

Magistrates Court of Tasmania

Annual Report

2025–26

MAGISTRATES COURT
TASMANIA

Magistrates Court of Tasmania Annual Report 2025–26

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Cover image: Hobart Magistrates Court

Magistrates Chambers

GPO Box 345
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MAGISTRATES COURT
TASMANIA

20 October 2026

The Honourable Guy Barnett MP
Deputy Premier, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Level 10, 15 Murray Street
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Deputy Premier

Magistrates Court and Coronial Division Annual Reports 2025–2026

I enclose the Annual Report for 2025–26 for the Magistrates Court, as required by the *Magistrates Court Act 1987*, section 17C.

The report incorporates the Annual Report for the Coronial Division which is required by the *Coroners Act 1995*, section 69.

The reports are provided to you as Minister for Justice and Attorney-General.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Geason
Chief Magistrate

Acknowledgement

The Magistrates Court of Tasmania acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the First Peoples and traditional owners of this Country, and recognise Aboriginal people's continuing connection to Land, Sea, Waterways, Sky and Culture.

In recognition of the deep history and culture of this Island, we would like to acknowledge and pay our respects to all Tasmanian Aboriginal people; the traditional owners of the Land upon which the Court operates.

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2025–26 year at a glance

Criminal Division

Adult Criminal

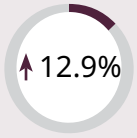
Lodged

17,517



Finalised

15,191



Youth Justice Criminal

Lodged

1,750



Finalised

1,500

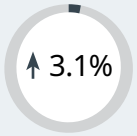


Coronial Division

Reported Deaths, Fires and Explosions

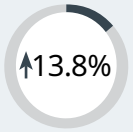
Lodged

990



Finalised

958



Civil Division

Civil Claims

Lodged

2,585



Finalised

2,838



Family Violence (FVO) Applications

Lodged

2,489



Finalised

2,536



Total Number of Listings

219,370



Message from the Chief Magistrate



I am proud to present the Magistrates Court Annual Report for 2025-2026 which reflects on a year defined not only by its operational demands but on the unwavering dedication and professionalism of our magistrates and court staff.

In May 2025 Yolanda Prenc resigned as our Administrator to pursue her career as a criminal lawyer. I thank Ms Prenc for her dedication in supporting the operations of the Court. I thank Anna Watson and Jane Cook for acting in the position until Ms Cook was appointed as Administrator in October 2025. Ms Cook has embraced the role, and I thank her for her high level of professionalism, commitment and dedication.

Our Court handles the vast majority of legal matters in our community. Managing evolving caseload complexities and sustained registry pressures requires more than efficient systems, it requires resilience, empathy and commitment which is demonstrated daily. I thank everyone for their significant and vital contributions which are greatly appreciated.

The Court continues to face compounding pressures driven in part by structural funding constraints. The technical complexity required of our registry staff has in multiple areas outgrown position classifications and the Court continues to advocate to address this misalignment as remedying this issue is critical to the continued operations of the Court.

During the reporting period Magistrate Simon Cooper resigned after 12 years with the Court. I thank Magistrate Cooper for his dedication, integrity and significant contributions as a magistrate and as a coroner. In particular, I thank him for his invaluable contributions during the Court's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Magistrate Cooper's strategic emergency response skills played an instrumental role in the Court's response to an unprecedented challenge. His contributions were critical to determining, managing and implementing the operational changes required to ensure the Court continued to function state-wide. I congratulate Magistrate Cooper on his esteemed career on the bench.

In January 2026 the Court welcomed the appointment of Madeleine Wilson SC as a magistrate. Magistrate Wilson has over 30 years' experience in the profession, predominantly with the Office of Director of Public Prosecutions and brings a wealth of legal knowledge and expertise. The Court is fortunate to have Magistrate Wilson join us.

I would like to thank Magistrate McTaggart as Chief Coroner, through her leadership the Coronial Division has seen a number of achievements despite increasing workloads and demands. I am very grateful for her commitment and dedication.

I am also very grateful to and thank Deputy Chief Magistrate Stanton for his genuine and significant support. In particular I thank him for his leadership of the Justice Connect project from the Court's perspective. This is important work as a new electronic case management system is critical to the ongoing operations of the Court and the implementation of the Magistrates Court (Criminal & General Division) Act 2019.

Finally, I am very grateful to my judicial colleagues for their unwavering commitment to judicial excellence. Their collegiality, willingness to engage and invaluable support is greatly appreciated.

Message from the Administrator



Administrator of Courts Ms Yolanda Prenc resigned from the Administrator role during the reporting period, and finished with the Court on the 4th of July 2025. On behalf of all court staff I thank Yolanda for her work and achievements while at the Court. I was honoured and privileged to be appointed as Administrator of Courts on 30th October 2025 – it is not a role I take on lightly, and I am committed to working hard alongside my talented and dedicated team of staff statewide, to ensuring there is an efficient and effective registry in place to provide accessible, respectful and high quality services to the Tasmanian Community.

The court has continued to work to upgrade and improve facilities to assist us to deliver high quality services statewide. Throughout the reporting period we have been able to upgrade CCTV systems in the Hobart Magistrates Court, modify and upgrade custody docks in both Hobart and Devonport, improve secure exit paths in Burnie, install AC systems in the Tasmania Legal Aid and custody cells areas of the Devonport Court, as well as establish a Protected Witness Room on site at the Hobart Magistrates Court, complete with separate entrance and exit, and flexible office space. It has been exciting to see ground works for the new Burnie Court commence, and work commenced to upgrade security screening in Devonport, Launceston and Hobart as well as upgrade the custody and public lifts in Launceston. I look forward to those projects proceeding in the new financial year.

In relation to systems, it was pleasing to receive approval to upgrade the Coronial Case Management System, which is well past its useful lifespan and no longer fit for purpose. I look forward to this project proceeding in the new financial year.

The Court worked with the Integrity Commission over the reporting period to develop and present a customised training package for court staff, in relation to management of conflicts of interest, and confidentiality from a registry perspective. Whilst this material had been included in induction training previously, this was the first time a customised training program had been prepared specifically for Magistrates Court staff and the sessions were very warmly received by the team. My thanks goes to the Integrity Commission for their assistance.

Every day I am proud to lead a team of dedicated and committed staff, whose work each day makes a significant difference to the lives of everyone they interact with. I thank my Executive Leadership Team for their tireless dedication, support, integrity and leadership as we work to provide an open and efficient court registry. In particular I thank Anna Watson, Deputy Administrator North & North West and Sarah Lucas, Deputy Administrator South for their endless support, commitment and leadership during an incredibly busy year that saw a significant amount of change. I am grateful to Chief Magistrate Catherine Geason and Deputy Chief Magistrate Ken Stanton, as well as the broader Magistrates group for their guidance and support. I thank Secretary Kristy Bourne and Deputy Secretary Pauline van Adrichem for their support of me and my team.

About the Magistrates Court

Aim and purpose of the Court

The Magistrates Court of Tasmania serves the community by providing access to an accountable, independent and impartial system of justice which is administered according to law. The purpose of the Court is to uphold the law fairly and impartially. It aims to do that in a manner that inspires confidence in the administration of justice

Our values are

- Independence
- Integrity
- Respect for all
- Timeliness
- Transparency

Overview of the Court

The Magistrates Court of Tasmania is a statutory body created as a court of record by section 3A of the *Magistrates Court Act 1987*. It is made up of the Chief Magistrate, the Deputy Chief Magistrate, and the Magistrates.

The Magistrates Court of Tasmania is the busiest court in Tasmania, handling nearly 39,000 new cases in 2025–26 and a record of 219,370 listings in court. The Magistrates Court is part of the third – or judicial arm – of government, has 17 Magistrates and more than 70 staff working across registries in Hobart, Launceston, Devonport and Burnie. Magistrates have jurisdiction to hear and determine a broad range of legal matters. Magistrates sitting in the Courts of Petty Sessions hear and determine:

- simple offences
- crimes triable summarily under State and Commonwealth legislation
- breaches of duty
- applications under various State and Commonwealth statutes.

They also exercise a wide range of appellate and review functions.

Magistrates hear simple and indictable offences in the Youth Justice Division, as well as exercising child safety responsibilities in the Children's Division under the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997*.

Magistrates in the Civil Division hear and determine civil matters up to a value of $50,000, or an unlimited amount with the consent of the parties. Disputes up to a value of $15,000 are dealt with as minor civil claims. Magistrates also hear and determine applications and appeals by way of the *Residential Tenancy Act 1997*.

The Court sits as the Court of Petty Sessions, a court of summary jurisdiction provided for in the *Justices Act 1959*. Other divisions of the Court are provided for in legislation. These divisions are:

- Civil Division
- Youth Justice Division
- Coronial Division
- Children's Division
- Administrative Appeal Division
- Mining Division.

The court relies on volunteer bench justices to run night courts and weekend courts, as the Court sits 365 days per year.

Information about the Court's day-to-day operations, including services, locations, decisions and court lists, is available on the Magistrates Court website at magistratescourt.tas.gov.au

Court locations

During the reporting year magistrates constituted Courts of Petty Sessions under the *Justices Act 1959*, and sat in the various divisions of the Magistrates Court, at the following locations around the State:



1. Hobart
2. Launceston
3. Devonport
4. Burnie
5. Queenstown
6. Currie
7. Whitemark
8. Scottsdale
9. St Helens
10. Smithton

Organisational structure

Magistrates

As at 30 June 2026, the end of the current reporting period, the Magistrates Court was constituted by the following Magistrates:

Hobart	Launceston
Chief Magistrate C J Geason	Deputy Chief Magistrate K J Stanton
Magistrate O M McTaggart	Magistrate S J Brown
Magistrate C P Webster	Magistrate S E Cure
Magistrate R J Marron	Magistrate E Hughes
Magistrate A R McKee	**Devonport and Burnie**
Magistrate R B Webster	Magistrate D R Fairley
Magistrate J G Hartnett	Magistrate L S Topfer
Magistrate M Duvnjak	Magistrate K Edwards
Magistrate L Mackey	Magistrate E Hughes
Magistrate M Wilson (appointed 12 January 2026)	

Court staff

At the end of the reporting period, 30 June 2026, the Magistrates Court had a staffing profile of 80.6 FTE, distributed across the four permanent court registries situated in Hobart, Launceston, Burnie and Devonport. The staffing structure is comprised of 23 at band 2, 30 at band 3, 11 at band 4, 10 at band 6 and 3 at band 7, noting staff work on flexible work agreements.

Additionally, the Court employed one trainee in each of the Launceston, Devonport and Burnie Registries, and two in Hobart through training service providers. The employment of trainees is not only beneficial to the Court, but also provides young people with opportunities to complete relevant qualifications and to gain valuable workplace experience.

For the reporting period 2025-26 there was a staff turnover of 7.43% a further decrease from the turnover rate in 2024–25 of 9.6%, down from 14.68% in 2023–24, and 28.45% in 2022–23.

For many years the Court experienced ongoing challenges in recruitment of staff for new and existing positions across all Registries, primarily due to delays in Departmental recruitment processes, the comparatively low banding levels of positions and the nature of the work.

To seek to address these longstanding issues, in February 2023, the Court commissioned an independent review into the court staffing structure, which was conducted by Chris Cornell-McGleenan. The report was finalised in September 2023 and made 13 recommendations. The Magistrates Court has accepted all recommendations, and the report has been circulated to Magistrates and staff. The Magistrates Court is continuing to work closely with the Department of Justice to implement all recommendations, including reviewing staff bandings, roles, responsibilities and internal processes, as well as continuing work to upgrade outdated systems, facilities and infrastructure. The dedication, commitment and work ethic of the court staff, as well as the Court management team to review processes, and improve culture that the turnover rate has not significantly increased compared to previous reporting periods.

Bench Justices

The Magistrates Court utilises Bench Justices to preside and operate after-hours courts in each registry on a statewide basis. The after-hours courts are held each weekday evening and each morning/evening on Saturday and Sundays as required.

To ensure that Bench Justices are well informed in the exercise of all their powers, the Chief Magistrate or her delegate holds regular meetings with Bench Justices. Bench Justices are also provided with extensive training before being able to preside over their own court.

A large part of Bench Justices' work ensures that people who are arrested are brought before the Court as soon as practicable, at which time they have an opportunity to make an application for bail. The Bench Justice work is a completely voluntary service. The Court continually expresses its gratitude for the voluntary contributions of the Bench Justices and their service to the administration of justice. The work they undertake on a volunteer basis is integral to the operation of the Court and greatly appreciated.

To give an indication of the level of service provided by the Bench Justices during the reporting period, Bench Justices:

- dealt with 1,689 adult defendants, an increase of 7.64%
- dealt with 102 youths, an increase of 5.15%
- convened 705 mid-week courts (usually sitting at 7pm), an increase of 9.13%
- convened 1,095 weekend courts (held each weekend day at 11am and 7pm), an increase of 8.73%
- dealt with 842 family violence matters, an increase of 14.55%

Afterhours Courts

	Hobart	Launceston	Devonport	Burnie	Total
Adult Defendants	845	511	200	133	1,689
Youth Defendants	58	21	19	4	102
Mid-week Courts	311	241	103	50	705
Weekend Courts	600	291	116	88	1,095
Family Violence Matters	392	282	98	70	842

As well as presiding over after-hours courts, Bench Justices conduct preliminary proceedings hearings for indictable offences within the usual business hours of the Court, with 44 sessions listed state-wide in the reporting period. More details on preliminary proceedings are provided later in this report. In addition, the Bench Justices assist with covering and dealing with custody matters on Magistrates Court Conference Days.



Education, training and professional development

Magistrates – Professional development

The Court continues to facilitate and encourage professional development for judicial officers. In 2025–26 Magistrates undertook the following professional development:

Table 1: Magistrate training and professional development 2025–26

Training and professional development	Magistrate	Location	Date
Council of Chief Magistrates Meeting	C. Geason	Brisbane	2-3 October 2025
Australian Judicial Officers Association Colloquium	C.Webster M. Duvnjak	Perth	9-11 October 2025
Statewide Magistrates Conference	Magistrates	Hobart	16-17 October 2025
Asia Pacific Coroners Conference	O. McTaggart L. Mackey	Melbourne	29-31 October 2025
Advanced Judicial Skills and Techniques	K. Edwards	Sydney	12-13 February 2026
Council of Chief Magistrates Meeting	C. Geason	Adelaide	19-20 March 2026
Statewide Magistrates Conference	Magistrates	Longford	17 April 2026

Note: Education sessions provided by Coroners, and Associates, are reported under Coronial Education, in the Coronial Division's Annual report, later in this publication.

Staff – Professional development and training

The Magistrates Court continues to place a strong focus on training and professional development of staff. In the 2025–26 year staff undertook a range of training opportunities:

- New induction training
- Manager Essentials Program
- Ready to Lead Program
- Values in Action (formerly Respect at Justice)
- Mental Health and wellbeing
- Mental Health First Aid
- Vicarious Trauma
- Fire Warden training
- Inclusion at Work
- Cybersecurity Training: Data Theft
- Cybersecurity Training: Email Policy
- Cybersecurity Training: Social Engineering
- Cybersecurity Training: Information Security Incident Reporting Procedure

- Prevention of Family Violence
- Managing, Protecting and Disclosing Government Information
- Cybersecurity Training: Email Phishing.
- Child Safety Essentials

The Court worked with the Integrity Commission to collaborate on customised training for Magistrates Court staff in relation to how to manage conflicts of interest and confidentiality, from a court staff perspective. On Magistrates Conference Day October 2025 in-house training was provided in Launceston and Hobart. Travel arrangements were made to facilitate North West staff being able to participate in the training in person. Feedback was positive from all staff who thoroughly enjoyed the training and thought it was beneficial for them. The training material was very relevant to our work and staff could relate to the scenarios presented. Staff found the training to be engaging and interactive which gave other people's perspectives on the content. This training was again provided on the Magistrates Conference Day in April 2026 for staff that were unable to attend the first sessions.

The Court continued to engage with the Department of Justices' Wellbeing Hub team (the Team) which includes psychologists, Case Managers and Wellbeing Coordinators. The Team visited the Northwest court staff between 23 & 26 March 2026 and provided information sessions and saw a number of individual clients. On the 26 May 2026 the Team provided Vicarious Trauma training to Launceston court staff. The Team made fortnightly visits to Hobart and regular trips to the North and Northwest during year where time was made available to staff both individually and in various work groups with contact occurring via phone calls and Teams in between visits to the region.

Legal education and community involvement

As part of an ongoing commitment to continuing professional development in the legal profession, and for others who regularly deal with the Court, Magistrates often present at seminars and conferences. In 2025–26, Magistrates gave a number of presentations, including the following:

Table 2: Magistrate presentations

Presentations	Magistrate	Date
Presenter at the National Judicial College of Australia - National Magistrates and Local Courts Orientation Program - Brisbane	C.Geason	17 August – 22 August 2025
Presentation on court operations to grade 9 Hutchins school students	C.Geason	12 November 2025
Magistrates Court: Interpreter Overview and Q&A Session	J.Hartnett	5 December 2025
Presentation on sentencing at Legal Practice Course	J.Hartnett	11 February 2026
Law Week Tasmania 2026 -Sentencing in the Magistrates Court : you be the Judge	R.Marron	19 May and 22 May 2026
Law Week Tasmania 2026-The Magistrates Court, an insight into its work- Launceston	E.Hughes	21 May 2026
Law Week Tasmania 2026 -Sentencing in the Magistrates Court- Burnie	K.Edwards	21 May 2026
Training for Community Corrections staff	K.Edwards D.Fairley M. Duvnjak S.Cure J.Hartnett	May 2026
Presentation to Rosny College Legal Studies classes	J.Hartnett	10 June 2026

Legal Practice Course

Since 1997 the Hobart Magistrates have been delivering lectures and supervising practical courtroom exercises for university law graduates who are enrolled in the six month Legal Practice Course. This is conducted between February and August each year.

Magistrates convene mock courts for ninety minutes every week after court adjourns in the afternoon to introduce law graduates to the courtroom environment in preparation for their entry into legal practice.

The trainees prepare and deliver applications, make submissions, deliver pleas in mitigation, and conduct minor contested hearings. The Magistrates provide feedback to the trainees on their delivery, content, and advocacy skills. These exercises form part of the assessment for the unit.

The Criminal Law Practice and Advocacy unit provides invaluable experience for students to appear before Magistrates in a court setting. This aspect of the course is the envy of many interstate jurisdictions.

Court Watch

As part of the Legal Practice Course Court Watch program the Magistrates Court hosts each trainee for a day to provide them with the opportunity to sit in court with a Magistrate and to gain an understanding of the administrative processes of the Court.

In the 2025-26 financial year, we had one trainee in Devonport and 40 in Hobart.

Court user groups

Court User Group meetings are held regularly to provide court users with an opportunity to provide feedback to the Court and to receive information relevant to their work at the Court.

The groups consist of representatives from a range of stakeholders such as the Law Society of Tasmania, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Tasmania Police, Tasmania Legal Aid, Tamanian Aboriginal Legal Service, community legal centres and the Independent Bar.

Topics discussed have included general staffing updates, access to clients in custody, security matters, procedural and administrative processes, facilities and infrastructure, court technology upgrades and after-hours court arrangements.

Court Backlog Review

In January 2026 the Tasmanian Government appointed Lloyd Babb SC to undertake a review of the court system in Tasmania and develop a plan to reduce court backlogs. The Magistrates Court supported that review, and Magistrates as well as the Administrator met with Mr Babb as part of that review. The recommendations were provided to the Tasmanian Government on 30 June 2026. Whilst outside the reporting period, the Court notes the final report, as well as the response by the Tasmanian Government which was released on the 12th of August and thanks Mr Babb for his work.

Improving access to justice – future proofing the Courts

Infrastructure

During the reporting period, the Court continued to work to upgrade and improve facilities and infrastructure across all four ageing permanent registries.

It is of critical importance that court facilities support the justice needs of the Tasmanian community, and prioritise user experience, safety, sustainability and the Court continues to work to upgrade buildings and systems to ensure they are fit for purpose.

Throughout the reporting period there have been several improvements made to court facilities across the state, including:

- Hobart Magistrates Court – court room 2 dock modification
- Hobart Magistrates Court – video conferencing room (RWR)
- Hobart Magistrates Court – emergency EWIS system upgrade
- Hobart Magistrates Court – CCTV Security Upgrade
- Launceston Magistrates Court – kitchenette upgrade for Magistrates
- Launceston Magistrates Court – LRP external door replacement
- Devonport Magistrates Court – court room dock screening height increased
- Devonport Magistrates Court – reception refit for security Equipment relocation
- Devonport Magistrates Court – AC upgrade for cells and Tasmania Legal Aid premises
- Burnie Magistrates Court – court secure exit paths improvements



Figure 1: upgraded custody dock, Hobart Magistrates Court

Other notable infrastructure improvements during the reporting period included the planning of the Launceston Magistrates Court Lifts replacement and the continued planning for the Burnie Court Complex redevelopment.

Burnie Court redevelopment

The Burnie Courts Complex Relocation Project has continued to make significant progress over the past year. The new purpose-built facility at 100–106 Wilson Street will replace the outdated Alexander Street complex currently shared by the Supreme Court and Magistrates Court.

The Tasmanian Government has committed total project funding of $86.5 million. The new complex will provide four contemporary courtrooms—two Magistrates Court courtrooms, one Supreme Court courtroom and one flexible courtroom—together with improved facilities for the judiciary, court staff, legal practitioners, witnesses, jurors, people in custody and members of the public.

Following completion of the concept, schematic and detailed design stages, the project received approval from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works in March 2026. Enabling works, including site preparation, demolition and service-related works, were completed in early 2026.

The main construction contract was executed in May 2026, with construction commencing in June 2026. Site establishment and demolition activities have progressed, with piling, foundations and associated civil and services works forming part of the current construction program.

The project team continues to work closely with the Magistrates Court, Supreme Court, Tasmania Prison Service and other key stakeholders to refine operational requirements and ensure the facility is safe, secure and fit for purpose.

Construction is scheduled to reach practical completion in March 2028. Once completed, the new Burnie Courts Complex will provide a modern, accessible and secure justice facility that better supports the delivery of court services to the North-West community. The Magistrates Court remains actively involved in the project and continues to work collaboratively with the Department of Justice and the broader project team.



Figure 2: Artist's impression of the replacement Burnie Courts Complex

Country Courts

Country courts, as listed earlier in this report, are held in a number of regional towns at intervals during the year. Country courts allow people in regional communities greater access to justice by reducing the need for and cost of travel to major centres for matters which require only a short appearance.

The Court leases a building in Queenstown whilst the other Courts are through a booking/ hire fee arrangements in suitable buildings for Court sittings. In August 2025, the Court resumed sitting in dedicated premises at 1 Sticht Street, Queenstown following many years using West Coast Council Chambers. The Court thanks West Coast Council for upgrades done to enable the Court to resume sitting in dedidicated premises and looks forward to continuing to provide access to the court for Tasmanians living on the West Coast.

In certain circumstances these courts are conducted using video conferencing facilities, where the defendants appear in the country courtroom and the magistrate sits in either Launceston or Burnie. Any hearings that are considered complex in nature are held in the either Launceston or Burnie Court with the exception of Queenstown.

The Magistrates Court and the Department of Justice have made extensive efforts to find alternative premises in or around Smithton that would be suitable for holding court proceedings. During the reporting period a suitable venue was identified to resume in person sittings, in consultation with stakeholders at 49 Smith Street, Smithton. The Court entered into a booking hire agreement with the Wyndarra Community Centre. Thank you to Wyndarra Community Centre for assisting the Court in the resumption of an in person Court list for the residents of Smithton and the broader Circular Head region.



Figure 3: Photo of Wyndarra Community Centre where Smithton Court is held

Figure 4: Photo of the dedicated court premises located in Queenstown



The table below shows the number of courts run in each location and whether they were in person or by video link.

Location	Frequency	Attendance	Total Sittings in 2025–26
Scottsdale	Every 6 weeks on Tuesday	In person	8
St Helens	First Wednesday of the month	In person 1 X Zoom	11
Whitemark, Flinders Island	Quarterly	Video link or in person as required	4
Currie, King Island	Every 8 weeks	Video link or in person as required	7
Queenstown	Every 8 weeks two to three day visits	In person	6
Smithton	Every 4 weeks (commenced 6 May 2026)	In person	2

Systems and technology

Justice Connect – Astria

The Magistrates Court continues to support the Department of Justice's Justice Connect Program, a significant digital transformation initiative aimed at modernising justice service delivery across Tasmania.

During 2025-26, work progressed on planning, design and implementation readiness activities for the future Electronic Court Management System (eCMS), which is based on Astria's court management platform. The program has involved ongoing collaboration with key justice sector stakeholders to ensure the future solution supports operational, legislative and business requirements across participating agencies.

The implementation of a contemporary electronic case management system will support improved information sharing, streamlined court processes and enhanced digital service delivery. The initiative will also assist the ongoing implementation of reforms associated with the *Magistrates Court (Criminal and General Division) Act 2019*, representing an important step in the modernisation of Tasmania's justice system.

Audio-Visual upgrades and videoconferencing

Videoconferencing is an important element of the court's goal to increase access to justice. Defendants in custody may be permitted to attend court by video link from any location in Tasmania, and witnesses may attend from Tasmania, interstate or overseas.

The use of videoconferencing significantly reduces court costs for witnesses who would otherwise need to travel to attend hearings. It also decreases the number of trips a defendant in custody is required to travel from Hobart or Launceston to appear other court locations, reducing both the operational cost and associated risks with such transports. Provision is made for vulnerable witnesses to give evidence remotely from a protected witness rooms in approved secure locations.

Funding was approved in mid-2023 to support implementation of Recommendation 16.12 of the Commission of Inquiry, which called for upgrades to videoconferencing capability across the Magistrates Court and Supreme Court jurisdictions. The Justice Videoconferencing

Upgrade (VCU) Project commenced on 1 July 2024 and continued throughout the reporting period.

During the reporting period, the Courts worked closely with the Justice ICT Operations team to deliver video-conferencing upgrades to Magistrates Courtrooms 1, 2, 4, 5 and 9 in Hobart. The project also included the development of a strategy to improve audio recording capabilities in remote country courts through the introduction of portable recording kits.

During this period, the Queenstown Country Court was relocated to its former premises at 1 Sticht Street, Queenstown. As part of the relocation, videoconferencing facilities and a dedicated remote witness room were installed.

While substantial progress has been made, the project scope did not include Magistrates Courtrooms 3 and 4 in Launceston, which also require videoconferencing upgrades. The Courts intend to pursue further improvements to these facilities as funding becomes available, ensuring appropriate functionality and support for Magistrates and court staff at this site.

Previous videoconferencing upgrades completed within the Magistrates Court jurisdiction included:

- Launceston Magistrates Court, Courtroom 2 (April 2025)
- Burnie Magistrates Court, Courtroom 2 (February 2025)
- Burnie Magistrates Court, Courtroom 1 (May 2025)
- Devonport Magistrates Court, Courtroom 1 (April 2025)



Security

The safety and security of everyone in the Magistrates Court of Tasmania is paramount given the nature of the services it provides.

The security services for the Magistrates Court statewide has been a contracted service since 2022. The security services of the Courts are now in the second year of the contract with MSS Security Pty Ltd who are committed to working with the Courts to make safety improvements and reduce incidents where possible.

Court security will continue to be a priority for the Courts and it will invest, where possible, in making improvements to its facilities and security practices to ensure the safety and security of all court users.

The Courts commenced a tender procurement process in February 2026 for the supply of security equipment for all courts excluding Burnie Court Complex. The courts are excited to take delivery and install the new Walk -Through-Metal Detectors and X-ray baggage scanning equipment into the Courts by the end of 2026. Whilst we are conscious this may slow down the entry screening process initially ensuring court safety and security is paramount.

During 2025–26 reporting period, the courts expenditure for Court Security totalled $3.5 million an increase of 9% from the previous year. This can be attributed to increasing court sittings requiring security officers to guard court rooms and additional afterhours sittings during weekdays and weekends.



Throughout the reporting period there have been the following security improvements across the Courts:

- Hobart Custody Court 2 dock modification to prevent incident and escapes.
- A review of all Docks and lockdown buttons across the state to ensure safety and security of all Courts.
- Tender released for the procurement of Security equipment for all Courts excluding Burnie Court Complex.
- Tender released for Hobart Court Security CCTV equipment.
- Additional work-based training provided to all security guards in restraint and handcuff use.
- Additional Radio Transmitter purchased for Hobart Magistrates Court for improved radio communications for Officers.

Court support services

Every day, court support services are provided to assist clients who are having difficulty in understanding the Court process or accessing legal advice or representation. While some services are provided through the Magistrates Court and the Department of Justice, many services are provided by external organisations, often on a voluntary basis.

In this section we provide a snapshot of the services and activities that have improved access to justice for people attending court.

Disability Access

The Magistrates Court continues to focus on improving physical access to court buildings, staff training, and better access to information and services. When a need arises, the Court makes adjustments to accommodate the needs of people with a disability.

Interpreters

Interpreters provide an essential service to the Court and to the administration of justice. The interpreter's role is to remove the language barrier and to put the party in the same position in the proceedings as an English-speaking person. The interpreter is essential to the provision of a fair trial. Interpreters are supplied at the Court's expense and the Court always endeavours to provide the best-qualified, accredited interpreter available. The Court is working towards meeting the National Standards for Working with Interpreters in Courts and Tribunals.

During the reporting period, the Court spent $56,919 on translation and interpretation services, a 1.57% decrease from $57,827. This shows consistency between the previous reporting period after a significant reduction. Providing such services can be difficult when services are not readily available within the state. Interstate interpreters are often sought

which in some reporting periods increases the overall expense in providing much needed services for accessible justice practices. That Magistrates Court held information sessions in Hobart and Launceston to encourage interpreters to ask questions and learn more about interpreting at the court. The court is committed to engaging with services to provide opportunities for learning more about interpreting within the Court.

Witness Intermediary Scheme, Department of Justice

The Witness Intermediary Scheme commenced in 2021 by way of an amendment to the *Evidence (Children and Special Witnesses) Act 2001*. The Department of Justice administers the Scheme, which provides qualified intermediaries to assist the Court when communicating with children and vulnerable witnesses. An intermediary will assess communication and other related needs of a witness and make recommendations to the Court about the most effective means of communicating with the witness. Intermediaries are trained professionals with qualifications in psychology, social work, occupational therapy or speech pathology.

The Scheme applies to children under 18 years and adults who have a communication need, where they are witnesses in sexual offence matters or homicide matters.

Information on matters where intermediaries have been involved during the reporting period is provided in the table following.

	Hobart	Launceston	Devonport	Burnie	Total
Requests for an assessment report s7I *Evidence (Children and Special Witnesses) Act 2001*	4	5	0	2	11
Ground rules hearings s7K *Evidence (Children and Special Witnesses) Act 2001*	3	1	0	5	9
Hearings with a witness intermediary s7J *Evidence (Children and Special Witnesses) Act 2001*	6	4	0	2	12

Justice Facilities Dogs Program

Partnering with the Witness Intermediary Scheme, Department of Justice, and Guide Dogs Tasmania, in December 2023 the Magistrates Court was involved in trialling the Justice Facility Dogs program. The program utilises highly trained dogs who are specifically trained to provide comfort and emotional support to people attending court.

The program accepts referrals for specific matters where a vulnerable witness may require support and provides facility dogs that can interact with groups of people and offer a claiming presence in court waiting areas.

It has been operating for three years. In Hobart Pixie and Quincey attends court each Tuesday morning to support young people and others attending the Youth Justice Court. Across the Launceston, Devonport and Burnie courts, Oakley and Roxie attend to provide young people and others attending the Youth Justice Court. These are run fortnightly on Thursday in Launceston, Burnie and Devonport.

The court would like to thank the Witness Intermediary Unit and Guide Dogs Tasmania, for their support in implementing this program across the Court, it has made a significant difference to court users and assisted those appearing in the Court's Youth Justice Division in particular.

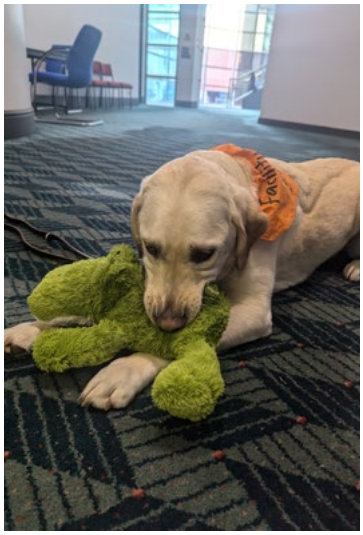


Figure 5: Justice facility dog, Pixie

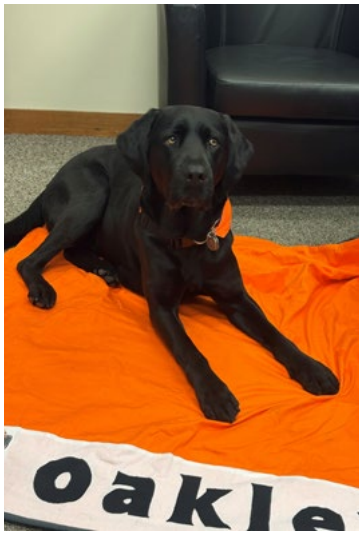


Figure 6: Justice facility dog, Oakley

Community Legal Services

In each region of the state, the Court is assisted by the various Community Legal Services.

In Launceston, the Launceston Community Legal Centre provides free legal advice and referrals to Tasmania Legal Aid and private practitioners. In Burnie and Devonport, the North West Community Legal Centre provides a similar service.

The Hobart Community Legal Service (HCLS) has offices in Hobart and Bridgewater. Along with the provision of free legal advice, the HCLS provides legal representation for some after-hours and weekend courts and the on-call roster for holiday periods. Their afterhours services have been used in Burnie, Devonport, Hobart and Launceston during the reporting period.

Duty Lawyer Scheme

The Court acknowledges the work of the Law Society of Tasmania, the Centre for Legal Studies, and the Hobart Community Legal Service for the continuation of the duty lawyer service in Hobart, which is staffed by newly qualified lawyers on a roster system.

Their services provide assistance to applicants, defendants and respondents who are appearing in the Magistrates Court. They contribute significantly to the efficiency and effectiveness of the Court by providing legal assistance to those who would otherwise have been unrepresented.

Witness Assistance Service

The Witness Assistance Service is a unit within the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. The service, which began operating in the Magistrates Court in 2017, is available to provide assistance in a range of serious matters with a particular focus on sexual offence matters. The service also assists witnesses in the preparation of victim impact statements. The Court has benefited from the provision of services for court matters, including coronial inquests. The work of the Witness Assistance Service helps meet a gap in services and has resulted in good outcomes for both witnesses and the Court process.

54 Reasons, formerly Save the Children

54 Reasons continues to provide state-wide support and assistance to some of the young people who are subject to bail, and young people who have transitioned from Ashley Youth Detention Centre. A 54 Reasons youth worker interviews the young person and helps them to identify pro-social goals and develop a plan as to how to achieve the identified goals. The 54 Reasons youth workers will also support the young person to seek legal advice, attend appointments and attend court. 54 Reasons will also support the young person to engage in some pro-social recreational activities which provide other options to offending behaviour.

The partnership between 54 Reasons and the Youth Court is an invaluable resource, as by collaborating it is possible to achieve better outcomes for some of our disadvantaged young people who are appearing in court.

Other support services

Other services that actively engage with the Youth Justice Court are Mission Australia, JCP Youth, Life without Barriers, the Department for Education, Children and Young People and Baptcare. Each offers assistance and support to young people with a range of needs, such as homelessness, alcohol and drug problems, education and training, family breakdown, and mental illness.

Across the divisions

The Court's incoming caseload during the 2025–26 reporting year was as follows:

Case lodgement type	Number
Criminal – Adult	17,517
Criminal – Youth Justice	1,750
Family violence order applications	2,489
Restraint order applications	1,791
Child protection applications	660
Civil (minor civil, civil, residential tenancy)	2,585
Miscellaneous applications (adult and youth)	3,467
Breaches of orders (incl. bail, suspended sentence, community service orders)	3,467

Criminal

The Criminal Division of the Magistrates Court is by far the busiest division of the court, and in 2025-26 there were 17,517 new adult criminal lodgements, an increase of 1% on 2024-25, and 15,191 finalisations, an increase of 12.9% on the previous financial year. These figures represent the third year in a row of rising criminal lodgements, following slight decreases between 2020–21 and 2021–22, and numbers are now above pre-COVID19 levels [1].

The most common offence type in the adult criminal division is related to traffic offences (5,334 lodgements), followed by offences against property (3,632 lodgements), crimes against the person (2.917), justice procedure offences (2,447) and drug offences (1,158)[2].

The adult criminal division saw 7,430 applications for a breach of an order, an increase on 6.4% on the previous reporting period. The vast majority of these applications related to a breach of bail. During the reporting period there were 13 matters for Trial by Magistrate remitted pursuant to s308 of the Criminal Code Act 1924 and 11 such matters were finalised in the same period.

In relation to pending caseload, as at 30 June 2026, there were 12,099 matters lodged pending completion. Of these, 6,058 or 50.1% were less than 6 months old, 2,973 or 24.6% were between 6 and 12 months old, 3,068 or 23.5% were greater than 12 months old. This is a decrease in total pending matters of 0.6% on the 2024–25 financial year.

During the reporting period, of the 15,191 total finalised matters in the adult criminal division, 6412 or 42% of matters were finalised in 6 months or less, 4450 or 29.3% finalised in under 12 months, 4329 or 28.5% finalised after 12 months. There are a range of reasons why matters may take a number of months and appearances before being finalised, many of which are outside of the control of the court. These include delays with disclosure, availability of counsel and time taken for expert reports to be completed, to inform decision making and sentencing outcomes.

1 See Table 2: Summary figures by court 2025-26
2 See Table 9: Criminal matters by Court level and selected offence types 2020–21 to 2025–26

Civil

The Magistrates Court's civil division deals with disputes over money, up to and including a value of $50,000, or sums over that amount with the consent of the parties. Established by way of the Magistrates Court (Civil Division) Act 1992, Magistrates statewide hear civil disputes. Disputes to a value of $15,000 are dealt with as minor civil matters, and disputes to a value of between $15,001 and $50,000 (or over this amount by consent) are dealt with as Civil matters. In late 2023, the Magistrates Court (Civil Division) Rules 1998 were updated, and the minor civil threshold increased from $5,000 to $15,000 to bring Tasmania into line with other interstate jurisdictions.

In 2025–26, the civil division saw 2,585 new claims lodged, a decrease of 4.6% on the previous year. The majority of the claims lodged were in relation to debt recovery. During the reporting period, the Court also received 18 referrals from the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal pursuant to s131 of the *Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2020.*

In terms of civil pending caseload, as at 30 June 2026 there were 3,166 claims previously lodged pending completion, a decrease of 0.6% from the previous reporting period. Of those, 4.8% were between 6 and 12 months old, and 10.8% over 12 months old [3].

Restraint orders

Lodgements of restraint orders, which are counted as civil lodgements increased in the reporting period. In 2025-26 the court saw 1,792 restraint order applications, an increase of 8.4% on the previous financial year where there was a significant spike. Of those, 1,653 were new applications. There were 105 applications to extend or vary a restraint order, an increase of 29.6% and only 34 applications to revoke a restraint order [4]

Specialist Courts and Lists

Youth Justice

The Youth Justice division hears and determines cases involving young people who are The Youth Justice division hears and determines cases involving young people who are alleged to have committed offences under the age of 18. Dedicated Magistrates statewide hear all youth justice matters.

A range of organisations support the Youth Justice Division of the court. Organisations such as Mission Australia, JCP Youth, Life without Barriers, the Department of Education, Children and Young People, Baptcare and 54 Reasons, attend hearings in the Youth Justice Division, and provide invaluable support to defendants, their families and greatly assist the Court. They offer critical support for defendants dealing with a range of challenges including homelessness, alcohol and drug problems, education and training, family breakdown and mental illness. The Court wishes to thank these groups for the work they do to assist these vulnerable young people.

In the 2025–26 financial year, the court saw 1,750 youth justice lodgements, a decrease of 5.1% from 2024-25. This is a first decrease the court has seen in youth justice lodgements in the five years previous to 2025–26, from 1,112 in 2020–21 to 1,844 in 2024–25. As well as new lodgements, there were 285 applications for breaches of orders, an increase of 1.1%.

In terms of pending caseload, as at 30 June 2026 there were 772 matters pending completion, with 509 or 65.9% being less than 6 months old, 142 or 18.4% being between 6

3 See table 14 Civil pending caseload
4 See table 8 Restraint Order summary statistics

and 12 months old, 121 or 15.7% older than 12 months.

In terms of finalisations, 1,500 matters were finalised during the financial year, a decrease in 10.2% on 2024–25. Of those, 1,500 or 57.8% were less than 6 months old, 389 or 25.9% were

between 6 and 12 months old, 245 or 16.3% older than 12 months.

The most common offence type in the Youth Justice division were property offences (864) followed by crimes against the person (443).

Children's Division

The Children's Court determines child protection matters, including application for care and protection orders as well as assessment orders. In 2025–26 the division saw 660 care and protection applications, an increase of 18.9%. Of note was an increase of 9.9% in applications for assessment orders.

Family Violence List

Lodgements of Family Violence order applications, which for the purposes of data reporting are calculated as civil matters, increased in the reporting period. Statewide, the Magistrates Court runs dedicated Family Violence Lists. This is a rapidly growing area of the Magistrates Court, and in 2025-26 the Court saw 2,489 applications for family violence orders, which is an increase of 11.3% on the 2024–25 financial year.

Of the 2,489 applications, 1,260 were new applications, 629 were applications to extend or vary a family violence order, and 372 were applications to extend or vary a police family violence order. The court saw 1,483 applications for a breach of a family violence order or a police family violence order, an increase of 1.6%.

During the reporting period, changes to the *Family Violence Act 2004 (the Act)* came into effect, giving both the Supreme Court of Tasmania, and the Magistrates Court of Tasmania, the power to declare a person convicted of repeated family violence offences, a serial family violence perpetrator by way of s29A of the Act. The Court may make such a declaration if the perpetrator is at least 18 years old at the time and fulfils certain eligibility criteria.

During the 2025-26 financial year, 256 declarations were made in relation to 679 associated matters and 4,159 charges. Of the 256 declarations made, 152 were in the South, 47 in Launceston, 29 in Devonport and 28 in Burnie.

Mental Health Diversion List

The Magistrates Court of Tasmania operate a Mental Health Diversion lists, for defendants with a mental illness and/or a cognitive impairment. Dedicated Magistrates work with health and legal professionals to help eligible people treat their mental health needs related to their offending behaviour.

By focussing on treatment and support, the Diversion List aims to:

1. assist people to address the mental health or cognitive disability needs related to their breaking of the law
2. improve community safety and reduce re-offending by people on the List
3. improve the psychological and general well being of people on the List
4. reduce the use of criminal justice punishments for health-related behaviours.

Persons are eligible to take part in the program if they've been charged with a offence, and have a mental illness, intellectual disability, acquired brain injury or other disorder affecting cognitive functioning. Defendants can refer themselves, or be referred by family members, other Magistrates, health providers or their lawyers. Participation is voluntary and involves regular court reviews of progress. It is just one of the ways the Court is ensuring all Tasmanians are supported through the justice system.

Court Mandated Diversion Program

The Court Mandated Diversion Program, is for defendants who have pled or been found guilty of offences linked to drug addiction, have a history of drug use, are over 18 and willing to participate in programs to address their drug use and change their behaviour. As of 30 April 2026, this program was broadened by way of proclamation of the *Sentencing Amendment (Alcohol Treatment Order) Act 2024* to enable admission to the program of defendants who have pled or been found guilty of offending linked to alcohol dependency, have a history of alcohol dependency, are over 18 and willing to participate in programs to address their alcohol use.

Magistrates can sentence defendants to Drug and Alcohol Treatment Orders, which can last for 24 months, have a sentence of imprisonment attached to them, and participants must abstain from all illicit drug use whilst on the order, or seek treatment for alcohol dependency and submit to a range of other conditions, including random alcohol and drug testing. Extensive supports are provided to participants, including fortnightly review sessions before a Magistrate. The program is assisted and supported by a range of organisations including Community Corrections, as well as the Just Desserts Incentive Group who are an invaluable support to participants.



Coronial Division



Message from the Chief Coroner

The 2025-26 reporting period saw a number of significant achievements for the Coronial Division despite increasing workloads and demands on all those working within the jurisdiction.

The coroners, associates, registry staff, forensic pathologists, Tasmania Police associates and investigators, medical advisers and support personnel have continued to perform at an exceptionally high level in often complex, demanding and confronting circumstances. I continue to be very grateful for their efforts in this difficult work.

The Division has been providing considerable assistance to the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute's review of the *Coroners Act 1995*. The development of a new Act, if accompanied by appropriate resourcing, presents an important opportunity to establish a contemporary legislative framework that reflects modern coronial practice and supports the effective operation of this important jurisdiction into the future.

Work also continued on the replacement of the Division's old and unsupported case management system. The project remains on track for timely completion within reasonable budget parameters. I am confident that the introduction of the new system will deliver improved case management, data security, reporting and integration capabilities, and will better position the Division to perform its functions efficiently.

A major achievement during the reporting period was the completion, under the leadership of Coroner Simon Cooper, of the historical project concerning the retention of autopsy specimens by former forensic pathologists. This complex and sensitive undertaking, involving a substantial number of cases accumulated over many years, resolved a longstanding issue of public importance. I acknowledge the dedicated work of the team dealing with this project.

Other positive developments during the year included the appointment of a coronial nurse consultant, the engagement of a part-time Suicide Register research officer, and the continued enhancement of the coronial website by the management team to improve accessibility and communication with families and stakeholders.

Despite these achievements, the 2025-26 reporting period was characterised by sustained and increasing demands on the Coronial Division. The coroners and staff of the Division remain committed to conducting independent, thorough and timely investigations into reportable deaths, fires and explosions. However, growing workloads, increasing case complexity, expanding statutory obligations and heightened community expectations continue to place significant pressure on the jurisdiction.

The number of investigations finalised during the reporting period increased, reflecting efficiencies developed in managing non-inquest cases, together with the completion of the autopsy specimen project.

However, critically, the number of public inquests able to be held and completed declined significantly from previous years and the optimal inquest targets. Therefore, a significant backlog of inquests to be held and finalised has developed. Inquests are resource-intensive matters requiring extensive preparation by a coroner and team over a lengthy period of time prior to the ultimate court hearing. So long as resourcing remains inadequate, the backlog of public inquests will continue to increase.

The introduction of section 58C of the *Coroners Act 1995* has, as predicted, increased the coroners' and administrative workload. It has not been accompanied by additional resources, and the legislative timeframe in the legislation is generally unable to be complied with. The increasing demands associated with these record access applications is already impacting upon the performance of the Division's core investigative functions. The prospective proclamation of the amendment mandating family violence inquests will add vastly to the coronial burden.

The continuing absence, insufficiency and under-banding of key staffing positions remains concerning. These issues create stress upon staff in performing their difficult roles and impacts upon the service, and communication able to be provided to those impacted by reported deaths. In particular, the absence of an adequately remunerated manger/registrar position is a threat to the cohesive operation of the Division.

Tasmania remains the only Australian jurisdiction without a Domestic Violence Death Review function. The absence of this capability limits Tasmania's contribution to national research and prevention initiatives and represents a significant gap in the State's death review framework.

I remain concerned that the current complement of three full-time coroners is insufficient to meet the growing demands of the jurisdiction. Increasing case complexity, expanded legislative responsibilities, a growing inquest workload and rising stakeholder expectations have fundamentally altered the scale of the work required to be undertaken by the Division. The need for a fourth full-time coroner, as identified in the Coronial Plan provided to Government in 2024, remains both pressing and justified.

Accommodation constraints continue to present a further challenge. Existing facilities have reached capacity and do not provide an environment that adequately supports the needs of bereaved families, witnesses or staff. Dedicated, trauma-informed coronial facilities remain an important priority.

These issues have been consistently identified in the Coronial Strategic Plan over recent years and have been the subject of ongoing requests to Government for appropriate resourcing of the Division.

The reporting period also saw the retirement of Coroner Simon Cooper, whose contribution to the Coronial Division over the past 12 years has been immense. Through his leadership, expertise and dedication to the coronial jurisdiction, he has made a lasting contribution to the administration of justice in Tasmania. On behalf of the Coronial Division, I thank him for his outstanding service and wish him well in his retirement.

I also welcome the appointment of Magistrate Madeleine Wilson SC, who commenced as a full-time Coroner in January 2026.

Again, I extend my sincere appreciation to all who contribute to the operation of the Division. Their professionalism, resilience and dedication ensure that bereaved families are treated with compassion and respect, and that the public interest objectives of the coronial jurisdiction continue to be achieved.

The coronial jurisdiction performs a vital public function. Through independent investigation, public accountability and the identification of opportunities to prevent future deaths, coroners contribute directly to community safety, public confidence and the administration of justice. To maintain these outcomes and meet community expectations, it is essential that the resourcing needs of the Division are addressed as a matter of priority.

Coronial Division – Year at a glance

The jurisdiction and operation of the Coronial Division is set out in the *Coroners Act 1995* and the *Coroners Rules 2006*. This report is submitted pursuant to section 69 of the *Coroners Act 1995 (the Act)*.

A coroner's role is to investigate reportable deaths, fires, and explosions. Reportable deaths are primarily those that are sudden, unnatural, unexpected, or suspicious. Coroners are required to make recommendations where appropriate and comment on matters related to public health or safety or the administration of justice, and for the purpose of prevention of future deaths.

During the reporting period, Magistrate Olivia McTaggart continued in her role as Chief Coroner, as delegate of the Chief Magistrate. The Court's full-time coroners were Magistrate Leigh Mackey and Magistrate Simon Cooper, who retired in December 2025. Madeleine Wilson SC was appointed as a full-time coroner in January 2026.

The Coronial Division acknowledges and extends its sincere appreciation to Coroner Simon Cooper for his outstanding service, leadership, and dedication to the Tasmanian coronial jurisdiction.

Coroner Cooper was appointed as a Magistrate in April 2013 and, over the course of his judicial career, presided across all jurisdictions of the Magistrates Court before commencing full-time coronial duties in December 2017. His appointment to the Coronial Division coincided with a period of significant development and reform within Tasmania's coronial system, and he played a pivotal role in advancing the specialisation of coronial practice in this State.

Throughout his tenure, Coroner Cooper made significant contributions to a number of complex and strategically important areas of the jurisdiction. He oversaw the management of long-term missing persons matters, led the development of the Tasmanian Mass Fatality Plan, and brought to completion the substantial historical project concerning the retention of autopsy specimens. These initiatives have had a lasting impact on the effectiveness, preparedness, and integrity of the coronial system.

Coroner Cooper also presided over a number of significant and often complex inquests of considerable public interest and importance. These included investigations into multiple fatalities associated with quad bike use, the disappearance of Lucille Butterworth, the Mount Lyell Copper Mine incident, and deaths occurring within the Tasmanian prison system. Through these proceedings, he demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the coronial objectives of establishing the circumstances of reportable deaths, identifying opportunities for prevention, and serving the broader public interest.

His dedication to the coronial jurisdiction, his careful and considered approach to decision-making, and his commitment to improving the systems that support the Tasmanian community have left a lasting legacy.

The Coronial Division records its gratitude to Coroner Cooper for his distinguished service and significant contribution to the administration of justice in Tasmania.

The Court is grateful to the many organisations involved in assisting the work of the Coronial Division. In particular, the Court acknowledges the crucial role of the State Forensic Pathologist, Dr Andrew Reid, Dr Donald Ritchey and Dr Rebecca Irvine.

Officers from all levels of Tasmania Police, including the many officers who assist the coroners in their investigations, provide an important service to the Coronial Division. The assistance provided

by coroners' associates has been invaluable. Up to 9 associates have integrated themselves at various times into the operations of the Division are they are central to its operation.

The Coronial Division is also reliant on the important roles in coronial investigations of the Forensic Science Service Tasmania, forensic odontologists, 'and the in-house medical advisors to the coroners, Dr Tony Bell, Sarah Rooke and Kevin Egan (previous clinical nurse consultant).

The Coronial Division was also assisted in this period by clinical nurse consultants, Angela Duncan and Angela Knight.

Below is table representing both inquests held in the financial year and/or inquest findings handed down by a Coroner in the financial year (whether or not the inquest was held in the financial year.)

Inquest Summary

Name of deceased	Cause of death	Inquest details
John Tscherkaskyj	Motor Vehicle	Included an examination of the Mr Tscherkaskyj's death including: • the identity of the deceased • how death occurred • the cause of death • when and where death occurred. Findings were handed down on 8 January 2024, was re-opened and findings were handed down on 7 July 2025.
Patricia Iliev	Starvation	Included an examination of the circumstances surrounding the death of Patricia Iliev including: • whether starvation is an appropriate pathological cause of death for Ms Iliev • whether Ms Iliev was reliant on Phillip Adams for her basic needs, including food, water and healthcare • the adequacy of the care by Mr Adams in the 12 months prior to Ms Iliev's death. Findings were handed down on 5 August 2025.

Name of deceased	Cause of death	Inquest details
Benjamin Marshall	Suicide	Included an examination of the circumstances surrounding the death of Benjamin Marshall including: a. The circumstances of the initial recruitment of Mr Marshall into the RAN, including his suitability and assessment for retention. b. The continued retention of Mr Marshall with the RAN: i. Was it appropriate in all of the circumstances, including as it impacted upon Mr Marshall's mental health and ability to access mental health services. ii. The level and quality of health care and mental health care provided by the Australian Defence Force ("ADF"). c. The circumstances giving rise to the accepted psychiatric condition which gave rise to his medical discharge. d. The transitional management by the ADF to assist him to navigate the medical discharge process and transition into civilian life. e. The assistance and advice given by both the ADF and the transitional case manager authorised pursuant to the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (Commonwealth) ("MRCA") with respect to his transitional management regarding the income support, medical treatment, rehabilitation and related matters pursuant to the MRCA post medical discharge; and f. The level of assistance extended to Mr Marshall by RSL NSW who provided services under the "RSL Defence Care" banner until 1 August 2020, and therefore the level of assistance provided by RSL Life Care, with respect to claims and support and advocacy as Mr Marshall was transitioning from the ADF and after discharge. Findings were handed down on 22 August 2025
Nicholas Scott	Death in Custody	Included an examination of the circumstances surrounding the death of Nicholas Scott, namely the circumstances leading up to and surrounding Mr Scott's escape from custody. Findings were handed down on 29 August 2025.

Name of deceased	Cause of death	Inquest details
Nicholas Brown, Belinda Kemp, Toni Wiki and Matthew Winwood	Methadone Cases	Included an examination into the death of Nicholas Brown, Belinda Kemp, Toni Wiki, and Matthew Winwood including: • the contribution of methadone and other drug toxicity to each deceased death • TOPP guidelines, including oversight and supervision of those involved in administration of the TOPP including prescribing doctors, counsellors' nurses, therapists, and dispensaries. • duty of care of those involved in TOPP including prescribing doctors, counsellors, nurses, therapists, and dispensaries. • whether legislation governing the prescribing of methadone and other medications and the TOPP guidelines were followed. • whether a breach of a duty of care or lack of adherence to legislation governing the prescription of methadone and other medications and the TOPP guidelines contributed to any of the deaths. Findings were handed down on 3 June 2026.
Robert Greig	Suicide	Included an examination into the circumstances leading to Mr Greig's death (including any previous interactions with members of Tasmania Police) to enable findings to be made, if possible, under s 28 of the Coroners Act 1995. Adjourned sine die pending the conclusion of a Supreme Court application relating to the inquest.
Brady Hubbard	Head Injury	Included an examination into the circumstances leading to Mr Hubbard's death to enable findings to be made, if possible, under s 28 of the Coroners Act 1995. Findings were handed down on 15 July 2026.

Falls

During the reporting period, being the 12 months 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026, 105 findings were handed down in relation to falls, of which 56 were in relation to females and 49 in relation to males. Finalisation figures have decreased from last financial year when 125 findings were handed down in the same period. This is in part because of the delay in the Court having its own dedicated Coronial Nurse Consultant.

A list can be located on the Magistrates Court website here.

This table represents a list of coronial findings in respect of deaths of older persons occurring accidently from falls occurring or injuries in a nursing home, medical setting, hospital, or in their own home.

In each of these cases the coroner investigates the circumstances of the fall or injury sufficiently to enable a determination regarding whether there are any issues surrounding the care and treatment, connected to the death.

These investigations include a requirement that the aged care facility provide answers to questions regarding falls risks assessment and preventative measures implemented and an independent examination by Nurse Consultants Kevin Egan, Angela Duncan, Angela Knight or Sarah Rooke regarding any possible issues. On occasion the coroners may also seek a medical review of the treatment provided from the coronial medical consultant Dr Anthony J Bell.

Coronial Project – Museum Cases

During the reporting period, the Coronial Division completed a substantial historical project concerning the retention of autopsy specimens by former forensic pathologists. The project involved the review, management, and finalisation of cases accumulated over many years and represented a significant undertaking for the Division. While essential to maintaining public confidence and ensuring appropriate governance, the work required a considerable commitment of staff time and resources. A link to the findings can be found here.

Coroners Court Website

During the reporting period, the Coronial Division continued to develop and maintain its dedicated website as a key source of information for families, legal practitioners, court users, witnesses, health professionals, and the broader community. The website provides accessible information about the coronial process, including guidance for families following a reportable death, explanations of the role and powers of the Coroner, information relating to investigations and inquests, support services, forms, fees, findings, and news updates.

The website contains dedicated resources for senior next of kin, practitioners, and other court users, together with practical information designed to assist people in navigating what can often be a complex and unfamiliar process. It also serves as an important platform for publishing selected coronial findings, statistical information, public notices, and updates regarding significant inquests and investigations.

The website reflects the Division's commitment to transparency, accessibility, and community engagement, providing timely information and resources to support those interacting with the coronial jurisdiction. It also promotes the Division's commitment to respectful, inclusive, and trauma-informed engagement with families and all court users.

Australian Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Network (ADFVDRN)

The Coronial Division has long advocated and continues to advocate to the Department of Justice and the Tasmanian Government, through business cases and strategic reporting processes, for the establishment and funding of a specialist death review unit within the Coroners Court. Such a unit would build on the existing work of the Tasmanian Suicide Register and expand capacity for detailed coding and qualitative analysis across a broad range of reportable deaths, including domestic and family violence deaths, drug-related deaths, and sudden unexpected deaths in infancy (SUDI).

It is the source of significant concern that the Tasmanian Government has not committed to establishing a DVDR, with Tasmania being the only State without this important function. The Coronial Division is also aware of the impact upon the national statistics picture of not having this review function.

Local Case Management System Replacement

During the reporting period, the Coronial Division progressed a significant project to replace its existing Local Case Management System (LCMS). The Division currently utilises the Monash University National Coroners Court Information (MUNCCI) system for coronial case management. While MUNCCI has served the jurisdiction for many years, it is based on legacy technology that is now more than 25 years old and is approaching the end of its supported lifecycle.

Recognising the need for a contemporary and sustainable solution, the Magistrates Court has committed funding from its existing budget to procure a replacement system. The

project is currently progressing through the procurement phase.

The new case management system will support the Coronial Division in the investigation of reportable deaths, fires, and explosions by providing enhanced case management capabilities, improved data management and reporting functions, and continued integration with the National Coronial Information System (NCIS). The replacement system will also strengthen the Division's ability to meet its statutory obligations, improve operational efficiency, and respond to the evolving needs and expectations of court users and the wider community.

The project seeks to deliver a modern solution that meets business requirements, legislative obligations, and community expectations, while ensuring the effective management of coronial investigations and the provision of accurate and timely information to the NCIS.

The initiative aligns with the Department of Justice's commitment to fostering a fair, just, and safe Tasmania through the delivery of accountable, efficient, and effective services. It will support the integrity of the coronial jurisdiction and enhance the Division's capacity to administer its responsibilities in a responsive, transparent, and contemporary manner.

Changes to section 58C of the *Coroners Act 1995*

On 1 December, 2025, the *Coroners Act 1995* was amended to provide a senior next of kin of a deceased person with a right of access to coronial records subject to only limited grounds for refusal.

The introduction of the current legislative framework governing access to coronial records has created a significant administrative burden for the Coronial Division. Applications for access by senior next of kin have increased substantially, requiring coroners and registry staff to devote considerable time to reviewing files, preparing orders, and facilitating disclosure within prescribed timeframes.

This workload is particularly challenging for a small registry and diverts limited resources away from the progression and finalisation of active coronial investigations. The increasing volume of applications has contributed to administrative pressures across the Division and reduced capacity to focus on core investigative functions. The resulting impact on timeliness ultimately affects families awaiting the completion of coronial investigations and findings.

Coroner's Associates

Coroner's Associates play an integral role within the Coronial Division, providing critical support to coroners in the management and progression of investigations. Their contribution is essential to maintaining the efficient operation of the Division, assisting with case coordination, investigative processes, engagement with other bodies, and the progression of matters towards finalisation.

Given the specialised nature of the role, vacancies can have a significant operational impact. Delays in recruitment and appointment processes result in increased workloads for existing associates and staff, placing additional pressure on limited resources and affecting the timely progression of investigations. Ensuring continuity in these positions remains critical to maintaining the Division's ability to respond effectively to growing caseloads and increasingly complex investigations.

Coronial education

A particular focus of coroners, coroners' associates, and key staff of the Division has been

educating legal professionals, medical professionals, and the community at large about coronial matters.

The following presentations were given by Coroners and Associates.

Coroners:

Coroner	Subject	Date & Length	Audence
Olivia McTaggart & Leigh Mackey	**Role of the Coroner**	29/08/2025 (60 min)	Presentation to DPP
Olivia McTaggart & Leigh Mackey	**Role of the Coroner**	09/09/2025 (150 min)	Probus Club of Hobart Macquarie
Leigh Mackey	**Role of the Coroner**	16/09/2025 (60 min)	Fire Investigation Community of Practice (FICoP) of the Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC)
Olivia McTaggart	**Role of the Coroner**	04/03/2026 (60 min)	Hutchins School - Power of 9
Olivia McTaggart	**Role of the Coroner**	05/03/2026 (90 min)	University of Tasmania, Centre for Legal Studies
Olivia McTaggart	**Role of the Coroner**	07/05/2026 (60 min)	Presentation to Tasmania Fire Service

Associates:

Associate	Subject	Date & Length	Audence
Sgt John Delpero	**Mortuary Admission Procedures**	07/08/2025 (90 min)	Tasmania Police Recruits
Sgt John Delpero	**Mortuary Admission Procedures**	30/10/2025 (90 min)	Tasmania Police Recruits
Sgt Darren Orr	**Sergeants Course**	25/11/2025 (90 min)	Tasmania Police Sergeants
Sgt John Delpero	**Mortuary Admission Procedures**	02/04/2026 (90 min)	Tasmania Police Recruits
Sgt John Delpero	**Coronial Processes and reportable deaths**	13/04/2026 (60 min)	Glenview RACF
Sgt John Delpero	**Coronial Processes and reportable deaths**	14/04/2026 (60 min)	Glenview RACF
A/Sgt Samantha Radford	**Coronial Processes**	27/05/2026 (120 min)	Hobart Uniform Police
A/Sgt Samantha Radford	**Coronial Processes**	03/06/2026 (120 min)	Hobart Uniform Police
A/Sgt Samantha Radford	**Mortuary Admission Procedures**	04/06/2026 (90 min)	Tasmania Police Recruits
Sgt Darren Orr	**Sergeants Course**	09/06/2026 (90 min)	Tasmania Police Sergeants
A/Sgt Samantha Radford	**Coronial Processes**	10/06/2026 (120 min)	Hobart Uniform Police
A/Sgt Samantha Radford	**Coronial Processes**	17/06/2026 (120 min)	Hobart Uniform Police

Responses to coronial recommendations

Recommendations are an important part of the coronial jurisdiction and pursuant to section 28(2) of the Act a coroner is required, whenever appropriate, to make recommendations to prevent future deaths. Unlike most other Australian coronial jurisdictions, Tasmania lacks either a statutory or policy-based mandatory response regime to coronial recommendations.

Nevertheless, over the course of the reporting period there continued to be favourable responses from several government departments in response to coronial recommendations. The Division has established voluntary guidelines about the provision of responses to coronial recommendations and has been pleased with the level of co-operation that has been forthcoming from many departments.

The Coronial Division also routinely publishes any coronial recommendation responses received on the coronial website.

Coronial Nurse Consultant

A Coronial Nurse Consultant (CNC) was appointed in May 2026. The CNC provides specialist advice, formal case reviews and interpretation and summaries of medical records as requested by the coroner in respect of deaths requiring investigation under the *Coroners Act 1995* (Tas) within the scope of nursing practice. Where deaths reported to the coroner are of natural causes, the nurse will liaise with medical practitioners to facilitate the issue of the Medical Certificates of the Cause of Death (MCCD) as directed by the coroners.



Coronial Liaison Officer

The Coronial Division does not currently have a dedicated Coronial Liaison Officer (CLO). The CLO position is responsible for assisting senior next of kin and the families of deceased persons to understand the coronial process and come to terms with the grief and trauma being experienced by persons who die in unnatural or unexpected circumstances. This role is also important in providing court orientation and preparation to families of deceased during the inquest process.

The CLO role requires a very high degree of sensitivity, empathy, and support. The invaluable contribution of this role goes further than support during inquests and includes case management conferences, meetings. witness briefings, file viewings and court tours.

Despite the important work undertaken by the Coronial Liaison Officer the Division has been without a Coronial Liaison Officer for a lengthy period. The absence of a Coronial Liaison Officer and the consequent inability to provide a dedicated trauma informed, supportive framework within which persons can engage with the Division has been raised with the Department of Justice ron many occasions, and this position is now able to be filled

Deaths in Custody

This report is required by section 69(2)(a) of the Act to include information on deaths in custody. During the reporting period there was 3 deaths in custody reported to the Coroner, and one inquest into a death in custody was completed.

Deaths in Care

During the reporting period there was one death reported of persons held ‘in care’ as defined in section 3 of the Act. Additionally, during the reporting period one inquest was completed in relation to death in care from previous reporting periods. Deaths in care findings have been published on the Magistrates Court website.

Other Inquests and Findings

All findings, recommendations, and responses received that are considered by coroners to be of public interest are published on the Magistrates Court website. The proportion of investigations subject to public inquest continues to be 3 to 5 per cent of reportable deaths, however, this small proportion does not represent the amount of time it takes coroners, counsel assisting, associates, and administrative staff to prepare a matter for inquest, the length of court time required, and the consideration of the matter to the point where findings are completed.

Tasmanian Suicide Register

The Tasmanian Suicide Register (TSR) commenced operation in the Coronial Division of the Magistrates Court in 2017. The TSR contains detailed information of people who died by suicide in Tasmania and the circumstances surrounding their death. Information gathered during the coronial investigations enable the collection of rich and comprehensive suicide data, as obtained from police reports, autopsy and toxicology reports, medical records and affidavits.

The TSR:

- Contains real-time surveillance data for suicides in Tasmania;
- Enables detailed analysis of demographics and trends of suicide deaths over time;
- Is available to coroners to support coronial investigations, findings, and recommendations on suicide deaths;
- Provides data to inform public health and suicide prevention policy;
- Assists in the evaluation of suicide prevention initiatives; and
- Contributes data to national suicide monitoring initiatives.

Over the past year, the following activities associated with the operation of the TSR have taken place:

- Participation at the Tasman Bridge Cross-Agency Working Group and Premier's Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Council.
- Recruitment of 0.5 FTE Research Officer to support coding activities on the TSR as funded by the Department of Health.
- Preparation and publication of a report submission for the Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs' federal parliamentary inquiry into the relationship between domestic, family and sexual violence and suicide, titled "Experience of family violence among people who died by suicide in Tasmania, 2016 - 2020".
- Extraction and analysis of suicide data to support coronial investigations across a range of issues, including means prevention.
- Provision of suicide data to the National Suicide and Self-Harm Monitoring System managed by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.
- Management of external data requests from the government and researchers to inform various suicide prevention efforts in the state and nationally.

Due to current resourcing constraints, the TSR is unable to provide enhanced data in real time, due to a backlog of cases awaiting coding. During the reporting period, the enhanced dataset was completed for suicide deaths reported between 2012 and 2022, providing a valuable evidence base to inform understanding of suicide trends and prevention efforts in Tasmania.

The Court acknowledges the ongoing support for the TSR from the Department of Health and the Department of Justice

Operational data and financials

Performance indicators

A national framework of performance indicators adopted by the Court supports the aims of the Court. Key measures used to assess the performance of the Magistrates Court are:

- Backlog Indicator – a measure of effectiveness in relation to timeliness and delay
- Clearance Rate – an efficiency measure of the inputs per output unit
- Attendance Indicator – an effectiveness measure of timeliness and delay.

These measures should be treated as indicative rather than definitive as the Court does not have total control over the process for adjudicating criminal matters, resolving civil disputes and investigating coronial matters, and consequently other parties may introduce and contribute to delays.

Backlog indicator

This indicator is a measure of case processing timeliness. This measure has been developed on a national basis as a means of determining the performance of a court.

In the criminal jurisdiction, those defendants who have bench warrants associated with them have been excluded from the count, and in the civil jurisdiction those lodgements that have not been acted upon in the last 12 months have been excluded. The aim has been to focus on those matters that are part of an 'active pending' population.

Similarly, the indicator recognises that progressing matters can take time, depending on the complexity of the matter. Timeliness can be affected by factors outside the Court's control, (for example, witness, party or counsel availability or matters not being ready to proceed).

The backlog indicator measures the Court's pending caseload against timeliness standards and the Court's performance is set out in Table 13: Criminal pending caseload at 30 June 2026 and backlog indicator 2020–21 to 2025–26 and Table 14: Civil pending caseload at 30 June 2026 and backlog indicator 2020–21 to 2025–26.

Table 1: Summary figures by Court 2025–26

	Lodgements		Finalisations	
	No.	% Change from 2024–25	No.	% Change from 2024–25
Criminal				
Magistrates Court				
Criminal complaints [5]	17,517	1.0%	15,191	12.9%
Committal Proceedings	N/A	N/A	302	-14.9%
Breaches of orders [6]	7,430	6.4%	5,998	19.2%
Other applications [7]	3,271	14.9%	2,733	14%
Youth Justice Division				
Criminal complaints	1,750	-5.1%	1,500	-10.2%
Committal Proceedings	N/A	N/A	19	-13.6%
Breaches of orders	285	1.1%	249	-11.7%
Other applications	196	19.5%	168	33.3%
Civil				
Civil Magistrates Court				
Civil claims (inc. minor civil, residential tenancy)	2,585	-4.6%	2,838	4.6%
Family violence order applications	2,489	11.3%	2,536	12.8%
Restraint order applications	1,792	8.3%	1,825	10.9%
Childrens Division				
Care and protection applications and orders	660	3.1%	567	-1.0%
Coronial Division				
Reportable deaths, fires and explosions	990	3.1%	957	14.9%
Tribunals [8]				
Administrative Appeals	13	-66.7%	33	13.8%
Mining Tribunal	2	0.0%	1	-66.7%
TOTAL	**38,980**		**34,917**	

5 In accordance with the Report on Government Services (RoGS) statistics manual, the counting unit adopted for criminal complaints is a defendant per case based unit. This figure includes family violence and intervention order criminal activity (such as the breach of a family violence or intervention order) and not the civil activity (the application of an order) which is set out separately under 'civil'. Full details are provided in Table 4

6 Breaches of orders include all breaches that are not categorised as criminal activity for national Australian Bureau of Statistics and RoGS reporting purposes. Orders include bail, suspended sentence, probation, and community service (now community correction orders), among others. A breakdown of breaches by order type is provided in Table 9

7 Applications to grant or vary bail, for restricted driver licence and for other applications.

8 The counting unit adopted for civil claims and tribunals is case based

Table 2: Pending caseload at 30 June 2026 and backlog indicator by selected Courts 2025–26

Pending caseloads and backlog indicator[9]	Pending caseload		% aged > 12 months	
	No.	% Change from 2024–25	%	% Change from 2024–25
Criminal				
Magistrates Court				
Criminal complaints	12,099	5.9	25.4	5.8 pp
Youth Justice Division				
Criminal complaints	772	1.3	15.7	2.8 pp
Civil				
Civil Magistrates Court				
Civil Claims, Family Violence Orders and Restraint Orders	3,166	-0.6	11.6	1.2 pp
Childrens Division				
Care and protection applications and orders	14	133.3	0.0	0.0 pp
Coronial Division				
Reportable deaths, fires and explosions	986	-1.6%	15.0	1.6 pp

pp refers to percentage points

9 This table summarises information provided in Tables 13 and 14. In accordance with the Report on Government Services (RoGS) statistical reporting manual, the pending caseload for civil claims, family violence and intervention orders, and care and protection orders counts only originating matters (eg application for an order) and not secondary processes (eg application to vary an order).
Source: CRIMESStats database; Civil Registry Management System (CRMS)

Table 3: Activity of the Magistrates Court (Criminal, including Youth Justice) by listing type 2025–26

	2025-26 No.	% Change from 2024–25
Total Listings in The Magistrates Court of Tasmania [10]	219,370	6.9%
Common hearing types[11]:		
Mention Listings	28,121	5.5%
Application Listings	17,602	6.3%
Hearing Listings	6,576	4.3%
Plea Listing	76,225	4.8%
Sentence Listing	33,550	6.4%
Court Mandated Diversion Reviews	2,185	5.0%
Contest Mention Listings	2,223	-3.9%

Table 4: Magistrates Court fines and fees (incl Youth Justice Court) 2025–26

	($'000)	% Change from 2023–24
Criminal		
Fines	4,581	19.6%
Court Costs	930	16.8%
Appeal Costs Fund Levy	49	18.4%
Victims of Crime Compensation Levy	358	16.5%
Other Costs [12]	358	38.4%
Civil		
Civil Court Fees	535	2.2%

10 Total listings includes all criminal matters, family violence and child protection applications that appeared before the Magistrates Court, including the Youth Justice jurisdiction, within the relevant reference period. Listings for civil claims are not included
11 Total listings includes all criminal matters, family violence and child protection applications that appeared before the Magistrates Court, including the Youth Justice jurisdiction, within the relevant reference period. Listings for civil claims are not included
12 Some common listing types have been highlighted in the table above. It should be noted that a plea can be entered or sentences handed down at different stages of court listings, not limited to sentence or plea listings.Source: CRIMESStats database Other costs' include special penalties, analysis fees, and other party costs Source: CRIMESStats database; Civil Registry Management System (CRMS), FinanceOne.

Table 5: Summary statistics by Court level 2020–21 to 2025–26

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	% Change from 2024-25
Criminal							
Lodgements							
Criminal complaints [13]	14,953	14,146	14,436	15,109	17,339	17,517	1.0%
Breaches of orders [14]	4,867	4,562	4,892	5684	6986	7,430	6.4%
Applications to grant or vary bail	660	590	789	1,012	1,170	1,394	19.1%
Applications for restricted driver licence	408	394	472	425	401	480	19.7%
Other applications	1,405	1,583	1,797	1,303	1,275	1,397	9.6%
Finalisations							
Criminal complaints	15,056	13,979	13,193	13,398	13,452	15,191	12.9%
Committal Proceedings	325	286	349	334	355	302	-14.9%
Breaches of orders	4,706	4,137	4,033	4946	5031	5,998	19.2%
Applications to grant or vary bail	539	480	648	824	887	1,107	24.8%
Applications for restricted driver licence	383	398	469	413	399	457	14.5%
Other applications	1,230	1,339	1,491	1,175	1,119	1,169	4.5%
Youth Justice Division							
Lodgements							
Criminal complaints	1,112	1,286	1,547	1,832	1,844	1,750	-5.1%
Breaches of orders	171	201	234	299	282	285	1.1%
Applications to grant or vary bail	29	33	52	72	82	90	9.8%
Applications for restricted driver licence	2	3	1	1	3	5	66.7%
Other applications	33	59	76	66	79	101	27.8%
Finalisations							
Criminal complaints	1,063	950	1,359	1,681	1,670	1,500	-10.2%
Committal Proceedings	14	2	15	17	22	19	-13.6%
Breaches of orders	163	155	189	237	282	249	-11.7%
Applications to grant or vary bail	20	33	47	61	58	70	20.7%
Applications for restricted driver licence	1	3	1	1	2	6	200.0%
Other applications	36	48	68	60	66	92	39.4%

13 In accordance with the Report on Government Services (RoGS) statistics manual, the counting unit adopted for criminal complaints is a defendant per case based unit. This figure includes family violence and intervention order criminal activity (such as the breach of a family violence or intervention order) and not the civil activity (the application for an order) which is set out separately under 'civil

14 Breaches of orders include all breaches that are not categorised as criminal activity for national Australian Bureau of Statistics and RoGS reporting purposes. Orders include bail, suspended sentence, probation, and community service (now community correction orders), among others. A breakdown of these breaches by order type is provided in Table 10. In the 2023-24 Annual Report, new categories have been added to the breakdown of breaches from 2020-21 to 2023-24 (see Table 10). Consequently, 'breaches of orders' in Table 5 have been updated to reflect this change.

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	% Change from 2024-25
Civil [15]							
Lodgements							
Civil claims	1,807	2,153	2,544	2,711	2,711	2,585	-4.6%
Family violence order applications [16]	1,404	1,594	1,729	1,822	2,259	2,489	11.3%
Restraint order applications	1,505	1,234	1,307	1,666	1,655	1,792	8.3%
Finalisations							
Civil claims	2,508	2,041	2,207	2,761	2,714	2,838	4.6%
Family violence order applications	1,534	1,628	1,683	1,921	2,270	2,536	12.8%
Restraint order applications	1,519	1,276	1,353	1,594	1,646	1,825	10.9%
Children's Division							
Care and protection applications lodged	753	699	659	583	555	660	18.9%
Care and protection applications finalised	714	667	652	563	573	567	-1.0%
Coronial Division							
Reportable deaths and fires lodged	778	880	895	1,142	960	990	3.1%
Reportable deaths and fires finalised	763	829	943	856	833	957	14.9%
Tribunals							
Lodgements							
Administrative Appeals	22	13	15	23	14	13	-66.7%
Mining Tribunal	0	0	0	0	0	2	N/A
Finalisations							
Administrative Appeals	59	48	43	48	29	33	13.8%
Mining Tribunal	2	0	1	3	3	1	-66.7%

15 The counting unit adopted for civil claims and tribunals is case based.
16 Family violence order application lodgements do not include the sub-category 'Other applications regarding family violence order', a new category in 2017 to 18, in order to maintain consistency with past Annual Reports. From 2018 to 19, the included categories were expanded for this report and for RoGS. Therefore, results shown are not directly comparable to previous years

Table 6: Family and domestic violence summary statistics 2020–21 to 2025–26

Family Violence Orders (FVOs)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025-26	% Change from 2024–25
Application to grant a FVO							
Lodgements	814	883	921	1001	1193	1,260	5.6%
Finalisations	916	929	982	1117	1244	1,400	12.5%
Applications to extend or vary a FVO							
Lodgements	272	347	373	399	537	629	17.1%
Finalisations	292	352	350	400	491	576	17.3%
Applications to extend or vary a Police FVO							
Lodgements	190	239	236	259	324	372	14.8%
Finalisations	207	234	247	249	327	348	6.4%
Applications to revoke a FVO							
Lodgements	43	45	46	57	68	83	22.1%
Finalisations	39	40	39	57	68	82	20.6%
Applications to revoke a Police FVO							
Lodgements	78	76	105	104	108	135	25.0%
Finalisations	73	70	110	95	113	123	8.8%
Applications to register an Interstate FVO							
Lodgements	2	0	1	1	0	0	N/A
Finalisations	2	0	0	2	0	0	N/A
FVOs made on Family Violence offences							
Lodgements	5	4	1	1	6	4	-33.3%
Finalisations	5	3	2	1	5	5	0.0%
Serial Family Violence Perpetrator Declarations[17]							
Declarations	-	-	-	-	190	254	33.7%
Breach of FVOs and Police FVOs[18]							
Lodgements	845	947	947	1,040	1,459	1,483	1.6%
Finalisations	873	839	905	1,024	1,169	1,354	15.8%

17 A category for the new legislation Serial Family Violence Perpetrator Declarations (FV29A) has been added in the 2024–25 Annual Report

18 For Breach of FVOs and Police FVOs from 2020–21 to 2023–24, the categories below have been added:
Section 35(1) – Attempt to breach of Family Violence Order
Section 35(1) – Breach of Interim Family Violence Order
Section 35(1) – Breach of Police Family Violence Order
Section 35(1) and Section 74(2) of *Justices Act 1959* – Attempt to Breach of Family Violence Order

To ensure comparability, prior year figures from 2020–21 to 2023–24 have been updated in the 2023–24 Annual Report.

Source: CRIMESStats database

Table 7: Children – care and protection summary statistics 2020–21 to 2025–26

Care and Protection Orders (CPOs)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025-26	% Change from 2024–25
Applications for an assessment order							
Lodgements	189	160	163	143	152	167	9.9%
Finalisations	188	166	166	144	144	160	11.1%
Applications for a CPO							
Lodgements	262	194	153	154	151	211	39.7%
Finalisations	266	187	160	152	145	154	6.2%
Applications to extend or vary a CPO							
Lodgements	194	212	177	140	135	157	16.3%
Finalisations	173	189	170	137	149	139	-6.7%
Applications to revoke a CPO							
Lodgements	20	19	16	10	5	6	20.0%
Finalisations	17	15	20	8	6	5	-16.7%
Other applications regarding CPOs							
Lodgements	88	114	119	136	112	119	6.3%
Finalisations	70	110	101	122	129	109	-15.5%

Table 8: Restraint Order summary statistics 2020–21 to 2025–26

Restraint Orders (ROs)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025-26	% Change from 2024–25
Application to grant a RO							
Lodgements	1,418	1,166	1,231	1,576	1,545	1,653	7.0%
Finalisations	1,431	1,197	1,279	1,504	1,541	1,699	10.3%
Applications to extend or vary a RO							
Lodgements	61	44	58	67	81	105	29.6%
Finalisations	64	49	55	66	77	97	26.0%
Applications to revoke a RO							
Lodgements	21	24	18	23	29	34	17.2%
Finalisations	19	30	19	24	28	29	3.6%
Other applications regarding a RO							
Lodgements	5	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Finalisations	5	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Breach of an RO or Interim RO [19]							
Lodgements	109	93	94	131	165	184	11.5%
Finalisations	105	83	103	93	133	145	9.0%

19 For Breach of an RO or Interim RO from 2020–21 to 2024–25, the categories below have been added:

Section 41 – Breach of Interim High Risk Offender Order

Section 71(1) – Breach of area restriction order

To ensure comparability, prior year figures from 2020–21 to 2024–25 have been updated in the 2024–25 Annual Report.

Source: CRIMESStats database

Table 9: Criminal matters by Court level and selected offence types 2020–21 to 2025–26

	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025-26	% Change from 2024–25
Magistrates Court (Adult)							
Offences against the person							
Lodgements	2,476	2,611	2,675	2,759	3,033	2,917	-3.8%
Finalisations	2,034	1,907	1,965	2,116	1,960	2,164	10.4%
Offences against property							
Lodgements	2,176	2,317	2,769	3,264	3,503	3,632	3.7%
Finalisations	2,314	2,113	2,231	2,696	2,733	3,219	17.8%
Other dishonesty offences							
Lodgements	368	328	384	420	372	432	16.1%
Finalisations	341	279	296	319	283	330	16.6%
Drug offences							
Lodgements	1,051	786	752	802	1,050	1,158	10.3%
Finalisations	1,083	878	727	733	686	985	43.6%
Traffic offences							
Lodgements	5,725	5,001	4,912	4,676	5,349	5,334	-0.3%
Finalisations	5,717	5,334	5,070	4,577	4,380	4,826	10.2%
Offences against justice procedures							
Lodgements	1,744	1,840	1,701	1,909	2,449	2,447	0.1%
Finalisations	1,950	1,819	1,734	1,850	2,041	2,311	13.2%
Other offences							
Lodgements	1,413	1,244	1,221	1,271	1,564	1,569	0.3%
Finalisations	1,267	1,156	1,058	1,095	1,095	1,209	10.4%
Youth Justice							
Crimes against the person							
Lodgements	282	320	420	517	493	443	-10.1%
Finalisations	221	203	319	404	425	329	-22.6%
Property and deception offences							
Lodgements	378	564	721	868	889	864	-2.8%
Finalisations	387	371	614	844	783	701	-10.5%
Drug offences							
Lodgements	17	21	14	17	8	17	112.5%
Finalisations	13	16	14	20	11	13	18.2%
Public order and security offences							
Lodgements	50	32	25	34	34	28	-17.6%
Finalisations	54	28	26	32	39	25	-35.9%
Traffic and other offences							
Lodgements	121	118	103	129	173	157	-9.2%
Finalisations	128	114	100	117	118	155	31.4%
Justice procedure offences							
Lodgements	79	57	90	75	68	79	16.2%

	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025-26	% Change from 2024–25
Finalisations	84	48	85	80	90	75	-16.7%
Other offences							
Lodgements	178	172	165	187	178	161	-9.6%
Finalisations	174	125	192	173	172	150	-12.8%

Source: CRIMESStats database

Previous year figures have been recast for 2024–25 using ANZSOC23. There may be variations between the figures reported in this table compared with previous year publications

Table 10: Breaches of Orders and/or Order conditions 2020–21 to 2025–26

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	% Change from 2024–25
Magistrates Court (Adult)							
Breach of bail							
Lodgements	3,836	3,649	3,943	4,762	6,013	6,464	7.5%
Finalisations	3,655	3,314	3,253	4,052	4,162	5,092	22.3%
Breach of suspended sentence[20]							
Lodgements	588	450	416	463	538	622	15.6%
Finalisations	565	426	373	442	474	542	14.3%
Breach of Community Correction Order[21]							
Lodgements	278	291	358	310	295	200	-32.2%
Finalisations	322	264	293	310	279	240	-14.0%
Other breaches[22]							
Lodgements	125	140	137	149	140	144	2.9%
Finalisations	147	135	111	142	116	124	6.9%
Youth Justice Division							
Breach of bail							
Lodgements	115	140	166	244	226	212	6.2%
Finalisations	105	98	128	186	229	186	18.8%
Breach of suspended sentence[29]							
Lodgements	22	26	28	22	23	35	52.2%
Finalisations	24	22	26	19	16	29	81.3%
Breach of Community Correction Order[30]							
Lodgements	11	24	25	29	24	34	41.7%
Finalisations	8	24	16	26	24	31	29.2%
Other breaches[29]							
Lodgements	29	11	17	4	9	4	-55.6%
Finalisations	26	11	19	6	13	3	-76.9%

20 For Breach of suspended sentence from 2020–21 to 2024–25, the category below has been added:
Section 27(4)(a) – Oral Application for Breach of Suspended Sentence
To ensure comparability, prior year figures from 2020–21 to 2024–25 have been updated in the 2024–25 Annual Report
21 For Breach of Community Correction Order from 2020–21 to 2024–25, the categories below have been added:
Section 104(3) – Application to Cancel / Breach CSO's
Section 37(1)g – Breach of a condition of a Probation Order
Section 42(4)(a) – Oral application for breach of Probation Order
Section 9(1) – Breach of Probation Order
Section 36(1)(a) – Breach of condition of a Community Service Order (Original Complaint)
Section 42AI – Application to Breach a Home Detention Order
Section 42AV – Application to Breach a Community Correction Order
To ensure comparability, prior year figures from 2020–21 to 2023–24 have been updated in the 2024–25 Annual Report
22 For Other breaches from 2020–21 to 2024–25, additional categories have been added
To ensure comparability, prior year figures from 2020–21 to 2023–24 have been updated in the 2024–25 Annual Report
Source: CRIMESStats database

Table 11: Coronial – Summary of Coronial activity 2020–21 to 2025–26

Deaths reported to the Coroner	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025-26	% Change from 2024–25
Lodgements	778	880	893	1,142	960	990	3.12%
Deaths in Custody or Care	4	4	2	0	3	4	33.00%
Fires/Explosions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Number of inquests held	22	19	25	21	22	9	-59.00%
Number of cases closed	763	829	943	882	842	958	13.77%

Table 12: Coronial – Inquests and investigations completed 2020–21 to 2025–26

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	% Change from 2024–25
Aircraft	0	0	1	1	0	0	0%
Deaths in Custody or Care	10	12	1	4	0	0	0%
Domestic Accident	4	1	2	1	0	2	200%
Drowning	4	11	9	13	8	15	87.50%
Drug Overdose	30	24	26	37	23	32	39.13%
Fall	105	84	128	133	150	105	-30.00%
Homicide	6	4	3	7	5	16	220.00%
Hospital	27	23	14	15	23	19	-17.39%
House Fire	3	2	2	2	0	3	300.00%
Marine Fatality	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Industrial Accident	2	5	2	3	1	1	0%
Mining	0	2	0	0	0	3	300.00%
Natural	388	491	573	509	499	581	16.43%
Other	42	30	41	22	30	45	50.00%
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)/Sudden unexpected death in infancy (SUDI)	1	3	0 1	0 2	0 2	1 0	100.00% -200.00%
Skeletal Remains	4	3	4	6	2	2	0%
Suicide	91	64	88	62	62	74	19.35%
Undetermined Causes	20	21	13	19	7	13	85.71%
Vehicle Crash	26	49	35	46	30	46	53.33%
Total	**763**	**829**	**943**	**882**	**842**	**958**	**13.77%**

Table 13: Criminal pending caseload at 30 June 2024 and backlog indicator 2020–21 to 2025–26

Pending caseload[23]	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025-26	% Change from 2024–25
Magistrates Court							
Total lodged pending completion	7,993	8,108	8,419	9,068	11,426	12,099	5.9%
Between 6 and 12 months	1,974	1,976	1,876	1,971	2,779	2,973	7.0%
Greater than 12 months	1,544	1,822	1,863	1,830	2,238	3,068	37.1%
Backlog indicator							
% greater than 6 months	44.0	46.8	44.4	41.9	43.9	49.9	6.0%
% greater than 12 months	19.3	22.5	22.1	20.2	19.6	25.4	5.8%
Youth Justice Division							
Total lodged pending completion	369	644	763	736	762	772	1.3%
Between 6 and 12 months	58	123	153	176	149	142	-4.7%
Greater than 12 months	20	41	61	83	98	121	23.5%
Backlog indicator							
% greater than 6 months	21.1	25.5	28.0	35.2	32.4	34.1	1.7 pp
% greater than 12 months	5.4	6.4	8.0	11.3	12.9	15.7	2.8 pp

pp refers to percentage points

23 In accordance with the Report on Government Services (RoGS) statistics manual, the counting unit adopted for criminal complaints is a defendant per case based unit. This figure includes family violence and intervention order criminal activity (such as the breach of a family violence or intervention order) and not the civil activity (the application of an order) which is set out separately under 'Civil Magistrates Court' in Table 14. (2) Incorrect figures for the period 2023 to 24 were reported in the 2023-24 Annual Report due to a leap year system issue. These have been corrected in the 2024–25 Annual Report

Table 14: Civil pending caseload at 30 June 2025 and backlog indicator 2020–21 to 2025–26

Pending caseload[24]	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025-26	% Change from 2024–25
Civil Magistrates Court							
Total lodged pending completion	2,258	2,444	2,886	2951	3,184	3,166	-0.6%
Between 6 and 12 months	472	721	725	830	1,029	980	-4.8%
Greater than 12 months	362	317	337	331	332	368	10.8%
Backlog indicator							
% greater than 6 months	36.9	42.5	36.8	39.3	42.7	42.6	-0.1 pp
% greater than 12 months	16.0	13.0	11.7	11.2	10.4	11.6	1.2 pp
Children's Division							
Total lodged pending completion	32	27	27	15	6	14	133.3%
Between 6 and 12 months	10	9	10	1	1	0	-100.0%
Greater than 12 months	1	3	2	1	0	0	N/A
Backlog indicator							
% greater than 6 months	34.4	44.4	44.4	13.3	16.7	0.0	-16.7 pp
% greater than 12 months	3.1	11.1	7.4	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0 pp
Coronial Division							
Total lodged pending completion	679	725	656	903	1,002	986	-1.6%
Between 12 and 24 months	165	161	181	148	380	292	-23.2%
Greater than 24 months	136	162	131	143	134	148	10.4%
Backlog indicator							
% greater than 6 months	44.3	44.6	47.6	32.2	51.3	44.6	-6.7 pp
% greater than 12 months	20.0	22.3	20.0	15.8	13.4	15.0	1.6 pp

pp refers to percentage points

24 In accordance with the Report on Government Services (RoGS) statistics, the pending caseload for civil claims, family violence and intervention orders, and care and protection orders counts only originating matters (eg application for an order) and not secondary processes (eg application to vary an order).

Source: CRIMESStats database, Civil Registry Management System (CRMS).

Table 15: Criminal disposals by court level 2020–21 to 2025–26

Criminal disposals[25]	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025-26	% Change from 2024–25
Magistrates Court							
Total finalised cases	15,381	14,265	13,542	13,732	13,807	15,493	12.2%
Cases finalised in 6 to 12 months	4,509	3,574	3,206	3,611	3,855	4,450	15.4%
Cases finalised after 12 months	3,344	3,482	3,484	3,507	3,680	4,329	17.6%
Disposal indicator							
% greater than 6 months	51.1	49.5	49.4	51.8	54.6	56.7	2.1 pp
% greater than 12 months	21.7	24.4	25.7	25.5	26.7	27.9	1.2 pp
Youth Justice Division							
Total finalised cases	1,083	959	1,379	1,698	1,692	1,519	-10.2%
Cases finalised in 6 to 12 months	263	230	369	451	483	389	-19.5%
Cases finalised after 12 months	80	110	173	206	241	245	1.7%
Disposal indicator							
% greater than 6 months	31.7	35.5	39.3	38.7	42.8	41.7	-1.1 pp
% greater than 12 months	7.4	11.5	12.5	12.1	14.2	16.1	1.9 pp

pp refers to percentage points

25 In accordance with the Report on Government Services (RoGS) statistics manual, the counting unit adopted for criminal complaints is a defendant per case based unit. This figure includes family violence and intervention order criminal activity (such as the breach of a family violence or intervention order) and not the civil activity (the application of an order) which is set out separately under 'civil' in Table 16.

Source: CRIMESStats database

Table 16: Civil disposals 2020–21 to 2025–26

Criminal disposals[26]	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025-26	% Change from 2024–26
Civil Magistrates Court							
Total finalised cases	5,561	4,945	5,289	6,276	6,608	7,199	8.9%
Cases finalised in 6 to 12 months	1,332	1,043	1,224	1,518	1,594	1,754	10.0%
Cases finalised after 12 months	952	618	678	666	765	861	12.5%
Disposal indicator							
% greater than 6 months	41.1	33.6	36.0	34.8	35.7	36.3	0.6 pp
% greater than 12 months	17.1	12.5	12.8	10.6	11.6	12.0	0.4 pp
Children's Division							
Total finalised cases	321	231	197	207	207	249	20.3%
Cases finalised in 6 to 12 months	36	40	40	21	20	29	45.0%
Cases finalised after 12 months	37	8	23	13	6	5	-16.7%
Disposal indicator							
% greater than 6 months	22.7	20.8	32.0	16.4	12.6	13.7	1.1 pp
% greater than 12 months	11.5	3.5	11.7	6.3	2.9	2.0	-0.9 pp
Coronial Division							
Total finalised cases	763	829	943	856	833	957	14.9%
Cases finalised in 12 to 24 months	238	214	217	189	204	188	-7.8%
Cases finalised after 24 months	125	135	172	137	155	323	108.4%
Disposal indicator							
% greater than 6 months	47.6	42.1	41.3	38.1	43.1	53.4	10.3 pp
% greater than 12 months	16.4	16.3	18.2	16.0	18.6	33.8	15.2 pp

pp refers to percentage points

26 In accordance with the RoGS statistics manual, the Civil Magistrates Court and Children's Court pending caseload for civil claims, family violence and intervention orders, and care and protection orders counts only originating matters (eg application for an order) and not secondary processes (eg application to vary an order).

Source: CRIMESStats database, Civil Registry Management System (CRMS).

Table 17: Criminal and Civil clearance rates by Court 2020–21 to 2025–26

	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025-26*	% Change from 2024–25
Criminal							
Magistrates Court	102.9	100.8	93.8	90.9	79.6	88.4	8.8 pp
Youth Justice Division	97.4	74.6	87.9	91.8	90.6	85.7	-4.9 pp
Civil							
Civil Magistrates Court	117.9	99.3	95.6	101.2	99.7	104.7	5.0 pp
Children's Division	117.2	117.9	127.1	131.0	130.2	113.7	-16.5 pp
Coronial Division	98.1	94.2	105.4	75.0	0.9	96.7	9.9 pp

pp refers to percentage points

Source: CRIMESStats database, Civil Registry Management System (CRMS).

Table 18: Criminal and Civil attendance indicator by Court 2020–21 to 2025–26

	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025-26	% Change from 2024–25
Criminal							
Magistrates Court	5.0	5.1	5.3	5.9	5.7	5.8	0.1 pp
Youth Justice Division	5.1	5.5	6.9	6.8	6.1	5.5	-0.6 pp
Civil							
Civil Magistrates Court	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.1	0.0 pp
Children's Division	4.0	3.9	4.5	3.9	4.4	4.9	0.5 pp
Coronial Division	3.5	3.6	7.9	3.8	1.5	2.3	0.9 pp

pp refers to percentage points

Source: CRIMESStats database, Civil Registry Management System (CRMS).

Table 19: Magistrates Court fines and fees (including Youth Justice Court) 2020–21 to 2024–25

	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025-26	% Change from 2024–25
Criminal							
Fines	3,997	4,097	4,416	3,836	3,830	4,581	19.6%
Court Costs	757	641	703	660	796	930	16.8%
Appeal Costs Fund Levy	37	33	35	35	41	49	18.4%
Victims of Crime Compensation Levy	325	278	280	284	307	358	16.5%
Other Costs[27]	138	125	181	577	259	358	38.4%
Civil							
Civil Court Fees	402	457	477	513	524	535	2.2%

27 'Other costs' includes special penalties, analysis fees, and other party costs.

Source: CRIMESStats database, Civil Registry Management System (CRMS), FinanceOne

Table 20: Expenditure by outlay – Magistrates Court services 2020–21 to 2025–26

	2020–21 Actuals $,000	2021–22 Actuals $,000	2022–23 Actuals $,000	2023–24 Actuals $,000	2024–25 Actuals $,000	2025–26 Actuals $,000
Salaries of Magistrates and Staff	10,711	10,726	11,587	12,404	13,132	14,266
Other Employee Related Expenses	333	357	465	458	414	430
Information Technology	544	553	589	659	605	613
Materials Supplies & Equipment	137	101	141	168	139	153
Travel and Transport	306	348	334	358	443	442
Property Expenses	2,081	2,211	2,513	3,010	821	853
Other Expenditure	1,808	1,657	1,700	1,716	1,892	2,122
Consultants	23	35	36	16	3,292	3,781
Total	**15,943**	**15,988**	**17,365**	**18,788**	**20,738**	**22,660**

The variance between Property Expenses and Consultants in 2024–25 when compared to the 2023–24 year is due to the change in the way Security Services are allocated in 2024–25. In 2023–24, these costs were included in Property Expenses, in 2024–25 they were, and continue to be, included in Consultants.

More information about the Magistrates Court of Tasmania financials can be found in the Department of Justice's Annual Report 2025–26: justice.tas.gov.au/annual-report





MAGISTRATES COURT

TASMANIA