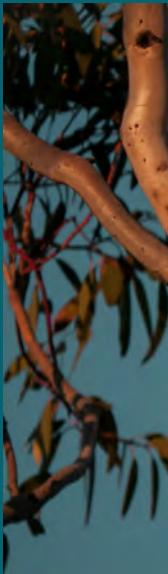


Communications and technology

In this part of the Report, the Federal Court's approach to technology, data management, and digital capability is explored. It details how the Federal Court communicates its work to the community in ways that promote public understanding of, and confidence in, the legal system, and accessible justice.



Technology and AI

Emerging technology presents both challenges and opportunities for the Federal Court and the broader legal system. As stated in the **Technology and the Court Practice Note (GPN-TECH)**, the Federal Court views technology as an important tool which assists in achieving its key objectives of quick, inexpensive and efficient resolution of proceedings. However, the Federal Court acknowledges that the use of technology, if inappropriately applied or not properly managed, can itself have the potential to be expensive and reduce, rather than increase efficiency. When misused, technology can pose additional risks to privacy, confidentiality, and safety.

As discussed in **Part 4** of this Report, the Federal Court released its practice note on the use of generative artificial intelligence on 16 April 2026. It strikes a careful balance between recognising the potential benefits for efficiency, cost reduction and access to justice, and the potential risks arising from use of generative artificial intelligence.

Data and case management systems

Since 2014, the Federal Court has operated an Electronic Court File system and progressively digitised its file management. Adopting digital solutions allows the Federal Court to manage its work more efficiently and securely, while enhancing internal communication and streamlining the Court's national operations.

This digital capability includes the way that parties can commence and participate in proceedings by lodging documents through the eLodgment system (described in **Part 3**). Once documents are electronically lodged by parties, the Federal Court considers whether to accept them for filing based on, compliance with the Federal Court Rules.

Documents that are accepted for filing appear on the Federal Court's internal case management system, CourtPath. CourtPath is used by court staff to manage all areas of a case file: compiling documents provided by parties, generating orders made by the Federal Court and uploading judgments delivered by the Court, collating transcripts prepared for court hearings, and tracking email correspondence with parties. Along with CourtPath, the Federal Court continues to use a legacy case management system, Casetrack, predominantly to coordinate listings and court events.

What the Federal Court inputs through its internal case management systems, Casetrack and CourtPath, is largely reflected in the court user and public-facing system, the Commonwealth Courts Portal (CCP).

Publication of judgments

In the 2025–26 reporting period, 2,030 judgments were received and published by the Judgments Publication Office. This figure includes 202 Full Court judgments. The total includes a number of judgments delivered in an earlier reporting period and published during 2025–26.

The Judgments Publication Office also received and published two Copyright Tribunal of Australia decisions.

Judgments are published on the Federal Court's website. The Judgments Publication Office provides copies of judgments to free-access legal information websites (such as AustLII), as well as commercial legal publishers.

Judgments of public interest are usually published within an hour of delivery and other judgments within a few days. The exception to this is confidential judgments, which may be suppressed temporarily or permanently by the Federal Court.

The Federal Court offers a judgment subscription service on its website offering email notifications of new judgments published. (<https://www.fedcourt.gov.au/digital-law-library/judgments/subscription>)

Making the Federal Court's work accessible

The Federal Court supports access to Federal Court information through digital tools that make proceedings easier to access, understand and follow.

The Commonwealth Courts Portal

The CCP provides secure, web-based access to information about proceedings before the Federal Court of Australia. Once registered and linked to their files, court users can access case information, filed documents, scheduled listing events and details of orders made. Parties, legal practitioners and authorised organisations can use the portal to access relevant electronic file material and monitor the progress of Federal Court proceedings.

The CCP helps make the Federal Court's work more accessible in practical, day-to-day ways. It supports access to justice by reducing barriers associated with paper-based processes, registry attendance and distance from a court location. For parties and practitioners, it provides a single, secure place to follow the progress of a proceeding and obtain key proceeding information. For the Federal Court, it supports more efficient case management and reduces reliance on manual enquiries, while maintaining appropriate controls for material that is not available to the general public.

Federal Law Search

Federal Law Search is the Court's public search facility. It provides selected information about proceedings filed in the Federal Court of Australia and is available to all members of the public. The service includes proceedings commenced since 1 January 1984 and allows users to search by party name, file number and other proceeding details.

Through Federal Law Search, users can access information about proceedings, including the names of parties and legal representatives, hearings and other court events, document titles and filing dates, judgments, and orders made by the Federal Court. By making key proceeding information publicly accessible, the service supports open justice, public confidence and informed reporting on the Court's work.

Federal Law Search is complemented by the CCP. While Federal Law Search provides selected public information, the CCP enables registered users to monitor proceedings and, where authorised, access court files, listings and electronically lodged documents. Together, the two services provide transparent public access and secure access for parties and other authorised users.

Judgment summaries

In some proceedings of public interest, importance or complexity, the Federal Court will prepare a summary to accompany the reasons for judgment and orders. These summaries are intended to assist media and the general public in understanding the outcome of proceedings at a high level, but the only authoritative source of the Federal Court's reasoning is the complete reasons for judgment. (<https://www.fedcourt.gov.au/online-services/federal-law-search>)

Online Files

Online files, accessible on the Federal Court's website, are established where the Federal Court expects there to be considerable community interest in a proceeding.

Online files expand upon the information available through Federal Law Search, enabling direct public access by non-parties to court documents filed in proceedings of public interest, such as pleadings which outline the parties' claims or defences, evidence in the form of affidavits and expert reports, and parties' legal submissions.

This aids transparency for media reporting and builds community awareness of proceedings of public interest.

In the reporting period, online files were established for proceedings such as:

- *ACCC v Coles* (VID973/2024)
- *Browne v Assistant Commissioner of Police, North West Metro Region* (VID1612/2025)
- *eSafety Commissioner v Baumgarten* (VID390/2025)
- *Giggle for Girls Pty Ltd v Tickle* (Appeal) (NSD1386/2024)
- *Gillham v Melbourne Symphony Orchestra* (VID1036/2024)
- *Lehrmann v Network Ten* (Appeal) (NSD701/2024)
- *Lesbian Action Group Inc. v Australian Human Rights Commission* (VID170/2025)
- *Pabai Pabai v Commonwealth of Australia* (VID622/202)
- *Reynolds v Commonwealth of Australia* (WAD121/2025)
- *Yindjibarndi v State of Western Australia* (WAD37/2022).

Documents may be uploaded progressively as a proceeding progresses. For example, affidavits containing a witness's evidence are not available until after they have been read in open court and any objections a party may have to parts of affidavits have been determined by the judge.

Livestreaming

The Federal Court's adoption of livestreaming for court hearings and events allows for real-time observation from virtually anywhere. It is a significant step forward in making the work of the Federal Court more visible. Livestreaming enables education about, and scrutiny of, court proceedings and judicial decision-making. It is one way to make more visible the principles of fairness, impartiality and judicial independence in the conduct of legal proceedings.

Currently, decisions about whether a proceeding should be livestreamed rest with individual judges and with the Full Court for appellate proceedings. The discretionary approach allows for the careful consideration of the specific context and circumstances of each proceeding, and for a range of judicial views about the advantages and disadvantages of livestreaming.

In the 2025–26 reporting period, 103 court listings were livestreamed through the Federal Court’s YouTube channel. A selection of these proceedings is shown in Table 7.1, below. Ceremonial events and educative seminars were also livestreamed throughout the reporting period and remain available on the Federal Court channel.

These events include judicial welcome or farewell ceremonies and Silk Bow ceremonies where the appointments of Senior Counsel are announced, which took place for New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland on 21 October, 24 November and 11 December 2025 respectively, and for Western Australia on 13 February 2026.

Table 7.1 Selected listings livestreamed on the Court’s YouTube channel, by total views

Proceeding views

NSD1698/2024 Pauline Hanson v Mehreen Faruqi & Anor	43,382
NSD1727/2025 Charlotte MacInnes v Rebel Wilson	27,808
NSD701/2024 Bruce Lehrmann v Network Ten Pty Limited ACN 052 515 250 & Anor	22,418
NSD1386/2024 Giggle For Girls Pty Ltd & Anor v Roxanne Tickle	11,218
VID1036/2024 Jayson Lloyd Gillham v Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Pty Ltd & Anor	6,872
NSD442/2026; NSD507/2026 Sandilands & ors; Henderson & anor v Commonwealth Broadcasting Corp & anor	6,730
VID973/2024 ACCC v Coles; VID1247/2024 Demery v Coles	5,348
NTD17/2024 Lesley Turner v Jacinta Nampijinpa Price	4,997
VID974/2024 ACCC v Woolworths; VID1246/2024 Whittome v Woolworths	4,328
VID622/2021 Pabai Pabai & Anor v Commonwealth of Australia	4,183
NSD189/2024 Antoinette Lattouf v Australian Broadcasting Corporation	4,003
VID170/2025 Lesbian Action Group Inc. v Australian Human Rights Commission	3,457
WAD36/2025 Asset Energy Pty Ltd v Commonwealth Minister for Industry and Science & Anor	3,066
NSD1509/2025 Woodman Beenleigh Pty Ltd ACN 105 899 689 v Bunnings Group Limited ACN 008 672 179	2,968
NSD2222/2025 Gavin Daniel Fineff v Sportsbet Pty Ltd & Ors	2,822
VID1252/2019 Katherine Prygodicz & Ors v Commonwealth Of Australia	2,812
NSD389/2025 Walter Sofronoff v ACT Integrity Commission	2,773
VID1059/2024 Melbourne Rebels Rugby Union v Rugby Australia; VID1213/2025 Widdup v Longley	2,715
VID1368/2024 ASIC v HSBC Bank Australia Limited	2,675

Note: The table only includes the most-viewed listing for each proceeding. The number of views refers to views for that single listing, rather than views for all streamed listings in that proceeding. The number of viewers may be influenced by the length of each listing; some listings may only be for judgment delivery, while others are a full sitting day.

Media engagement

The Federal Court’s Media Team is responsible for the management of all media requests and enquiries in relation to the work of the Federal Court and its judges. These enquiries are managed nationally, and the team works closely with journalists and media representatives to help inform the public about the work of the Federal Court.

The Media Team aims to engage positively and proactively with journalists to ensure accurate reporting of Federal Court proceedings.

The Federal Court has a Media Committee which is comprised of judges, court staff and media representatives. The Committee works collaboratively to discuss issues of note and provide a forum to explore ways for the Federal Court to address any challenges.

The Federal Court regularly hosts media roundtables, the purpose of which is to foster positive relationships with court reporters and gain valuable insight from media into how the Federal Court can better facilitate fair and accurate reporting of proceedings.

Social media

Social media plays an important role in communicating the work of the Federal Court. Through its official social media channels, the Federal Court shares timely, factual and accessible information that supports greater understanding of its role as a Court, functions and activities among the legal profession, court users, students, media and the broader community. The Court's social media channels are managed by the Communications Team.

The Federal Court maintains official accounts on LinkedIn, X, YouTube and Spotify. Together these platforms complement the information available on the Court's website and in other official publications.

Throughout the reporting period these channels were used to communicate significant institutional developments, including Notices to the Profession, Practice Directions, judicial appointments, ceremonial sittings, livestreams, court-hosted events and seminars, associateship recruitment opportunities, and to highlight judicial participation in conferences, seminars and engagements in Australia and internationally.

Growth across the Federal Court's social media channels remained entirely organic throughout the reporting period. This reflected the continuing interest in the Federal Court's work and reinforced social media as an effective means of communicating directly with key audiences. LinkedIn remained the Federal Court's primary social media platform, growing more than 22,117 followers, representing around 50 per cent growth. During the reporting period the Federal Court published 360 posts, generating more than 2,204,780 impressions and 33,351 overall page views.

Building on its established presence across social media, the Federal Court commenced a pilot of Bluesky in April 2026 to explore opportunities to further engage with the legal profession, academia, policy communities and the broader public through an emerging social media platform. Early results have been encouraging.

During the pilot, the Federal Court also introduced the monthly 'Federal Court Fact File' series, providing short, visual insights into the Federal Court's work, history and operations. An evaluation of the pilot will be undertaken to inform future use of the platform.

The Federal Court's YouTube channel continues to support the Federal Court's commitment to accessible justice through the hosting of livestreams for hearings, ceremonial sittings, seminars and other Federal Court events. This provides greater access to proceedings and institutional activities regardless of geographic location. Livestreams and videos were also cross promoted across the Federal Court's social media channels to extend their reach. During the reporting period, the channel received more than 642,919 views, recorded 246,500 hours of watch time, and increased to 47,400 subscribers.

The Federal Court's Spotify channel continued to host selected podcast content, providing an additional platform for sharing insights into the lives and careers of former judges of the Federal Court.

The Lives and Times of the Judges podcast series

The Federal Court's ongoing podcast series Lives and Times of the Judges, first launched in 2024, continued throughout the reporting period. The series explores the lives and career of former judges of the Federal Court, preserving their reflections on judicial service and the evolution of the Federal Court.

In a series of conversations with journalist and broadcaster Fiona Gruber, former judges reflect on their careers, the influences and experiences that shaped them, and observations on the evolution of the Federal Court.

Six episodes have been published throughout the reporting period featuring Dr Annabelle Bennett AC KC, the Hon. Jeffrey Spender KC, the Hon. Raymond Finkelstein AO KC, the Hon. Susan Kiefel AC KC, the Hon. Michael Laurence Barker KC and the Hon. Anthony Besanko KC.

As of 30 June 2026, the series comprised 14 interviews published on the Federal Court's website, with 13 episodes also available on Spotify.

Throughout the reporting period, the podcast recorded a total of 2,353 plays and downloads, reaching a total audience (distinct people who played or downloaded the podcast) of 401 listeners.

A further episode featuring the Hon. John von Doussa AO FAAL KC is scheduled for publication following the reporting period.

