

**HIGHER CRIMINAL COURT
STATISTICS
1996/97**

The South Australian Perspective

by

Jayne Marshall

This Information Bulletin describes the findings, as they pertain to South Australia, of the third report of the National Criminal Courts Statistics Unit within the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The Bulletin places the criminal caseflows of the South Australian Higher Courts within the Australian context, detailing:

- *the number of new defendants whose cases entered the Higher Courts during the period 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 and the way they were initiated;*
 - *the number of defendants whose cases had a final outcome during the period and the way their cases were finalised;*
 - *the number of defendants whose cases were initiated, but not finalised during the period;*
 - *the duration of finalised cases;*
 - *the age and sex of defendants; and*
 - *the initial and final pleas of defendants.*
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INTRODUCTION

In August 1997, the National Criminal Courts Statistics Unit (NCCSU) of the ABS released the first publication of the Higher Criminal Courts collection. The aim of this collection is to provide nationally comparable statistics on the volume and flow of criminal matters through the Higher Courts. The first report covered the 1995 calendar year. In August 1998, as part of the transition from calendar to financial year reporting, the NCCSU released the second and third publications of this collection. The second report deals with the 1996 calendar year while the third report provides statistics on the criminal workload of the Higher Courts for the 1996/97 financial year.

These publications cover criminal caseflows, based on counts of defendants, in the Supreme and Intermediate Courts of Australia. Four main areas are covered, as follows;

- initiated defendants: the number of new defendants whose cases entered the courts during the period and the way their cases were initiated;
- finalised defendants: the number of defendants whose cases had a final outcome during the period and the way their cases were finalised;
- pending defendants: the number of defendants whose cases were initiated, but not finalised during the period;
- duration of finalised cases.

In addition, in the second and third publications, information is presented for the first time on the age and sex of defendants and their initial and final pleas.

Separate figures are included for Supreme and Intermediate Courts (where applicable) in each state.

This Information Bulletin outlines the findings, as they pertain to South Australia, of the third (1996/97) Higher Criminal Courts report. Some earlier findings from 1995 and 1996 have also been provided in the Bulletin for comparative purposes.

It is stressed that caution should be used when comparing criminal court statistics across the States and Territories, due to their marked difference in court structure, jurisdiction and procedure.

Methodological Note:

The rule for counting cases transferred between courts has changed for the two new publications. In 1995, a case initiated at one Higher Court level and subsequently transferred to another level was, in effect, counted twice. The case would be recorded as one initiation and one finalisation in the Intermediate Court, as well as one initiation and one finalisation in the Supreme Court. Compared with other jurisdictions with two Higher Court levels, South Australia appears to have a relatively high number of cases transferred between the courts. As a result, under the 1995 counting rule, the number of initiations and finalisations was artificially inflated and the duration of Higher Court cases appeared much lower in comparison to other states and territories.

In the 1996 and 1996/97 publications, defendants who transfer from one Higher Court level to another are considered as initiated only once (in the level they first entered) and finalised only once (from the level they finally left). When determining the duration of a finalised

case, the total time taken from initiation to finalisation is counted, irrespective of any changes in court level.

MAJOR FINDINGS

1. Total workload:

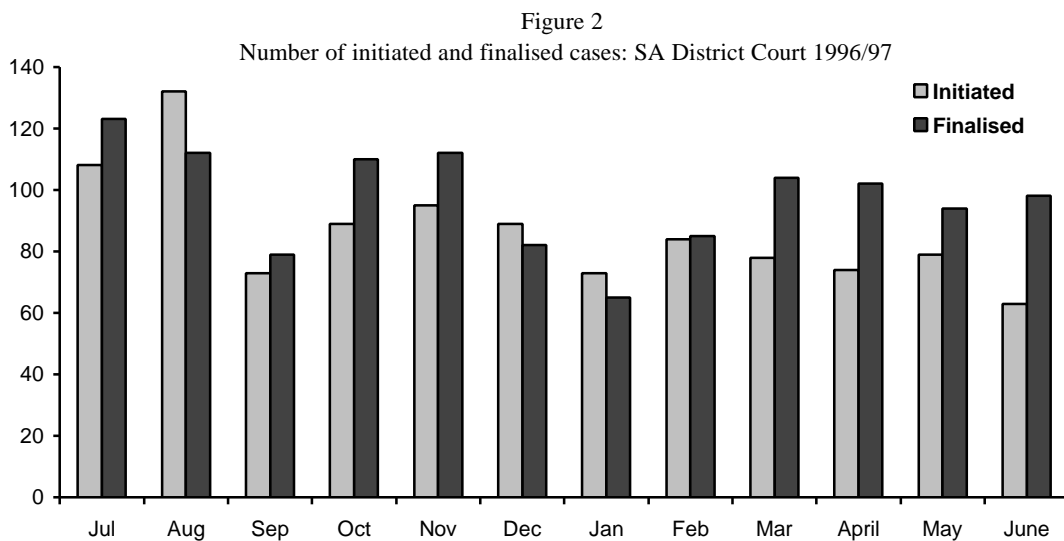
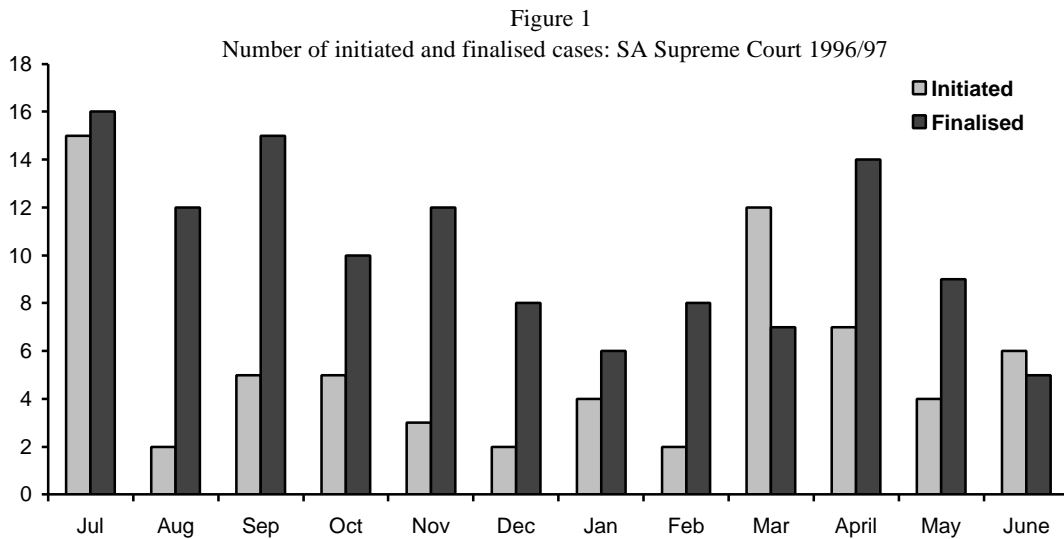
- In South Australia in 1996/97, there were 687 defendants with criminal cases initiated in the preceding year that had not been finalised at the beginning of 1996/97. In addition, 1,104 new cases were initiated in 1996/97, giving a total workload of 1,791 defendants who had a criminal case active at some time during 1996/97. This is 8.1% lower than the number of cases active in 1996 and 19.4% lower than in 1995.
- Of these, 1,288 (71.9%) defendants had their cases finalised by the end of 1996/97, leaving 503 cases unfinalised. More specifically, of the 154 cases active in the South Australian Supreme Court in 1996/97, 122 (79.2%) were finalised by the end of the recording period (which is 29.9% lower than in 1996 and 54.8% lower than in 1995). Of the 1,637 cases active in the Intermediate Court there were 1,166 finalised (71.2%). This was 0.5% lower than in 1996 and 11.1% lower than in 1995.
- Table 1 compares the percentage of active cases in South Australian Higher Courts in 1996/97 with that of New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia. As shown in Table 1, South Australia had the highest percentage of Higher Court cases finalised at the end of 1996/97 (71.9% compared with 47.9% for New South Wales, 62.1% for Victoria and 62.0% for Western Australia).

Table 1
Higher Court workload 1996/97

Case status	SA		VIC		NSW		WA	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Finalised	1,288	71.9	1,665	62.1	3,449	47.9	2,291	62.0
Pending	503	28.1	1,015	37.9	3,755	52.1	1,402	38.0
Total Active	1,791	100.0	2,680	100.0	7,204	100.0	3,693	100.0

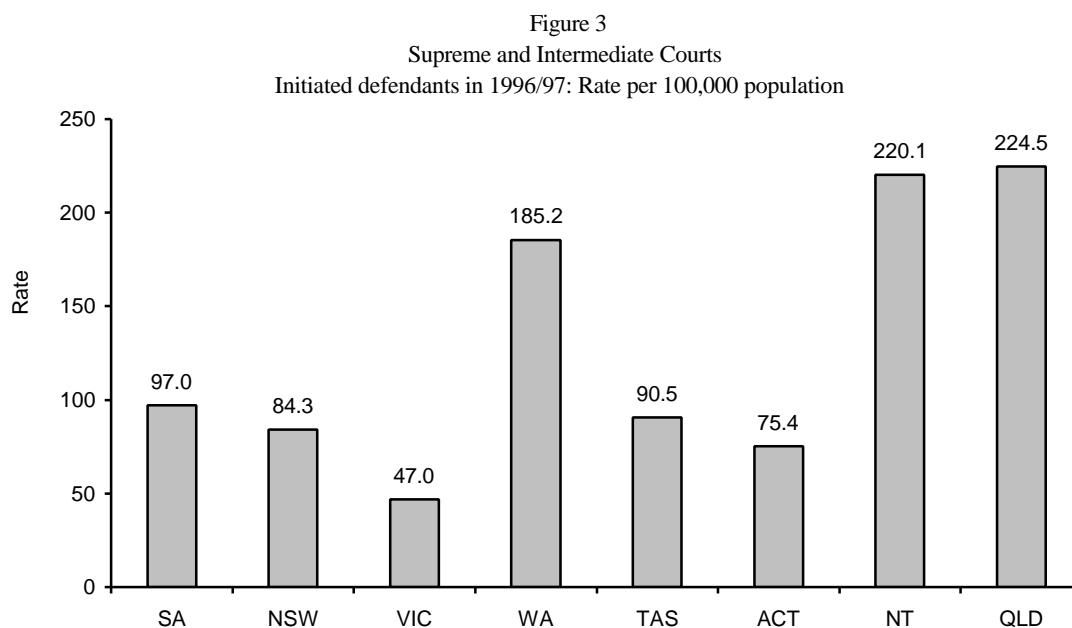
- There was considerable monthly variation in the number of defendants with cases initiated in the Higher Courts in 1996/97 across all states. In South Australia, for both the Supreme and Intermediate Courts, these figures ranged from a low of 69 in June 1997 to a high of 134 in August 1996.
- Figures 1 and 2 show the number of cases initiated and finalised each month in 1996/97 for the South Australian Supreme and Intermediate Courts respectively. In the Supreme Court, the number of cases initiated ranged from 2 in August, December and February to 15 in July. In the Intermediate Court the corresponding figures were 63 in June and 132 in August.
- As with initiation figures, 1996/97 finalisation figures varied widely from month to month for all states. In South Australia, for both the Supreme and Intermediate Courts, these figures ranged from 71 in January to 139 in July. In the Supreme Court, the number of finalisations varied between a low of 6 in January and a high of 16 in July. In the Intermediate Court the corresponding figures were 65 in January and 123 in July.

- In the Supreme Court in South Australia, for all months in 1996/97 except March and June, the number of finalisations was greater than the number of initiations. In most of these months the number of finalisations was two or three times greater than that of initiations. This is most likely the result of the counting rule relating to transfer of cases between the Supreme and Intermediate Courts. A case that was initiated in the Intermediate Court, then transferred to and finalised in the Supreme Court would be counted as an initiation in the Intermediate Court and a finalisation in the Supreme Court. In this way, a large number of transfers between the Intermediate Court and the Supreme Court would increase Supreme Court finalisation numbers without increasing initiation numbers.
- In the Intermediate Court in South Australia, for all months except August, December and January, the number of finalisations was greater than the number of initiations. However, in contrast to the Supreme Court, there was less variation between the two figures.



2. Initiated workload

- Of the 1,104 initiations in South Australia during 1996/97, 6.1% were in the Supreme Court, compared with 10.2% for Western Australia, 5.4% for Victoria and 2.8% for New South Wales. Tasmania, Northern Territory and ACT do not have Intermediate Courts, with the result that in these three states all higher court defendants were initiated to the Supreme Court. Data for Queensland were not available.
- Figure 3 shows the number of cases initiated in the higher courts for each state/territory as a rate per 100,000 population (separate rates for the Supreme and Intermediate Courts were not available). South Australia had the fourth highest rate of 97.0 after Queensland (224.5) Northern Territory (220.1) and Western Australia (185.2). South Australia's rate of initiation was below the Australian rate of 112.3 per 100,000 adult population.



Method of Initiation

- Table 2 compares South Australia with the rest of Australia in terms of the way defendants were initiated to the Higher Courts (Supreme and Intermediate combined).
- Across Australia the majority (97.1%) of defendants with cases initiated in the Higher Courts were committed from a court of summary jurisdiction. For South Australia this figure was 89.9%. In 1995 the proportion of cases in South Australia committed from a court of summary jurisdiction was much lower (77.8%) than in 1996/97. This was due to the relatively higher proportion of defendants (13.8%) whose cases were initiated by transfer from another court level. In 1996/97, due to changes in counting methodology relating to transfers between higher court levels, the proportion of cases in South Australia initiated by other means including transfers had fallen to 2.1%. This new counting rule introduces a greater level of consistency across the jurisdictions.

Table 2
Method of initiation to Australian Higher Courts in 1996/97:
Comparison of South Australia with rest of Australia

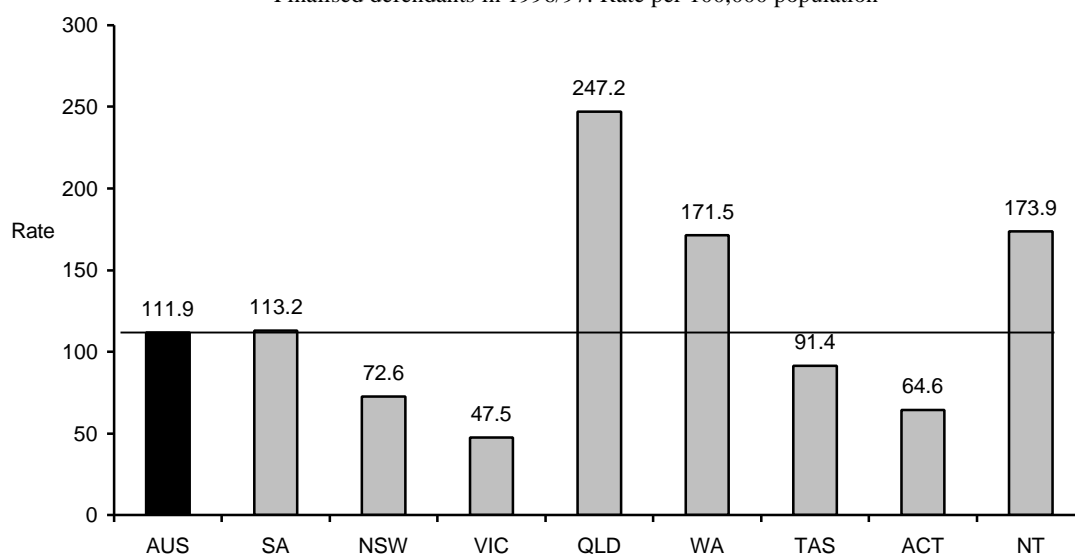
Method of Initiation	South Australia	Australia
Committed		
<i>Committed for trial</i>	78.4	73.4
<i>Committed for sentence</i>	11.4	22.1
<i>Committed nfd*</i>		1.6
Total committed	89.9	97.1
Ex officio	0.8	0.4
Bench warrant executed	7.2	2.0
Other initiated (inc. transfer)	2.1	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0

*Committed- not further defined.

3. Finalised defendants

- Across Australia, 15,657 defendants had cases finalised during 1996/97.
- Queensland made up the highest proportion of the national total of finalised defendants (6,264 or 40.0% compared with 1,288 or 8.2% for South Australia).
- For the Supreme Court only, 37.0% of all defendants were finalised in Queensland, compared with 14.7% in Western Australia, 11.3% in the Northern Territory, 6.1% in South Australia, 3.9% in New South Wales and 3.4% in Victoria.
- The corresponding figures for the Intermediate Court were 40.4% in Queensland, 24.7% in New South Wales, 14.6% in Western Australia, 11.7% in Victoria and 8.5% in South Australia.

Figure 4
Supreme and Intermediate Courts
Finalised defendants in 1996/97: Rate per 100,000 population



- Figure 4 shows the rates of finalisation per 100,000 population for each state. As shown, the Queensland rate (247.2) was more than twice the national rate of 111.9. Western Australia and the Northern Territory had finalisation rates well above the national average (171.5 and 173.9 respectively) while South Australia's rate was marginally higher (113.2).

Method of finalisation

- Across all states the number of defendants *finalised* by trial was much lower than the number whose method of initiation was *committed for trial*, reflecting the tendency for defendants to change their plea to guilty during the course of a trial. In South Australia, during 1996/97, 78.4% of defendants were committed for trial but only 20.6% of defendants had their cases finalised by way of a trial.
- Table 3 compares the method of finalisation for Supreme and Intermediate Courts in South Australia with that of Australia. In the Supreme Court, South Australia had a higher percentage of non-adjudicated finalisations (18.0% compared with 12.2%). The proportion of cases proven guilty was lower (62.3% compared with 80.8%) but the proportion of cases where there was an acquittal was higher (19.7% compared with 7.0%). As with the Supreme Court, in the Intermediate Court there was also a substantially higher proportion of non-adjudicated finalisations in South Australia (24.7% compared with 13.8%) and a lower percentage of proven guilty cases (67.1% compared with 77.4%). The proportion of acquittals was virtually the same as for Australia (8.2% compared to 8.9% respectively). Of the proven guilty cases, for both the Supreme and Intermediate courts, it appears that the major difference between South Australia and Australia was the lower percentage with a guilty plea (35.2% compared with 66.1% for the Supreme Court and 57.4% compared with 65.3% for the Intermediate Court).

Table 3
Method of finalisation of Supreme and Intermediate Court cases in 1996/97

Method of finalisation	Supreme		Intermediate	
	South Australia	Australia	South Australia	Australia
Acquitted	19.7	7.0	8.2	8.9
Proven guilty				
<i>Guilty verdict</i>	27.0	14.7	9.7	8.1
<i>Guilty plea</i>	35.2	66.1	57.4	65.3
<i>Proven guilty nfd*</i>	-	-	-	4.1
Total proven guilty	62.3	80.8	67.1	77.4
Non adjudicated				
<i>Bench warrant issued</i>	4.1	2.6	5.5	2.6
<i>Withdrawn</i>	13.1	8.7	18.2	10.8
<i>Other finalisation</i>	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
n	122	2,007	1,166	13,650

*Proven guilty - not further defined.

Outcomes of finalised cases

- Table 4 shows the outcome of all adjudicated finalisations for all states during 1996/97. Acquitted and proven figures are expressed as a percentage of all adjudicated finalisations (ie excluding transfers between court levels, bench warrants and withdrawn cases). As shown, the percentage of acquittals in the South Australian Supreme Court (24.0%) was the highest recorded in Australia. The second highest proportion of acquittals was recorded in Victoria (18.5%) followed by New South Wales (15.8%). In contrast, the figure was much lower for the remaining states/territories (9.6% or less). South Australia also recorded the second highest percentage of adjudicated finalisations by a guilty verdict (33.0%) behind Victoria with 43.1%. South Australia's result was comparable to that of New South Wales and Western Australia (31.5% and 29.3% respectively), but substantially higher than the remaining jurisdictions (between 17.2% and 6.9%).
- For the Intermediate Court, as shown in Table 4, South Australia had a lower proportion of acquittals compared with New South Wales and Victoria (10.9%, compared with 15.3%, and 12.7% respectively), but was higher than Western Australia (10.3%) and Queensland (6.4% of adjudicated finalisations by acquittal). The proportion of adjudicated finalisations by guilty verdict was similar between South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria (between 12.2% and 13.1%). While only 3.1% of adjudicated cases in the Queensland Intermediate Court were finalised by a guilty verdict, it should be noted that no distinction between guilty plea and guilty verdict was recorded in 11.5% of cases. Approximately three-quarters (76.2%) of cases finalised in the Intermediate Court in South Australia had a guilty plea. Slightly lower figures can be seen for Victoria, (74.1%) and Western Australia (72.8%), while the Queensland figure was slightly higher (78.9%).

Table 4
Supreme and Intermediate Courts
Outcome of adjudicated finalisations 1996/97

State	Supreme Court			Intermediate Court			
	Acquitted	Total Proven Guilty		Acquitted	Total Proven Guilty		
		Guilty verdict	Guilty plea		Guilty verdict	Guilty plea	Guilty nfd*
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
SA	24.0	33.0	43.0	10.9	12.9	76.2	-
NSW	15.8	31.5	52.6	15.3	12.2	72.5	-
VIC	18.5	43.1	38.5	12.7	13.1	74.1	-
QLD	3.3	6.9	89.8	6.4	3.1	78.9	11.5
WA	8.8	29.3	61.9	10.3	16.9	72.8	-
TAS	6.5	14.8	78.6	-	-	-	-
NT	9.6	12.8	77.5	-	-	-	-
ACT	9.0	17.2	73.8	-	-	-	-
AUST	8.0	16.8	75.2	-	-	-	-

*Guilty - not further defined. In Queensland, in a number of cases the distinction between guilty plea and guilty verdict was not recorded.

Initial and final plea status of defendants

- An analysis of the initial and final pleas of defendants provides information on the potential need for trials in the Higher Courts as well as an indication of the trials that actually took place. Table 5 shows the initial and final plea status of Higher Court defendants in 1996/97 according to whether the defendant changed his/her plea during the course of the matter.
- Overall, the majority (68.7%) of South Australian Higher Court defendants in 1996/97 had a final plea of guilty. This figure is consistent with that of all other Australian states and territories (ranging from 60.7% in New South Wales to 78.2% in Tasmania). However, there were differences between the Supreme and Intermediate Courts, with only 25.0% of Supreme Court defendants in South Australia having a final plea of guilty compared with 71.6% of Intermediate Court defendants.
- Just under one half of Higher Court defendants in South Australia in 1996/97 (46.2%) did not change their plea during the course of the case. These included 31.7% of Higher Court defendants who initially pleaded not guilty and 14.5% who initially pleaded guilty. Just over one half (52.2%) of defendants changed their plea from not guilty to guilty. When broken down by court level, substantial differences between the Supreme Court and Intermediate Court were evident. In the Supreme Court, 73.0% of defendants did not change their plea during the course of the case, compared with 43.2% of Intermediate Court defendants. Conversely, only 25.0% of Supreme Court defendants changed their plea (from not guilty to guilty), compared with 55.4% of Intermediate Court defendants. There were no defendants who changed their plea from guilty to not guilty.
- South Australia is comparable to Tasmania in that both had a low proportion of defendants who pleaded guilty at initiation (14.5% and 24.6% respectively) and both had a large proportion who changed their plea to guilty at finalisation (52.2% and 53.6% respectively).

Table 5
Initial and final plea status of South Australian Higher Court defendants in 1996/97

Initial and final plea status	Supreme Court %	Intermediate Court %	All Higher Courts %
No change in plea			
<i>Not guilty</i>	73.0	27.0	31.7
<i>Guilty</i>	-	16.2	14.5
Total	73.0	43.2	46.2
Change in plea			
<i>Not guilty to guilty</i>	25.0	55.4	52.2
<i>Guilty to not guilty</i>	-	-	-
Total	25.0	55.4	52.2
Initial/final plea unknown	2.0	1.5	1.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
n=	100	878	978

Duration of finalised cases

Table 6 shows the average duration of finalised cases in the Supreme and Intermediate Courts during 1996/97, across all states and territories. In the Supreme Court, average duration ranged from 17.7 weeks in Tasmania to 76.4 weeks in New South Wales. In South Australia the average duration was 40.5 weeks. This was considerably higher than the average of 14.0 weeks recorded in 1995 and can probably be explained by the change in counting rules relating to transfers discussed previously. In the Intermediate Court South Australia recorded an average duration of 24.4 weeks, compared with New South Wales with the highest average duration of 40.4 weeks. Overall, South Australia had the fourth lowest average duration for higher court finalisations (25.9 weeks, after Tasmania with an average of 17.7 weeks, Queensland with 24.0 weeks and Western Australia with 24.8 weeks) while New South Wales had the highest (41.2 weeks).

Table 6
Finalised defendants in 1996/97: Average duration (weeks) of cases from initiation to finalisation

State	Court		Total
	Supreme	Intermediate	
SA	40.5	24.4	25.9
NSW	76.4	40.4	41.2
VIC	34.6	35.3	35.3
WA	28.5	24.2	24.8
TAS	17.7	na	17.7
NT	27.6	na	27.6
ACT	30.2	na	30.2
QLD	32.6	22.8	24.0
AUST	31.1	29.0	29.2

Tables 7 and 8 show the duration of cases in the Supreme and Intermediate Courts respectively, by outcome. As would be expected, the time required to finalise a case varied depending on the type of outcome. As shown in Table 7, for the Supreme Court 50.0% of *acquitted* cases were finalised between 26 and 39 weeks, with 83.0% finalised in less than 39 weeks. For cases with a *guilty verdict* 39.4% were finalised in 39 to 52 weeks, with 27.2% finalised in less than 39 weeks. In cases where the defendant pleaded guilty, 37.2% were finalised in 26 to 39 weeks, with 32.6% finalised in less than 39 weeks. Overall, just under one-third (32.8%) of Supreme Court cases in 1996/97 had a duration of between 26 and 39 weeks, while 60.7% were finalised in less than 39 weeks.

These figures represent a marked increase in case duration in 1996/97 compared with duration times for the Supreme Courts in 1995. In that year over half (61.1%) of all cases were finalised in less than 13 weeks, compared with 13.1% in 1996/97. As indicated previously, this increase is most likely the result of changes in the 1996/97 counting rules relating to transfers.

Table 7
Duration of cases in Supreme Court in South Australia by outcome

Duration (weeks)	Acquitted %	Guilty Verdict %	Guilty Plea %	Other %	Total %
<13	16.3	3.0	16.3	18.2	13.1
13<26	16.7	12.1	16.3	13.6	14.8
26<39	50.0	12.1	37.2	36.4	32.8
39<52	4.2	39.4	16.3	13.6	19.7
52<65	8.3	12.1	7.0	0	7.4
65<78	-	9.1	4.7	0	4.1
78 and over	4.2	12.1	2.3	18.2	8.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
n	24	33	43	22	122

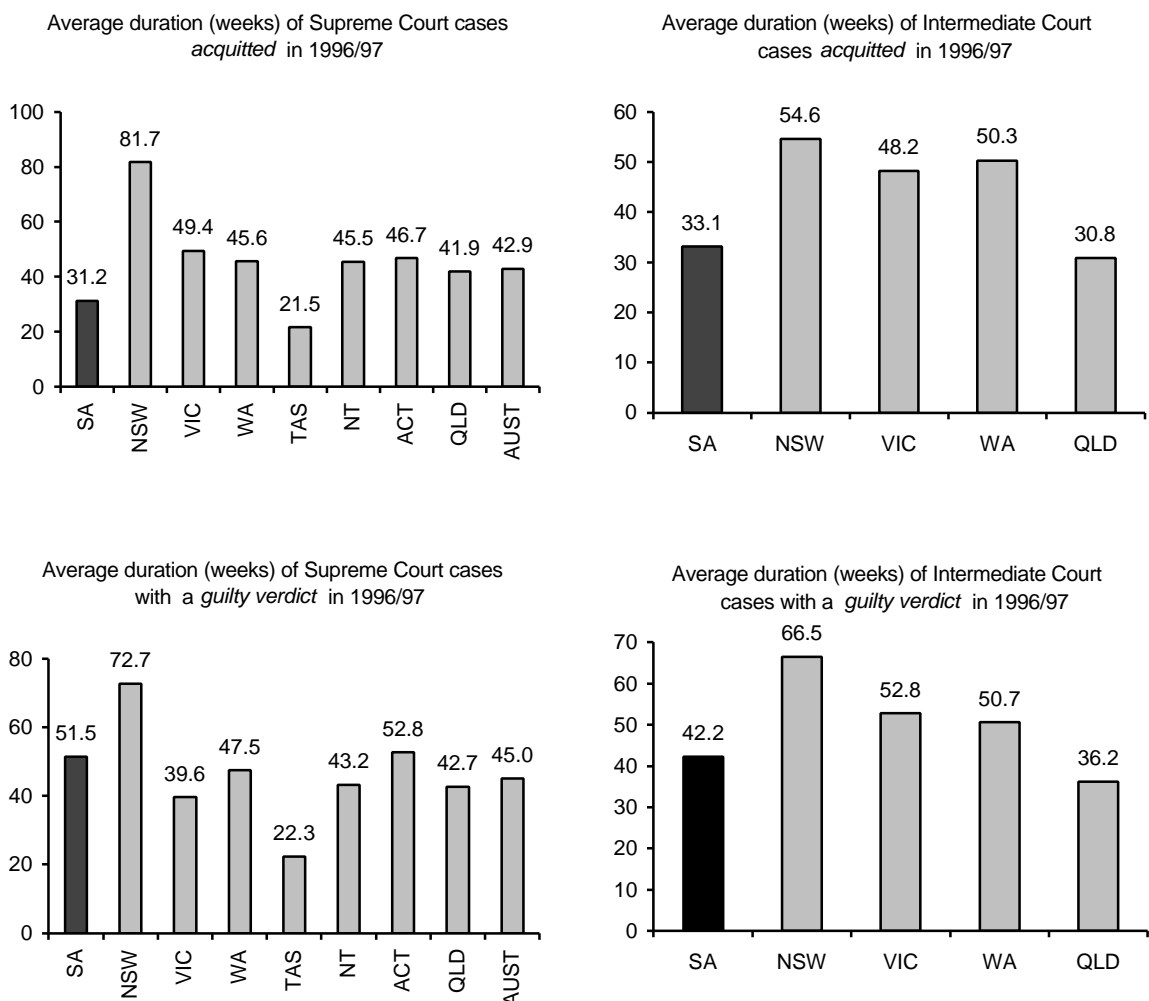
Table 8
Duration of cases in Intermediate Court in South Australia by outcome

Duration (weeks)	Acquitted %	Guilty Verdict %	Guilty Plea %	Other %	Total %
<13	6.3	2.7	34.1	41.3	30.5
13<26	27.1	21.2	35.3	31.6	32.3
26<39	34.4	38.9	17.8	17.0	21.0
39<52	22.9	15.0	8.7	5.2	9.6
52<65	6.3	7.1	2.4	2.8	3.3
65<78	3.1	4.4	0.7	0.3	1.2
78 and over	-	10.6	1.0	1.7	2.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
n	96	113	669	288	1,166

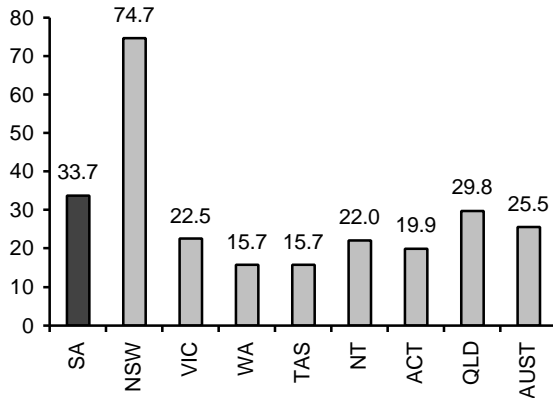
- As shown in Table 8, the duration of cases in the Intermediate Court was generally longer than that of cases in the Supreme Court. Overall, 83.8% of cases were finalised in less than 39 weeks, 62.8% in less than 26 weeks and 30.5% in less than 13 weeks. For cases with a *guilty verdict*, or where the defendant was *acquitted*, the majority were finalised in 26 weeks or more (66.7% and 76.0% respectively). Conversely, for cases where there was a *guilty plea* or *other* method of finalisation, the majority of cases were finalised in less than 26 weeks (69.4% and 72.9% respectively).
- Figure 5 shows the average duration of Supreme and Intermediate Court cases by case outcome. In the Supreme Court South Australia had:
 - the second *lowest* average duration for acquitted cases (31.2 weeks, after Tasmania with an average duration of 21.5 weeks)
 - the third *highest* average duration for cases with a guilty verdict (51.5 weeks after New South Wales with a duration of 72.7 weeks and the ACT with a duration of 52.8 weeks)

- the second *highest* for cases with a guilty plea (33.7 weeks after New South Wales with an average duration of 74.7 weeks)
- the second *highest* for cases with another method of finalisation (47.4 weeks, after New South Wales with a duration of 123.9 weeks).
- In the Intermediate Court South Australia had:
 - the second *lowest* average duration for acquitted cases (33.1 weeks, after Queensland with an average duration of 30.8 weeks)
 - the second *lowest* average duration for cases with a guilty verdict (42.4 weeks after Queensland with a duration of 36.2 weeks)
 - the third *highest* average duration for cases with a guilty plea (22.0 weeks after New South Wales with an average duration of 33.0 weeks and Victoria with 27.4 weeks)
 - the *lowest* average duration for cases with another method of finalisation (20.2 weeks).

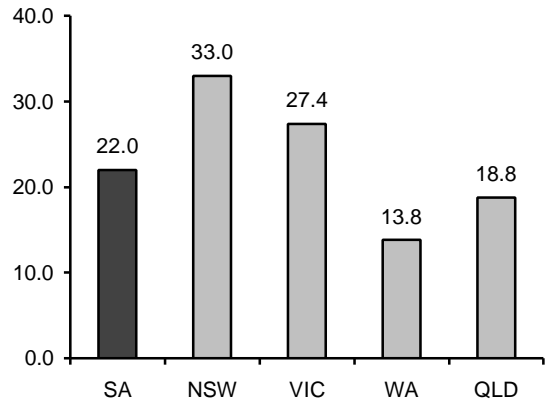
Figure 5
Average Duration of Supreme and Intermediate Court cases by outcome



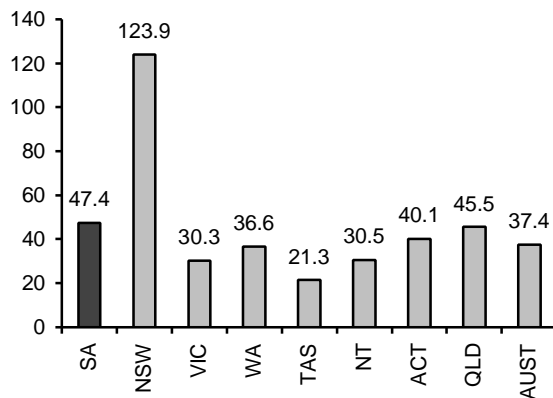
Average duration (weeks) of Supreme Court cases with a *guilty plea* in 1996/97



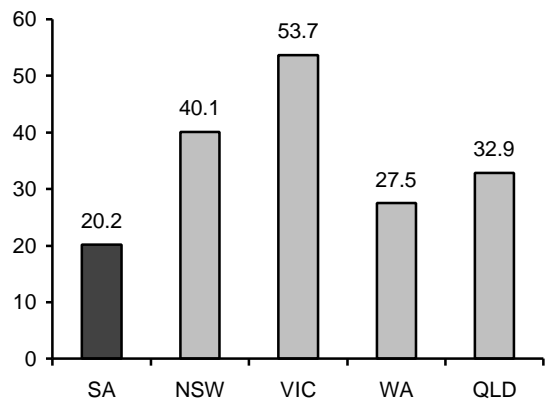
Average duration (weeks) of Intermediate Court cases with a *guilty plea* in 1996/97



Average duration (weeks) of Supreme Court cases in 1996/97 - other method of finalisation



Average duration (weeks) of Intermediate Court cases in 1996/97- other method of finalisation

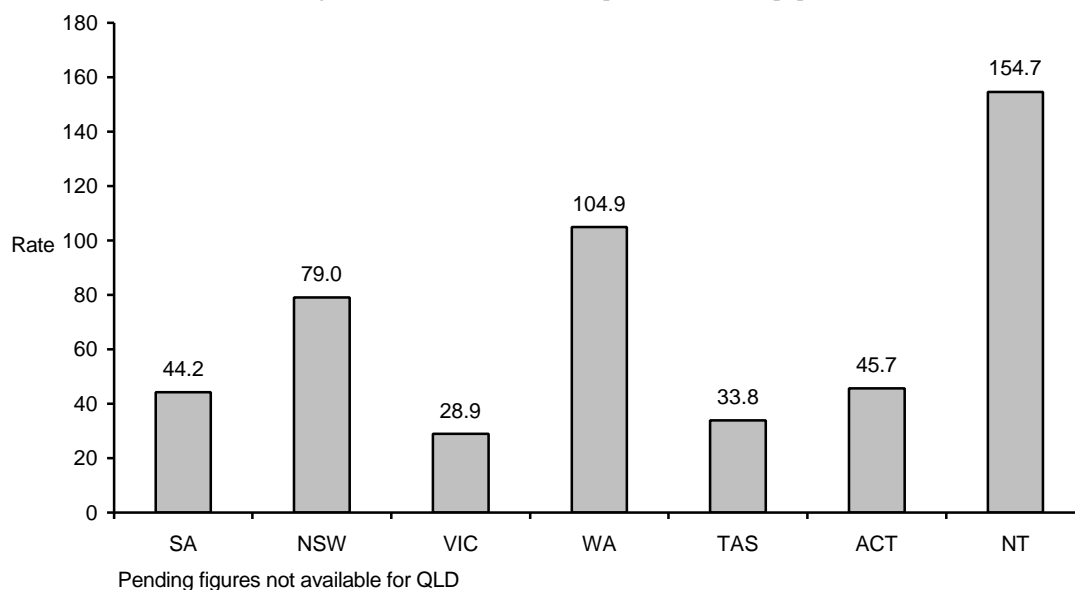


Note: There is no Intermediate Court in Tasmania, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

4. Cases pending at the end of 1996/97

- Figure 6 shows the number of pending defendants in Australian Higher Courts at the end of 1996/97, as a rate per 100,000 adult population. The South Australian rate of 44.2 defendants per 100,000 population was lower than that of the Northern Territory (154.7), Western Australia (104.9), New South Wales (79.0) and the Australian Capital Territory (45.7), but higher than that of Tasmania (33.8) and Victoria (28.9).

Figure 6
 Supreme and Intermediate Courts
 Pending defendants in 1996/97: Rate per 100,000 adult population

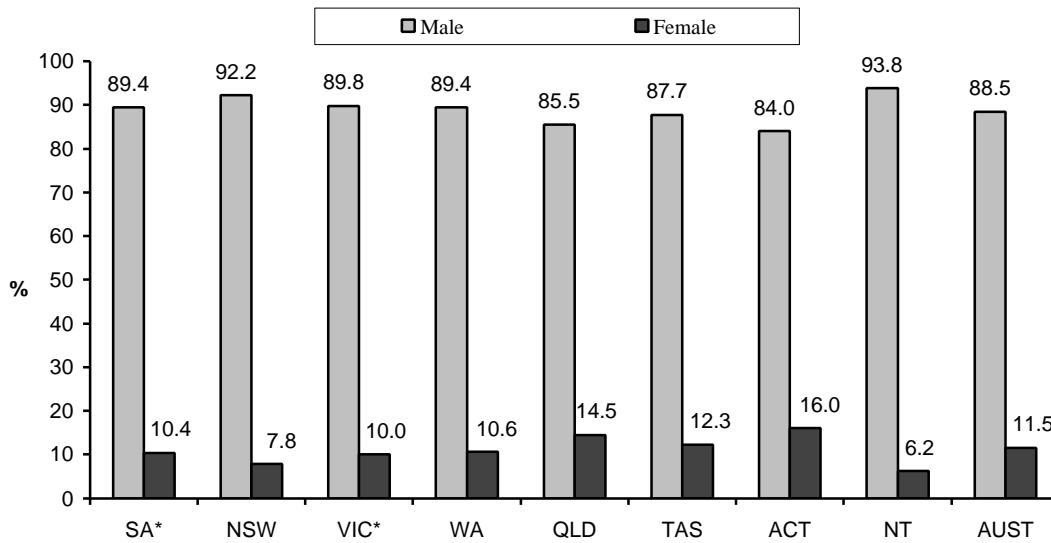


- More specifically, as indicated in Table 1, in the Higher Courts South Australia had the lowest proportion of pending cases at the end of 1996/97 (28.1% compared with 38.0% for Western Australia, 37.9% for Victoria and 52.1% for New South Wales).

Sex and age of finalised defendants

- Figure 7 shows the percentage of male and female Higher Court defendants with cases finalised in 1996/97 by state and territory. Separate figures for the Supreme and Intermediate Courts were not available. As shown, the overwhelming majority of defendants were male, including 89.4% in South Australia. The percentage of male defendants in other Australian jurisdictions ranged between 84.0% in the ACT and 93.8% in the Northern Territory. Conversely, the percentage of female defendants ranged between 6.2% in the Northern Territory and 16.0% in the ACT.

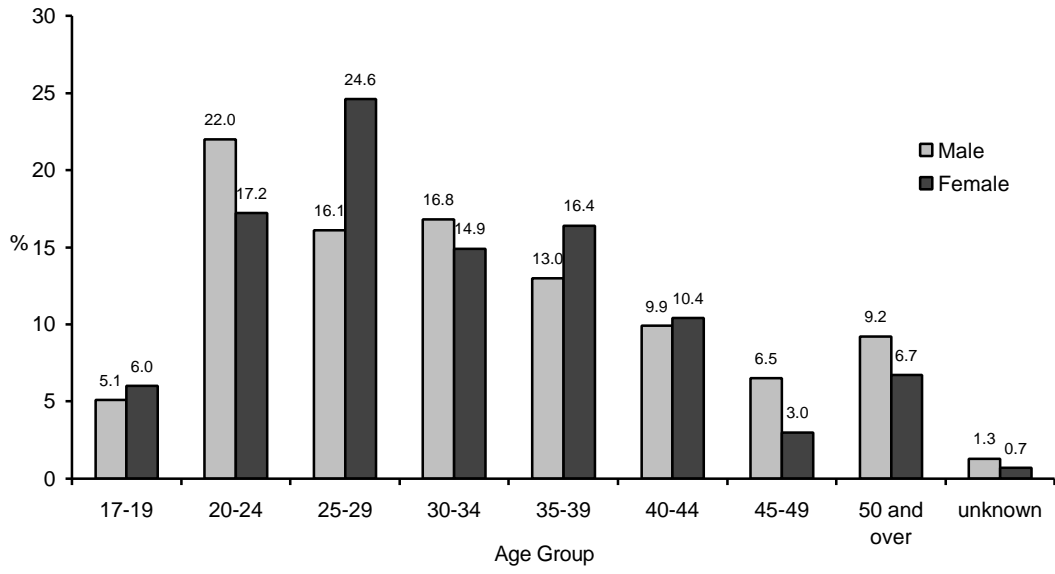
Figure 7
 Supreme and Intermediate Courts in Australia
 Percentage of male and female finalised defendants in 1996/97



* 0.1% defendants in SA and 0.2% defendants in Victoria were organisations (not illustrated).

- Figure 8 shows the age of male and female defendants finalised in the Higher Courts in 1996/97. For both males and females, the majority of defendants were aged under 40 years (73.0% and 79.1% respectively). The 20–24 years age group accounted for the largest proportion of male defendants (22.0%) followed by the 30–34 years group (16.8%), the 25–29 years group (16.1%) and the 35–39 years group (13.0%). The highest proportion of female defendants was in the 25–29 year range (24.6%), followed by 20–24 years (17.2%), 35–39 years (16.4%) and 30–34 years (14.9% of female defendants). There were similar percentages of males and females in the 17–19 year age group (5.1% and 6.0% respectively) and the 40–44 year age range (9.9% and 10.4% respectively). A higher percentage of male defendants were aged between 45 and 49 (6.5% compared with 3.0% of females) and 50 years or more (9.2% compared with 6.7%).
- The median age for male and female defendants in the South Australian Higher Courts was 31.6 and 30.2 respectively.

Figure 8
South Australian Supreme and Intermediate Courts
Age of defendants in 1996/97



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