve

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### **Her Honour Magistrate Harriet Grahame**

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#### **Speaking engagements and other activities:**

---

Nov Address to Australian National University Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice criminal law  
course, “What a magistrate yearns for”

---

Supervisor, UNSW Law student intern (semester 2)

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### **His Honour Magistrate Gregory Groggin**

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#### **Membership of organisations:**

---

Honorary Secretary, Newington College Council

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#### **Speaking engagements and other activities:**

---

Senior instructor, Australian Advocacy Institute

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Sep Presenter, Senior Prosecutors course

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Presenter, Judicial Commission of NSW Community Awareness Program on sentencing

---

Trainer, NSW Bar Association, advocacy for new barristers

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### **Her Honour Magistrate Daphne Kok**

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#### **Membership of organisations:**

---

Chairperson, Law Extension Committee, University of Sydney

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Chairperson, Wentworth Annex Ltd (University of Sydney)

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Electoral Arbiter, University of Sydney union

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### His Honour Magistrate Paul Mulroney

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#### Membership of organisations:

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Chair, Habitat for Humanity New South Wales

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Board member, Habitat for Humanity Australia Ltd

---

Member, NSW Committee for Discipline, Uniting Church

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Children's Court Advisory Committee

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Children's Court Education Committee

---

Chair, Children's Law News Committee

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#### Speaking engagements and other activities:

---

May Australasian Youth Justice Conference, "Bail: The secret to reducing youth incarceration"

---

May Grandparents and the Law, "The Children's Court path"

---

May Association of Children's Welfare Agencies, Roundtable on Residential Care

---

Jun Aboriginal Family Law Pathways Conference, "What can be done in the Children's Court"

---

Oct Children's Court Clinic Conference, "Child Sexual Abuse: What the Children's Court needs from the Children's Court Clinic"

---

Oct Legal Aid Commission Care and Protection Conference, "Social Media and Child Protection"

---

#### Conferences and events:

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Sep Participant, New Zealand Youth Court conference

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### His Honour Magistrate Roger Prowse

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#### Membership of organisations:

---

Life member, New England Football Referees Association

---

Board member and head of judiciary, Hockey New England

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Head of judiciary, Armidale District Cricket Association

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Football referee and hockey umpire

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Member, Ulysses Club

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Fellow, Austin College, University of New England

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#### Speaking engagements and other activities:

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Sep University of New England Speaker, UNE Law Students' Association dinner

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### His Honour Magistrate Mark Richardson

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#### Speaking engagements and other activities:

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Presenter, launch of domestic violence publication, Law Week 2013

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Address to Legacy, Goulburn

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### Her Honour Magistrate Karen Robinson

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#### Speaking engagements and other activities:

Aug Participant, City2Surf community fitness event

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### Her Honour Magistrate Beverley Schurr

---

#### Conferences and events:

Feb Opening of Law Term ceremony, Auburn Gallipoli Mosque

May Asia Pacific Regional Conference, International Association of Women Judges (Auckland, New Zealand)

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### His Honour Magistrate Robert Stone

---

#### Membership of organisations:

Member, Judicial Conference of Australia

Honorary member, Law Society of NSW

Member, NSW Bar Association

Associate member, Cooks Hill Surf Lifesaving Club

---

#### Conferences and events:

Feb Opening of Law Term, Newcastle

Oct City of Sydney Law Society function

Oct Judicial Conference of Australia Colloquium (Sydney)

Nov Newcastle Law Society Annual Dinner

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### Her Honour Magistrate Fiona Toose

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#### Membership of organisations:

President, Penrith Rowing Club

Accredited Rowing Coach Level 1, Rowing Australia

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#### Speaking engagements and other activities:

Jun Lecture, Aboriginal Family Law Pathways Conference, "Domestic violence does not have a colour code or postcode"

Rowing instructor, Universities Aquatic Program two week intensive course for UWS PDHPE students

Rowing instructor, members of the western Sydney and Blue Mountains communities

RowingNSW Boat Race Official, various regattas, Sydney International Rowing Centre, Penrith

Competitor, NSW Masters Rowing Championships, Australian Masters Championship and World Masters Games (Italy)

## Appendices

- The Court's time standards
- The Court's committees
- 2013 Court by Court statistics

## The Court's time standards

The Court aims to finalise its caseload in accordance with the following Time Standards:

### Local Court Criminal Time Standards

- 95% of summary criminal trials – within 6 months.
- 100% of summary criminal trials – within 12 months
- 95% of criminal cases where the defendant enters a plea of guilty – within 3 months.
- 100% of criminal cases where the defendant enters a plea of guilty – within 6 months.
- 90% of indictable matters discharged or committed for trial or sentence to the Supreme or District Court – within 6 months.
- 100% of indictable matters discharged or committed for trial or sentence to the Supreme or District Court – within 12 months.
- 95% of complaint summonses – within 3 months.
- 100% of complaint summonses – within 6 months.

### Local Court Civil Time Standards

- 90% of civil cases – within 6 months of the initiation of the proceedings in the Court.
- 100% of cases – within 12 months of the initiation of proceedings in the Court.

### Children's Court Criminal Time Standards

- 80% of all summary criminal trials – within 6 months and 100% – within 12 months.
- 90% of all sentence matters following a plea of guilty – within 3 months of commencement and 100% – within 6 months.
- 90% of committals for trial – within 9 months and 100% – within 12 months.
- 95% of applications – within 6 months and 100% – within 9 months.

### Children's Court Care Time Standards

- 90% of Care matters – within 9 months.
- 100% of Care matters – within 12 months.

### Coroner's Time Standards

- 95% of deaths by natural causes, (no brief of evidence ordered), – within 3 months.
- 100% of deaths by natural causes, (no brief of evidence ordered), – within 6 months.
- 95% of deaths dispensed with (a brief of evidence ordered) – within 6 months.
- 100% of deaths dispensed with (a brief of evidence ordered) – within 9 months.
- 95% of deaths proceeding to inquest – within 12 months.
- 100% of deaths proceeding to inquest – within 18 months.

### Chief Industrial Magistrate's Time Standards

- 95% of prosecutions – within 6 months.
- 100% of prosecutions – within 12 months.

## The Court's committees

As at 31 December 2013, committee members were:

### Local Court Rule Committee

Judge Graeme Henson, Chief Magistrate  
Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Mottley  
Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Culver  
Mr Paul Hayes, Legal Aid Commission  
Mr Warwick Hunt, Bar Association  
Mr Michael McTegg, Local Court Registrar  
Mr Stephen Olischlager, Local Court of NSW  
Ms Johanna Pheils, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions  
Mr Marcel Savary, Justice Policy  
Commander Tony Trichter, NSW Police  
Ms Pauline Wright, Law Society

### Local Court Education Committee

Chair: Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Culver  
Secretary: Ruth Windeler, Education Director, Judicial Commission of NSW  
Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Mottley  
Magistrate Roger Brown  
Magistrate Geoffrey Dunlevy  
Magistrate Sharon Freund  
Magistrate Gregory Grogin  
Magistrate Ian Guy  
Magistrate David Heilpern  
Magistrate Julie Huber  
Magistrate Leslie Mabbutt  
Magistrate Janet Wahlquist  
Ms Alison Passé-de Silva, Policy Officer

### Statute Law Revision and Procedures Committee

Chair: Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Mottley  
Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Culver  
Secretary: Ms Alison Passé-de Silva, Policy Officer

### Terms and Conditions of Service Committee

Chair: Judge Graeme Henson, Chief Magistrate  
Secretary: Ms Jacinta Haywood, Executive Officer  
Members: Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Mottley  
Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Culver  
Ms Alison Passé-de Silva, Policy Officer

### Ethics Committee (Ad hoc)

Chair: Chief Magistrate Graeme Henson  
Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Mottley  
Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Culver

### Local Court Bench Book Committee

Chair: Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Culver  
Deputy Chief Magistrate Jane Mottley  
Magistrate Joan Baptie  
Ms Roslyn Cook, Judicial Commission of NSW  
Ms Alison Passé-de Silva, Policy Officer



## 2013 Court by Court statistics

	New General Criminal Matters	Finalised General Criminal Matters		New General Criminal Matters	Finalised General Criminal Matters
Albion Park	486	485	Cobar	246	232
Albury	2,932	2,902	Coffs Harbour	2,969	3,035
Armidale	1,387	1,394	Condobolin	303	288
Ballina	1,339	1,335	Cooma	673	694
Balmain	1,957	1,997	Coonabarabran	375	419
Balranald	146	141	Coonamble	481	476
Bankstown	7,904	8,381	Cootamundra	487	481
Batemans Bay	1,169	1,222	Corowa	280	283
Bathurst	1,733	1,699	Cowra	676	655
Bega	765	795	Crookwell	42	45
Bellingen	303	314	Deniliquin	790	786
Belmont	2,687	2,647	Dubbo	2,895	2,981
Bidura CC	10	10	Dunedoo	105	106
Blacktown	7,039	7,038	Dungog	129	128
Blayney	136	123	East Maitland	26	20
Boggabilla	236	224	Eden	194	206
Bombala	44	46	Fairfield	6,674	6,483
Bourke	933	946	Finley	372	367
Brewarrina	336	344	Forbes	678	692
Broadmeadow CC	5	4	Forster	705	713
Broken Hill	1,433	1,477	Gilgandra	246	245
Burwood	10,765	10,756	Glen Innes	372	357
Byron Bay	1,489	1,488	Gloucester	71	66
Camden	1,179	1,266	Gosford	4,625	4,518
Campbelltown	10,325	10,815	Goulburn	2,615	2,541
Casino	702	712	Grafton	1,741	1,761
Central	8,039	7,239	Grenfell	39	33
Cessnock	1,700	1,728	Griffith	1,980	2,061

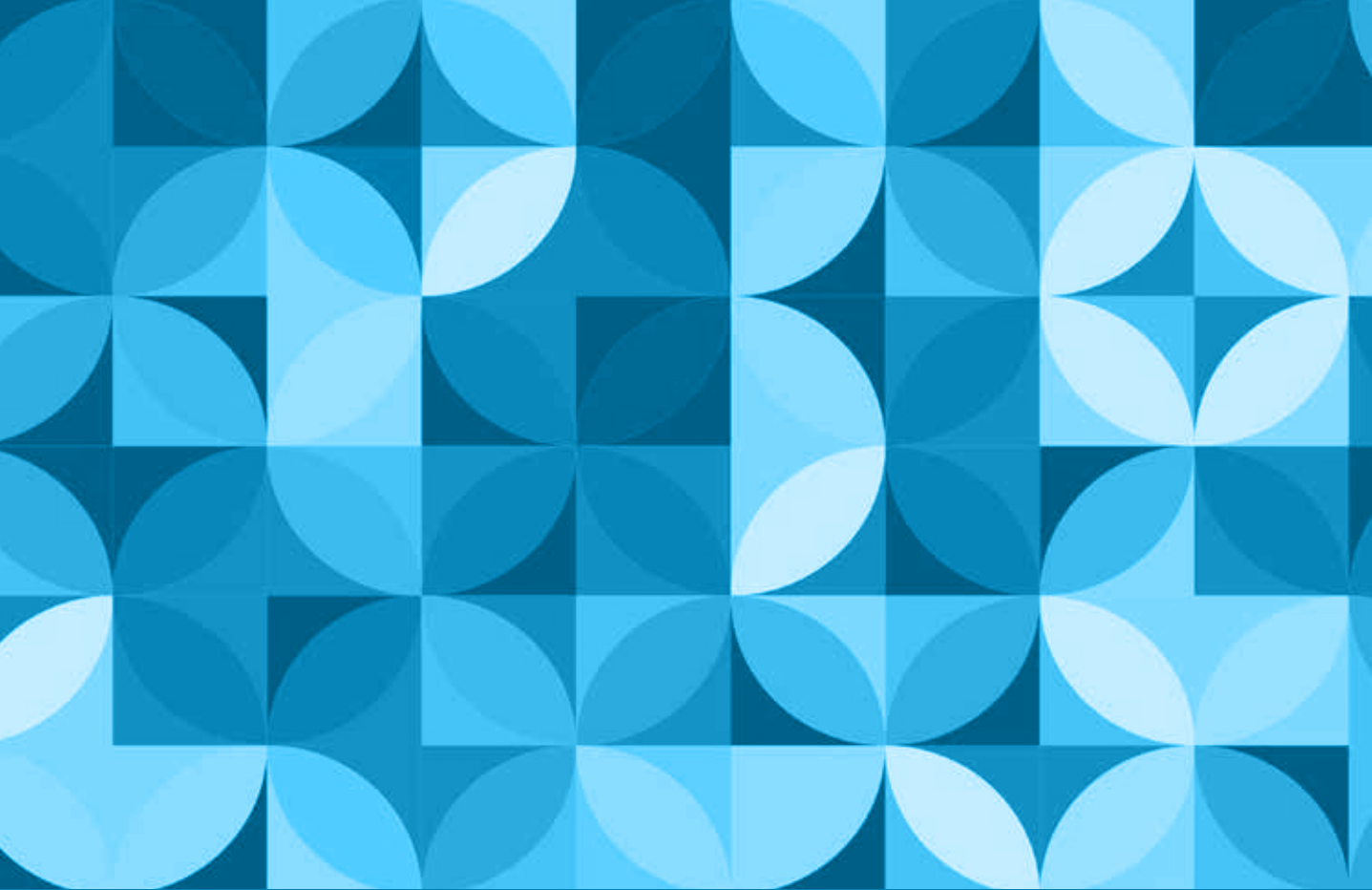
	New General Criminal Matters	Finalised General Criminal Matters
Gulgong	61	58
Gundagai	186	184
Gunnedah	534	504
Hay	238	234
Hillston	43	48
Holbrook	233	230
Hornsby	3,786	3,776
Inverell	1,100	1,145
Junee	99	97
Katoomba	1,215	1,191
Kempsey	1,833	1,958
Kiama	241	225
Kogarah	2,448	2,357
Kurri Kurri	707	653
Kyogle	198	192
Lake Cargelligo	159	137
Leeton	658	675
Lightning Ridge	310	301
Lismore	3,318	3,299
Lithgow	1,038	997
Liverpool	7,103	6,217
Macksville	857	828
Maclean	515	518
Maitland	3,718	3,715
Manly	14	318
Milton	526	533
Moama	281	272
Moree	1,669	1,664

	New General Criminal Matters	Finalised General Criminal Matters
Moruya	344	338
Moss Vale	1,088	1,044
Moulamein	1	1
Mt Druitt	5,170	5,407
Mudgee	1,010	1,008
Mullumbimby	290	307
Mungindi	57	49
Murwillumbah	733	742
Muswellbrook	1,194	1,180
Narooma	298	310
Narrabri	481	460
Narrandera	488	467
Narromine	314	334
Newcastle	8,702	8,810
Newtown	3,588	3,535
North Sydney	5,068	4,539
Nowra	2,792	2,792
Nyngan	155	171
Oberon	101	96
Orange	2,120	2,197
Parkes	864	852
Parramatta	16,908	16,597
Peak Hill	113	118
Penrith	7742	7,450
Picton	442	432
Port Kembla	1,423	1,355
Port Macquarie	2,492	2,435
Taree	2,957	2,881

	New General Criminal Matters	Finalised General Criminal Matters
Temora	249	256
Tenterfield	267	276
Toronto	3,099	3,118
Tumbarumba	58	55
Tumut	474	478
Tweed Heads	2,662	2,653
Wagga Wagga	3,465	3,509
Walcha	98	89
Walgett	907	911
Warialda	49	49
Warren	256	269
Wauchope	201	181
Waverley	7,208	6,980
Wee Waa	122	119
Wellington	571	648
Wentworth	669	685
West Wyalong	390	372
Wilcannia	272	302
Windsor	1,776	1,796
Wollongong	7,115	6,807
Woy Woy	1,203	1,162
Wyong	4,989	4,963
Yass	536	508
Young	802	822
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>277,224</b>	<b>274,194</b>

Note: some courts' caseloads were impacted by temporary closures:

- Liverpool: 21/12/11 to 19/4/13 (caseload to Campbelltown, Downing Centre)
- Manly: 21/12/12 to 6/1/14 (caseload to North Sydney)
- Forster: 25/3/13 to 4/10/13 (caseload to Taree)
- Maitland: 4/11/13 to 14/2/14 (caseload to East Maitland)
- Penrith: 20/12/13 to date (caseload to Parramatta, Blacktown, Mt Druitt, Katoomba)



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