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# Correctional Services Statistics, 2003

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This Bulletin is the third in a series of Information Bulletins and provides a descriptive summary of the statistics contained in the publication *Crime and Justice in South Australia 2003, Adult Courts and Corrections*<sup>1</sup>. Other bulletins in this series will contain information on:

- Magistrates courts; and
- Higher Courts.

This bulletin includes statistics outlining:

- prison receptions;
- daily averages;
- persons in custody on 31 December 2003;
- prison discharges; and
- community corrections, including the types of supervision orders commenced and the types completed during 2003.

The number of tables relating to prisons and community correction orders administered by the Department for Correctional Services was increased and their content enhanced in the 1996 and again in the 1997 *Crime and Justice* reports. The changes made in those years and incorporated in all subsequent reports mean that caution must be exercised when comparing the 2003 data with that contained in reports produced prior to 1996.

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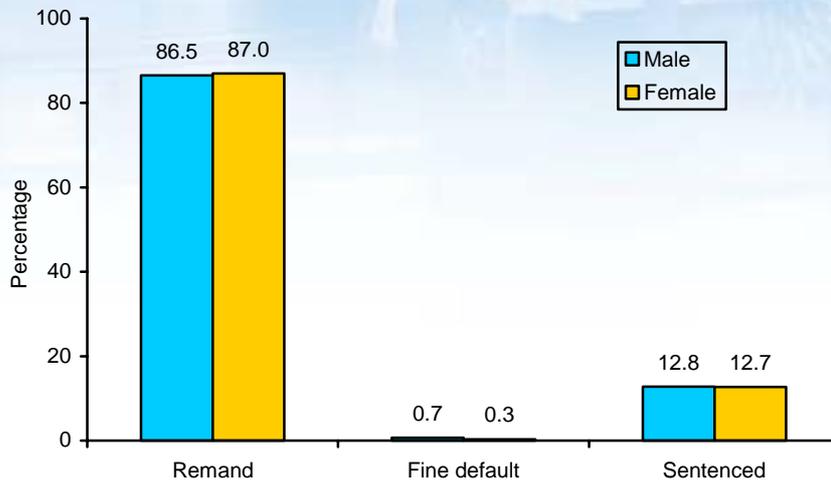
<sup>1</sup> "Crime and Justice in South Australia, 2003: Adult Courts and Corrections" can be downloaded from the 'publications' page of the OCSAR website: [www.oscar.sa.gov.au](http://www.oscar.sa.gov.au)

## Imprisonment

### Prison receptions

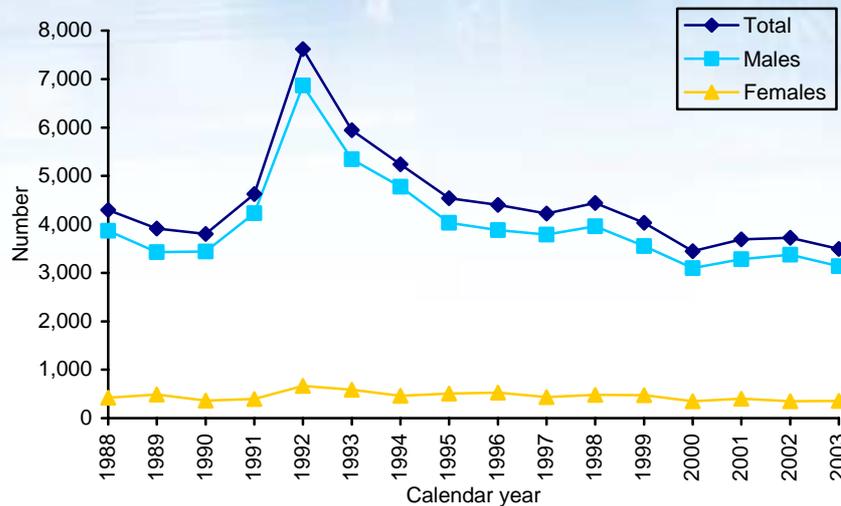
- In 2003, there were 3,493 prison receptions. This figure was lower (by 6.2%) than the 3,723 recorded in 2002, but was still well below the peak of 7,618 recorded in 1992.
- Where legal status was known, 12.8% of receptions involved sentenced prisoners, 0.6% were fine defaulters and 86.6% were on remand. When compared with the previous year, a lower proportion of prison receptions involved remandees (86.6% in 2003 compared with 87.7% in 2002) and a higher proportion involved sentenced prisoners (12.8% compared with 10.7% in 2002). The proportion involving fine defaulters was slightly higher (0.6% compared with 0.5% in 2002).
- After substantial decreases since 1999 when 959 of the years prison receptions were for fine defaults, the 2003 total of 22 is similar to the 2002 total of 19. These prior reductions were most likely due to legislative changes (the *Statutes Amendment (Fine Enforcement) Act*) that came into effect in March 2000. The Act provides a number of measures for the more effective collection of fines as an alternative to imprisonment or community service. For example, under these changes the option of imprisonment for fine default was abolished in favour of enforcement orders such as driver disqualification by licence suspension (even for non-vehicular offences), cessation of ability to do business with the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, and warrants authorising the seizure and sale of property. In addition, the simple option of 'cutting out' a fine or expiation by performing community service has also been removed. However, for those persons who cannot pay their obligation, the Act provides for the matter to be reconsidered in court. In these instances the court may confirm the initial penalty, remit it in whole or in part, or revoke it and order community service, driving disqualification or cancellation of driver's licence, plus disqualification. As discussed later in this report, these changes have also had an impact on the number and type of community service orders completed during 2003.
- The overwhelming majority of receptions in 2003 involved males (89.7%), although this varied slightly from 89.7% for remand receptions and 89.8% for sentenced prisoners to 95.5% for fine defaulters respectively.
- As shown in Figure 1, for those admissions where information of gender and legal status was recorded, similar proportions of female and male admissions involved remandees and fine defaulters.

Figure 1 Prison receptions: legal status of prisoner by sex, 2003



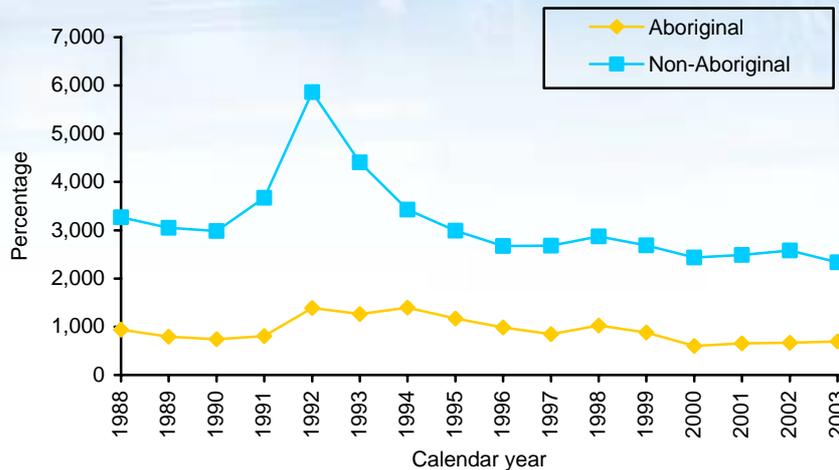
- As shown in Figure 2, there was a strong upward trend in the total receptions from 1990 to 1992, followed by a general decrease until 2000. This downward trend was reversed in 2001 and 2002 with small increases during these two years, followed by a slight decrease in 2003 (7.0%). Despite this, the 2003 figure of 3,493 was well below the peak of 7,618 recorded in 1992.
- The trend in male receptions mirrors that observed for total receptions. After decreases in 1999 and 2000 (by 10.2% and 12.9% respectively), the number of male receptions increased in 2001 and 2002. However, the 3,265 male admissions recorded in 2003 was still considerably lower than the 6,866 recorded in 1992.
- In contrast, female admissions, which have annually accounted for only a small proportion of all admissions throughout this period, have generally remained more stable over time, despite the inevitable annual fluctuations. After increasing in 2001 by 15.4%, the number of female admissions fell in 2002 but increased slightly in 2003 (from 404 to 352 to 359). Again, the 359 female admissions recorded in 2003 was still substantially lower than the peak observed in 1992 (n=664).
- The decrease in male receptions in 2003 can be attributed to decreases in remandees which declined from 2,948 in 2002 to 2,678 in 2003. The size of this decrease overshadowed the increases in male sentenced prisoners (p from 379 in 2002 to 396 in 2003) and male file defaulters (up from 18 to 21).
- The increase in female receptions in 2003, on the other hand, can be attributed to increases in sentenced prisoners (45 in 2003 compared with 23 in 2002). The number of remandees decreased from 317 to 307 and the number of fine defaulters remained stable.

Figure 2 Trends in the number of male and female prison receptions, 1988 to 2003.



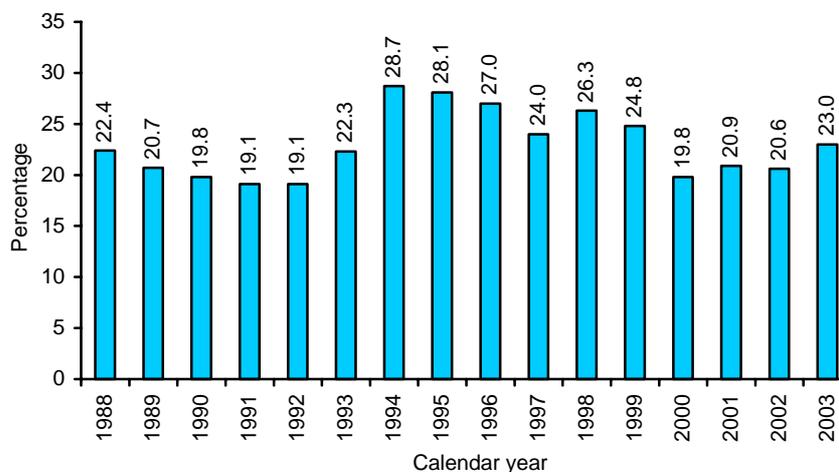
- For those 3,485 receptions where age was known, almost one half (42.6%) involved persons aged 20 to 29 years. Similar proportions of males than females were in this age group (42.6% compared with 42.9% respectively). Those in the older age groups (notably 50 years and over) accounted for only 3.1% of all receptions, 3.3% of male receptions compared with 1.7% of female receptions.
- In 2003, persons identified as Aboriginal constituted 23.0% of the 3,031 prison receptions where information on racial identity was recorded. This figure was 2.7% for sentenced and 23.4% for remand prisoners.
- As indicated in Figure 3, the number of Aboriginal admissions was relatively high in the 1992 to 1994 period, but decreased in 1995, 1996 and 1997 and again in 1999 and 2000. This downward trend was not sustained with increases in 2001, 2002 and 2003. However, the 698 Aboriginal admissions recorded in 2003 was still 50.0% lower than the high of 1,395 recorded in 1994.
- Longitudinal trends for non-Aboriginal receptions closely parallel those observed for all receptions. With the exception of 1998, non-Aboriginal receptions generally decreased between 1993 and 2000. This trend was reversed in 2001 and 2002, however in 2003 a slight decrease was recorded (down to 2,333). However, the number of non-Aboriginal receptions in 2003 was still well below the peak of 5,863 recorded in 1992.

Figure 3 Trends in the number of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal prison receptions, 1988 to 2003.



- Figure 4 shows that the number of Aboriginal receptions as a percentage of all receptions where racial identity was known was slightly higher in 2003 to that recorded in 2002 (23.0% compared with 20.6%). This was lower than the peak recorded in 1994, when Aboriginal persons accounted for 28.7% of all prison receptions.

Figure 4 Prison receptions: proportion involving Aboriginal persons, 1988 to 2003.

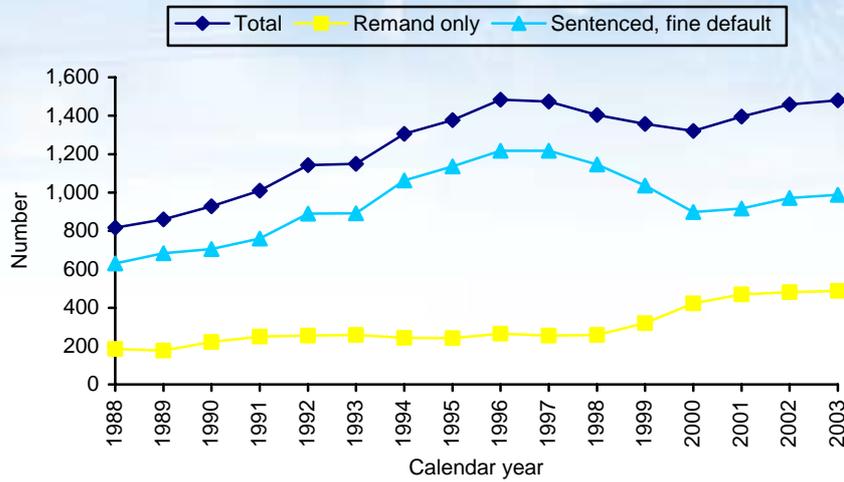


- Overall, the age profiles of the two racial groups were relatively similar, with a large percentage of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal receptions (44.8% and 41.8% respectively) involving persons aged between 20 and 29 years, and relatively few (0.7% and 3.5% respectively) aged 50 years and over.

## Daily averages

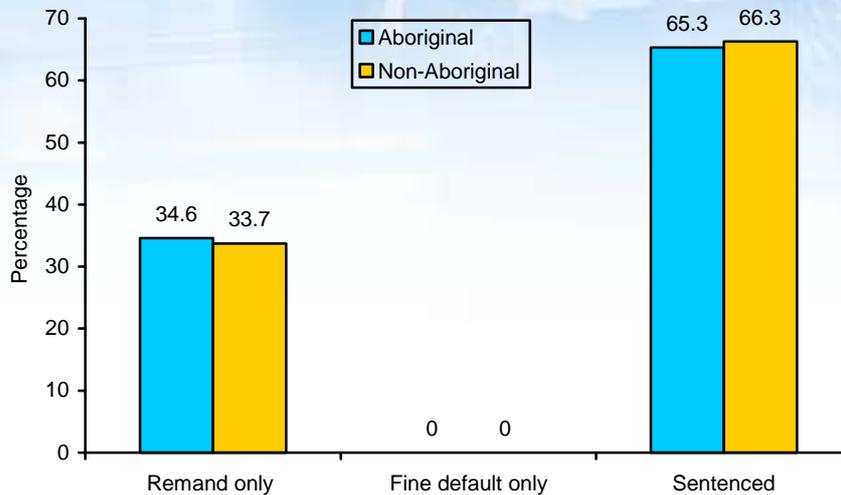
- While reception-based information provides a useful insight into new custodial admissions, it tells us nothing about the number and profile of people actually held in prison at any given time. Two measures can be used for this purpose: daily averages (ie. the average number of persons held in prison per day over a stipulated time period, such as one month or twelve months), and a census figure (ie. the number of persons held in prison at one particular time on one particular day). Daily averages are presented in Tables 4.7 to 4.9 in Section 4 of the report, while census information relating to persons in custody at midnight on 31 December 2003 are detailed in Tables 4.10 to 4.15.
- On average, on each day in 2003, there were 1,481 prisoners held in the State's prisons and adult remand centres. Of those for whom information on legal status was recorded, the majority (988 or 67.0%) were serving a prison sentence imposed by the courts, while 487 (33.0%) were on remand.
- Longitudinal trends in average daily occupancies are depicted in Figure 5. As shown, these increased steadily from 1988 to 1996. As a result, the daily average recorded in 1996 was 81.7% higher than the 816 recorded in 1988. Between 1996 and 2000 daily averages decreased (down to 1,321). However, since 2001 daily averages have steadily increased, including during 2003 where the average daily occupancy figure increased by 1.6% to 1m481.
- Most of the increase in average daily occupancies between 1988 and 1996 was due to a rise in the daily average for sentenced/fine default prisoners, which grew by 93.0% over this time period. After 1996 daily averages for sentenced/fine defaulters decreased steadily until 2001, when a slight increase of 2.1% was recorded, followed by a further increase of 5.9% in 2002. A further increase of 1.8% occurred in 2003. In contrast, after remaining relatively stable between 1991 and 1998, daily averages for remandees have increased since 1999. The daily average number of remandees recorded in 2003 only slightly higher than that recorded in 2002 (487 compared with 480).

Figure 5 Daily averages by legal status: 1988 to 2002



- In 2003 males accounted for 93.7% of the daily average, with a rate of 2.40 per 1,000 adult male population compared with only 0.16 per 1,000 adult female population.
- On average, 253 Aboriginal persons were held in custody each day in 2003, which represents 19.0% of those for whom racial identity was recorded. As shown in Figure 6, sentenced prisoners accounted for the majority of both Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals alike, although on average during 2003 a slightly lower proportion of Aboriginal persons were serving a custodial sentence (65.3% compared with 66.3% of non-Aboriginals) while a slightly higher proportion were on remand (34.7% compared with 33.7%). As a result, for those cases where legal status and racial identity were recorded, Aboriginals accounted for 19.4% of the daily average number of 'remand only' prisoners and 18.7% of sentenced prisoners.

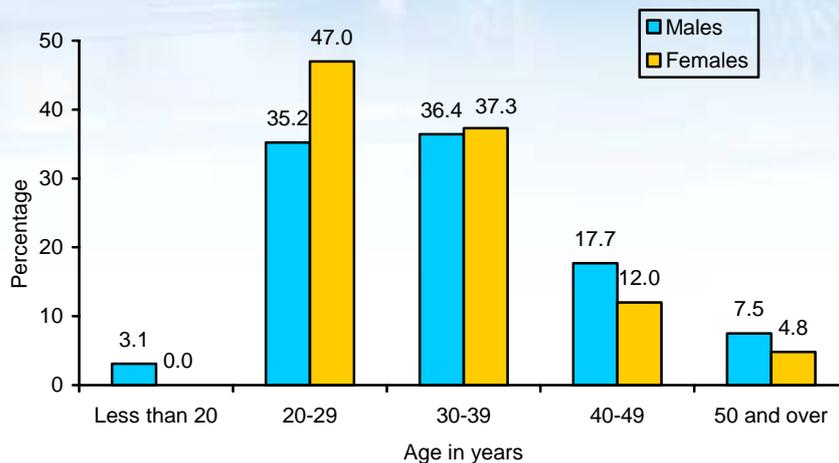
Figure 6 Daily averages: legal status by racial identity, 2003.



### Census figures

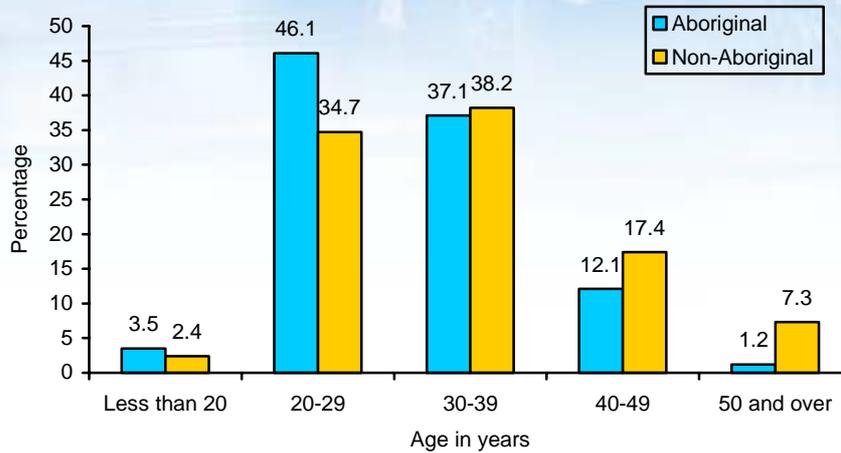
- At midnight on 31 December 2003, there were 1,438 prisoners in custody. This figure was slightly lower than the daily average recorded for 2003 (n=1,481) which illustrates the variability in prisoner numbers from one day to another and, in turn, points to the fact that daily averages rather than a census figure pertaining to a single day provide a more accurate measure of prison numbers.
- The number in custody on 31 December 2003 was slightly lower than the 1,457 prisoners held one year earlier on 31 December 2002 and higher than the 1,395 held in December 2001. Remandees accounted for 30.8% of those for whom information on legal status was recorded, while two-thirds (69.2%) were sentenced prisoners.
- The majority of persons held in custody on 31 December 2003 were male (94.2%). For every 1,000 adult males in the South Australian population, 2.35 were in custody on that particular day compared with only 0.14 females per 1,000 adult female population.
- As was the case for prison receptions, persons aged 20 to 29 years accounted for almost one third (35.8%) of those held in custody on 31 December 2003 for whom age was recorded. A further 35.6% were aged 30 to 39 years. Only a very small proportion (7.4%) were 50 years of age and over. This age profile was generally consistent for both males and females although, as Figure 7 indicates, a higher proportion of females were in the 20 - 29 years and 30 – 39 years age groups, while a lower proportion were aged 40 years or more or under 20 years old.

Figure 7 Persons in custody on 31 December 2003, age by sex



- Aboriginal persons accounted for 19.9% of the 1,438 persons in custody on 31 December 2003 for whom racial identity was recorded. This was slightly higher than the previous year, when they represented 18.6% of all persons incarcerated on 31 December 2003.
- However, this proportion varied depending on the sex of the prisoner. Excluding those cases where racial identity was not recorded, Aboriginal males accounted for 19.7% of all males in custody on that day (compared with 18.0% in 2002), whereas Aboriginal females accounted for 23.0% of all females in custody (compared with 28.4% in 2002).
- Given that, at the time of the 2001 census Aboriginal males and females represented only 1.18% and 1.19% of the State's adult population respectively, this means that the extent of imprisonment of Aboriginal women was 19.3 times greater than expected given their population size, while the extent of imprisonment of Aboriginal males was 16.7 times higher than expected. These figures indicate that, on a per capita basis, Aboriginal women are more likely to be imprisoned than their male counterparts. Nevertheless, males still dominated both racial groups, accounting for 93.4% of all Aboriginal prisoners and 94.5% of all non-Aboriginal prisoners in custody on 31 December 2003.
- The age profiles of the two racial groups are depicted in Figure 8. As shown, persons aged 20 to 29 years accounted for the highest proportion of Aboriginal persons in custody on 31 December 2003, while non-Aboriginal persons were most frequently aged 30-39 years. Those aged less than 20, and 50 years and over constituted only a small percentage of both. Nevertheless, there were some differences. Aboriginal prisoners tended to be younger than their non-Aboriginal counterparts, with a higher proportion aged less than 30 years (49.6% compared with 37.1% respectively) and a lower proportion aged 40 years and over (13.2% compared with 24.7% respectively).

Figure 8 Persons in custody on 31 December 2003: age by racial identity



### Escapes from custody

- In 2003, two prisoners escaped from custody. This was lower than the five escapes recorded in 2002. Both of the escapes during 2003 were from an institution (Cadell Training Centre and Adelaide Pre-release Centre).
- The overall escape rate recorded in 2003 was 0.1 per 100 prisoners, compared with 0.34 in 2002, 0.36 in 2001, 0.15 in 2000, 1.32 in 1999, 0.64 per 100 prisoners in 1998 and 1.1 recorded in both 1997 and 1996.

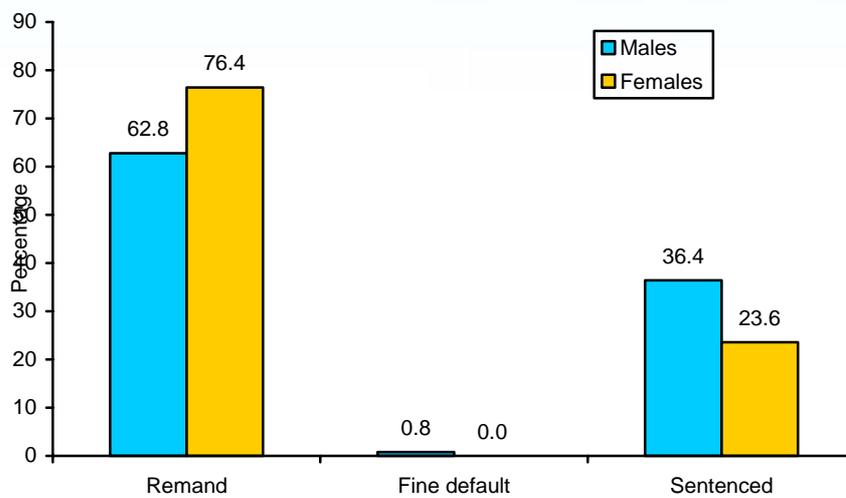
### Prison discharges

- In 2003, there were 3,506 persons<sup>11</sup> discharged from custody, the majority of whom were males (89.7% of the total).
- Of the 3,506 persons discharged in 2003 where legal status was recorded, approximately one third (1,223 or 35.1%) were serving a prison sentence at the time of their release. A further 2,237 (64.2%) were discharged from remand and 24 (0.7%) were discharged after having ‘cut out’ a fine.

<sup>11</sup> This does not refer to discrete individuals. During the twelve month period, the same person may have entered prison and then been discharged on more than one occasion. Each discharge is counted separately in these tables.

- As shown in Figure 9, there were some noticeable differences between males and females in the person's legal status at the time of discharge. The proportion discharged from remand was higher for females than males, while a lower proportion were identified as sentenced prisoners.

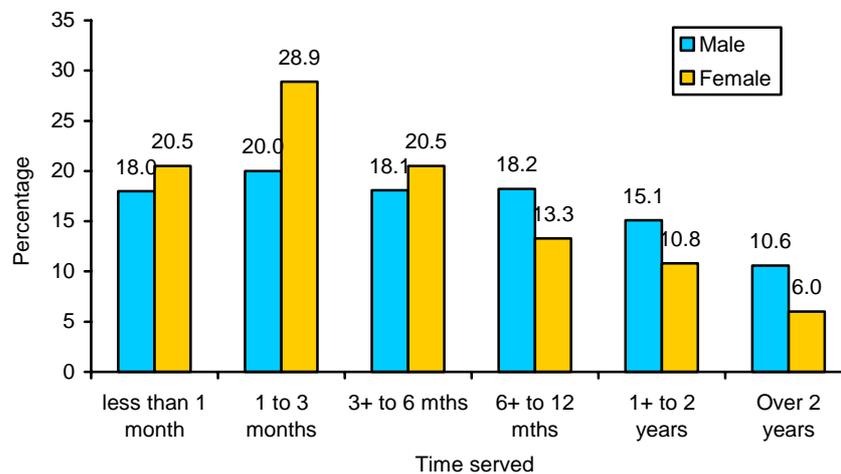
Figure 9 Prison discharges: legal status by sex, 2003



- As would be expected given the earlier data presented on prison receptions and census figures, of those persons discharged from custody for whom age was recorded, the largest percentage (42.4%) were aged 20 to 29 years while only 3.5% were aged 50 years and over.
- Of the 3,484 discharges where racial identity was recorded, one in five (20.3%) were identified as Aboriginal. More specifically, for those cases where relevant information was available, this racial group accounted for 21.1% of all discharges from remand and 24.8% of all sentenced prisoners discharged.
- Tables 4.22 to 4.23 in Section 4 of the report detail the amount of time served by sentenced prisoners at the point of discharge. It should be stressed that time served relates only to the amount of time elapsed between the prisoner's date of intake and date of discharge for each admission period. In other words, if a person is admitted on remand, then released on bail, but later breaches that bail and is readmitted, 'time served' will be calculated separately for each admission, rather than aggregated (see the Appendix in the report for further discussion).

- Of the 1,223 sentenced prisoners discharged in 2003, the majority were imprisoned for relatively short periods of time. More specifically, 18.2% spent less than one month in prison, while 38.8% were in prison for three months or less and 57.0% were there for six months or less. At the other end of the scale, relatively few spent long terms in prison, with only 1.6% incarcerated for more than five years.
- As shown in Figure 10, compared with females, a lower proportion of males served less than six months, while proportionately more had served more than six months at the time of their discharge.

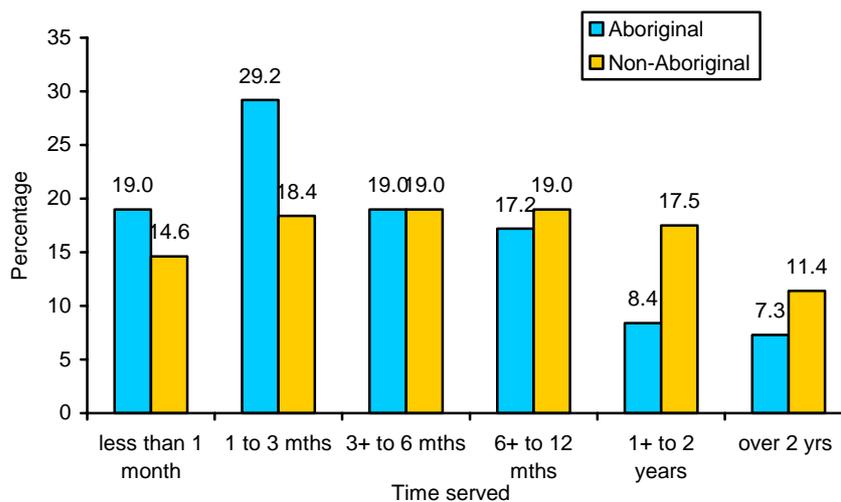
Figure 10 Prison discharges: time served by sex of sentenced prisoners, 2003.



- The most common most serious offence types for which sentenced prisoners were being held at the time of their discharge were *offences against justice procedures*, which were listed as the major offence in 29.3% of all discharges where the type of offence was recorded. This category was followed by *serious criminal trespass* (13.5%), *licence/registration offences* (10.5%), *assault* (10.4%), and *fraud* (8.4%).

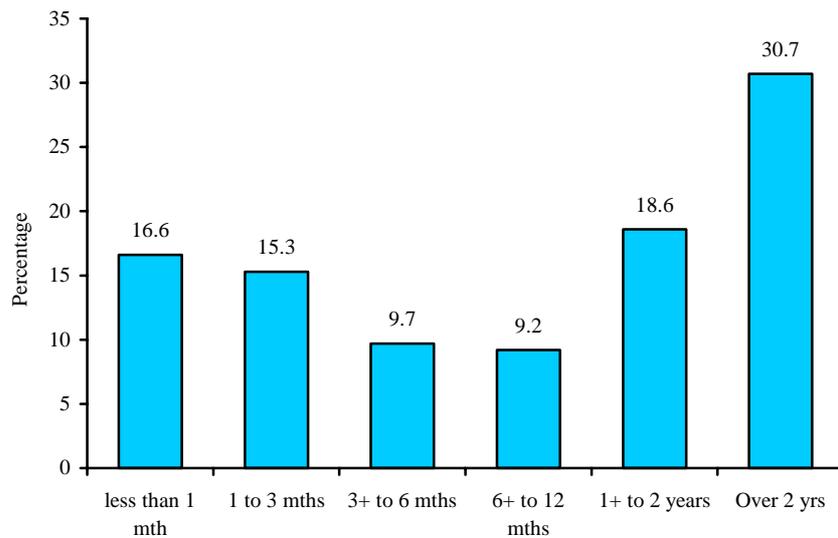
- As expected, there was a strong association between the nature of the offence and the time served. To illustrate, of the 128 discharges involving a licence/registration offence, just under one half (49.2%) involved periods of less than one month. At the other end of the scale, of the 165 discharges involving a serious criminal trespass offence, only 2.4% had served less than one month, while 40.0% had served over one year at the time of discharge. Similarly, although there were relatively few prisoners who, at the time of discharge, were serving sentences for robbery and extortion (56 or 4.6% of those discharges where the type of offence was recorded), over one half of these (55.4%) involved terms of more than two years while only one involved a period of less than six months.
- There were also some differences between male and female sentenced prisoners in relation to the major offence for which they were being held at the time of discharge. Most notably, a much higher proportion of female discharges involved *fraud offences* (32.5% compared with 6.7% of male discharges where this information was recorded) while a lower proportion involved *licence/registration offences* (4.8% compared with 10.9% of male discharges).
- Figure 11 compares the time served by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal sentenced prisoners at the point of discharge. As shown, a higher percentage of Aboriginal prisoners than non-Aboriginal prisoners served very short orders of less than three months. Conversely, non-Aboriginal sentenced prisoners were more likely to serve periods greater than six months.

Figure 11 Prison discharges: time served by racial identity of sentenced prisoners, 2002



- There were also some differences between the two racial groups in terms of the major offence for which sentenced prisoners were being held at the time of discharge. While the most prominent offence for both groups was *offences against justice procedures* (35.4% and 28.2% of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal discharges respectively), a higher proportion of Aboriginal sentenced prisoners were being held for *assault* offences (19.7% compared with 7.3% of non-Aboriginal sentenced prisoners). In contrast a lower proportion of Aboriginal sentenced prisoners were being discharged for *drug offences* and *fraud offences* (0.0% and 3.3%) compared with non-Aboriginals (7.3% and 10.4% respectively).
- Tables 4.24 and 4.25 in Section 4 of the report detail the aggregate (or head) sentence listed for those sentenced prisoners discharged during 2003. This refers to the maximum period of imprisonment imposed by the court. Persons who receive a prison sentence of less than 12 months do not qualify for parole and so must serve the maximum sentence imposed by the court. In these cases then, the aggregate or head sentence is the same as the actual time served. In contrast, sentences of 12 months or more receive both a head sentence and a non-parole period. The latter is the time that must be served before a prisoner can be considered for release. In normal circumstances, a prisoner will be released on parole once (s)he has served that non-parole period, with the result that, in most cases, the aggregate or head sentence will be longer than the actual time served.

Figure 12 Prison discharges: length of aggregate (or head) sentence for sentenced prisoners, 2003



- As shown in Figure 12, half (50.8%) of prisoners discharged in 2003 received an aggregate or head sentence of 12 months or less, and so were not eligible for parole. In contrast, 18.6% received a head sentence of over one year to two years, while a further 30.7% received a head sentence of more than two years. A small number (11 of the 1,223 discharges recorded in 2003) had a head sentence of over 10 years, including one sentenced to life imprisonment for *homicide*.

## Community-based Corrections

### Orders<sup>12</sup> commenced during 2003

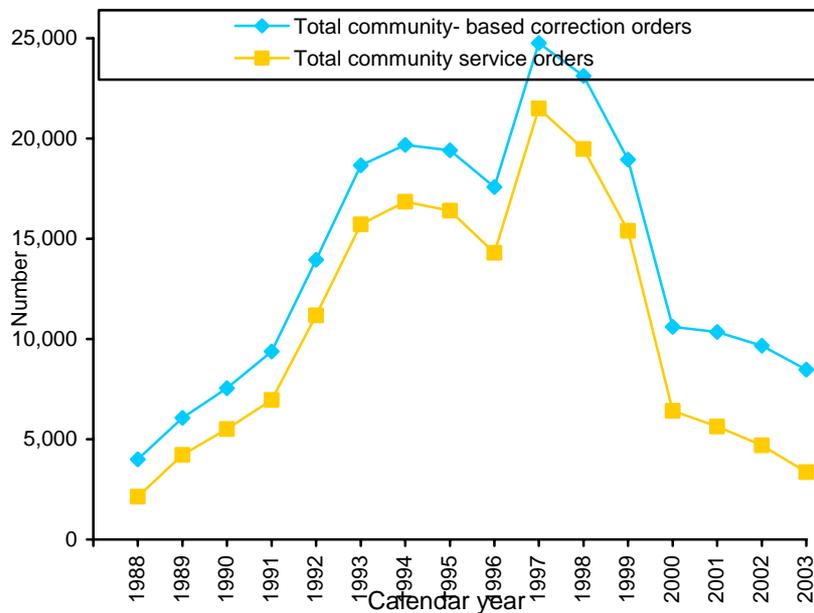
- Tables 4.26 to 4.32 in Section 4 of the report contain data on community correction orders supervised by the Department for Correctional Services.
- During 2003, a total of 8,474 community-based correction orders were commenced. Over one third (39.6%) of these orders involved some form of community work. This included stand-alone community service orders (26.5%), as well as instances where a financial penalty was expiated through community service (13.1%). At the other end of the scale, only 9.6% of orders involved home detention, generally as part of a bail agreement (6.2%) or for sentenced prisoners released from gaol (3.3%). There were also eight orders involving a home detention bond<sup>13</sup>.
- The 8,474 community-based correction orders commenced in 2003 involved 6,660 discrete individuals, giving an average of 1.27 orders per individual. The total number of individuals who commenced a community-based correction order in 2003 was 12.0% lower than in 2002, 18.8% lower than 2001, 23.8% lower than in 2000 and 57.7% lower than the 15,738 persons recorded in 1999.
- Males accounted for 81.1% of those individuals for whom sex was recorded and 81.7% of all orders commenced where relevant data were available. Although separate data are presented for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal offenders, the proportion of cases in which information on racial identity was not recorded (27.0% of all orders commenced) is too high to permit any meaningful analysis.

<sup>12</sup> For convenience, the term 'order' is applied to post-prison home detention supervision, even though this is not an order of the court.

<sup>13</sup> This reporting category was introduced in 1999 in response to an amendment of the *Criminal Law (Sentencing) Act 1988*. Under S38 (2c) of that Act, the court can now suspend a sentence of imprisonment in those circumstances where it considers that, because of the defendants' ill health, disability or frailty, it would be unduly harsh for the offender to serve time in prison. In suspending that sentence, the defendant is required to enter into a good behaviour bond, which, in these circumstances, may include a home detention condition.

- The longitudinal trend in the total number of community-based correction orders is outlined in Figure 13. As shown, the number of community-based correction orders commenced in a given year increased substantially between 1988 and 1997 before declining in the 1998 to 2000 period. Decreases were also recorded in 2001, 2002 and 2003 (2.4%, 6.6% and 12.4% respectively) although they were not as substantial as the decreases recorded between 1998 and 2000. Overall, the 8,474 orders commenced in 2003 was 65.8% lower than the peak recorded in 1997.

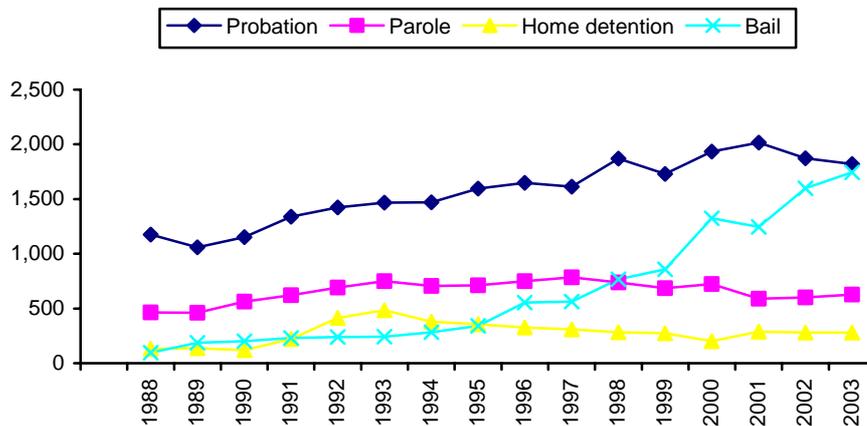
Figure 13 Community-based correction orders and community service orders commenced 1988 to 2002



- Also shown in Figure 13 is the total number of community service orders commenced between 1988 and 2003. This includes ‘stand alone’ community service orders, CSO (fine option) and CSO expiation notices commenced in the years up to and including 2000, as well as the Financial Penalty expiated through community service orders that replaced them from 2001. As indicated, community service orders have consistently made up the majority of community-based correction orders with trends parallel over the period depicted.

- The sharp upsurge in the number of community service orders recorded in 1997 was primarily due to legislative changes (*Expiation of Offences Act 1996*) which allowed community service orders to be undertaken as an alternative to paying an expiation notice. According to that legislation, persons issued with an expiation notice but not able to pay were able to do community service without going to court. Previously, if they had not been able to pay, they had to go to court, and the court decided whether or not to impose community service. This decline has continued in recent years with a further 28.5% decrease during 2003.
- There were further legislative changes introduced in March 2000 (the *Statutes Amendment (Fine Enforcement) Act*), which provided new measures for the collection of fines as an alternative to imprisonment or community service. As a result of these changes, the number of community service orders commenced decreased substantially by 69.5% from 15,401 in 1999 to 4,693 in 2001.
- Figure 33 shows trends in the number of other types of community-based correction orders commenced between 1988 and 2001. It should be noted that the category of bail also includes home detention bail.

Figure 14 Number of selected community-based correction orders commenced by type of order, 1988 to 2002



- The number of parole orders showed a general upward trend from 1988 to 1997. Between 1997 and 2001, despite some fluctuation in 2000, they generally declined. While the number of parole orders increased by 4.2% to 626 in 2003 this figure was still 20.2% below the number recorded in 1997.

- Probation orders generally increased steadily 1988 and 2001, with the 2,017 such orders recorded in 2001 being the highest in the 15 years depicted in Figure 14. However, in 2003 the number of probation orders declined by 2.9% to 1,819.
- The number of prisoners placed on home detention has remained relatively low, with a period of increase up to 1993 followed by a period of decline until 2000. Numbers increased by 43.8% in 2001 and then remained steady in 2002 (279) and 2003 (279). However, they were still below the peak of 484 recorded in 1993.
- Bail orders showed a generally upward trend during the period 1988 to 1999, followed by a sharp increase in 2000 (by 54.2% from 858 to 1,323). While a drop of 5.6% (to 1,245) was recorded in 2001, this decrease was not sustained and numbers rose sharply in 2002 and 2003 (n=1,599 and 1,743 respectively).

### Persons supervised at 31 December 2003

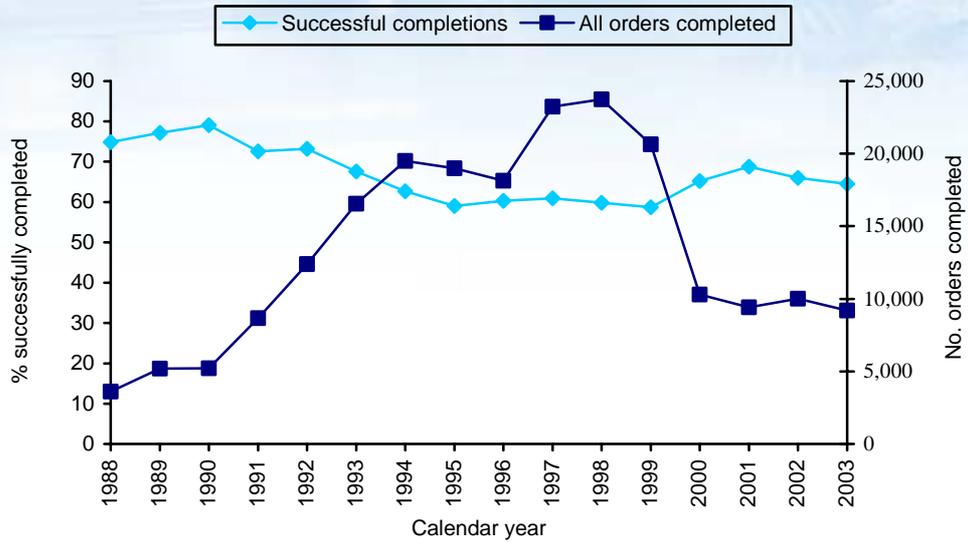
- On the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003, the Department for Correctional Services was supervising 5,648 distinct individuals, some of whom were serving more than one community-based corrections order. (As explained in Appendix A of the report, if the same person is on probation and doing community work at the same time, for the purposes of these tables (s)he would be counted in both categories.)
- The order that recorded the highest caseload on 31 December 2003 was that of probation, with 2,309 individuals registered on that day. This equates to 40.9% of all discrete persons under Department for Correctional Services community-based supervision on that particular day.
- There were also 969 individuals (17.2% of all discrete individuals) recorded in the category of *Financial penalty expiated through Community Service* and 1,232 (21.8%) serving a 'stand alone' community service order.
- At the other end of the scale, only 88 persons (1.6% of all discrete individuals) were sentenced prisoners on home detention while 669 (11.8%) were on bail, either with or without a home detention component.
- The total number of persons under supervision on 31 December 2003 (n=5,648) was 9.9% lower than the 6,267 individuals being supervised on 31 December 2002. When the number within each type of order are summed, total orders supervised in 2003 was 11.1% lower than in 2002 (6,412 compared with 7,215 respectively).
- In 2003 decreases were observed in several categories in comparison with 2002. The number of persons serving any type of community service order decreased by 27.8% (from 3,049 in 2002 to 2,201 in 2003) and the number on probation was 6.2% lower compared with 2002.

- In contrast, the number of persons on parole was 2.4% higher, the number of persons on bail at 31 December 2003 (including home detention bail) was 26.4% higher than in 2002 and the number of persons on home detention increased from 74 in 2002 to 88 (18.9%) in 2003.
- Males accounted for eight in ten (81.3%) of all discrete individuals supervised on 31 December 2003 for whom relevant information was available. Nevertheless, there were some differences between the sexes in terms of the type of order under which they were being supervised. In particular, a higher proportion of females than males were listed under the category of *financial penalty expiated through community service* (20.8% compared with 16.4% respectively) while a higher proportion of males than females were on parole (17.9% of all male supervised on 31 December 2002 compared with 6.3% of all females).
- Because information on racial identity was not available for 25.0% of all discrete individuals under supervision, the data contained in Tables 4.29a and 4.29b in Section 4 of the report should be interpreted with extreme caution.

## Orders completed during 2003

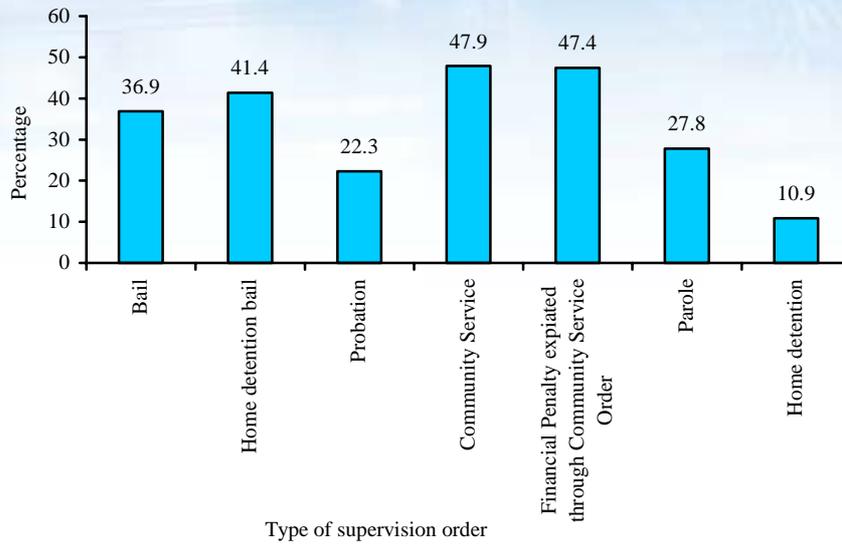
- The number of community-based correction orders completed (either successfully or otherwise) decreased in 2003 (from 10,004 in 2002 to 9,209). Of these 9,209 orders, the majority (64.5%) were completed successfully, while one third (35.4%) were revoked, estreated or breached. This is slightly more than observed in 2002, when 33.8% of orders were revoked or estreated.
- Figure 15 shows that, until 1999, despite some annual fluctuations, as the number of completed community-based correction orders has escalated, so the proportion of such orders successfully completed has diminished. In 1988, for example, when there were only 3,603 orders completed, 74.9% were successfully finalised. In 1998, the number of orders completed had increased more than five-fold, but the proportion of successful completions reduced to around 60%. However, in 2000, the number of orders completed decreased substantially, while the proportion successfully completed rose to 65.2%. Despite slight reductions in 2003, the number of orders completed and the proportion successfully completed has stabilised since 2000.

Figure 15 Community-based correction orders completed and the percentage completed successfully, 1988 to 2002



- The extent to which orders were estreated or revoked in 2003 varied depending on the type of order involved. As indicated in Figure 16, the highest level of estreatment or revocation was recorded for community service orders (47.9%), followed by financial penalty expiated through community service orders (47.4%) and home detention bail (41.4%). In contrast, only 10.9% of the home detentions completed by sentenced prisoners were estreated in 2003.

Figure 16 Community correction orders completed in 2003: percentage estreated/revoked within each category of supervision order



- The extent to which orders were estreated did not vary according to the sex of the offender. In 2003, 35.3% of orders involving males were estreated or revoked, as were 36.1% of orders involving females.

Copies of the full report “Crime and Justice in South Australia, 2003: Adult Courts and Corrections” can be downloaded from the publications page of the OCSAR website - [www.ocsar.sa.gov.au](http://www.ocsar.sa.gov.au)