Federal Court of Australia



Annual Report 2025–2026

About this report

Federal Court of Australia Annual Report 2025–26

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Court acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (First Nations) peoples as the First Peoples of Australia and pays its respects to the Traditional Owners of the Country on which the Court's eight registries are situated.

The Court acknowledges the challenges facing the Australian community in our relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples which include how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are treated by the justice system. In this Court, that includes but is by no means limited to, the administration of the Court's jurisdiction under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), where the Court's processes and decisions have a significant impact on the interests of First Nations Peoples. The Court is committed to the improved administration of all its jurisdictions, where they affect First Nations Peoples.



Pictured: On 18 July 2025, Justice Bennett presided over a Consent Determination Hearing for the First Peoples of the Millewa-Mallee Native Title Claim Group on Country, on the Murray River near Mildura.

The land and waters the subject of the determination are located in the northwest corner of Victoria. Justice Bennett presented bound versions of the reasons for judgment to members of the Ngintait, Latji Latji and Nyeri Nyeri Peoples.

Photo is courtesy of ABC and used with their permission.

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Letter of transmittal

Chambers of Chief Justice Mortimer

Federal Court of Australia
Victoria District Registry
305 William Street
Melbourne Vic 3000

24 September 2026

The Hon Michelle Rowland MP
Attorney-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Attorney-General

I am pleased to submit the Federal Court of Australia's annual report for the 2025–26 financial year.

This document reports on the management of the administrative affairs of the Court, in accordance with section 18S of the *Federal Court of Australia Act 1976* (Cth). It also seeks to inform the Australian community, court users, Parliament and the Executive about the Court's role, the resolution of its business, and its wider contributions to the community.

The President of the National Native Title Tribunal is required to prepare a report that relates to the Tribunal's activities for the last financial year. That report is provided as Part 9, pursuant to section 133 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

The Chief Executive Officer and Principal Registrar is required to prepare a report under section 46 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth). That report addresses in detail the provision of corporate and registry services to the Court, and includes financial statements relating to the Court.

Yours sincerely

Debra Mortimer
Chief Justice, Federal Court of Australia

Readers' guide

This Annual Report explains the work of the Federal Court of Australia (the Federal Court) during the 2025–26 reporting year and the context in which that work was carried out. It is written for a broad audience, including Parliament, court users, practitioners and members of the public who may or may not be familiar with courts or legal processes.

Legal and institutional concepts are explained in plain language, and the report assumes no prior knowledge of the Federal Court or the justice system. When reference is made to Commonwealth legislation, that legislation can be freely accessed by any member of the public on the Federal Register of Legislation website.

Judges ordinarily speak through their written reasons for the judgments (or decisions) they make in the proceedings they decide. This Annual Report serves a different purpose. It explains why the Federal Court's work matters, how the Federal Court carries out its functions and is administered, and the limits within which it operates as part of Australia's system of government. The Report does not assess the merits of individual proceedings or comment on judicial decisions. This Report is structured to move from context to explanation. **Parts 1** and **2** outline where the Federal Court's constitutional role fits within the Australian legal system and provides the Chief Justice's year in review and those events that have shaped the Federal Court's work during the reporting period. **Parts 3** and **4** describe how the Federal Court undertakes its work and how proceedings are managed.

Data and statistics are woven throughout the Report to support explanations and provide a transparent understanding of the Federal Court's workload, pressures, and trends over time. Charts, tables and graphical summaries appear alongside the relevant discussion to represent this information visually.

Some information sets out what is within the Federal Court's control, such as case management practices and administrative arrangements. Other information explains factors outside the Federal Court's control, including the volume and nature of proceedings filed, legislative changes and resource constraints. Understanding these differences provides insight into how the Federal Court operates within the required limits of both its role and capacity.

Part 5 of the Report focuses on the people who support judicial work. This includes a spotlight article on the Federal Court's Library staff, highlighting some of the institutional capability that underpins judicial decision-making but is rarely visible to court users or the public.

Parts 6 and **7** of the Report explain how the Federal Court engages with court users, the legal profession, and the broader local and international community, and how it communicates its work. These parts also highlight the initiatives and technology the Federal Court uses to promote open and accessible justice.

Part 8 sets out how the Federal Court is governed, supported and held accountable, including reporting on key compliance obligations.

Part 9 is presented as a separate report of the National Native Title Tribunal within this Annual Report. This reflects the National Native Title Tribunal's distinct statutory role, while acknowledging its connection to the Federal Court's organisational structure.

Parts 10 and **11** contain the Appendices, List of Tables and Figures, and Index.



2025 to 2026 **at a glance**

Statistical Overview

(Judge and Registrar proceedings)

FILINGS

6,010 up **9%** from last year

FINALISATIONS

5,473 up **15%** from last year

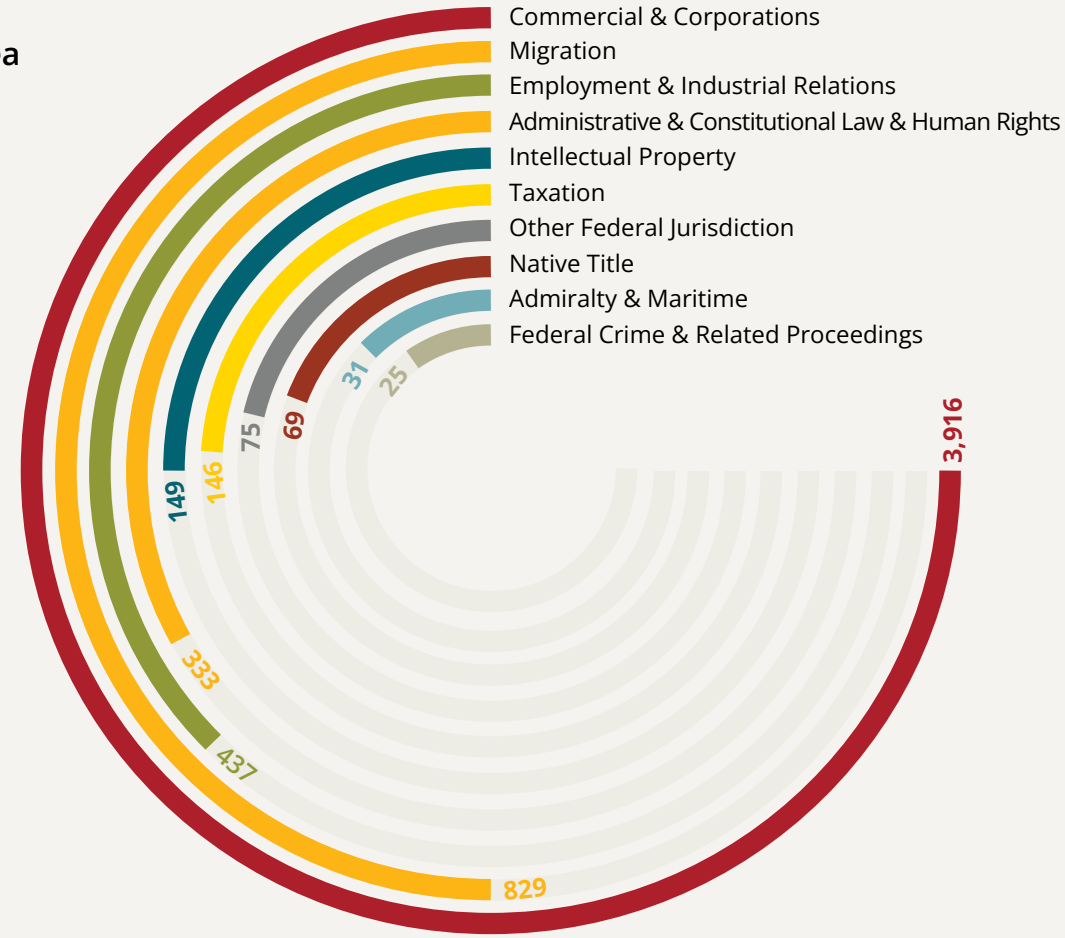
CURRENT PROCEEDINGS

5,245 up **11%** from last year

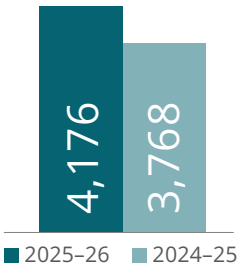


Proceedings filed by National Practice Area

	2025–26	2024–25
C&C ▲ 6%	3,916	3,705
MIG ▲ 9%	829	760
E&IR ▲ 22%	437	358
ACLHR ▲ 24%	333	268
IP ▲ 5%	149	142
TAX ▲ 20%	146	122
OFJ ▲ 23%	75	61
NT ▲ 41%	69	49
A&M ▲ 19%	31	26
CRIME ▼ 26%	25	34



Finalisations



up **11%**

Proceedings finalised within 12 months from filing

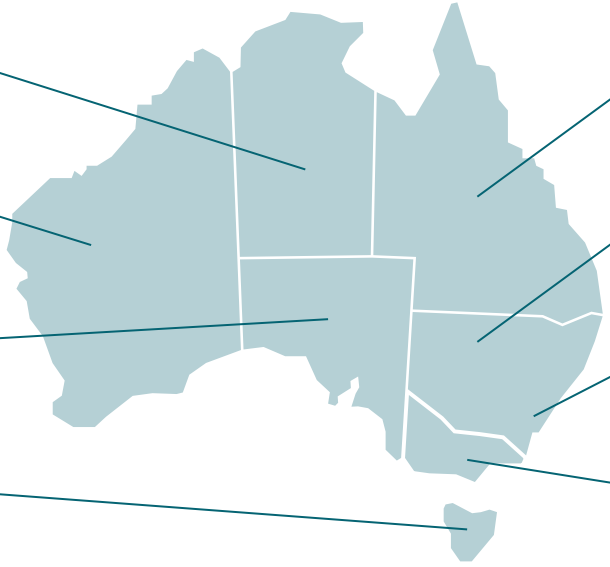
Judgments

2,016 Judgments delivered

1,630 Delivered in 3 months
▲ up **16%** from last year

1,836 Delivered in 6 months
▲ up **17%** from last year

Proceedings filed in each state and territory



Northern Territory
46 up 15%

Western Australia
484 up 11%

South Australia
306 up 4%

Tasmania
60 down 2%

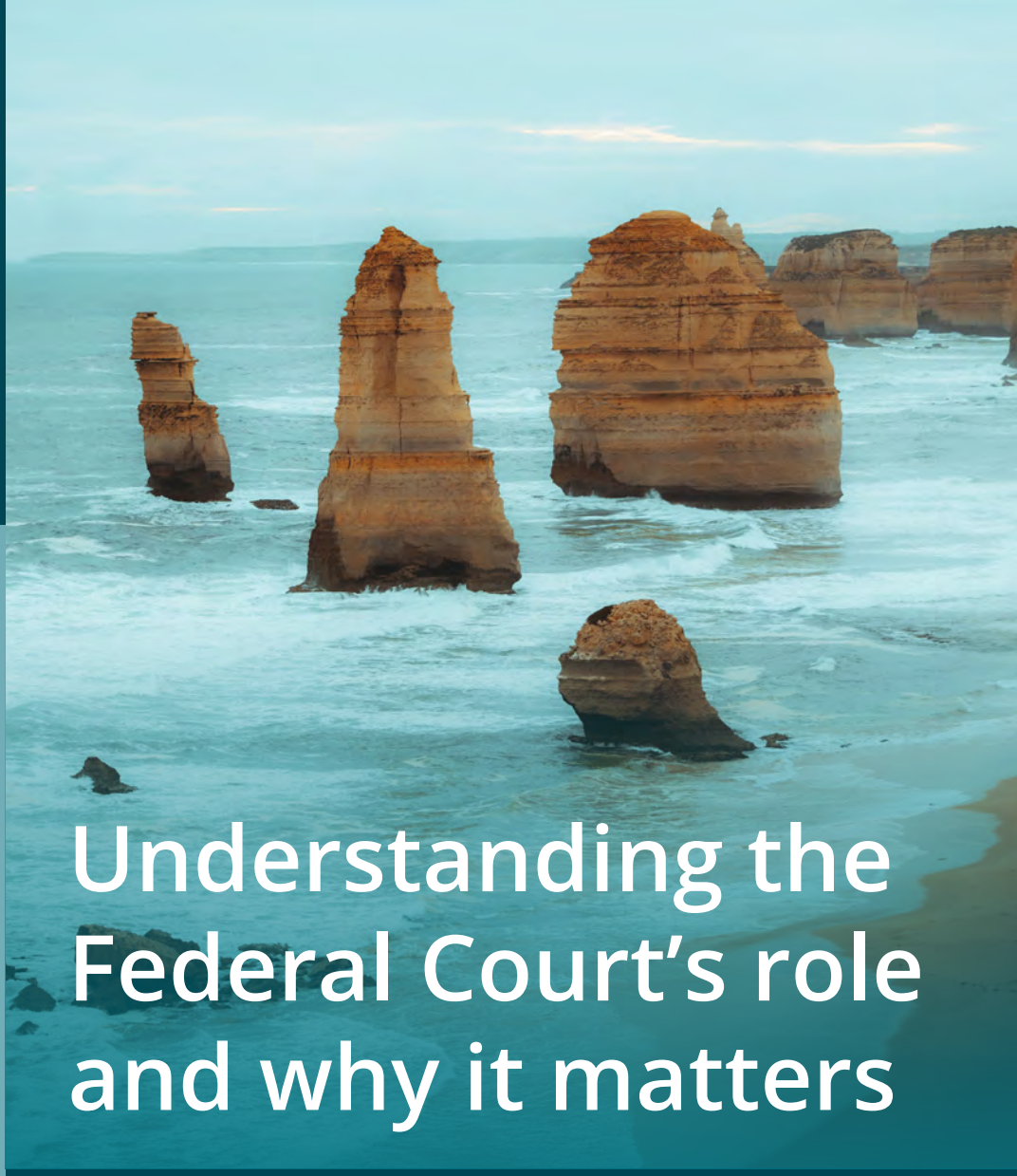
Queensland
934 up 11%

New South Wales
2,490 up 18%

Australian Capital Territory
115 down 2%

Victoria
1,575 down 3%

PART 1



Understanding the Federal Court's role and why it matters

This part explains the Federal Court's constitutional role, jurisdiction and development over time, as well as why its work matters to the community. It also introduces the current Federal Court judges and provides an illustration of the national spread of its registries.



The Federal Court's role in Australia's system of government

The Federal Court exercises the judicial power of the Commonwealth of Australia. It forms part of the federal court system. Courts operate within a hierarchy allowing decisions to be reviewed on appeal by higher courts. This structure supports consistency in the interpretation and application of the law and helps ensure that disputes are resolved fairly.

Australia's court system, or 'judiciary', is illustrated in a simplified way below. This shows the interaction between courts in each state and territory, and the Commonwealth courts.

The federal judiciary is one of three arms of Australia's system of government, alongside the Commonwealth Parliament, which makes the law, and the Executive, which administers the law, and which is comprised of all the ministers of the Government and the agencies for which they are responsible. Each state and territory also has its own distinct system of government, structured in a similar way to the national system.

All three arms of Australia's system of government draw their authority from the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia (the *Constitution*), with the Court empowered under section 71 of the *Constitution*.

The Federal Court's judicial function and its impact

The exercise of the Federal Court's judicial function has a tangible impact on people in Australia every day. The 'judicial power' exercised by courts involves interpreting and applying law to disputes between parties in order to determine their legal rights and responsibilities.

While the Federal Court's decisions are of direct importance to the parties involved, they also contribute to the development of the common law and so have a wider impact on others in similar circumstances. Indeed, as a national court dealing with diverse areas of law that apply Australia-wide, the Federal Court's interpretation and application of law can ultimately shape the lives of all people in Australia.

By fulfilling its constitutional function, the Federal Court plays an important role in upholding the 'rule of law'. This principle means that every person is entitled to the law's protection and that no person is above or beyond the reach of the law. The rule of law is fundamental to the functioning of Australia's democratic system of government and the wellbeing of all people in Australia.

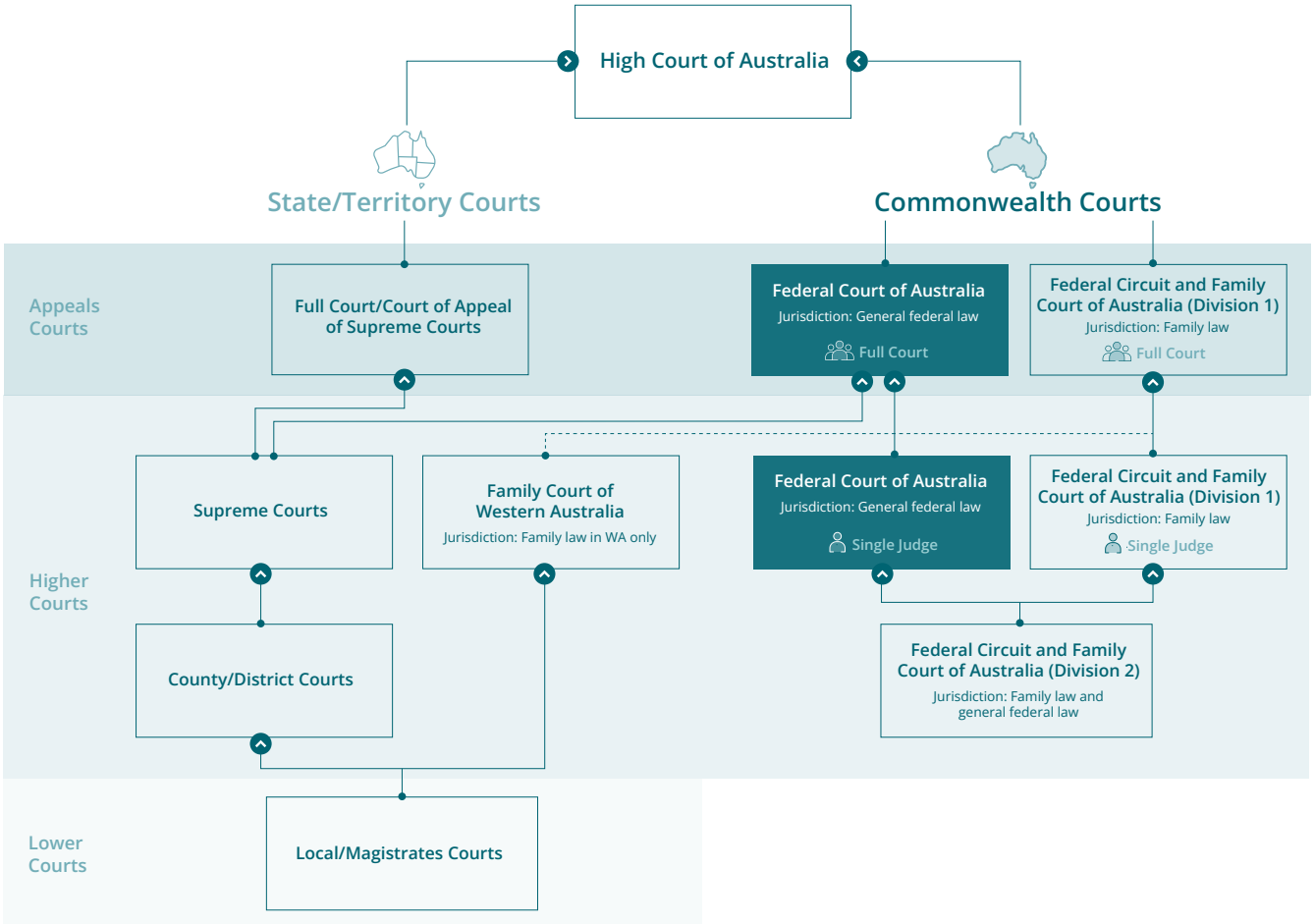


Figure 1.1: Federal Court of Australia's role within the Australian court system

History and evolution of the Court

The Federal Court was established by the Commonwealth Parliament through the passing of the *Federal Court of Australia Act 1976* (Cth) (the Federal Court Act), with its first sitting on 7 February 1977. Parliament intended that the Federal Court would absorb part of the workload of the High Court of Australia in matters arising under Commonwealth law and consolidate the work of the existing Federal Court of Bankruptcy and the Australian Industrial Court. It was also considered that a national court sitting throughout Australia should deal with areas of law of national importance, in place of a variety of state courts.

New legislation passed by the Parliament continues to expand the breadth of the Federal Court's jurisdiction and increase the volume of its work. This now extends to proceedings involving administrative review of government decisions, human rights and environmental law, native title determinations and compensation claims, migration law, commercial and competition law and consumer protection, admiralty and maritime law, intellectual property, taxation, federal crime and workplace relations. This reflects the reach and complexity of Commonwealth law, the Federal Court's role in the interpretation and development of that law, and the national significance of the Federal Court as a contemporary institution. The specific areas of law and types of legal issues the Federal Court deals with are detailed in **Parts 3** and **4** of this Report.

2026 marks 50 years since the enactment of the legislation establishing the Federal Court. The Federal Court is commemorating this milestone with a series of monthly seminars through to 2027, where a ceremonial sitting will formally mark the 50th Anniversary of the Federal Court's first sitting. These events will bring together the judiciary, the legal profession, legal scholars, students and members of the broader community to reflect on the Federal Court's contribution over the past five decades and consider the legal challenges and developments ahead. Insights are to be compiled into an enduring institutional record, published on the Federal Court's website. (https://www.fedcourt.gov.au/news-and-events/npa-seminar-series).

Jurisdiction: The Federal Court's authority to hear disputes

The Federal Court's ability to hear and decide proceedings brought before it is defined by its jurisdiction. 'Jurisdiction' refers to the types of proceedingsthe Federal Court has the legal authority to hear and determine.

As a national court operating throughout Australia, the Federal Court primarily deals with proceedings arising under Commonwealth law. This includes legislation enacted by the Commonwealth Parliament and delegated legislation made by Commonwealth bodies in the Executive arm of government. There are more than 250 statutes of Parliament conferring jurisdiction on the Federal Court, which are listed on the Federal Court's website (https://www.fedcourt.gov.au/about/jurisdiction/acts). Changes to legislation can affect both the number and type of proceedings brought before the Federal Court.

The Federal Court's jurisdiction is also conferred pursuant to section 39B of the *Judiciary Act 1903* (Cth). It includes most civil proceedings and a defined range of criminal proceedings arising under Commonwealth law.

The Federal Court also hears proceedings arising under or involving the interpretation of the *Constitution*, which are of national significance, as well as proceedings arising under equity and the common law–areas of law which have developed as a result of judicial decisions over time.

Civil and criminal proceedings

The Federal Court's determination of civil versus criminal proceedings involves the following key distinctions:

- **Civil proceedings** involve disputes between parties, such as individuals, companies or government decision-makers. The party bringing the proceeding, called the plaintiff, applicant or appellant, can seek a range of remedies or orders including monetary compensation, an order that another party be forced to do something or refrain from doing something (an injunction), or a declaration about the lawfulness of a certain action. That party must prove their proceeding 'on the balance of probabilities'.
- **Criminal proceedings** involve a person (a 'defendant') accused of committing an offence being prosecuted by a government body. Outcomes may include imprisonment, fines or other penalties. The prosecution is the one that has the burden to prove their proceeding 'beyond reasonable doubt'.

Original and appellate jurisdiction

The Federal Court exercises both original and appellate jurisdiction. An outline of each is provided below:

- **Original jurisdiction** refers to proceedings heard and determined by the Federal Court for the first time. This includes the determination of 'appeals' from non-judicial decisions of persons, authorities or tribunals other than courts. For example, when a party disagrees with a decision made by the Administrative Review Tribunal (ART) an 'appeal' against the decision could be brought under the Federal Court's original jurisdiction. The Federal Court's original jurisdiction is outlined in Divisions 1, 1A and 1B of Part III of the Federal Court Act.

- **Appellate jurisdiction** involves hearing appeals from judicial decisions. This includes decisions made by single judges of the Federal Court exercising original jurisdiction, non-family law decisions made by judges of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2), and certain decisions of judges sitting in other courts or bodies. The Federal Court's appellate jurisdiction is outlined in Divisions 2 and 2A of Part III of the Federal Court Act.

Original jurisdiction is usually exercised by a single judge; however, in some proceedings it can be exercised by a Full Court (comprised of three or sometimes five judges deciding the proceedings together)–for example, where the Chief Justice considers the proceedings is of sufficient importance to the development of the law or to the community. Most appellate matters are heard by a Full Court, although some appeals from courts in the hierarchy can be heard by a single judge (this includes some migration proceedings).

Leadership and stewardship in the administration of the Federal Court

The Federal Court's judicial function requires considerable administrative support in order to operate efficiently and effectively on a national scale.

Since 1990, the Federal Court has been responsible for its own administration, being the management of its own human, financial and material or technological resources, with a separate reporting arrangement to the Parliament and budget appropriation. These arrangements recognise the constitutional importance of the Federal Court's independence from the Executive arm of government and that because of this independence it is better placed to flexibly respond to changing pressures on its workload.

The Chief Justice leads the Federal Court and is responsible for ensuring the effective, orderly and expeditious discharge of its business. In managing the Federal Court's administrative affairs, the Chief Justice is assisted by the Chief Executive Officer and Principal Registrar (the Principal Registrar). The judges of the Federal Court also play a significant role in the provision of administrative support to the judicial function of the Court. The Federal Court Act provides that the Chief Justice may delegate any of their administrative powers to judges, and that the Principal Registrar may exercise powers on behalf of the Chief Justice in relation to the Federal Court's administrative affairs.

The Principal Registrar also:

- provides the corporate services of the Federal Court, pursuant to section 18Z(1)(a) of the *Federal Court Act 1976* (Cth),
- is an 'administrative head' for the purposes of the *Court Security Act 2013* (Cth),
- is an 'accountable authority' for the purposes of whole-of-government finance laws, pursuant to section 18ZB(c) of the *Federal Court Act 1976* (Cth), and
- is the 'head' of a statutory agency for the purposes of the *Public Service Act 1999* (Cth), pursuant to section 18ZE(1)(b) of the *Federal Court Act 1976* (Cth) (among other things).

In fulfilling these duties, the Principal Registrar works closely with the Deputy Principal Registrar. The Chief Justice and the Principal Registrar provide their personal reflections on the Federal Court's work during the reporting year in **Part 2** of this Report.

In addition to the leadership provided by the Chief Justice and Principal Registrar, the various teams of people described in **Part 5** who keep the Federal Court operating have their own leadership structures in place. This reflects the importance of leadership at every level of the Federal Court's administration, including through the way people take initiative, support colleagues, share knowledge and contribute to the Federal Court's work beyond their formal roles. All employees of the Federal Court within these teams are members of the Australian Public Service (APS) and are required to uphold the APS Values by contributing to an APS that is impartial, committed to service, accountable, respectful and ethical. The Federal Court's administration also seeks to uphold the APS value of stewardship by building, preserving and sharing institutional knowledge and capability, supporting continuity through change, and making decisions that strengthen the Federal Court's ability to serve the public interest now and into the future.

Examples of leadership and stewardship are reflected throughout this Report. In **Part 2**, the Chief Justice describes judge, judicial registrar and staff-led work to respond to changing pressures on the Court, including the Litigants in Person and Pro Bono Project, refinement of practice and procedure, judicial registrar-led case management, registry visits and stakeholder engagement, and the strengthening of registry leadership through the Deputy Principal Registrar role. **Part 2** also describes longer term stewardship through planning for the Federal Court's 50th Anniversary, preservation of institutional history through Archives Alive, international and regional judicial engagement, and work to build future capability across the Federal Court and the wider justice system. The people and teams described in **Part 5**, including registry, chambers, corporate services, library and specialist teams, also demonstrate leadership and stewardship by maintaining national operations, supporting judges and court users, preserving institutional knowledge and sharing capability across the Federal Court. Together, these examples show that leadership and stewardship are connected: leadership enables the Federal Court to respond to current demands, while stewardship ensures its knowledge, capability and public purpose are carried forward for the future.

Judges of the Federal Court and its locations

The Federal Court operates nationally, sitting in capital cities and at other locations across Australia.

The Federal Court consists of a Chief Justice and other judges that hold office under the Federal Court Act. Judges of the Federal Court are not employed by the APS; they are appointed by commission of the Governor-General and must retire at the age of 70. Appointees represent leaders from across the legal profession.

The principles guiding their conduct can be seen in the judicial oath or affirmation that all judges must take upon accepting their appointment to the Court:

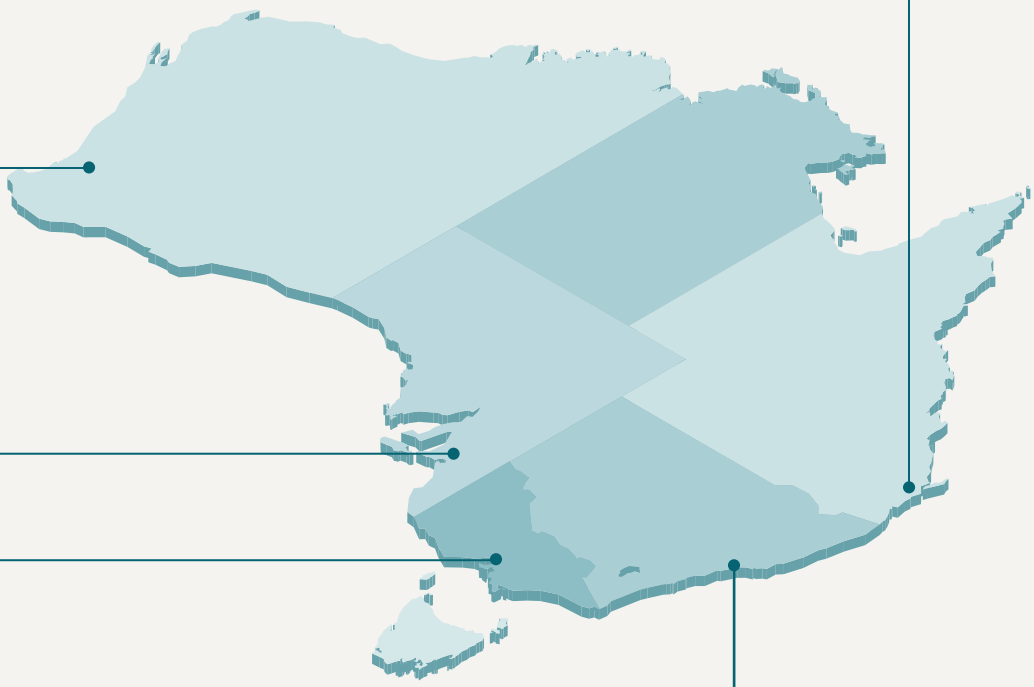
To 'swear' or 'solemnly and sincerely promise and declare' that they will do right to all manner of people according to law without fear or favour, affection or ill will.

Queensland

Justice Collier
Justice Rangiah
Justice Derrington
Justice Sarah C Derrington AM
Justice Downes
Justice Meagher
Justice Longbottom
Justice Wheatley

Western Australia

Justice Banks-Smith
Justice Colvin
Justice Jackson
Justice Feutrill
Justice Vandongen



South Australia

Justice Charlesworth
Justice O'Sullivan
Justice McDonald

Victoria

Chief Justice Mortimer
Justice Bromberg (ALRC)
Justice Murphy
Justice Beach
Justice Moshinsky
Justice O'Callaghan
Justice Wheelahan
Justice O'Bryan
Justice Snaden
Justice Anderson
Justice Rofe
Justice McElwaine
Justice McEvoy
Justice Hespe
Justice Button
Justice Kyrou AO (ART)
Justice Horan
Justice Neskovcin
Justice Dowling
Justice Bennett
Justice Hill

New South Wales

Justice Perram
Justice Wigney
Justice Perry
Justice Markovic
Justice Bromwich
Justice Burley
Justice Lee
Justice Thawley
Justice Stewart
Justice Abraham
Justice Halley
Justice Cheeseman
Justice Goodman
Justice Raper
Justice Kennett
Justice Jackman
Justice Hatcher (FWC)
Justice Shariff
Justice Needham
Justice Moore
Justice Owens
Justice Stellios
Justice Younan
Justice Lenehan

Figure 1.2: Judges of the Federal Court and its locations

There were 61 judges of the Federal Court as at 30 June 2026. The judges, with details about any other commissions or appointments, are listed in the following table.

Table 1.1 Judges of the Federal Court of Australia, in order of seniority (as at 30 June 2026)

Judge	Location	Other commissions or appointments
The Hon Debra Sue MORTIMER **Chief Justice**	VIC	
The Hon Berna Joan COLLIER	QLD	Additional Judge, Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory Judge, National and Supreme Courts of Papua New Guinea Sessional Judicial Deputy President, Administrative Review Tribunal
The Hon Nye PERRAM	NSW	President, Copyright Tribunal of Australia
The Hon Mordecai BROMBERG (ALRC)	VIC	President, Australian Law Reform Commission
The Hon Bernard Michael MURPHY	VIC	
The Hon Darryl Cameron RANGIAH	QLD	Additional Judge, Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory
The Hon Michael Andrew WIGNEY	NSW	Additional Judge, Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory Judge, Supreme Court of Norfolk Island Sessional Acting Judge, Vanuatu Court of Appeal
The Hon Melissa Anne PERRY	NSW	Deputy Judge Advocate General, Australian Defence Force (RAAF) Deputy President and currently Acting President, Defence Force Discipline Appeal Tribunal Sessional Judicial Deputy President, Administrative Review Tribunal
The Hon Jonathan Barry Rashleigh BEACH	VIC	Deputy President, Australian Competition Tribunal
The Hon Brigitte Sandra MARKOVIC	NSW	
The Hon Mark Kranz MOSHINSKY	VIC	Deputy President, Australian Competition Tribunal Part-time Member, Australian Law Reform Commission
The Hon Robert James BROMWICH	NSW	Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Norfolk Island Additional Judge, Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory
The Hon Natalie CHARLESWORTH	SA	Additional Judge, Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory
The Hon Stephen Carey George BURLEY	NSW	
The Hon David John O'CALLAGHAN	VIC	
The Hon Michael Bryan Joshua LEE	NSW	Additional Judge, Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory
The Hon Roger Marc DERRINGTON	QLD	Sessional Judicial Deputy President, Administrative Review Tribunal
The Hon Sarah Catherine DERRINGTON AM	QLD	Deputy President, Australian Competition Tribunal
The Hon Katrina Frances BANKS-SMITH	WA	Additional Judge, Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory

Table 1.1 Judges of the Federal Court of Australia, in order of seniority (as at 30 June 2026)

Judge	Location	Other commissions or appointments
The Hon Craig Grierson COLVIN	WA	
The Hon Thomas Michael THAWLEY	NSW	Additional Judge, Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory Deputy President, Copyright Tribunal of Australia Sessional Judicial Deputy President, Administrative Review Tribunal
The Hon Michael Francis WHEELAHAN	VIC	Additional Judge, Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory
The Hon Angus Morkel STEWART	NSW	Additional Judge, Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory
The Hon Michael Hugh O'BRYAN	VIC	President, Australian Competition Tribunal Additional Judge, Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory Deputy President, Copyright Tribunal of Australia
The Hon Darren John JACKSON	WA	
The Hon John Leslie SNADEN	VIC	
The Hon Stewart Maxwell ANDERSON	VIC	Additional Judge, Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory
The Hon Wendy Jane ABRAHAM	NSW	Judge, Supreme Court of Norfolk Island Additional Judge, Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory
The Hon John Allaster HALLEY	NSW	Deputy President, Australian Competition Tribunal Member, Defence Force Disciplinary Appeals Tribunal
The Hon Elizabeth Anne CHEESEMAN	NSW	
The Hon Helen Mary Joan ROFE	VIC	Deputy President, Copyright Tribunal of Australia
The Hon Kylie Elizabeth DOWNES	QLD	Deputy President, Australian Competition Tribunal
The Hon Scott Anthony GOODMAN	NSW	
The Hon Patrick O'SULLIVAN	SA	Additional Judge, Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory
The Hon Shaun Brendan McELWAINE	VIC	
The Hon Michael James FEUTRILL	WA	
The Hon Fiona Mary Ruth MEAGHER	QLD	
The Hon Timothy James Francis McEVOY	VIC	Sessional Judicial Deputy President, Administrative Review Tribunal
The Hon Lisa HESPE	VIC	Sessional Judicial Deputy President and Acting President when required, Administrative Review Tribunal
The Hon Elizabeth RAPER	NSW	
The Hon Geoffrey Ross KENNETT	NSW	Sessional Judicial Deputy President, Administrative Review Tribunal

Table 1.1 Judges of the Federal Court of Australia, in order of seniority (as at 30 June 2026)

Judge	Location	Other commissions or appointments
The Hon Catherine Gail BUTTON	VIC	Deputy President, Australian Competition Tribunal
The Hon Ian McNeil JACKMAN	NSW	Sessional judicial Deputy President, Administrative Review Tribunal
The Hon Adam HATCHER (FWC)	NSW	President, Fair Work Commission
The Hon Emilios KYROU AO (ART)	VIC	President, Administrative Review Tribunal
The Hon Christopher James HORAN	VIC	
The Hon Yaseen SHARIFF	NSW	
The Hon Penelope Anna NESKOVCIN	VIC	President, Administrative Review Tribunal
The Hon Craig William DOWLING	VIC	
The Hon Jane Annabel Darling NEEDHAM	NSW	Sessional Acting Judge, Vanuatu Court of Appeal
The Hon Stephen Andrew McDONALD	SA	
The Hon Samuel Alexander VANDONGEN	WA	Additional Judge, Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory
The Hon Cameron Andrew MOORE	NSW	Deputy President, Australian Competition Tribunal
The Hon Nicholas James OWENS	NSW	
The Hon James Stephen STELLIOS	NSW	
The Hon Houda YOUNAN	NSW	
The Hon Elizabeth Anne BENNETT	VIC	
The Hon Erin Jane LONGBOTTOM	QLD	
The Hon Amelia Louise WHEATLEY	QLD	
The Hon Graeme Anthony HILL	VIC	
The Hon Craig Lindsay LENEHAN	NSW	

Appointments during 2025–26

In the last financial year, one judge was appointed to the Court:



The Honourable Justice Craig Lindsay Lenehan was appointed on 9 February 2026

Retirements during 2025–26

In the last financial year, one judge retired from the Court:



The Hon John Alexander Logan AM RFD retired with effect on 5 March 2026

PART 2



Year in review and looking ahead





Chief Justice's year in review

Chief Justice Debra Mortimer

The reporting period has been one of sustained activity and significant institutional development across all aspects of the work of the Federal Court of Australia. The work of the Federal Court has continued to demand adaptability, careful stewardship of resources, and a strong collective commitment from Judges, Judicial Registrars and staff to ensure that the Federal Court discharges its functions effectively as a contemporary national court.

The Federal Court has operated in an environment marked by substantial and evolving pressures, including higher demand on its resources, changing expectations of court users, increasing complexity of proceedings in the Federal Court's original jurisdiction, an exponential rise in the numbers of litigants in person and continuing transformation in the technological and broader context in which justice is administered. In response, the Federal Court has developed new practice notes in a number of areas, refined our Rules, continued to work on Judge-led projects directed to the efficient and effective management of our work, encouraged all Judges and Judicial Registrars to participate in judicial education and professional development, ensured there are opportunities throughout the year to engage with the profession, the community and each other about our work, and sought new funding from government for new advancements and initiatives.

At the same time, the Federal Court is preparing for a defining institutional milestone—the forthcoming 50th Anniversary of its establishment in December 1976 and its first sitting in February 1977. Planning for this anniversary has provided an opportunity to involve retired and current Judges, and the legal profession. Most of the planned events will be available to all members of the Australian community. The 50th anniversary, spanning 2026 and 2027, will give us all a chance to reflect on the Federal Court's contribution to law and the Australian community over the past five decades, and also to articulate its future direction as a modern, nationally integrated judicial institution.

Judicial appointments

During the reporting period, the Federal Court welcomed the appointment of Justice Craig Lenehan, who commenced as a Judge of the Court in February 2026.

The Federal Court has, in recent years, experienced a significant degree of renewal in its composition. The Federal Court offers a peer group induction program to all newly appointed Judges to support their transition to judicial office, and in the reporting period conducted some specific judicial education for more recently appointed judges. The 'Recently Appointed Judges' Workshop' took place in November 2025. The workshop brought together more than 30 Judges who had been appointed within the last three years or so, representing almost half the Federal Court. The program was designed to provide an opportunity for participants to reflect on their experience, engage with senior colleagues, and share practical approaches to managing workload, conducting hearings and delivering judgments.

The workshop was delivered in a peer-to-peer format, encouraging open discussion and the exchange of perspectives. It also provided an opportunity to build collegial relationships across registries, which is particularly significant for a national court operating across multiple jurisdictions.

I am grateful to those judges who contributed to the program, including senior members of the Federal Court who shared their experience and insights. Initiatives of this kind play an important role in supporting judicial capability and promoting a cohesive and effective bench.

During the reporting period, the Commonwealth Attorney-General announced the commencement of a Panel process to fill upcoming vacancies in the Federal Court. Expressions of interest were invited as part of that process. That appointment process continues as at the date of this report.

Discharge of the Court's judicial caseload

The Federal Court continues to manage a substantial and complex caseload across its jurisdictions.

The Federal Court remains focused on ensuring that its caseload is managed effectively and efficiently, while retaining a focus on fair processes, opportunities for negotiated outcomes, and careful deliberation on disputes that must be resolved by judicial decision.

Part 3 addresses the Federal Court's work in 2025–26 and explains how caseload data were collected.

The reporting period again demonstrated the scale and breadth of the Federal Court's national caseload. In 2025–26, 6,010 proceedings were filed in the Federal Court. Under the National Court Framework (NCF), which provides an overarching structure for the Federal Court's caseload, 37 per cent were original jurisdiction proceedings allocated to Judges, 14 per cent were appellate proceedings allocated to Judges, and 49 per cent were proceedings allocated directly to Judicial Registrars.

Overall filings increased by 9 per cent compared with 2024–25. The increase was not uniform across the Federal Court's work, with the most pronounced growth recorded in appellate filings, which increased by 22 per cent. This continued growth is consistent with the broader pressures described in this review and reinforces the importance of active case management, careful allocation of judicial and Judicial Registrar resources, and ongoing refinement of the Court's practices and procedures.

Of the proceedings allocated to Judges, 3,100 proceedings were filed, representing a year-on-year increase of 12 per cent. During the same period, 2,686 proceedings were finalised, representing a year-on-year increase of 4 per cent.

The finalisation rate for Judge-allocated proceedings was 87 per cent. Although this was higher than the previous reporting period, it remained below the rates recorded in 2022–23 and 2023–24, when finalisation rates were 103 per cent and 101 per cent respectively. That result principally reflects the continuing growth in filings. Since 2022–23, filings have increased by 42 per cent, with annual increases of between 8 per cent and 18 per cent. Finalisations have also increased overall, by 21 per cent since 2022–23, but not at a rate sufficient to maintain the earlier finalisation rates.

The Federal Court published 2,016 judgments during the 2025–26 period. Of those judgments, 81 per cent were delivered within three months of being reserved and 91 per cent within six months. These results were broadly consistent with 2024–25, when 83 per cent of judgments were delivered within three months and 91 per cent within six months.

On average, there were 2.3 months between the date a judgment was reserved and the date it was delivered, comprising an average of 1.6 months for single judge judgments and 3.1 months for Full Court judgments. This was longer than the average of 1.6 months recorded in the 2024–25 reporting period, and should be understood in the context of the continuing increase in judgment output. In 2024–25, 1,720 judgments were delivered; by comparison, the Federal Court delivered 2,016 judgments in 2025–26, an increase of approximately 17 per cent.

New funding: Australian Competition Tribunal

During the 2025–26 reporting period, the Federal Court received an additional allocation of funding through the Federal Budget to support the work of Judges of the Federal Court on the Australian Competition Tribunal.

In late 2024, Parliament enacted substantial reforms to Australian merger and acquisition laws through the *Treasury Laws Amendment (Mergers and Acquisitions Reform) Act 2024* (Cth). The reforms came into full effect on 1 January 2026. They introduce a mandatory notification requirement for acquisitions which apply when certain thresholds set by regulation are met. The prohibition on anti-competitive mergers in s 50 of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth) no longer applies to notifiable acquisitions. Rather, under the new regime, parties to a notifiable acquisition are prohibited from putting the acquisition into effect until the acquisition has been considered and approved by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. Parties to the transaction and other interested persons may seek review of the Commission's merger decisions in the Australian Competition Tribunal. The amendments are expected to increase substantially the number of applications for review made to the Tribunal.

Although the Tribunal is independent of the Federal Court, its presidential members are required to be Judges of the Federal Court. Justice Michael O'Bryan is the President of the Tribunal. The Deputy Presidents of the Tribunal are Justices Mark Moshinsky, Sarah C Derrington, John Halley, Kylie Downes, Jonathan Beach, Catherine Button, Penelope Neskovcin and Cameron Moore. The Registrars of the Tribunal are all Judicial Registrars of the Federal Court, and administrative support is provided by Court staff. The Federal Court administers the Tribunal's funding.

Significant efforts have gone into preparing the Tribunal for its expected caseload under the reforms. Part of this work has involved ongoing engagement with government to ensure that the Tribunal is resourced sufficiently for it to perform its existing and expanded functions.

The Federal Government has committed $16.049 million to the Federal Court over the forward estimates for the measure, of which $1.396 million was received in 2025–26 reporting period. Separate funding has also been provided for necessary corporate services to support this additional work. I take the opportunity to say more about the provision of corporate services below.

The Competition Tribunal reforms will provide funding for two additional Judges, Tribunal members, and other support staff, including necessary IT staff. The appointment of two additional Judges to the Federal Court recognises that the work of the Tribunal will divert some of the capacity of existing Judges away from Federal Court work. The funding also provides for the development of a case management system and other digital infrastructure to support the Tribunal's work. These are exciting developments for the Tribunal and, by extension, the Federal Court.

Litigants in Person and Pro Bono Project

The Litigants in Person and Pro Bono Project has been a central focus of the Federal Court's work during the reporting period, reflecting the increasing prevalence and impact of unrepresented litigants on the Federal Court's operations.

As outlined in my address to the Commonwealth Law Conference in February 2026, and also in my address at the Council of Australasian Tribunals Whitmore Lecture in June 2026, matters involving litigants in person now comprise a significant proportion of the Federal Court's workload. Data collected by the Federal Court indicates that, as at December 2025 approximately 19 per cent of proceedings in Judges' dockets involve at least one litigant in person, being 552 proceedings out of the 2,850 proceedings before the Federal Court in total. Across these proceedings, a substantial majority involved unrepresented applicants, with a smaller but notable proportion involving unrepresented respondents.

The data also indicates that litigants in person are concentrated within several of the Federal Court's National Practice Areas (NPAs), including the Commercial and Corporations NPA, the Administrative and Constitutional Law and Human Rights NPA, which includes migration, and the Employment and Industrial Relations NPA.

Proceedings involving litigants in person have a disproportionate impact on the Federal Court's resources. These proceedings typically involve substantially higher levels of correspondence, more frequent interlocutory applications, and more intensive case management. Comparative sampling undertaken by the Federal Court indicates that such proceedings may involve two to three times the number of listings, orders and communications compared to proceedings where all parties are represented.

These developments have informed a coordinated and structured response through the Litigants in Person and Pro Bono Project, which represents one of the most significant institutional initiatives undertaken by the Federal Court in recent years. I am grateful to my colleagues Justice Craig Colvin and Senior Judicial Registrar Claire Hammerton Cole for leading this project. Working with them have been a number of other staff members: I also thank Olivia Duce, Justin Ramsay and Tameea Lock.

The Project adopts a multi-faceted approach, including:

- enhanced early intervention through Judicial Registrar-led case management
- improved access to information and guidance for litigants
- strengthened and more targeted pro bono referral pathways
- development of clearer expectations through a practice note
- improved data collection and analysis to inform ongoing reform.

A key initiative during the reporting period was the promulgation of the Litigants in Person Practice Note (GPN-LIP) in March 2026. The practice note sets out, in plain English, information about how the Federal Court operates and what a person must do if they choose to represent themselves, including expected standards of behaviour. Judges have begun to apply the practice note to proceedings involving litigants in person. The Practice Note has been translated into the eight most frequently used languages other than English in the Federal Court.

Other initiatives include changes to the way that litigant in person proceedings are allocated to Judges and Judicial Registrars, improved linking of litigants in person with 'relevant' advice services, new procedures to deal with the filing of documents, targeted pro bono referrals for mediation, and improved consultation with the community legal sector.

The Project recognises that supporting litigants in person is resource-intensive and requires coordinated engagement across Judges, judicial registrars and staff. It also requires person-to-person contact: website resources and links are not enough. The Project also recognises that, just as legal representatives have a suite of obligations that govern how they engage with the Federal Court, so too it is reasonable to expect certain standards of behaviour and engagement from litigants in person, with consequences if those standards are not met.

The Federal Court's 50th Anniversary

Planning for the Federal Court of Australia's 50th Anniversary in 2027 has been a major and unifying focus during the reporting period, providing an opportunity to reflect on the Federal Court's contribution to law over the past five decades and to consider its future as a contemporary national court.

The Anniversary is being approached not as a single event, but as a coordinated national program of initiatives designed to reflect the Federal Court's unique structure and presence. Planning is now well advanced, with a series of interconnected activities be delivered across 2026 and 2027.

A central element of the program is the 12-part National Practice Area Seminar Series, which commenced in July 2026. Delivered across each of the Federal Court's NPAs and livestreamed nationally, the series will provide an opportunity to reflect on the evolution of the Federal Court's jurisprudence, to engage with contemporary issues in each area of practice, and to facilitate dialogue with the profession about the future direction of federal litigation.

I encourage any readers of this Report who are interested in the Federal Court's past work and future directions to register to attend a seminar where they live. The seminars are each also livestreamed, including to a courtroom in every registry. The presentations will be preserved and remain available on the Federal Court's 50th Anniversary website.

The dedicated 50th Anniversary website is in development and will serve as a central platform for Anniversary activities. The website will include an interactive timeline drawing on archival material, documenting key moments in the Federal Court's history and the development of its work. It will also include forward-looking content reflecting the Federal Court's current priorities and areas of reform. In parallel, digital displays will be installed across all registries, incorporating material from the Federal Court's art collection and archival holdings to ensure that the anniversary is visible and accessible across the Federal Court's national footprint.

Another focal point of the Anniversary will be a national ceremonial sitting, to be held on 8 February 2027, marking, as close as practicable, 50 years since the Federal Court first sat on 7 February 1977. Reflecting the Federal Court's identity as a national institution, the sitting will be conducted simultaneously across all registries and livestreamed nationally, enabling participation by the profession and the broader community.



The Federal Court has approached its planning with a strong emphasis on creativity, collaboration and the effective use of existing resources. The initiatives being developed draw on the Federal Court's institutional strengths, including its people, its collections and its relationships with the profession and external partners.

Taken together, these activities are designed to ensure that the 50th Anniversary is both reflective and forward-looking. They provide an opportunity to acknowledge the Federal Court's history and the contribution of those who have shaped it, while also articulating a clear and confident vision for its future.

Preserving institutional history—Archives Alive

The unveiling of a permanent display honouring the late Professor Paul Finn represents a significant milestone in the Federal Court's Archives Alive initiative and is an expression of the Federal Court's commitment to preserving and actively engaging with its institutional history.

Paul Finn's contribution to Australian law was profound and enduring. As both a pre-eminent legal scholar and a judge of this Federal Court from 1995 to 2012, his work—particularly in the field of fiduciary obligations—has had a lasting influence on the development of Australian jurisprudence. His intellectual legacy continues to inform contemporary legal thought, and his contribution to the Federal Court's work is widely recognised.

The display brings together a collection of artefacts reflecting both his academic and judicial life. The establishment of the display has been made possible through the generous contribution of materials by Professor Suzanne Corcoran, and reflects a strong sense of custodianship shared by those connected with the Federal Court. The display is located outside the Federal Court Registry on Level 5 of the Commonwealth Law Court building in Adelaide.

This work is of particular significance as the Federal Court approaches its 50th Anniversary. By preserving and sharing the contributions of those who have shaped the Federal Court, initiatives such as Archives Alive provide an important foundation for reflection, while also informing the Federal Court's ongoing development as a national institution.



The late Hon Paul Finn 'Archives Alive' display in the Commonwealth Law Court building, South Australia

Practice and procedure

The reporting period has involved a substantial program of work directed towards the review and refinement of the Federal Court's practices and procedures, reflecting both changing expectations of court users and the increasing complexity of the environment in which the Federal Court operates.

Federal Court Amendment (2026 Measures No 1) Rules 2026

Amendments to the Federal Court Rules 2011 were made during the reporting period through the Federal Court Amendment (2026 Measures No 1) Rules 2026, which commenced on 11 June 2026.

These amendments form part of the Federal Court's ongoing program of procedural refinement and respond to issues identified through practice, consultation and the Federal Court's broader reform work, including those arising from increasing levels of litigants in person, and the evolving use of technology in proceedings.

As outlined in the Federal Court's notice to the profession dated 11 June 2026, the amendments include measures directed to improving the clarity, efficiency and operation of the Federal Court's procedures. These measures address procedural aspects of case management and the conduct of original jurisdiction and appellate proceedings, including matters associated with filing, interlocutory processes and the management of documents.

The amendments also operate in conjunction with broader reforms to practice notes and procedural guidance, forming part of a coordinated approach to ensuring that the Federal Court's procedural framework remains fit for purpose in a changing litigation environment.

New appeal rules and case management of Full Court and appellate proceedings

Among the amendments introduced by the Federal Court Amendment (2026 Measures No 1) Rules 2026 were changes to how parties must prepare appeal books and other materials in advance of appeals. The new rules are designed to streamline the process, such as by dispensing with the need for parties to prepare what was known as 'Part B' of an appeal book.

These amendments complement the revised appeals practice note **(Case Management of Full Court and Appellate Matters (APP-1))**, published on 21 July 2025, which provides updated guidance on the conduct and management of appellate proceedings.

Together, these changes are intended to support consistency in appellate practice and provide clear guidance for parties and practitioners on the preparation and conduct of appeals. It also reflects the Federal Court's ongoing focus on ensuring that appellate work is managed efficiently, taking into account the complexity and importance of proceedings determined at that level.

Use of generative artificial intelligence

Developments in generative artificial intelligence have been a significant focus for the Federal Court during the reporting period.

The increasing availability and use of these tools by litigants and practitioners presents both opportunities and risks for the administration of justice. While such technologies have the capacity to assist in the preparation of documents and the presentation of arguments, they also raise concerns about accuracy, reliability and accountability.

On 16 April 2026, the Federal Court issued practice note guidance on the use of generative artificial intelligence in proceedings **(Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence Practice Note (GPN-AI))**. This guidance emphasises that, regardless of the tools used, parties remain responsible for the content of material presented to the Federal Court. The use of artificial intelligence does not displace the obligations of practitioners or litigants to ensure the accuracy and propriety of submissions.

The Federal Court's approach to this issue has been informed by consultation and careful consideration. As with other areas of technological change, the challenge lies not in the existence of the technology, but in how it is used and the extent to which it can be relied upon.

The Federal Court recognises that developments in this area are occurring rapidly. The Judges have endorsed an approach that is measured and adaptable. Work will continue to monitor developments, consider feedback from the profession and court users, and determine whether further guidance or procedural changes are required.

National General Protections List

A significant development during the reporting period has been the permanent adoption of the National General Protections List following the successful completion of its pilot phase.

The List was established as a pilot program on 1 September 2024 to support the initial case management of proceedings filed under the general protections provisions of the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth). It was designed to provide a more structured and nationally consistent approach to the early stages of these proceedings, which often involve unrepresented parties and require careful and active case management.

During the pilot phase, the List was overseen by Justices Darryl Rangiah and Elizabeth Raper, with Judicial Registrar-led case management playing a central role in its operation. The model emphasised early intervention, including initial triaging, targeted directions hearings and timely referral to mediation.

The outcomes of the pilot demonstrate the effectiveness of this approach. As at 30 September 2025, after the end of the pilot phase, 125 proceedings had been case managed within the List. A high proportion of these proceedings were referred to mediation at an early stage, and a substantial number were resolved without the need for allocation to a docket judge for final hearing.

These results highlight the capacity of structured, Judicial Registrar-led case management to improve the efficiency and timeliness of proceedings, particularly in jurisdictions where litigants may be unrepresented and where early resolution is often achievable.

The permanent adoption of the List promotes consistency in the management of general protections proceedings across all registries and supports more effective use of judicial resources. It also reflects the Federal Court's broader focus on early intervention and active case management as key components of an efficient and accessible system of civil justice.

I acknowledge the significant contribution of Justices Rangiah and Raper, and the work of National Judicial Registrar Amelia Edwards (now a Judge of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2)) and Judicial Registrar Helen Donovan, whose leadership and commitment were central to the success of the pilot and its transition to a permanent List.

Registry leadership and organisational reform

The reporting period has seen developments in the governance and organisational capability of the Federal Court, reflecting both the scale of its workload and the increasing complexity of its operations.

A key development has been the appointment of Nicola Colbran as Deputy Principal Registrar, effective from 17 November 2025. The establishment and filling of this role represents an important strengthening of leadership within the Federal Court.



Deputy Principal Registrar Nicola Colbran

The Deputy Principal Registrar has responsibility for the management and coordination of the Federal Court's Registrar cohort and the legal staff who support them nationally. The role also supports the Chief Justice and the Chief Executive Officer and Principal Registrar in the development and implementation of strategic initiatives and in the management of the Federal Court's operational and resourcing priorities. The creation of this position reflects the growing scale of Judicial Registrar-led work and the need for greater coordination across jurisdictions and registries.

During the reporting period, the Federal Court also introduced a simplified and more consistent suite of Judicial Registrar titles. There was a comprehensive consultation process with Registrars before the Chief Justice confirmed the adoption of the revised titles. While these changes do not alter the substantive functions performed by Judicial Registrars, they provide greater clarity about roles and responsibilities of Judicial Registrars and improve understanding of the Judicial Registrar function both within the Court and externally.

A further and more substantial reform has been the realignment of Judicial Registrar work between the Federal Court of Australia and the general federal law area of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCFCOA) (Division 2). Following a formal agreement between myself and Chief Justice William Alstergren, responsibility for general federal law work undertaken by Judicial Registrars within the FCFCOA (Division 2) has been transferred to that Court. From 1 July 2026, Federal Court Judicial Registrars will now only perform work in Federal Court proceedings.

This reform has required a staged transition of functions and personnel, including the movement of a number of Judicial Registrars and staff to new reporting arrangements within the FCFCOA (Division 2). The transition was implemented progressively and was completed on 1 July 2026.

The reform represents a significant organisational change. It provides clearer delineation of responsibilities between the two courts, reduces duplication of functions, and supports more effective and autonomous operation of each institution. For the Federal Court, it ensures that Judicial Registrars are dedicated exclusively to the work of the Federal Court, strengthening its capacity to manage its caseload and support judicial functions in a more focused and efficient way.

These developments form part of a broader program of organisational refinement, ensuring that the Federal Court's structures, leadership and resources are aligned with the demands of its jurisdiction and the needs of those who engage with it.

Registry visits and stakeholder engagement

As I do each year, this year I undertook visits to each of the Federal Court's eight registries, continuing a program of regular engagement with Judges, Judicial Registrars, staff, the legal profession and the wider legal community.

These visits provide an important opportunity to meet directly with members of the Court in each registry, including individual meetings with Judges, meetings with Registrars and engagement with registry teams, chambers staff and those working in corporate and administrative roles. They also include discussions with representatives of the independent Bar and law societies in each jurisdiction, where I receive direct feedback on the operation of the Federal Court and its processes and provide important updates and reminders to the profession.

In addition to these established engagements, each year the visits incorporate a particular focus area. In 2026, that focus has been engagement with the community legal sector. Meetings with community legal organisations in each jurisdiction have been well attended and have provided valuable insight into the experience of litigants, particularly those who are vulnerable or unrepresented. We have had the opportunity to listen to the perspectives and suggestions of the community justice sector about the practical operation of Court processes, and what we might do differently.

These discussions have been informed by, and in turn have informed, the Federal Court's broader reform work, including initiatives under the Litigants in Person and Pro Bono Project. They have provided practical feedback about areas where processes are working effectively, as well as identifying opportunities for improvement.

The Federal Court has also continued its 'Inside the Courtroom' initiative, which has now been established as a national program. Coordinated this year by Justice Berna Collier, the initiative provides law students with an opportunity to attend the Federal Court, engage directly with Judges and staff, and gain insight into the work of the Federal Court and potential career pathways. The continued success of this program reflects the importance of structured engagement in building understanding of the Federal Court's role and operations.

Strengthening access and participation

In February 2026, the Federal Court formalised its participation in the Indigenous Clerkship Program through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Victorian Bar.

The program provides structured opportunities for Indigenous law students to engage with the Federal Court and the profession, supporting pathways into legal careers and contributing to greater diversity within the legal system.

The Federal Court is actively looking for further contributions it can make towards a future where the legal profession, the Federal Court itself and its Judicial Registrars and staff are appropriately representative of the communities that they serve.

International and regional engagement

The Court has maintained a significant and active program of international and regional judicial engagement during the reporting period, reflecting its ongoing commitment to judicial cooperation and support for the rule of law across the region.

In September 2025, I led a delegation to the Supreme Court of the Philippines, accompanied by Justices Stephen Burley, Sarah Derrington and Thomas Thawley, together with senior court staff providing expertise in registry operations, corporate strategy and information technology. The program included judicial exchanges, seminars and visits to regional courts, providing opportunities for the sharing of expertise across both substantive law and court administration.

This was followed by a visit to Indonesia with Justice Burley, Justice Michael O'Bryan, Justice Catherine Button and District Registrar Tim Luxton, undertaken pursuant to the Federal Court's longstanding Memorandum of Understanding with the Supreme Court of Indonesia. This partnership, now spanning more than two decades, is the Federal Court's longest standing formal international relationship and underpins engagement on issues including judicial leadership, commercial dispute resolution and institutional development.

Continuing another longstanding relationship, the Federal Court engaged with Papua New Guinea during the reporting period, including participation in the opening of the Waigani Courts Complex and events marking the 50th Anniversary of Papua New Guinea's independence. These engagements reflect the Federal Court's broader commitment to strengthening judicial relationships across the region.

A major strategic development has been the commencement of the Australia–Pacific Judicial Partnership (APJP), a four-year initiative funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The program supports judicial systems across 15 Pacific Island countries and focuses on judicial leadership, court administration, case management, digital capability and pathways for women in the judiciary.

The APJP is delivered through a combination of regional and bilateral activities, mentoring programs and targeted initiatives, and operates within a collaborative governance framework involving partner courts and key stakeholders. As part of this work, the Court partnered with the New Zealand Pacific Justice Sector Programme to co-facilitate the Chief Justices' Leadership Forum in Fiji in February, bringing together judicial leaders from across the region to consider shared challenges and opportunities. In May 2026, the Court convened a regional workshop in Papua New Guinea with judicial officers and court officials from 13 Pacific partner Courts to discuss comparative case management approaches across jurisdictions.

The Federal Court has also supported the development of the Pacific Association of Women Judicial Officers, including its inaugural Annual General Meeting and planning workshop in Fiji in February 2026. This initiative represents an important step in strengthening networks, and career and leadership opportunities for women across Pacific judiciaries.

A practical component of the Federal Court's regional work has been its commitment to supporting the digitisation of partner Pacific courts through the donation of up to 300 ex-service laptops. This initiative provides tangible assistance to courts where technological infrastructure can be a limiting factor and supports more efficient court administration and improved access to justice. It reflects the Federal Court's focus on delivering practical, outcomes-oriented support alongside broader institutional engagement.

Taken together, these initiatives demonstrate the breadth and depth of the Federal Court's international programs. They reflect a sustained commitment to engagement within the region, to the sharing of expertise and experiences, and to supporting the development of effective, independent and accessible judicial systems.



Indonesian delegation meeting



Chief Justices Leadership Forum supported by the Australia Pacific Judicial Partnership and co-facilitated by the New Zealand Pacific Justice Sector Programme. Held in Nadi, Fiji

The distinction between the Federal Court and the 'Federal Court Listed Entity'

There is a common conflation, in media and community discussion, between the Federal Court itself, as a Court created under Chapter III of the *Constitution*, and the separate federal 'agency' created to support the Federal Court, the two Courts now comprising the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Divisions 1 and 2) and the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT).

In 2016, the *Federal Court of Australia Act 1976* (Cth) was amended to provide for a level of common operational services between the three existing federal courts (aside from the High Court), and the NNTT. The Parliament did so by identifying a group of persons—who work for or across each Court and the Tribunal—as being a single 'listed entity' (for the purposes of Commonwealth finance laws) and a single 'statutory agency' (for the purposes of the *Public Service Act 1999* (Cth)). The Commonwealth exercises control over the 'agency', which to some extent reflects its control other Commonwealth statutory agencies, but there are express and implied limits and differences arising from constitutional principles. It is through this structure that a range of services needed by the Courts and the Tribunal are provided. Together these services are described as 'corporate services' and they include services such as human resources services, finance, communications, library services, information technology services, procurement, security, property and building services and risk management.

In the *Federal Court Act* (section 18ZB) the Parliament deemed that this entity should be known as 'the Federal Court of Australia'. This is where the confusion sometimes arises.

The CEO of the agency is also the CEO and Principal Registrar of the Federal Court, reflecting a closer alignment in the legislative scheme between this position and the Federal Court of Australia. Nevertheless, the CEO and Principal Registrar is responsible and accountable for the performance of all corporate services functions and is the key decision-maker for the provision of corporate services across the Courts and the Tribunal.

In contrast, the Chief Justices of the Federal Court and the FCFCOA (Division 1), the Chief Judge of the FCFCOA (Division 2) and the President of NNTT are each responsible and accountable for the administration of and the business of each of their Courts and the Tribunal. In this way, judicial independence from the other branches of government is maintained in accordance with constitutional principles.

Looking ahead

The Federal Court enters the next reporting period with a strong foundation, but also with a clear appreciation of the challenges that lie ahead.

The increasing size of the Federal Court's litigant in person cohort, the complexity of its jurisdictions, and the continuing impact of technological change will remain key features of the Federal Court's operating environment in the immediate future. Addressing these challenges will require sustained focus, careful use of resources and continued innovation in the way proceedings are managed and supported.

The work undertaken during this reporting period, particularly through the Litigants in Person and Pro Bono Project, represents a significant step towards a more structured and evidence-based approach to these issues. That work will continue to evolve, supported by improved data collection, strengthened partnerships with the profession and legal assistance sector, and the further development of early intervention and case management practices.

At the same time, the Federal Court will continue to build its institutional capability. The strengthening of registry leadership, the refinement of case management frameworks, and the continued development of judicial capability all contribute to ensuring that the Federal Court remains well positioned to meet the demands of its jurisdiction.

The Federal Court's engagement beyond its own proceedings will also remain important. Through its international and regional programs, including the APJP, the Federal Court will continue to contribute to the development of effective and accessible judicial systems and to share its experience as a national court.

Acknowledgment

I acknowledge the dedication, collegiality and professionalism of my judicial colleagues, whose commitment to the discharge of their responsibilities is fundamental to the administration of justice by our Court. I also acknowledge and thank those judicial colleagues who give so much of their time and energy, over and above their ordinary judicial workload, to the project and committee work that is essential for the Federal Court to operate, and to meet new challenges as they arise. Much of that work is invisible to those outside the Court, but it is a significant commitment which should be recognised.

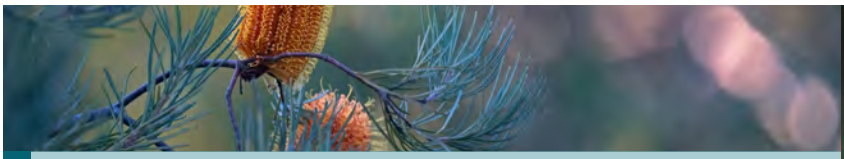
I also acknowledge the Judicial Registrars of the Federal Court, whose work in case management, mediation and in the exercise of delegated judicial powers is essential to the effective operation of the Federal Court. I particularly acknowledge the wide and demanding responsibilities of the District Registrars in each of the Federal Court's registries, and those who lead the Federal Court's specialised teams in Native Title, Migration and Crime and Related Proceedings. I also acknowledge the important work done by the Judicial Registrars and staff in the National Operations Team.

The staff who serve the Federal Court—across chambers,registries, corporate services and specialist functions—play a critical role in supporting the Federal Court's work each day. Their professionalism and commitment ensures we do our best to conduct our proceedings fairly and effectively, and that the Federal Court operates as best it can under often challenging circumstances, including challenging fiscal circumstances.

I also acknowledge and recognise the ongoing dedication of the CEO and Principal Registrar of the Federal Court, Sia Lagos, to the discharge of her responsibilities to this Court, and to the corporate services agency she leads, the Federal Court of Australia Listed Entity.

I thank the legal profession, the Law Council of Australia and the Australian Bar Association, together with all the state and territory law societies and Bar associations, for their ongoing engagement and support. My thanks also to all our colleagues in the legal academy around Australia, with whom we work in many different ways.

The Federal Court benefits from a close and cooperative working relationship with government, in particular with the Attorney-General and her Office, the Attorney-General's Department, and the Pacific Regional Branch within the Pacific Strategy Division of DFAT. I am grateful to all those in government with whom we engage.





Report from the Chief Executive Officer and Principal Registrar

Sia Lagos

The 2025–26 year was another significant one for the Federal Court, marked by the continued dedication of its judges, judicial registrars and staff in supporting the administration of justice across Australia.

The Federal Court continues to operate in an increasingly complex environment, with both the volume and complexity of its work growing. Despite these demands, the judges of the Federal Court remain committed to the timely and effective progression of proceedings. Throughout the year, the Federal Court's judicial registrars made a significant contribution through the performance of their delegated judicial functions and conducting mediations and case management work to support the efficient and timely resolution of proceedings across a broad range of proceedings. Their contribution extended beyond these responsibilities through leadership of initiatives that strengthened the Federal Court's operations and service delivery, including support for the development of practice and procedure in specialised areas of jurisdiction.

Judges and judicial registrars are supported by dedicated and exceptional Federal Court staff who contribute significantly to every aspect of the Federal Court's work and operations. During the year, I again participated in the Chief Justice's registry visits, meeting staff across the country and recognising their service through the Court's Length of Service Program. Whether supporting Judges, assisting litigants or enabling national operations, their professionalism, care and commitment remain central to the achievement of the Federal Court's objectives.

The Federal Court and the Federal Court of Australia Listed Entity continue to perform distinct but complementary functions. While the Federal Court independently exercises judicial power, the Listed Entity provides the corporate, registry and judicial support services that enable its work. As the demands on the Federal Court continue to grow, so too must the capability, systems and leadership that support it.

In this context, the Federal Court welcomed the appointment of Nicola Colbran as Deputy Principal Registrar. The creation of this role reflects the increasing scale and complexity of the Federal Court's administrative responsibilities and strengthens executive leadership to support the Chief Justice in the management of the Federal Court's affairs. Since her appointment, Ms Colbran has led important initiatives focused on professional development for Judicial Registrars and legal support staff, enhanced knowledge sharing, and the development and refinement of Judicial Registrar practice.

The benefits of the strategic work undertaken by our Corporate Services and Court & Tribunal Services divisions in recent years became increasingly evident during 2025–26. The implementation of that foundational work has sharpened organisational focus and strengthened their capacity to respond to changing demands while maintaining the high-quality delivery of core services that support the Federal Court's work.

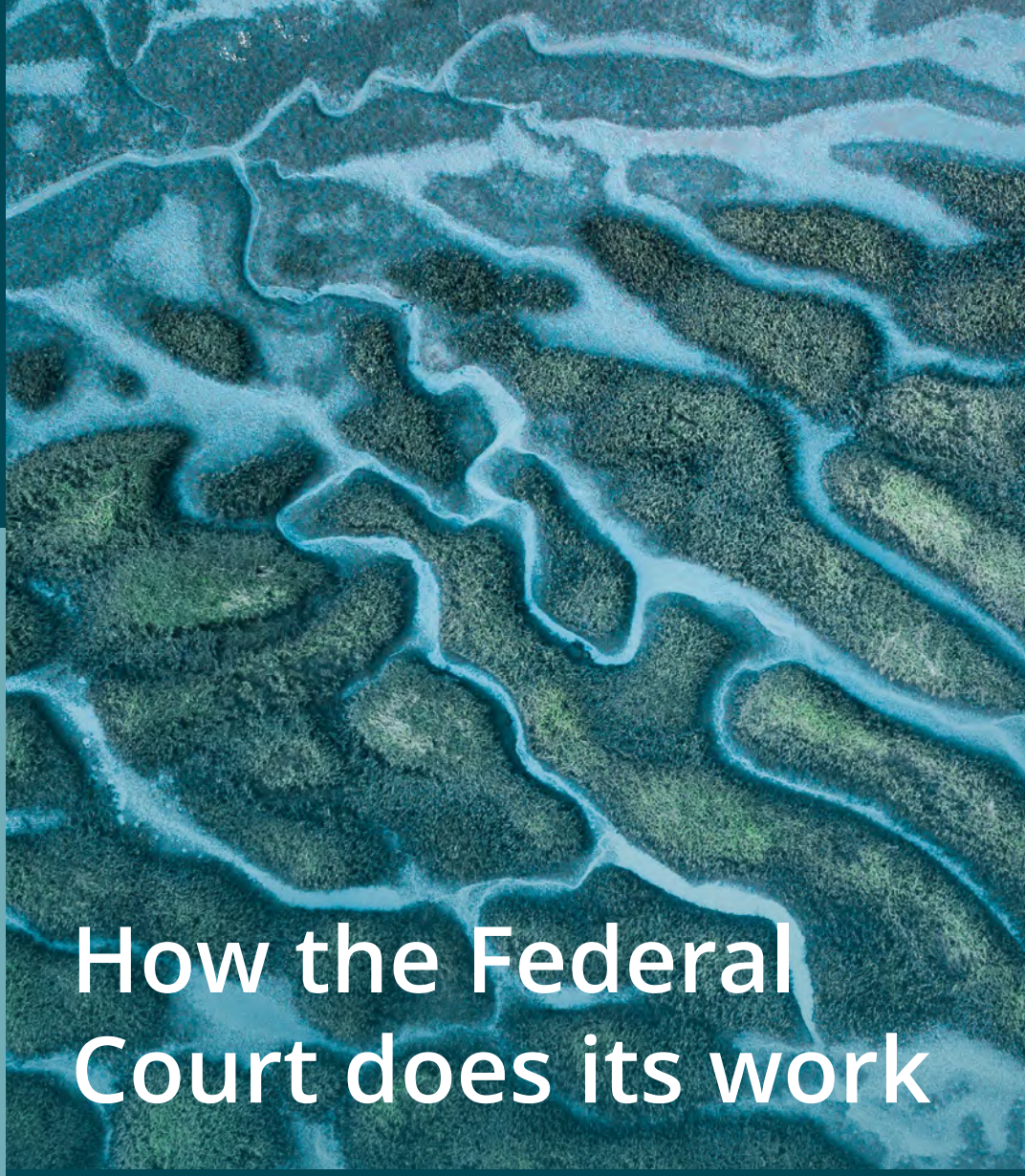
The strength of the partnership between the Federal Court, Corporate Services and Court & Tribunal Services was perhaps most evident in the response to the administration of the Federal Court's recording and transcription provider. Through the leadership and collective efforts of Judges, Judicial Registrars and staff, continuity of service was maintained while arrangements for a long-term solution were developed. This coordinated response not only ensured the uninterrupted delivery of a critical service but also created an opportunity to establish a more sustainable and resilient model for the future.

This collaborative approach was also reflected in a range of other initiatives during the year, including the securing of additional funding to support the Australian Competition Tribunal. Together, these efforts demonstrate the importance of the partnership between the Federal Court and the Listed Entity in enabling the Federal Court to respond to emerging challenges while continuing to deliver on its core functions. Further detail on these activities is provided in the Listed Entity's Annual Report for 2025–26.

My term as CEO and Principal Registrar will conclude next year. It has been a profound privilege to serve the Federal Court and the Australian community through such an important national institution. I have been fortunate to work alongside an exceptional judiciary, judicial registrars and staff whose professionalism, dedication and commitment to public service underpin the Federal Court's success each day.

I am sincerely grateful to the Chief Justice, the Judges of the Federal Court, Judicial Registrars and staff for their collaboration, support and shared commitment throughout the year, which have been fundamental to the progress and achievements of 2025–26.

PART 3



How the Federal Court does its work

This part explains how proceedings come before the Federal Court and how they are managed once commenced. It describes the systems used to organise its judicial and administrative work, and the rules and practices that guide the fair and efficient resolution of disputes.



What the Federal Court does and does not control

The Federal Court's function is to decide disputes brought before it that fall within its jurisdiction; however, it does not choose the proceedings it hears. Proceedings are commenced by parties and are driven by legislation, government decisions, economic activity, and the actions of individuals and organisations.

This distinction is important in understanding the Federal Court's work. It explains why the volume, type and complexity of proceedings vary over time, and why the Federal Court must manage its workload within constraints that are largely outside its control.

Within these constraints, the Federal Court uses established frameworks and processes to manage its judicial and administrative work, helping to ensure that disputes are resolved fairly, consistently and efficiently according to law. These arrangements support public confidence in the administration of justice by promoting accessibility, reliability and effective management of proceedings before the Federal Court.

Management of administrative affairs of the Federal Court

The National Court Framework

The National Court Framework (NCF) is the way the Federal Court organises and manages its work nationally. It brings together the National Practice Areas (NPAs), the national allocation of judicial work, national practice notes, the national duty system, and the individual docket system. These arrangements provide the structure for how proceedings are categorised, allocated, managed and progressed across the Court, and support the Federal Court's operation as a contemporary national court capable of handling significant federal law proceedings across Australia.

Why the NCF matters

The NCF matters because it enables the Federal Court to deal with a national workload in a way that is consistent, practical and responsive to the needs of each proceedings. Its key functions are to:

- organise the Federal Court's work nationally by reference to the main subject areas (NPAs) of federal law, so that proceedings are managed in the manner that reflects the nature of the dispute,
- match judicial and registrar resources to the needs of different proceedings, including by drawing on relevant expertise and responding to changes in workload across registries and practice areas,
- support the just, efficient and timely resolution of disputes by promoting consistent practice, early case management, and the effective use of the Federal Court's national resources.

The main components of the NCF are outlined in the following sections.

National Practice Areas

Under the Framework, proceedings heard by the Federal Court are categorised into nine NPAs. The NPAs provide the subject-matter structure for the Federal Court's national work. This allows the Federal Court to organise its work by reference to the main areas of federal law that come before it. Dividing the Federal Court's work in this way promotes national consistency, while preserving the flexibility needed to manage different types of proceedings according to their particular nature, urgency and complexity.

Each NPA reflects an established area of law, with some including sub-areas:

- Administrative and Constitutional Law and Human Rights (ACLHR) NPA (incl Migration (MIG))
- Admiralty and Maritime (A&M) NPA
- Commercial and Corporations (C&C) NPA which consists of six sub-areas:
  - Commercial Contracts, Banking, Finance and Insurance
  - Corporations and Corporate Insolvency
  - General and Personal Insolvency
  - Economic Regulator, Competition and Access
  - Regulator and Consumer Protection
  - Commercial Arbitration
- Employment and Industrial Relations (E&IR) NPA
- Federal Crime and Related Proceedings (CRIME) NPA
- Intellectual Property (IP) NPA which consists of three sub-areas:
  - Patents and associated Statutes
  - Trade Marks
  - Copyright and Industrial Designs
- Native Title (NT) NPA
- Taxation (TAX) NPA and
- Other Federal Jurisdiction (OFJ) NPA, which consists of one sub-area and all 'other' OFJ proceedings:
  - Defamation

This subject-matter structure is important because the Federal Court's work spans a broad range of disputes, from specialist commercial and intellectual property proceedings to migration, native title, taxation, employment, human rights and other federal law proceedings. Organising proceedings through NPAs helps court users understand where their matter fits within the Federal Court's work and assists the Federal Court to manage proceedings with the benefit of relevant judicial and registrar experience. The NPA structure is not simply a filing label. It provides a national way of grouping proceedings by subject matter, so that the Court can manage different types of federal law disputes with appropriate judicial and registrar expertise, practice guidance and oversight.

Judges are allocated to NPAs having regard to their expertise and the Federal Court's workload. This means, for example, that judges with expertise in taxation law will be assigned to hear proceedings categorised into the Taxation NPA. The high volume of some proceedings before the Federal Court, for example migration proceedings, requires the Federal Court to devote more judicial resources to determining them.

Each NPA is managed and overseen by National Coordinating Judges and National Coordinating Registrars, who are familiar with the appropriate body of legal knowledge and legal and procedural issues in the practice area. Their role supports consistency of practice, engagement with the profession and the ongoing development of the Court's work in each practice area.

In **Part 4** you can find a report from each of the National Coordinating Judges on developments in the NPAs this reporting period, breaking down the types of legal disputes falling under each NPA and engagement between the Federal Court and the legal profession in relation to them.

National allocation of judicial work

Within the NCF, the allocation of judicial work is managed nationally. This means that proceedings are allocated by reference to the needs of the proceeding and the parties, including the subject matter, urgency, location and available expertise.

When a proceeding is filed, the parties nominate the relevant NPA and, where applicable, sub-area. That nomination assists the Court but is not determinative. The Federal Court promptly reviews the proceeding and identifies the appropriate NPA by reference to its dominant character. Proceedings are then generally allocated in rotation to judges in the relevant NPA, having regard to the registry in which the matter was filed, judicial availability, workload and the character of the proceeding. The individual docket system remains central to this approach: once a proceedings is allocated, the docket judge generally manages it through to final resolution.

Some proceedings are managed through specific allocation lists or procedures that reflect their subject matter or urgency. For example, regular Judge Corporations List arrangements enable certain commercial applications to be heard quickly in the relevant location. The Federal Court also maintains regular Judicial Registrar lists for matters registrars are delegated to determine, supporting judges by directing appropriate work to judicial registrars. The role of judicial registrars is discussed further later in this Part and in subsequent Parts of this Report.

This national allocation system helps the Federal Court respond to changes in workload across registries and practice areas. It also helps ensure that proceedings are not treated as isolated registry-based proceedings, but as part of the Federal Court's national responsibility to administer justice under federal law.

It also allows proceedings of particular importance, public interest or complexity to be considered carefully for allocation to a judge with the appropriate experience and capacity to deal with the proceedings with suitable expedition.

In practical terms, this means the Federal Court can manage its judicial work as a single national institution rather than as separate registry-based lists. This matters because it supports fairer distribution of work, better use of judicial expertise and more timely management of proceedings, particularly where a proceedings is urgent, is complex or raises issues of broader significance.

The operation of the NCF is supported nationally by National Coordinating Judges and National Coordinating Registrars for each NPA, together with the Deputy Principal Registrar and Senior Judicial Registrar—Original Jurisdiction and the National Operations Team. These roles support the coherent operation of the NCF, including workload analysis, allocation and reallocation of judicial work, national judicial support and engagement with the profession on practice area issues.



National duty system

The NCF is also supported by a national duty system for urgent applications. The system provides a nationally consistent pathway for urgent proceedings to be brought before the Federal Court, whether the application arises in a new proceeding or in an existing proceeding already docketed to a judge.

The process for urgent applications is set out in the Court's Duty Practice Note. Applicants are required to provide the information the Federal Court needs to assess urgency, including by filing a Certificate of Urgency. Duty judge and duty registrar arrangements are published by the Federal Court and support access to urgent judicial attention during business hours and, where necessary, after hours.

The duty system operates across defined regions and streams, reflecting the nature of the Federal Court's urgent work. In some registries, separate General Duty and Commercial and Corporations Duty streams operate; in others, a combined duty stream applies. Judges and judicial registrars are rostered to be available to hear urgent applications or assist with their management, so that urgent proceedings can be directed promptly to the appropriate judicial or registrar officer.

Where an urgent application arises in an existing proceeding, the first point of judicial consideration will generally be the docket judge, or the judge otherwise managing the proceeding, if that is possible and appropriate. If that judge is unavailable, or if the nature of the application means another judge should hear it, the duty system provides a pathway for the matter to be considered by a rostered duty judge.

The National Duty System matters because urgent disputes can arise at short notice and may require immediate procedural directions or interim orders. A national duty system supports accessibility and consistency across registries, while enabling the Federal Court to respond promptly where the circumstances of a proceeding require it.

Region 1

New South Wales and
Australian Capital Territory
Two streams of duty:

- General Duty
- Commercial and Corporations Duty (C&C Duty)

Region 2

Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania
Two streams of duty:

- General Duty
- Commercial and Corporations Duty (C&C Duty)

Region 3

Western Australia, Southern Australia and Northern Territory
Single combined duty roster

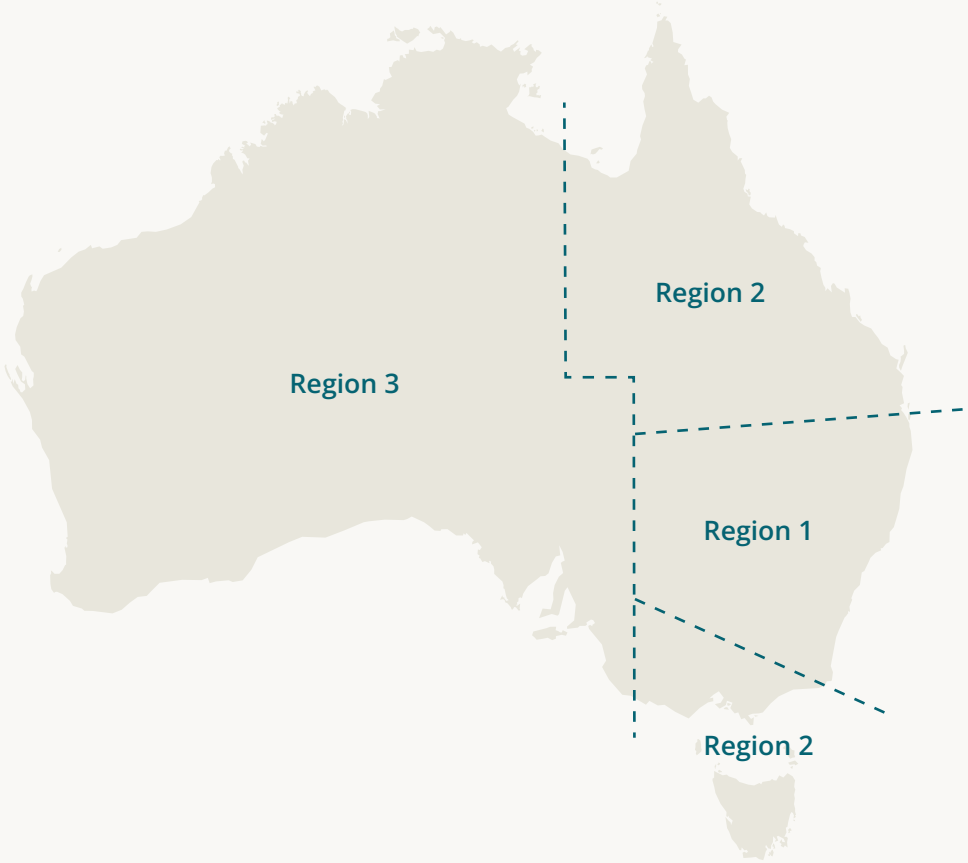


Figure 3.1: The Federal Court's National Duty System regions

Individual docket system

Proceedings are allocated under an individual docket system. A judge's 'docket' is the list of proceedings which they are responsible for managing and seeing through to resolution. Each proceedings is allocated to a judge shortly after it is filed, with the intention that it remains with that judge until a final resolution is reached. The system was adopted by the Federal Court nationally in 1997, following consultation with the legal profession and consideration of case management and listing practices in Australia and overseas. It remains an integral feature of the management of the Federal Court's work under the NCF.

The Federal Court is one of the only courts in Australia to utilise this system. The purpose of the system is to encourage the just, orderly and expeditious resolution of disputes and to make the Federal Court's processes more transparent for parties and court users.

This approach:

- provides parties with consistency by ensuring the same judge manages the proceeding throughout and develops familiarity with the facts, legal issues, and the parties,
- saves parties and the Federal Court time and money by limiting the need for multiple hearings and duplicated explanation of issues,
- promotes consistency of approach throughout the history of the proceeding,
- minimises unnecessary 'interlocutory' disputes (disputes that arise between the parties part-way through the proceeding), which are generally secondary to the overall legal issue, encouraging parties to focus on the core dispute,
- assists in identifying opportunities for early resolution, including through alternative dispute resolution (ADR) such as mediation, and
- supports earlier settlement where possible, or otherwise narrows the issues requiring hearing and determination.

This means the docket judge will generally be the one present at each 'hearing'— being the formal event at which the parties present information for the judge's consideration. A docket judge typically holds a 'case management hearing' shortly after filing to establish how the matter will progress, including to deal with timelines and procedural next steps. This gives parties an opportunity to proactively communicate with each other and with the Federal Court to resolve issues about how a proceeding should be managed, before those issues escalate.

Role of judicial registrars

Judicial registrars play an important role in supporting the Federal Court's judicial work and the efficient operation of the Federal Court, as part of the broader NCF. They exercise statutory and delegated functions in appropriate matters, including case management, mediation and other ADR processes, and certain specialist registrar lists.

Further detail on the role of judicial registrars is set out in **Part 5** of this Report, and the work of judicial registrars is addressed in **Part 4** of this Report.

Rules and practices guiding the Federal Court's resolution of proceedings

A range of legislation, rules, practice notes and practical guidelines govern the commencement and conduct of proceedings in the Federal Court, providing order, consistency and transparency for parties and court users.

Overarching purpose

The Federal Court's practices and procedures in civil proceedings are guided by an 'overarching purpose', to facilitate the just resolution of disputes according to law as quickly, inexpensively and efficiently as possible. This purpose underpins the NCF, the individual docket system, the *Federal Court Rules 2011* (Cth) (the Federal Court Rules) and the practice notes described in this Part.

This purpose is set out in sections 37M and 37N of the Federal Court Act. Parties and their legal representatives have a legally enforceable duty to cooperate with the Federal Court and among themselves to assist in achieving a resolution in a time- and cost-effective way. They must from the earliest opportunity work collaboratively and collegiately to identify the real issues that they disagree about and deal with those issues efficiently.

Federal Court Rules

The Federal Court Rules establish the procedural framework for proceedings and are publicly accessible on the Federal Register of Legislation website. They provide guidance to parties about requirements for commencing proceedings, filing documents and complying with timeframes.

The Federal Court Rules also provide the Federal Court with powers to actively manage proceedings to support efficiency and fairness. From time to time, the judges of the Federal Court decide collectively to amend the Federal Court Rules to ensure that the Federal Court's procedures are working at their best, keeping pace with contemporary changes, and are meeting the needs of court users.

When they are amended, the Federal Court aims to ensure the legal profession is kept informed.

During the reporting period, the *Federal Court Amendment (2026 Measures No. 1) Rules 2026* (Cth) were developed and came into effect on 11 June 2026.

These amendments modernise the Federal Court Rules and aid in achieving the right to a fair and timely hearing in several ways. By way of overview, they:

- regulate applications for leave to institute proceedings where a direction is in place that an application is not to be filed without the Federal Court's leave,
- make express provision for livestreaming of hearings and replace the definition of 'recording device' with 'recording tool',
- alter the process relating to appeals other than in relation to those which were instituted before the commencement of the amended rules,
- update the Federal Court Rules to reflect the provisions of the *Administrative Review Tribunal Act 2024* (Cth), and
- provide for an increase in the legal costs allowable for work done and services performed by legal representatives, consistent with the recommendations of the 18th Report of the Joint Cost Advisory Committee, effectively increasing the costs recoverable by a successful party.

For more information on the update, refer to the Federal Court Rules.

Practice notes

Practice notes provide additional guidance to parties about how proceedings are to be managed. They are published on the Federal Court's website, and fall into four categories:

- **The Central Practice Note** is the core practice note for all court users to be aware of, which addresses overarching principles applicable to all proceedings brought before the Federal Court. One of its main aims is to ensure that the way the Federal Court manages proceedings is not rigid, but flexible and adaptable to the circumstances of a particular proceedings—with parties and lawyers being encouraged and expected to take a commonsense and cooperative approach to reduce time and cost.
- **NPA Practice Notes**, details practice area-specific proceedings management principles. Because each NPA deals with a unique area of law, involving different kinds of parties with different kinds of interests, these practice notes serve to meet their unique needs—for example, allowing for expedited or simplified processes for hearings and for preparing written materials to argue a proceeding. The Federal Court allows for flexibility by permitting, where appropriate, parties to adopt procedures set out in one NPA Practice Note for a proceedings in another NPA.

- **General Practice Notes** apply across different areas of law and types of proceedings. Each of them relates to a specific topic, for example **Working with interpreters (GPN-INTERP)**, or **eBooks (GPN-eBOOKS)**, which informs parties how to prepare digital materials to provide to the Federal Court (such as court books which compile all the evidence the parties rely upon).
- **Appeals Practice Notes** provide guidance specific to preparing proceedings in the appellate jurisdiction.

Practice notes promote consistency while allowing flexibility to respond to the needs of individual proceedings. Some substantive changes made to practice notes during the reporting year are discussed in **Part 4** of this Report. The Federal Court also publishes guidelines and other information on its website to help court users understand its practices, procedures and requirements.

Judicial governance and administration

This section explains how the Federal Court's judges contribute to the institutional arrangements that support the Federal Court's judicial work. While the preceding sections describe the frameworks that govern how proceedings are heard and determined, this section focuses on the governance and administrative structures that help the Federal Court operate effectively, consistently and sustainably. These arrangements matter because they support judicial independence, strengthen institutional decision-making, and assist the Federal Court to respond to changing demands while continuing to deliver fair, timely and accessible justice.

Judicial committees

Judicial committees and their responsibilities, comprising judges and Federal Court staff representatives, make an important contribution to institutional decision-making. An overarching Operations and Finance Forum provides advice to the Chief Justice on the management of the Federal Court's finances and budget. Other committees support the management of key administrative areas, including judicial education and wellbeing, court security, media engagement, digital practice, international cooperation, library and archival services, remuneration, workplace conduct, judgment publication and the development of the Federal Court Rules.

Committee responsibilities

The Federal Court's judicial committees support the Chief Justice and the Federal Court by providing advice, oversight and recommendations across key areas of administration, judicial support and court operations. Their responsibilities include:

Digital practice—engaging with judges and registrars and making recommendations on issues, opportunities and risks associated with the Federal Court's use of technology as part of its digital practice.

International cooperation—assisting the Chair in overseeing international programs conducted by the staff of the Federal Court's International Programs Unit.

Judicial education—designing and delivering judicial education programs to assist the Chief Justice in ensuring that arrangements are in place to provide judges with appropriate access to continuing judicial education.

Judgment publication and style guide—considering issues relating to the Federal Court's style guide for the publication of judgments as they arise.

Judicial wellbeing—developing initiatives to optimise the health and longevity of judges, with an emphasis on mental clarity in the performance of judicial work.

Judicial workplace conduct—recommending and coordinating education and programs for judges in relation to their workplace responsibilities.

Library and archives—reviewing library services and supporting the maintenance and preservation of archival records for the Federal Court.

Operations and finance—providing advice to the Chief Justice on the management of the Federal Court's finances and budget.

Media — providing practical guidance and advice to the Chief Justice, judges and staff on supporting media reporting on the Federal Court to promote open and accessible justice, and on other media-related matters.

Social media—considering and making recommendations on issues, opportunities and risks associated with the Federal Court's use of social media, and promoting awareness of its benefits within the judiciary to support high-quality, informed and appropriate content.

Remuneration—assisting in the discharge of the Federal Court's institutional function by seeking to ensure that judges and their staff are properly remunerated.

Rules—reviewing, amending and updating the Federal Court Rules to take account of legislative changes and identifying areas for improvement through case law and feedback.

Project groups

Project groups provide a more flexible mechanism for addressing issues that do not require the establishment of an ongoing committee. Unlike standing committees, which support continuing areas of court administration and judicial governance, project groups are generally formed to respond to matters that are evolving, time-limited or require focused consideration at a particular point in time. They allow the Chief Justice and judges to draw on the specialised skills and knowledge of judges, registrars and staff to examine specific issues, develop new approaches to case management or Federal Court processes, and progress work in areas such as information technology, library management and data collection. Project groups are often formed following discussion at judges' conferences and may report back to judges for further consideration, decision or endorsement.

Judges' conferences

Judges' conferences provide a forum for discussion and decision-making on matters affecting the Federal Court's operation and development. They enable judges to consider emerging issues, share experience and contribute collectively to the Court's future direction. They also provide an important point of connection between the Federal Court's committees, project groups and the judges of the Federal Court: committees and project groups report back on their work, and judges consider, discuss and make relevant decisions about proposals, recommendations and initiatives that require collective judicial input or endorsement.

In the reporting year, an online conference took place on 26 November 2025 and an in-person conference took place from 30 March to 1 April 2026. One of the topics considered and determined by the judges was the Federal Court's approach to the use of artificial intelligence by the legal profession and the judiciary. Those discussions contributed to the finalisation of the Federal Court's new Practice Notice, **Use of generative artificial intelligence (GPN-AI)**, described in **Part 4**.

From 4 to 5 November 2025, the Federal Court held a Recently Appointed Judges Workshop, bringing together many judges appointed within the previous three years. The workshop supported newer judges in managing workload demands and provided a peer-to-peer forum for gaining insights from more senior colleagues on workload management, judicial practice and the experience of judicial office.

Participation in committees, conferences and project groups is one way that judges contribute to the administration of justice at an institutional level. Through these arrangements, innovations can be carefully designed, collectively considered and endorsed by judges, implemented by the Court and evaluated over time. An example is the Litigants in Person Practice Note described in **Part 4**.

Together, these arrangements show how the Federal Court supports the effective administration of justice beyond the hearing and determination of individual proceedings. They provide practical mechanisms for considering emerging issues, coordinating institutional responses and improving the way the Federal Court works. This benefits the legal profession by promoting clearer procedures, more consistent practices and better engagement with developments affecting litigation. It also benefits the broader community by supporting a Federal Court that is accessible, responsive and able to deliver the fair, consistent and timely resolution of proceedings within its jurisdiction.

PART 4



The work of the Federal Court in practice

In this part, the Report explains the work of the Federal Court by bringing together high-level data about the Court's workload, detailed reporting on the nine National Practice Areas (NPAs) and information about the work undertaken by judges and judicial registrars. In doing so, it moves beyond a statistical record to give a clearer account of the scale, complexity and diversity of the Federal Court's work. That context is essential to understanding the factors that influence filings and timeliness, and the way the Court manages its responsibilities within and beyond its direct control.



The Federal Court's work in 2025–26

During 2025–26, the Federal Court managed a larger and more varied national caseload. Filings increased by 9 per cent compared with the previous reporting period, while finalisations increased by 15 per cent. As filings continued to exceed finalisations, current proceedings increased by 11 per cent. The changes were not uniform, with different patterns across NPAs and registries.

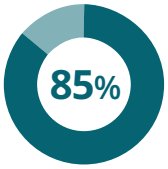
These figures need to be read in context. Each proceeding before the Federal Court is unique and may vary significantly in its factual and evidentiary matrix, and in the legal issues requiring determination. Differences in volume, distribution and complexity, as well as the extent of party representation and familiarity with the Federal Court's practices and procedures, can affect listing practices, hearing time, judgment preparation and the allocation of judicial, registrar and registry resources.

In reporting on the Federal Court's business, it is generally convenient to organise the caseload into three categories:

- original jurisdiction proceedings,
- appellate proceedings, and
- registrar proceedings.

The workload statistics in the later NPA reports focus on original jurisdiction and appellate proceedings, being the proceedings allocated to judges.

The statistics indicate that in 2025–26 the Federal Court continues to perform at a high standard against its time goals:



the Court set a time goal of 85 per cent of proceedings are to be disposed of within 18 months from commencement: in 2025–26, 85 per cent of proceedings were completed within 18 months of commencement; and

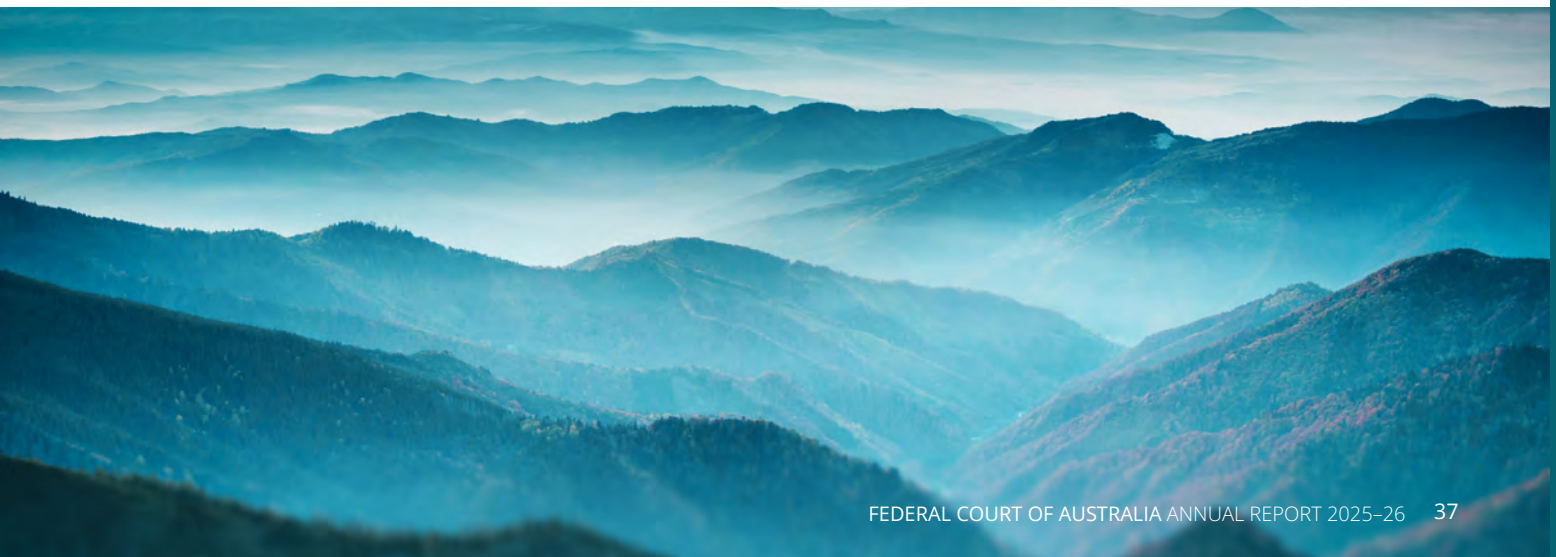


the Court set the period of three months as the goal within which reserved judgments will be delivered: in 2025–26, 81 per cent of judgments were delivered in less than three months from the date of being reserved. The degree to which the Court can meet this goal depends on the complexity of proceedings and the pressure of other business upon the Court.

However, high-level quantitative data provides limited insight into the Federal Court's work[1]. Proceedings vary in factual and legal complexity, and the resources required for their just resolution, including judicial time, depend on their circumstances. They are therefore not necessarily comparable, even within the same practice area[2].

[1] See Chief Justice James Allsop, 'Courts as (Living) Institutions and Workplaces' (2019) 93(5) Australian Law Journal 375.

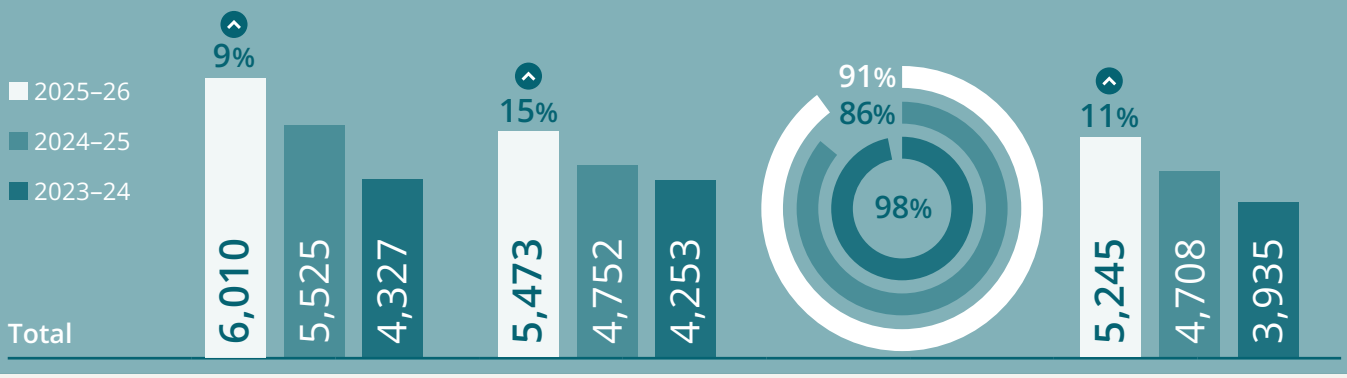
[2] For example, on 21 February 2025, a judge delivered a 1,750-paragraph judgment in a shareholder class action heard over 24 days and involving expert evidence from multiple disciplines: *Davis v Wilson* [2025] FCA 108. On these statistics, that proceeding counts as one filing, one finalisation and one judgment, as would a comparatively straightforward corporations application resolved at one hearing by an '*ex tempore*' judgment.



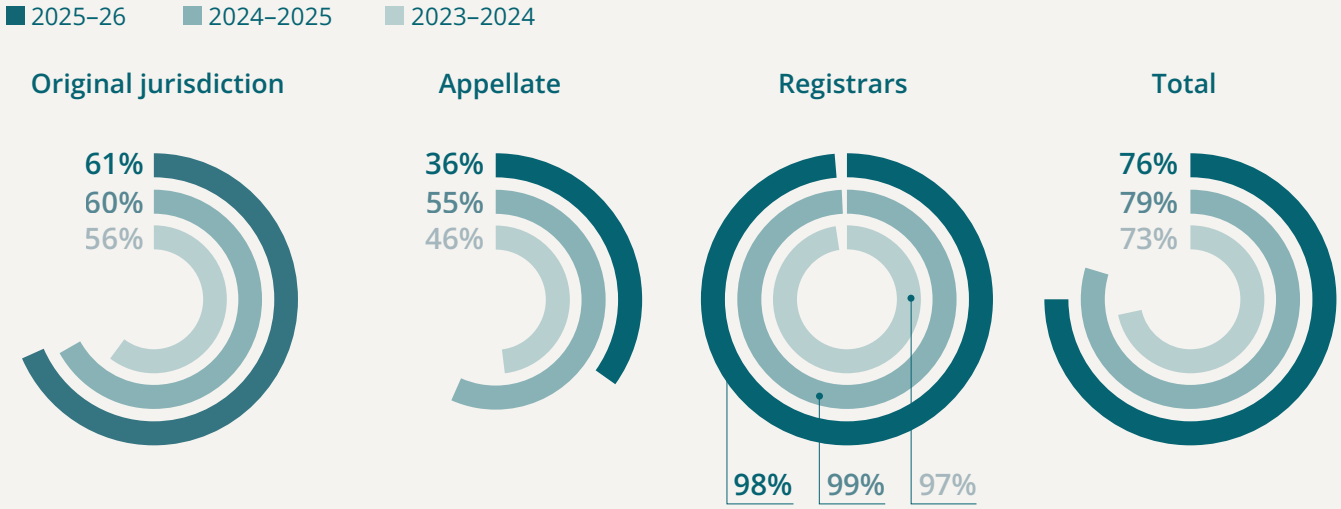
Statistical overview

Caseload of the Federal Court

	FILINGS		FINALISATIONS		FINALISATION RATE		CURRENT PROCEEDINGS	
Original jurisdiction	2025–26 **2,240**		2025–26 **1,908**		2025–26 **85%**		2025–26 **3,173**	
	2,069 2024–25	1,787 2023–24	1,822 2024–25	1,794 2023–24	88% 2024–25	100% 2023–24	2,841 2024–25	2,594 2023–24
Appellate	2025–26 **860**		2025–26 **778**		2025–26 **90%**		2025–26 **1,090**	
	705 2024–25	568 2023–24	497 2024–25	575 2023–24	70% 2024–25	101% 2023–24	1,008 2024–25	800 2023–24
Registrars	2025–26 **2,910**		2025–26 **2,787**		2025–26 **96%**		2025–26 **982**	
	2,751 2024–25	1,972 2023–24	2,433 2024–25	1,884 2023–24	88% 2024–25	96% 2023–24	859 2024–25	541 2023–24
Total								



Time to finalisation: percentage of proceedings finalised within 12 months of filing



Judgment delivery

Number of single judge judgments

1,814 2025–26

1,549 2024–25 | 1,645 2023–24

Number of Full Court judgments

202 2025–26

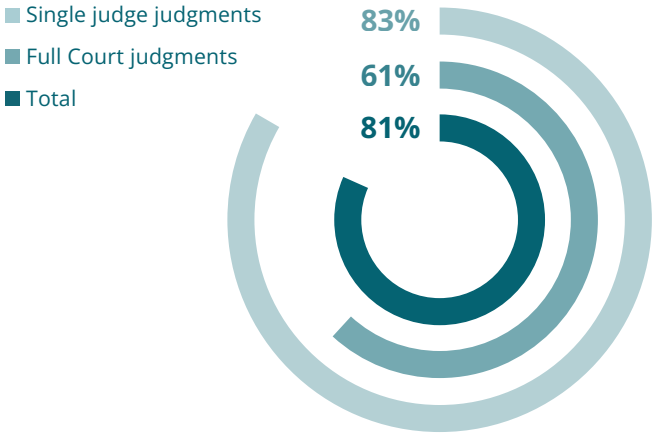
171 2024–25 | 190 2023–24

Total

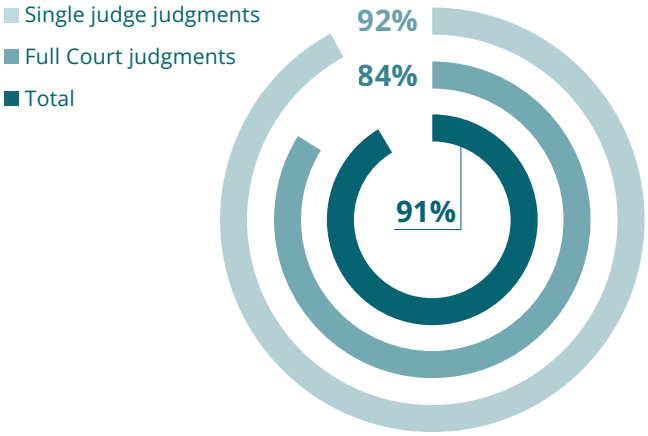
2,016 2025–26

1,720 2024–25 | 1,835 2023–24

Percentage of judgments delivered within 3 months



Percentage of judgments delivered within 6 months



Explanatory notes

In this part of the report:

1. Data reflect the Federal Court's records at a point in time. Records will sometimes change according to the Federal Court's processes and reflecting the nature of litigation (such as 'finalised' proceedings being reopened). Data may not always align with previous annual reports or future reports, as they were generated by the Federal Court's case management system in early July 2026.
2. 'Original jurisdiction' proceedings generally include all proceedings heard and determined by a single judge in the Federal Court's original jurisdiction.
3. 'Appellate' proceedings generally include all proceedings heard and determined by a Full Court in the Federal Court's appellate jurisdiction, or a single judge sitting in the appellate jurisdiction[1]. Occasionally, a Full Court will determine a matter in the original jurisdiction[2]. These Full Court cases are counted as 'appellate', notwithstanding it is not the correct legal characterisation.
4. The finalisation rate (or 'clearance rate') is a measure for understanding if a court is finalising proceedings at the rate that new proceedings are filed.
5. 'Judgments' refer to written reasons for decisions published by the Federal Court. 'Judgments' do not include reasons for decision given *ex tempore* ('on the spot'), unless those reasons are transcribed, settled by the judge, certified by chambers staff, and published in written form. Judges often deliver ex tempore reasons on procedural issues, evidentiary rulings, applications for costs, and where an urgent decision is required or an application is not contested. In the interests of efficiency and economy, these reasons are recorded on transcript and not published, and so are not counted in the Federal Court's statistics.

[1] See, eg, Federal Court Act section 25(1AA).
[2] See, eg, Federal Court Act section 20(1A).

Judicial work across all NPAs

Before turning to work within individual NPAs this section highlights Federal Court-wide initiatives that support the effective management and delivery of the Federal Court's jurisdiction. Priorities such as access to justice, technology, case management and consistency of practice extend across all practice areas, requiring judges to contribute collectively to reforms and guidance that strengthen the administration of the Federal Court as a whole.

This cross-practice work includes the Federal Court's management of class actions, as well as the development of three new General Practice Notes and one new NPA sub-area Practice Note, and revisions to several existing practice notes. For more about practice notes generally, see **Part 3**.

New practice notes

- **Litigants in Person (GPN-LIP)** (5 March 2026): This practice note explains, in plain language, the responsibilities of litigants in person, the scope and limitations of the Federal Court's role, and where to access information and support to navigate Federal Court procedures. It serves an important function improving accessibility for litigants in person, who are increasingly involved in proceedings before the Federal Court, with translated copies on the Federal Court's website (https://www.fedcourt.gov.au/law-and-practice/practice-documents/practice-notes/gpn-lip) in the more commonly spoken non-English languages of litigants in the Court: Mandarin, Punjabi, Malay, Tamil, Urdu, Vietnamese, Arabic and Persian. Every litigant in person is provided with the practice note and are required to confirm they have read it.
- **Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GPN-AI)** (16 April 2026): This practice note sets out the Federal Court's expectations regarding the use of 'generative artificial intelligence' in connection with proceedings, following extensive consultation with the community and profession. It balances recognition for both potential benefits for efficiency, cost reduction and access to justice, and potential risks arising from use of generative artificial intelligence, emphasising parties' responsibility to comply with legal and professional obligations.
- **Livestreaming Practice Note (GPN-LS)** (12 June 2026): This provides guidance to practitioners, parties, media organisations and other court users on the livestreaming of hearings in the Federal Court. It explains the circumstances in which livestreaming may occur and the discretionary approach taken by judges when determining whether it is appropriate for a given proceedings, or part of a proceedings, to be livestreamed, including how concerns or objections may be raised.
- **Intellectual Property Practice Note–Standard Directions for Australian Patent Proceedings (IP-2)** (8 August 2025): This practice note implements a nationally consistent approach to managing patent proceedings through the use of standard directions and streamlined expert evidence. It is intended to support early resolution of issues, promote efficiency and assist in managing complex proceedings.

Revised practice notes

- **Case management of Full Court and Appellate Matters (APP-1)** (21 July 2025): Updated to clarify procedures for managing proceedings before the Full Court, which, as described in **Part 3**, includes appellate but also original jurisdiction proceedings.
- **eBooks Practice Note (GPN-eBOOKS)** (1 December 2025): Updated to require more detailed indexing and bookmarking of documents within electronic bundles of documents, reducing handling time for the Federal Court and parties.
- **Content of Appeal Books and Preparation for Hearing (APP-2)** (1 December 2025): Updated to provide additional guidance on referencing evidence in submissions.
- **Employment and Industrial Relations Practice Note (E&IR-1)** (18 March 2026): Updated to reflect the incorporation of the National General Protections List into standard Federal Court practice, as discussed in the following Employment NPA report.

These new and revised practice notes provide parties with clear expectations and procedural guidance. They ensure the Federal Court can keep pace with contemporary pressures and trends by constructively adapting to emerging technologies in litigation practices.

Class Actions in the Federal Court

Representative proceedings, commonly known as class actions, are brought under Part IVA of the *Federal Court of Australia Act 1976* (Cth) and are an important part of the Federal Court's work across many of the NPAS. Their management is guided by the Court's **Class Actions Practice Note (GPN-CA)**.

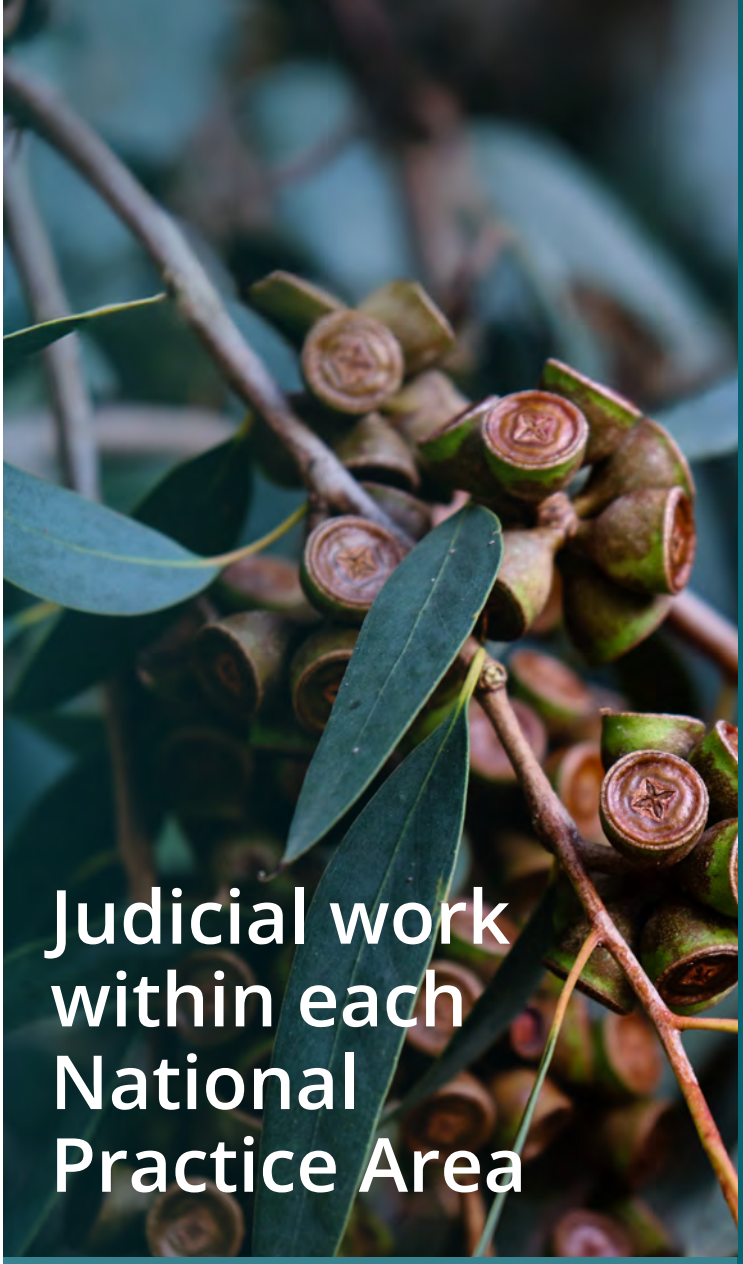
Class actions enable claims raising common issues of law or fact to be determined together, providing an effective means of resolving disputes that may affect large numbers of people. This promotes access to justice, avoids the duplication of individual proceedings and supports the consistent determination of common issues.

The Federal Court manages class actions within the NCF and allocates them to judges with relevant subject-matter and class action expertise.

Tailored case management is used to identify the issues in dispute at an early stage, address the particular needs of each proceeding and limit unnecessary interlocutory disputes.

This supports the fair, efficient and timely resolution of proceedings that are often large, complex and of significant public and commercial importance.

Together, these arrangements ensure that class actions are managed in a way that promotes access to justice and the effective use of the Federal Court's resources.



Judicial work within each National Practice Area

The following part of the Annual Report presents the reports prepared by the National Coordinating Judges and National Coordinating Registrars for each NPA. These reports explain why the work matters, the types of proceedings that come before the Federal Court and how that work is managed. They also provide statistical overviews, highlight key characteristics and procedural developments, identify factors shaping the Federal Court's work, and consider what may lie ahead in each practice area.

Administrative and Constitutional Law and Human Rights

Why this work matters

Administrative law, constitutional law and human rights (ACLHR) are all central to the rule of law in Australia. Proceedings filed in these areas are a significant part of the Federal Court's jurisdiction and often involve issues of public importance. The Federal Court's work in these areas ensures there are checks on government power and decision-making, as well as ensuring there are human rights protections for individuals and groups who face discrimination.

The foundation of the rule of law is that no one is above the law. Administrative law puts this into practice by ensuring that the government and its agencies are accountable for their decisions and that people can seek review of these decisions. In administrative law, the Federal Court is looking at whether government action and decision-making have been undertaken in accordance with the law and through fair process, rather than making or replacing a decision for government. Migration law is a sub-area within administrative law that is dealt with separately.

The Federal Court's constitutional law work focuses on deciding issues arising under the *Australian Constitution*, which is the core legal document that governs how Australia is run, including the different ways that public power is shared in Australia. The Federal Court's work in this area includes interpretation of the *Australian Constitution*.

The Federal Court's human rights work concerns laws that make it unlawful to discriminate against someone on grounds such as their sex, disability, race or age. The Federal Court may decide that a person or organisation who has engaged in discrimination must take certain actions to fix the discrimination and may decide that compensation needs to be paid to the person due to the discrimination they have experienced.

National Coordinating Judges



Justice Stewart



Justice Kennett

Judges aligned with the NPA under the NCF

	Justice Perram	Justice Burley	Justice Raper	
	Justice Wigney	Justice Lee	Justice Kennett +	Justice Owens
	Justice Perry	Justice Thawley	Justice Jackman	Justice Stellios
	Justice Markovic	Justice Stewart +	Justice Shariff	Justice Younan
NSW & ACT	Justice Bromwich	Justice Abraham	Justice Needham	Justice Lenehan
	Justice Murphy	Justice Snaden	Justice Hespe	
	Justice Beach	Justice Anderson	Justice Button	Justice Dowling
	Justice Moshinsky	Justice McElwaine	Justice Horan	Justice Bennett
VIC & TAS	Justice Wheelahan	Justice McEvoy	Justice Neskovcin	Justice Hill
	Justice Collier	Justice Sarah C Derrington		
QLD	Justice Rangiah	Justice Meagher	Justice Longbottom	Justice Wheatley
SA & NT	Justice Charlesworth	Justice O'Sullivan	Justice McDonald	
	Justice Banks-Smith	Justice Jackson		
WA	Justice Colvin	Justice Feutrill	Justice Vandongen	

National Coordinating Registrars: Claire Hammerton Cole, Ann Daniel, Renee Krikorian

(+) indicates the National Coordinating Judge (NCJ). This applies to all of the NPA tables in each of the NPA reports in this Annual Report.

ACLHR workload snapshot:
Original jurisdiction and appellate proceedings



FILINGS
329 up 23% from last year

FINALISATIONS
260 up 13% from last year

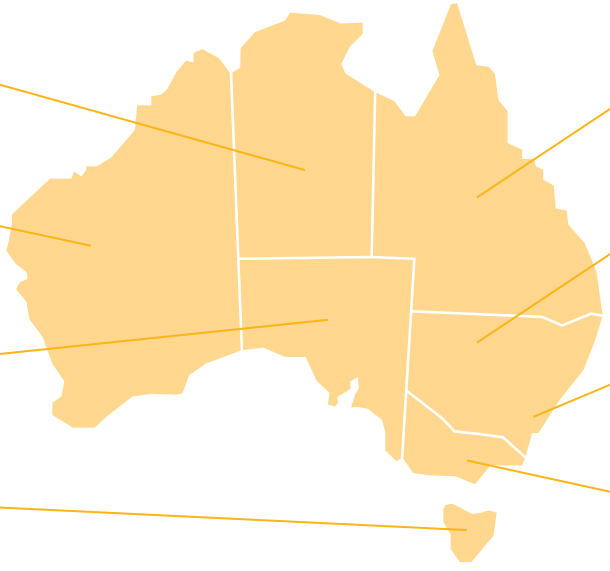
CURRENT PROCEEDINGS
356 up 24% from last year

Finalisation rate
79%

Total judgments delivered
238 up 34% from last year

Total judgments delivered within 6 months
209 up 24% from last year

Filings by state and territory



Northern Territory
2
2024–25 | 2

Western Australia
37
2024–25 | 27

South Australia
19
2024–25 | 15

Tasmania
2
2024–25 | 4

Queensland
57
2024–25 | 2

New South Wales
136
2024–25 | 27

Australian Capital Territory
7
2024–25 | 15

Victoria
69
2024–25 | 4

(*) Explanatory note: There were four additional proceedings filed in the 2025–26 reporting period which were managed by judicial registrars. These have not been included in these figures, as these figures relate to judge original jurisdiction and appellate proceedings.

What kinds of proceedings come before the Federal Court

The Federal Court's ACLHR NPA is diverse. The proceedings range from reviews of ministerial decisions about environmental protection, to questions about the way elections are run, to racial discrimination and its interplay with freedom of political communication.

In 2025–26, filings in the ACLHR practice area (excluding migration proceedings) rose by 23 per cent, which was largely driven by a significant increase in the number of litigants in person commencing ACLHR claims. Almost all the ACLHR proceedings filed in the Federal Court in 2025–26 were within the sub-areas of administrative law and human rights, with constitutional law proceedings making up only a small percentage of the Federal Court's ACLHR work.

Administrative law proceedings continue to be a major portion of the Federal Court's work in the ACLHR practice area. However, 2025–26 saw a record number of human rights proceedings filed in the Federal Court, which now matches the volume of administrative law proceedings. The greatest increase in human rights claims was disability discrimination claims, in which the Federal Court received nearly 5 times the number of filings in 2025–26 compared to the 2024–25 reporting period. Sex discrimination, including sexual harassment claims, made up a large number of the ACLHR filings; however, in the 2025–26 period, disability discrimination filings become the largest overall portion of human rights claims in the Federal Court.

Examples of proceedings that the Federal Court hears in the ACLHR practice area are:

- **Administrative law**
  Appeals on questions of law from the Administrative Review Tribunal (ART) concerning the National Disability Insurance Scheme and social security entitlements; judicial review of decisions under environmental legislation, Aboriginal land rights and heritage legislation, pharmaceutical benefits scheme and civil aviation safety regulations; judicial review of decisions concerning freedom of information and privacy legislation; judicial review of administrative decisions made by judicial registrars in relation to the filing of documents.
- **Human rights**
  Sexual harassment in the workplace, disability discrimination claims on behalf of minors in the education system, racial abuse in the workplace, discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, disability discrimination regarding access to public spaces, class actions concerning racial discrimination against First Nations peoples, age discrimination regarding termination of employment.
- **Constitutional law**
  Acquisition of property on just terms, passports and separation of powers, constitutional validity of statutory provisions, implied freedom of political communication.



Justice Kennett presenting on the 'Limits of State Power and Judicial Power' at the University of New South Wales Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law's Constitutional Law Conference, Sydney, on 6 February 2026

There were several significant judgments published in the ACLHR practice area in 2025–26, including some that attracted widespread public attention.

These included the Full Court's decision in *Giggle for Girls Pty Ltd v Tickle* [2026] FCAFC 64, in which the Federal Court provided clarity on the meaning of 'gender identity' and held that transgender woman Roxanne Tickle had been directly discriminated against on the basis of her gender identity in relation to access to the Giggle App. In *Wertheim v Haddad* [2025] FCA 720, the Court determined that an Islamic preacher had racially vilified Jewish people in Australia under the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* in a series of lectures he had given and ordered that publication of the lectures be removed.

In administrative law, the Full Court's decision in *Brett Cattle Company Pty Ltd v Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry* [2026] FCAFC 63 upheld an earlier decision of this Court regarding the setting of quotas in relation to the widely-publicised and controversial export of beef livestock to Indonesia. In *Friends of Nyah Vinifera Park Inc v Minister for Environment and Water* [2026] FCA 584, the Federal Court determined that no legal errors were made by the Minister for Environment and Water in approving a project in the Murray River floodplains that would result in the destruction of the habitat of a threatened species.

How this work is managed

When ACLHR applications are filed in the Federal Court, they are allocated in rotation to a judge in the ACLHR practice area. Judges are allocated to this practice area based on subject-matter experience, workload balance and the fair distribution of proceedings across the Federal Court.

Under the Federal Court's individual docket system, the role of the judge is to case manage the proceeding from start to finish. This includes ensuring there is clarity at the outset as to what the proceeding is about, considering whether mediation could assist in resolving the proceeding, making decisions on smaller disputes that arise within the bigger dispute, timetabling procedural steps such as evidence being filed, hearing the trial, and issuing a final judgment in the proceeding.

For human rights claims, it is very common for proceedings to be referred to a judicial registrar for mediation to see whether the proceedings can be resolved by agreement between the parties. If parties attend a mediation, they have an obligation to the Federal Court to cooperate with the mediator and try to resolve the proceedings by agreement. Due to the more limited nature of administrative and constitutional law proceedings, it is unusual for these proceedings to be referred to mediation, although it is still possible for these proceedings to settle by agreement between the parties.

In ACLHR proceedings involving litigants in person, judicial registrars will often assist judges through active case management, conferences with parties and determining interlocutory processes.

Migration matters within ACLHR

Migration Liaison Judges	Justice Horan	Justice McDonald
Judges aligned with the NPA under the NCF	All judges	
National Coordinating Registrar	Simon Haag	

Why this work matters

Australian migration law concerns the regulation of people who are not Australian citizens in relation to whether they can enter and remain in Australia. The two key sources of Australian migration law are the *Migration Act 1958* (Cth) and the *Migration Regulations 1994* (Cth).

The Federal Court has both original and appellate jurisdiction to hear and determine migration proceedings. These form a sub-area of the Federal Court's ACLHR practice area, which is reflective of the distinctive characteristics of migration proceedings and the high volume.

The Federal Court's jurisdiction is very limited in migration proceedings, as the Federal Court does not have the power decide if a visa should be granted or cancelled. The Federal Court can only consider whether a legal mistake has been made by the decision-maker and decide whether there has been a 'jurisdictional error' (for example, the decision-maker identified a wrong issue or incorrectly interpreted or applied the law).

MIG workload snapshot: Original jurisdiction and appellate proceedings

FILINGS

829 up **9%** from last year

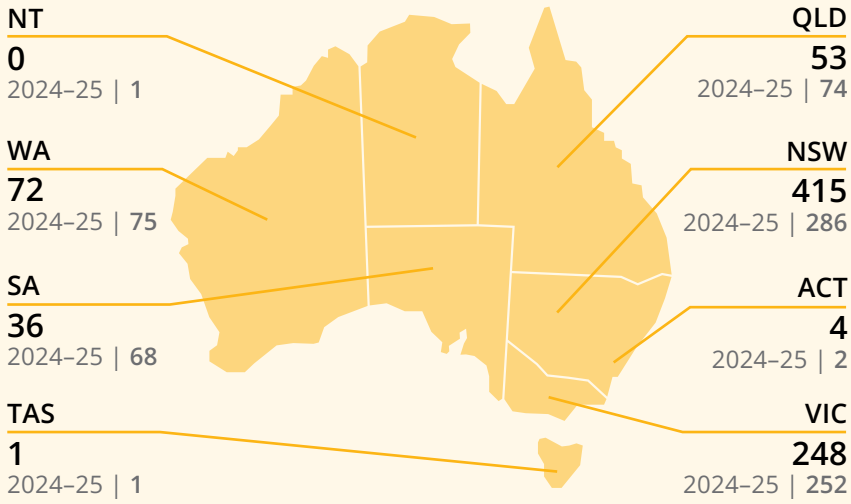
FINALISATIONS

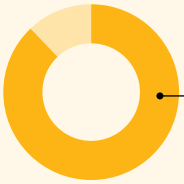
740 up **73%** from last year

CURRENT PROCEEDINGS

1,187 up **8%** from last year

Filings by state and territory





89% Finalisation rate

392 Judgments delivered

up **44%** from last year

6 Judgments delivered in 6 months

364 up **47%** from last year

What kinds of proceedings come before the Federal Court

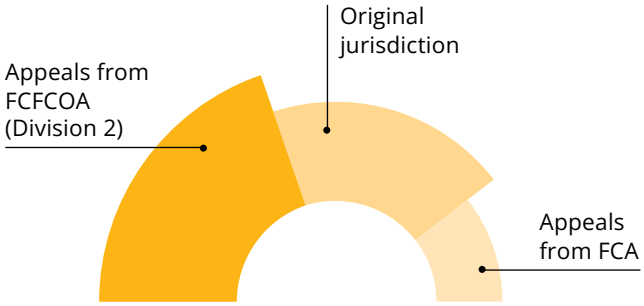
In 2025–26, 63 per cent of all appellate filings were migration proceedings, while 13 per cent of all judge (as opposed to judicial registrar) original jurisdiction filings were migration proceedings.

In the appellate jurisdiction of the Federal Court, these proceedings involve:

- appeals and applications for leave to appeal or extensions of time to appeal from decisions of the FCFCOA (Division 2) (which are usually heard by a single judge), and
- appeals from decisions of the Federal Court in original jurisdiction migration proceedings (which are heard by a Full Court).

Most migration appeals involve judicial review of decisions of the FCFCOA (Division 2), and the volume flows from that Court's output. Typically, only 10–12 per cent of migration appeals are from decisions of judges of the Federal Court.

Migration filings



In 2025–26, migration proceedings filed in the original jurisdiction of the Federal Court involved:

- Judicial review of decisions of the ART or the Minister to refuse or cancel a visa on character grounds or relating to the removal of non-citizens sentenced for 12 months or more for a criminal offence.
- Requests for a writ of habeas corpus (i.e. seeking release from immigration detention).

- Challenges to the Third Country Reception Arrangement entered into by the Australian Government with the Government of Nauru to facilitate the removal from Australia to Nauru of non-citizens affected by the High Court decision in *NZYQ v Minister for Immigration Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs & Anor.* Applicants in these proceedings are also seeking to prevent their removal from Australia.
- Claims for negligence and damages relating to treatment in immigration detention or in relation to Bridging Visa R conditions following the High Court decisions in *NZYQ, YBFZ v Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs & Anor* and, most recently, *EGH19 v Commonwealth of Australia*. Occasionally, these claims are referred by the judge to mediation before a registrar.
- Claims relating to ministerial intervention (e.g. where applicants are seeking orders for their request for the Minister to intervene and grant them a visa be referred to the Minister).

The nature of proceedings filed in the original jurisdiction (i.e. often challenging visa cancellation, refusal or seeking to prevent removal) means that most applicants are in detention or incarcerated at the time of filing (approximately 67 per cent). This provides a challenge to the way in which these proceedings are managed in terms of urgency and practicality.

How this work is managed

Parties in immigration detention

Proceedings involving a party in immigration detention are allocated for hearing as expeditiously as possible to avoid undue delay. The Federal Court's general policy is that detainees who are unrepresented are referred for pro bono legal assistance in accordance with r 4.12 of the Federal Court Rules.

The **Migration Practice Note – Removal from Australia of Immigration Detainees who have Proceedings before the Court (MIG-2)** applies to detainees with litigation before the Federal Court. Detainees should not be removed from Australia unless the Commonwealth is able to demonstrate that the detainee was informed of the contents of the Practice Note (MIG-2) and given a reasonable and practical opportunity to communicate with the Federal Court.

Initial triage of proceedings

Upon filing, migration proceedings undergo an initial triage before they are allocated to a judge.

This triage process will typically consider what documents have been filed, whether there are interlocutory applications or requests for expedition or adjournment; whether the applicant is detained; whether a party is represented; and other proceedings before the Federal Court, or other courts, that may be relevant to how the proceeding should be case managed.

Substantive allocation and case management

Following the initial triage process, original jurisdiction proceedings are allocated to judges' dockets. The judge will then case manage the proceeding, occasionally with the assistance of a judicial registrar.

Migration appeals are allocated to either a Full Court or single judge by the Chief Justice, following consultation with the Migration Liaison Judges. Pending formal allocation for a substantive hearing, an appeal may be case managed by a judicial registrar where, for example, there are no issues that require a judge's attention. Appeals may also be allocated to judges' dockets for case management, for example where an interlocutory application requires determination by a judge prior to the final substantive hearing.

Where the triaging judicial registrar considers that a proceedings may be of appropriate for inclusion in the list of proceedings to be heard by a Full Court in the next available Full Court and appellate sitting period, the judicial registrar will contact the parties regarding case management and availability. All decisions relating to the listing of proceedings before a Full Court are made by the Chief Justice.



From left to right: **Senior Judicial Registrar Simon Haag and Justice Bennett presenting at the Law Council of Australia's Immigration Law Conference** in Brisbane on 20 March 2026

Factors shaping the Federal Court's work

The key factors shaping the Federal Court's work in the reporting year in the ACLHR practice area, including the migration sub-area, were the high portion of unrepresented litigants, the significant increase in human rights claims, the complex needs and vulnerabilities of litigants in this practice area, and time sensitivities of certain types of proceedings.

The ACLHR practice area has significantly more litigants in person than any of the Federal Court's other practice areas. In 2025–26, approximately 72 per cent of all proceedings brought by litigants in person in the Federal Court and allocated to judges (excluding Full Court proceedings) were in the ACLHR practice area. About 54 per cent of the total volume of ACLHR judge filings in 2025–26 involved an unrepresented party. However some of these litigants in person are referred by a judge or judicial registrar to pro bono legal assistance, particularly in the migration sub-area, meaning that they do not remain unrepresented as the proceeding progresses.

As set out above, the increase in human rights filings in 2025–26 also affected the nature of the Federal Court's work in the ACLHR practice area. Compared to sub-areas like administrative law and migration law in which the Federal Court's jurisdiction is more confined, human rights claims can be lengthy and involve complex factual circumstances and a significant amount of evidence and number of witnesses. This can pose particular challenges for litigants in person in their ability to plead their claims and adequately prepare their evidence, as well as considerable challenges for the Federal Court in case managing these proceedings expeditiously.

There are also a high number of litigants in the ACLHR practice area that face one or more vulnerabilities, such as litigants with limited English who require interpreters or litigants in person with disabilities who require adjustments to access the Federal Court and participate in hearings. As outlined earlier, a very high portion of migration litigants are in detention or incarcerated at the time of filing their claim. This creates difficulties with what might ordinarily be seen as routine aspects of litigation, such as communicating with the Federal Court and filing documents. This can mean a more tailored, hands-on approach is required by the Federal Court in these proceedings, including more active judicial registrar assistance.

Applications in the ACLHR practice area are also often time sensitive, such as urgent migration applications regarding deportation, applications for injunctions under section 46PP of the *Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986*, and short statutory timeframes within which to file a review or appeal application.

The compounding of time sensitivities, vulnerabilities and a lack of legal representation typically result in litigants in the ACLHR practice area requiring greater assistance from the Federal Court to file documents and undertake other procedural steps.

Looking ahead

The trend of increased filings within the ACLHR practice area is likely to continue, including the rising numbers of claims brought by unrepresented litigants. In relation to the migration sub-area, as with previous years, filings of migration proceedings are expected to remain strong. Factors that will impact on the overall ACLHR workload of the Federal Court include the output of the Administrative Review Tribunal and FCFCOA (Division 2), as well as any legislative changes that are introduced in the coming year.

Looking ahead, to address the expanding volume and complexity of ACLHR proceedings, the Federal Court will focus efforts on expeditious triaging and case management of proceedings, including strengthened judicial registrar assistance. In relation to litigants in person, the Federal Court will have a particular concentration on early intervention procedures, more tailored pro bono and support coordination, and identification of emerging issues and cohorts of litigants.



Judicial Registrar Christine Cody attending the World Conference of the International Association of Refugee and Migration Judges in Nairobi, Kenya, from 17 to 21 November 2025

Admiralty and Maritime



Why this work matters

The Admiralty and Maritime NPA reflects Australia's role as a maritime nation engaged as an international trading partner in the export and import of raw materials and products. It supports the orderly conduct of maritime operations within federal jurisdiction dealing with admiralty and maritime disputes arising from maritime activity, including shipping and logistics, navigation, marine insurance, cargo claims, limitation proceedings, commerce and related trade activities.

The Federal Court's role is to apply admiralty and maritime law according to statute and established legal principles. It determines disputes between private entities and sometimes between private entities and public authorities, arising out of maritime activity. The Federal Court does not regulate shipping or maritime industries; its function is to resolve disputes brought before it according to law.

For parties involved in maritime commerce, proceedings in this practice area can have immediate practical consequences, including the detention and release of vessels and the resolution of competing claims to maritime property. Timely and predictable judicial processes are essential.

National Coordinating Judges



Justice Sarah C Derrington



Justice Feutrill

Judges aligned with the NPA under the NCF				A&M List
NSW & ACT	Justice Markovic (*)	Justice Burley	Justice Halley	Justice Stewart
VIC & TAS	Justice Moshinsky	Justice McEvoy		Justice Sarah C Derrington with Justice O'Callaghan
QLD	Justice Derrington	Justice Sarah C Derrington +		Justice Sarah C Derrington
SA & NT	Justice O'Sullivan			Justice Feutrill
WA	Justice Feutrill +			Justice Feutrill

National Coordinating Registrars: Paul Farrell, Jacinta Ellis, Russell Trott

* For insolvency related Admiralty and Maritime proceedings

A&M workload snapshot:
Original jurisdiction and appellate proceedings



FILINGS
31 up 19% from last year

FINALISATIONS
27 down 36% from last year

CURRENT PROCEEDINGS
43 up 10% from last year

Finalisation rate
87%

Total judgments delivered
3 down 57% from last year

Total judgments delivered within 6 months
3 down 57% from last year

Filings by state and territory



Northern Territory
1
2024–25 | 0

Western Australia
1
2024–25 | 5

South Australia
0
2024–25 | 0

Tasmania
0
2024–25 | 0

Queensland
9
2024–25 | 0

New South Wales
19
2024–25 | 18

Australian Capital Territory
0
2024–25 | 0

Victoria
1
2024–25 | 3

What kinds of proceedings come before the Federal Court

Proceedings within the Admiralty and Maritime NPA arise under the *Admiralty Act 1988* (Cth) and other Commonwealth legislation regulating maritime and associated activity. Proceedings may include claims relating to:

- ownership or possession of ships,
- maritime liens and charges,
- damage done by or to ships, cargo, ports and maritime infrastructure,
- salvage, towage and freight disputes,
- vessel collisions, allisions and other navigational incidents.

A distinctive feature of this practice area is the availability of proceedings in rem, where an action is brought against a ship or maritime property itself, rather than solely against a person or entity.

How this work is managed

Admiralty and maritime proceedings are managed within the NCF and the individual docket system. A single judge is ordinarily responsible for overseeing the proceeding from commencement to resolution.

This practice area involves procedural features that differ from most other jurisdictions. These include applications for the arrest and judicial sale of vessels, urgent interlocutory hearings, and issues involving international parties and foreign law. Proceedings may arise at short notice, particularly where vessels are only in a particular location for a limited period.

Judges and judicial registrars manage these proceedings to:

- respond promptly to urgent applications, including during after hours,
- ensure compliance with procedural safeguards governing in rem actions,
- balance the need for speed with fairness to all parties.

Judicial registrar involvement is often critical at early stages, particularly in processing arrest applications and managing urgent interlocutory steps.

> What this means: **Tailored procedural responses allow the Federal Court to deal effectively with time sensitive maritime disputes while applying consistent legal standards.**

Pressures, trends and constraints

Admiralty and maritime work can vary significantly from year-to-year. The number and timing of proceedings will depend on international trade patterns and shipping movements, commercial shipping activity and unanticipated maritime incidents. The Federal Court does not control when or why such disputes arise.

Many will involve foreign parties, foreign law, or overlapping proceedings in overseas courts. This can add complexity and require careful coordination, including consideration of jurisdictional issues and service of process outside Australia.

Urgency is a recurring pressure, particularly where ships are detained or commercial operations are disrupted or there is potential for this to occur. These demands are managed within finite judicial and registry resources.

Arrests in 2025–26 (to 9 June 2026)

There were five arrests carried out by Marshals of the Court in 2025–26 with two vessels remaining under arrest: Broadbill III and Candice.

Table 4.1 Vessel arrests for the reporting period

	Vessel	Date of arrest	Location	File number	Arresting registry	Date of release
1	Carpe Diem	July 2025	Airlie Beach, QLD	QUD428/2025	NSW	August 2025
2	Jane Virgo	December 2025	Hudson Creek, NT	QUD724/2025	QLD—Australian Border Force	November 2025
3	Silver Fern	December 2025	Sydney, NSW	NSD2295/2025	NSW	December 2025
4	Broadbill III	April 2026	Paradise Pt, Gold Coast, QLD	QUD195/2026	NSW/QLD	N/A
5	Candice	May 2026	Duck Pond, Darwin, NT	NTD13/2026	NSW—Australian Border Force	N/A

None of the five arrests were conducted in a port. Four were at a marina and one at a private residence.



Arrest of yacht Carpe Diem

Activities

Admiralty & Maritime Users' Group meeting held in the NSW Registry on 17 November 2025.

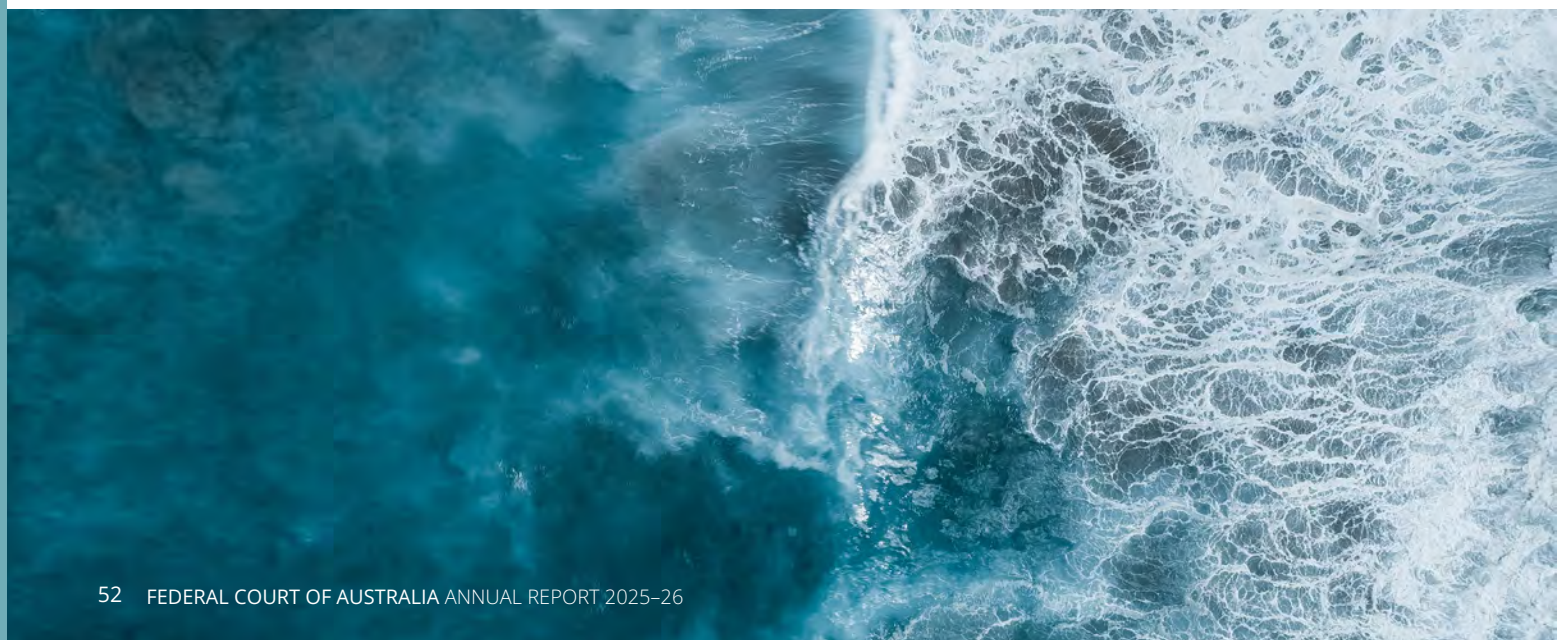
Looking ahead

Australia's continued reliance on maritime trade means that the admiralty and maritime jurisdiction will remain an important component of the Federal Court's work. Fluctuations in global trade patterns and shipping activity are likely to continue influencing the nature and timing of disputes.

The Federal Court will continue to manage this jurisdiction through proportionate and responsive case management, maintaining fairness, consistency and transparency while operating within its statutory and constitutional role.



Arrest of fishing vessel Candice



Commercial and Corporations

Why this work matters

Commercial and corporations law underpins confidence in Australia's economic and regulatory systems. The work of the Federal Court in this practice area resolves disputes that affect markets, corporate governance, access to finance, consumer protection and regulatory compliance.

Proceedings often involve substantial commercial interests, complex statutory frameworks and multiple parties. While many disputes are between private entities, others concern the exercise of regulatory power or the operation of national economic policy.

The Federal Court's role is not to manage markets or corporate behaviour but to determine disputes according to law when they are brought before it.

This work matters because it provides an independent forum for resolving commercial disputes, clarifying legal obligations and testing the lawful exercise of power in economically significant contexts.

National Coordinating Judges



Justice Markovic | Justice Halley | Justice Downes | Justice Neskovcin

National Coordinating Registrar: Tim Luxton, Jacinta Ellis



C&C overall workload snapshot:
Original jurisdiction and appellate proceedings



FILINGS
1,123 up 9% from last year

FINALISATIONS
978 up 5% from last year

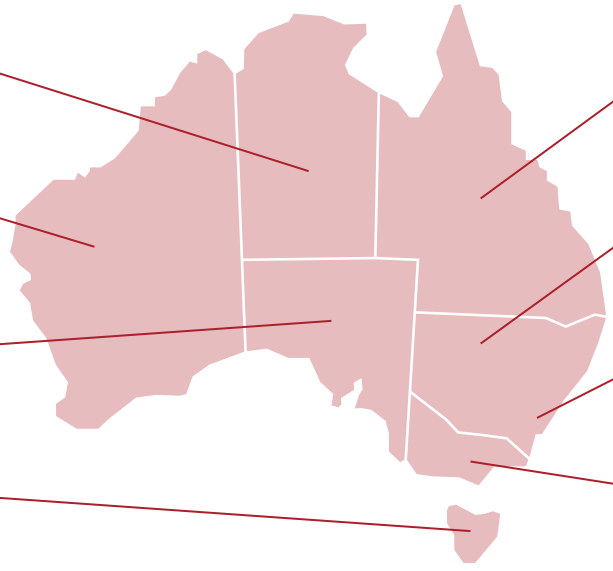
CURRENT PROCEEDINGS
1,428 up 11% from last year

Finalisation rate
87%

Total judgments delivered
902 up 12% from last year

Total judgments delivered within 6 months
839 up 11% from last year

Filings by state and territory



Northern Territory
11
2025–24 | 6

Western Australia
96
2025–24 | 82

South Australia
51
2025–24 | 44

Tasmania
14
2025–24 | 21

Queensland
161
2024–25 | 150

New South Wales
438
2024–25 | 405

Australian Capital Territory
24
2024–25 | 19

Victoria
328
2024–25 | 301

Commercial and Corporations filings have continued the upward trend over the last three years, underscoring the importance of the work in this practice area.

This has been true across all areas of filings, with:

- Original jurisdiction filings increasing from 802 in 2023–24 to 931 in 2024–25, to 1005 in 2025–26.
- Appellate filings remaining fairly consistent over the previous two reporting periods (98 and 97 respectively), seeing an increase to 118 in 2025–26.
- Judicial registrar filings saw the largest increase, particularly between 2023–24 and 2024–25 increasing from 1,958 to 2,677. This reporting period saw an increase, but not on that same scale, with 2,793 filings.

The Federal Court recognises the importance of these proceedings, and regularly engages with the profession across each of the registries of the Federal Court, to emphasise its commitment to resolving commercial disputes as efficiently as possible. For example, the Federal Court has been discussing with the profession the possible review of the use of Concise Statements in commercial and regulatory proceedings, and working with federal regulators on their proposal to engage more about the conduct of regulatory proceedings in the Federal Court.

In addition, as set out in **Part 9** of this report, judges regularly engage with international colleagues to gain exposure to practices adopted in overseas jurisdictions for the efficient management and resolution of commercial disputes.

What kinds of proceedings come before the Federal Court

The Commercial and Corporations practice area encompasses a broad range of disputes arising under Commonwealth law. These proceedings are grouped into six sub-areas to reflect differences in subject matter, urgency and case management needs:

- Commercial Arbitration (CA).
- Commercial Contracts, Banking, Finance and Insurance (CCBFI).
- Corporations and Corporate Insolvency (CORPS).
- Economic Regulator, Competition and Access (ERCA).
- General and Personal Insolvency (GPI).
- Regulator and Consumer Protection (RCP).

Across these sub-areas, proceedings may involve questions of private law, statutory interpretation, regulatory enforcement or the supervision of insolvency processes. Some proceedings require urgent judicial intervention; others progress on defined timetables shaped by the needs of complex commercial litigation.

How this work is managed

Allocation and case management

Commercial and Corporations proceedings are managed within the Federal Court's individual docket system. The case management of an individual proceedings will be tailored to the particular needs of that proceedings. Once allocated, a proceeding is ordinarily managed by a single judge from commencement to resolution, subject to reallocation where appropriate. This approach supports continuity, informed case management and proportional use of judicial and registry resources.

Judges are assigned to this practice area having regard to professional experience, subject matter familiarity and national workload distribution. Judicial registrars play a key role in supporting the progression of proceedings, particularly in interlocutory and list based work. A broad range of interlocutory applications can be heard by judicial registrars, the most common of which are applications for discovery of documents, for security for costs and in relation to claims of confidentiality or privilege.

The Federal Court understands that parties to proceedings filed in the Commercial and Corporations NPA will sometimes need to seek urgent relief. The Federal Court has arrangements, including specific Commercial and Corporations duty judges, to deal with such applications efficiently. An urgent application will be listed before the Commercial and Corporations Duty Judge or Corporations List Judge as may be appropriate. Weekly Corporations Lists before judges are conducted in each registry other than in South Australia, the Northern Territory and Tasmania.

Shorter and less urgent corporations applications will be allocated to a judicial registrar and dealt with in the course of one of the regular registrar Corporations Lists. These lists deal with high volume winding-up applications as well as with a wide range of other applications within the power of a registrar.

There were 158 allocations of Corporations List proceedings to judges in the current reporting period, which was an increase from 143 in the 2024–25 reporting period.

Different pathways within a shared framework

While all sub-areas operate within the same overarching framework, the way work progresses varies:

- some proceedings are highly time sensitive,
- others require intensive case management over extended periods,
- some involve frequent use of interlocutory applications, and
- others are resolved through confined legal questions.

The Federal Court adapts case management practices to suit these differences, while maintaining consistency of approach nationally.

What this means: The Federal Court does not treat all commercial disputes the same way. Case management is tailored to the nature of the dispute, not its financial value or public profile.

Sub-areas within the Commercial and Corporations practice area

While the importance of each sub-area is not simply reflected in filings, the majority of filings in the Commercial and Corporations NPA continue to be in the CORPS and CCBFI sub-areas. The filings range from cases that raise discrete issues, to cases involving complex factual and legal issues in multi-party disputes.

Pressures, trends and constraints

Several factors shape the Court's work in this practice area:

- **Complexity and scale** of commercial disputes, often involving extensive documentary material and expert evidence,
- **Urgent applications** particularly in insolvency and regulatory contexts,
- **Interaction with external processes** such a regulatory investigations or arbitrations,
- **Uneven filing patterns** influenced by economic conditions and legislative change.

The Federal Court does not control the volume or type of disputes commenced. It must respond to matters as they arise.

Table 4.2 Commercial and Corporations NPA filings by sub area: 2024-25 and 2025-26

Filings (Original Jurisdiction and appellate)	2024–25	2025–26
RCP	123	128
CORPS	460	520
CCBFI	278	277
GPI	149	174
ERCA	10	14
CA	8	10



Regulator and Consumer Protection SUB-AREA

This sub-area encompasses proceedings concerning consumer law and regulatory enforcement.

Proceedings may be brought by regulators or private parties and often involve statutory standards designed to protect consumers and maintain fair trading.

Judges aligned with the NPA under the NCF

NSW & ACT	Justice Wigney Justice Perry Justice Markovic + Justice Bromwich Justice Burley Justice Lee	Justice Thawley Justice Stewart Justice Abraham Justice Halley + Justice Cheeseman Justice Goodman	Justice Raper Justice Kennett Justice Jackman Justice Shariff Justice Needham	Justice Moore Justice Owens Justice Stellios Justice Younan Justice Lenehan
VIC & TAS	Justice Murphy Justice Beach Justice Moshinsky Justice O'Callaghan Justice Wheelahan	Justice O'Bryan Justice Snaden Justice Anderson Justice Rofe	Justice McElwaine Justice Hespe Justice Button Justice Horan	Justice Neskovcin + Justice Dowling Justice Bennett Justice Hill
QLD	Justice Collier Justice Rangiah	Justice Derrington Justice Sarah C Derrington	Justice Downes + Justice Meagher	Justice Longbottom Justice Wheatley
SA & NT	Justice O'Sullivan			
WA	Justice Banks-Smith Justice Colvin	Justice Jackson Justice Feutrill	Justice Vandongen	

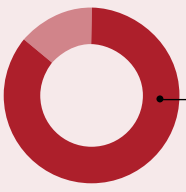
RCP workload snapshot: Original jurisdiction and appellate proceedings

FILINGS

128 up **4%** from last year

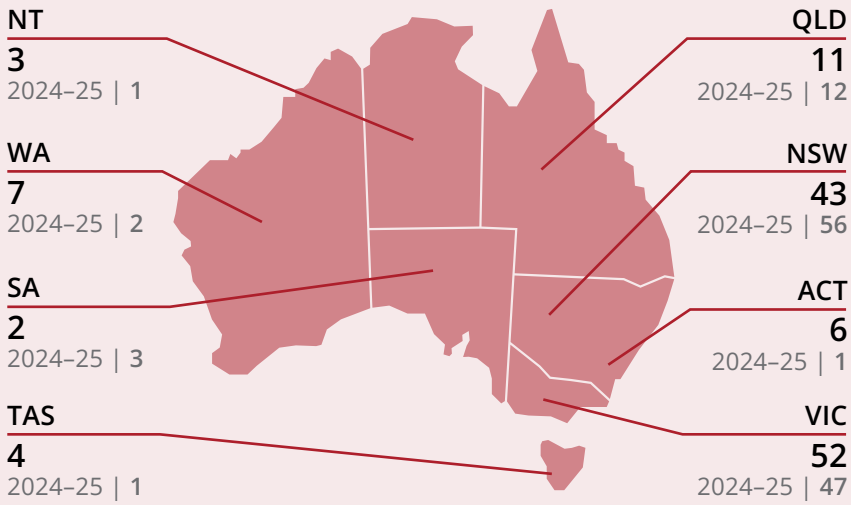
FINALISATIONS

110 down **17%** from last year



86% Finalisation rate

Filings by state and territory



Prominent examples of the work in this sub-area

In recent times, a number of proceedings have been brought before the Federal Court involving 'greenwashing' claims, which generally involve claims that products or services are environmentally friendly, sustainable or ethical. Whilst in previous years, 'greenwashing' proceedings have been brought by regulators seeking civil penalties, in *Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility v Santos Limited* [2026] FCA 96 the Federal Court heard and determined a proceeding brought by a not-for-profit shareholder advocacy and research organisation against an energy producer, in respect of its statements that it is a producer of 'clean energy' and that natural gas provides 'clean energy' and that it has a 'credible and clear plan' to reduce Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 26–30 per cent by 2030 and achieve 'net zero' Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions by 2040. Ultimately, Justice Markovic found that the representations were not misleading and that, insofar as the representations were made in relation to future matters, Santos had a reasonable basis for making them. The decision is currently on appeal. However, the proceeding shows an increasing public interest in proceedings involving representations regarding environmental credentials.

Of significant public interest during this reporting period was the Court's decision in *Australian Competition and Consumer Commission v Coles Supermarkets Australia Pty Ltd* [2026] FCA 598 concerning Coles Supermarkets' 'Down Down' promotion. The 'Down Down' promotion commenced in 2010 and would be familiar to most Australians via its distinctive marketing. The 'Down Down' promotional program was a program by which Coles offered to customers a range of commonly purchased products at reduced prices. A central feature of the promotion was the use of 'was/now' pricing, by which the 'Down Down' promotional price was compared to an earlier higher price, which typically was the product's previous regular shelf (white label) price. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) commenced proceedings against Coles alleging that, between February 2022 and May 2023 and in respect of 245 products, the 'Down Down' promotions were misleading or deceptive, or conveyed a false or misleading representation with respect to the price of the affected products, in breach of sections 18(1) and 29(1) respectively of the *Australian Consumer Law*. The ACCC alleged that Coles had increased the price of each affected product for only a relatively short period of time prior to placing the product on the 'Down Down' promotion and, in most proceedings, advertising that higher price as the relevant 'was' price on the product's 'Down Down' ticket. A class action against Coles was also commenced on behalf of Coles' customers, seeking damages for losses arising out of the same alleged breaches of the *Australian Consumer Law.*

In February 2026, the Federal Court conducted a trial of issues of liability in both proceedings with respect to a sample of 12 affected products and delivered judgment in May 2026. Justice O'Bryan found that the 'Down Down' promotion in respect of 11 of the 12 sample products conveyed a representation that the 'Down Down' price was a genuine discount from the 'was' price stated on the 'Down Down' ticket and that the representation was misleading because the sample products had not been offered at the 'was' price for a reasonable period of time prior to the 'Down Down' promotion. As a result, Coles was found to have engaged in misleading or deceptive conduct, and to have made false or misleading representations with respect to the price of the sample product, in breach of sections 18(1) and 29(1) respectively of the *Australian Consumer Law.*

The decision has significant impact given that Coles is the second largest supermarket chain in Australia with, as at June 2023, more than 840 supermarkets, which are located in every Australian state and territory, plus operating an online platform. Its customers come from all walks of life. Each store is visited by thousands of consumers every day.

Corporations and Corporate Insolvency SUB-AREA

This sub-area includes proceedings such as the supervision of insolvency practitioners, schemes of arrangement, shareholder disputes and regulatory proceedings involving corporate conduct.

This sub-area is the most significant, in terms of the number of filings, which is partly a reflection of the nature of insolvency-related proceedings, where urgent relief is often required to salvage businesses in voluntary administrations, or to regulate conduct in voluntary administrations and receiverships, and where one liquidation can give rise to numerous recovery actions and other proceedings, brought for the benefit of creditors.

Some proceedings require rapid intervention to protect assets or statutory rights; others involve ongoing judicial supervision. The Federal Court balances urgency with the need for careful consideration of competing interests.

Judges aligned with the NPA under the NCF

				Additional Judges
NSW & ACT	Justice Perram Justice Markovic + Justice Lee Justice Stewart	Justice Halley + Justice Cheeseman Justice Goodman Justice Jackman	Justice Shariff Justice Needham Justice Moore Justice Owens	Justice Wigney Justice Burley Justice Thawley Justice Kennett Justice Younan
VIC & TAS	Justice Beach Justice Moshinsky Justice O'Callaghan Justice O'Bryan	Justice Anderson Justice McElwaine Justice McEvoy	Justice Button Justice Neskovcin + Justice Bennett	Justice Murphy (Class Actions/ASIC)
QLD	Justice Derrington Justice Sarah C Derrington	Justice Downes + Justice Longbottom	Justice Wheatley Justice Collier	Justice Collier Justice Meagher
SA & NT	Justice Charlesworth	Justice O'Sullivan	Justice McDonald	
WA	Justice Banks-Smith Justice Colvin	Justice Jackson Justice Feutrill	Justice Vandongen	

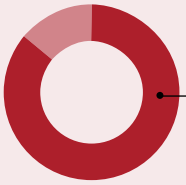
CORPS workload snapshot: Original jurisdiction and appellate proceedings

FILINGS

520 ↑ up **13%** from last year

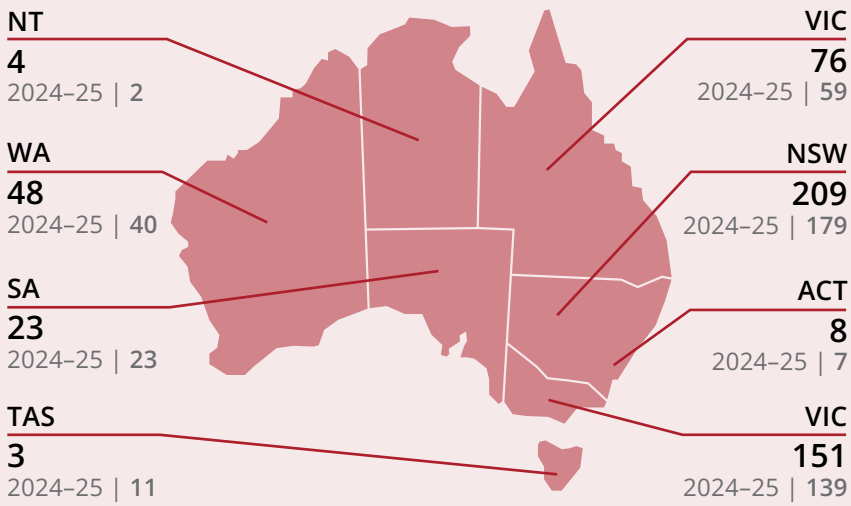
FINALISATIONS

444 ↑ up **4%** from last year



85%
Finalisation rate

Filings by state and territory



In addition to the above judge filings, there were 2,420 CORPS proceedings managed by judicial registrars in the judicial registrar Corporations Lists, which is an increase from 2,346 the previous reporting period.

Prominent examples of the work in this sub-area

Prominent examples of the work in this sub-area in the last 12 months include the various applications made to the Federal Court in the OneSteel Manufacturing administration, involving the Whyalla refinery in South Australia.

A further example is the landmark decision in *Australian Securities and Investments Commission v Bekier (Liability Judgment)* [2026] FCA 196. ASIC commenced civil penalty proceedings against 11 members of the executive team and Board of Star Entertainment Group Limited (Star). The proceeding involved the recurring topic of whether a director or other officer exercises the requisite degree of care and diligence when deferring to and relying on senior management. ASIC alleged, among other things, that directors and officers of Star failed to exercise reasonable care and diligence in relation to anti-money laundering / Counter-terrorism financing risks arising from Star's dealings with junket operators and Star's interactions with one of its major lenders, National Australia Bank, in relation to China UnionPay cards, effectively the 'Bankcard' of China. ASIC alleged contraventions of section 180(1) of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth), being the statutory duty of care and diligence owed by directors and other officers.

Justice Lee found that the Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel/Company Secretary of Star, having an actual appreciation of certain risks, breached their duty of care and diligence by failing to appropriately act on or escalate serious risks to the Board. However, ASIC's proceeding against the non-executive directors failed. The decision serves to highlight the obligations of senior executives to escalate known risks to the Board and take appropriate action. Justice Lee also discussed the requirement for active engagement by non-executive directors.

Proving damages in shareholder class actions has presented significant challenges for applicants given the inherent difficulty in undertaking any calculation of the impact of wrongful conduct on a company's share price. The Full Court in *Crowley v Worley Limited* [2026] FCAFC 78 has now clarified the basis on which shareholders can recover damages by relying on what are generally known as 'market-based causation' theories. The Full Court upheld an appeal by a representative applicant in a long running class action directed at alleged misleading earnings guidance provided to the market by Worley Limited in August 2013. The judge at first instance, rehearing the matter on remitter from a previous decision of the Full Court, was satisfied that Worley Limited had contravened the continuous disclosure provisions in the Corporations Act but did not accept that the applicant had proved that they had suffered any loss by reason of the contraventions.

In finding that the applicant had established some loss, the Full Court confirmed that it was necessary to focus on whether the contraventions of the continuous disclosure provisions caused the share price to be higher rather than would a specific non-contravening counterfactual guidance have caused a fall in the share price. After being satisfied that the applicant had established some loss, the Full Court then applied the principle that where a respondent's wrongdoing has resulted in uncertainty that has made the assessment of damages more difficult the Court should do the best it can to ensure that difficulties in estimation should not deprive an applicant of a remedy. The Full Court quantified damages using a 'broad brush' by reference to an expert linear relationship analysis after being satisfied of substantial economic equivalence between the misleading earnings guidance and subsequent market disclosures by Worley Limited. In doing so, the Full Court observed that the existence of a 'degree of speculation and guess work' is not inconsistent with an earlier statement by a Full Court that it is not permissible to resort to 'irrational bases' in quantifying damages. The detailed reasoning of the Full Court in *Crowley v Worley* is likely to have significant implications for the conduct of shareholder class actions, in particular how market-based causation theories can be deployed in practice to assist in the proof and quantification of loss.

Commercial Contracts, Banking, Finance and Insurance SUB-AREA

These proceedings involve disputes arising from commercial transactions, financial arrangements and insurance relationships. Proceedings often include complex factual records and expert evidence.

Case management focuses on narrowing issues early and ensuring that the scale of the dispute is matched by proportionate procedures.

Judges aligned with the NPA under the NCF

NSW & ACT	Justice Markovic + Justice Lee Justice Thawley	Justice Stewart Justice Halley + Justice Cheeseman	Justice Goodman Justice Jackman Justice Shariff	Justice Needham Justice Moore Justice Owens
VIC & TAS	Justice Beach Justice Moshinsky Justice O'Callaghan Justice Wheelahan (E&IR)	Justice O'Bryan Justice Snaden (E&IR) Justice Anderson Justice Rofe	Justice McElwaine Justice McEvoy Justice Button	Justice Neskovcin + Justice Dowling (E&IR) Justice Bennett
QLD	Justice Derrington Justice Sarah C Derrington	Justice Downes + Justice Longbottom	Justice Wheatley	
SA & NT	Justice Charlesworth	Justice O'Sullivan	Justice McDonald	
WA	Justice Banks-Smith Justice Colvin	Justice Jackson Justice Feutrill	Justice Vandongen	

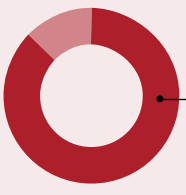
CCBFI workload snapshot: Original jurisdiction and appellate proceedings

FILINGS

277 up 9% from last year

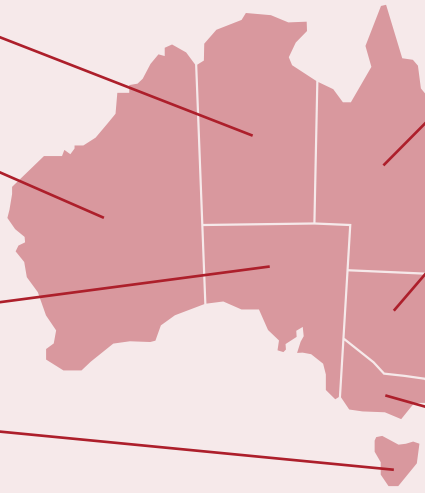
FINALISATIONS

240 up 73% from last year



87% Finalisation rate

Filings by state and territory



NT
6
2024–25 | 3

QLD
34
2024–25 | 50

WA
22
2024–25 | 20

NSW
102
2024–25 | 91

SA
15
2024–25 | 11

ACT
7
2024–25 | 9

TAS
5
2024–25 | 7

VIC
86
2024–25 | 87

General and Personal Insolvency SUB-AREA

This work includes bankruptcy related proceedings, often involving individuals or small businesses. Proceedings may intersect with issues of financial hardship and self-representation.

Efficient case management is important to minimise cost and delay while ensuring that statutory safeguards are applied. For example, creditor's petitions and applications to set aside bankruptcy notices are heard in a weekly list conducted by judicial registrars in most states.

Judges aligned with the NPA under the NCF

NSW & ACT	Justice Perram Justice Wigney Justice Perry Justice Markovic + Justice Lee	Justice Thawley Justice Stewart Justice Halley + Justice Cheeseman Justice Goodman	Justice Raper Justice Jackman Justice Needham Justice Moore	Justice Owens Justice Stellios Justice Younan Justice Lenehan
VIC & TAS	Justice Beach Justice Moshinsky Justice O'Callaghan Justice O'Bryan	Justice Snaden Justice Anderson Justice Rofe Justice McElwaine	Justice McEvoy Justice Hespe Justice Button Justice Horan	Justice Neskovcin + Justice Dowling Justice Bennett Justice Hill
QLD	Justice Collier Justice Rangiah	Justice Derrington Justice Downes +	Justice Meagher Justice Longbottom	Justice Wheatley
SA & NT	Justice Charlesworth	Justice O'Sullivan	Justice McDonald	
WA	Justice Banks-Smith Justice Colvin	Justice Jackson Justice Feutrill	Justice Vandongen	

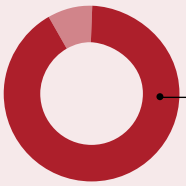
GPI workload snapshot: Original jurisdiction and appellate proceedings

FILINGS

149 ↑ up **17%** from last year

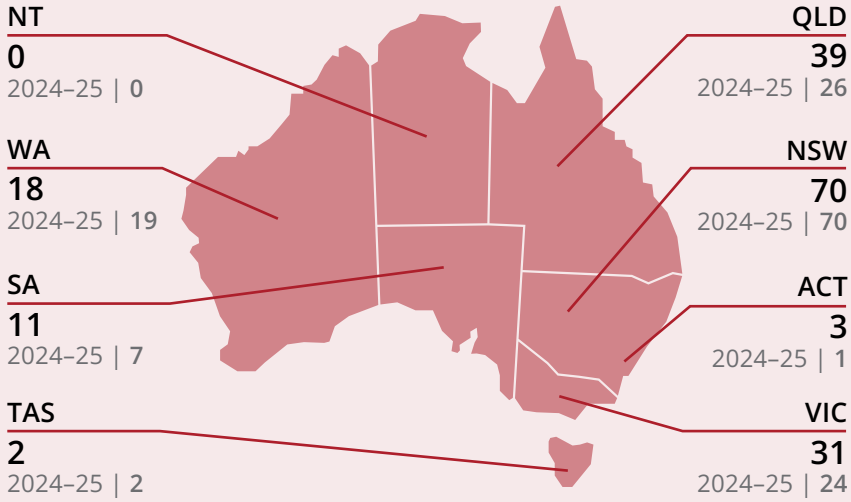
FINALISATIONS

158 ↑ up **14%** from last year



91%
Finalisation rate

Filings by state and territory



In addition to the above judge filings, there were 373 GPI proceedings managed by judicial registrars in the Bankruptcy Lists, which is a 13 per cent increase from the previous reporting period.

Economic Regulator, Competition and Access SUB-AREA

Proceedings in this sub-area often arise from enforcement or review activity by economic regulators and may involve questions affecting market structure or access arrangements.

These proceedings frequently raise complex legal and economic issues and may have implications beyond the immediate parties.

Judges aligned with the NPA under the NCF

NSW & ACT	Justice Perram Justice Wigney Justice Bromwich	Justice Lee Justice Halley +	Justice Cheeseman Justice Jackman	Justice Moore Justice Owens
VIC & TAS	Justice Beach Justice Moshinsky	Justice O'Callaghan Justice O'Bryan	Justice Anderson Justice Button	Justice Neskovcin + Justice Bennett
QLD	Justice Derrington	Justice Sarah C Derrington	Justice Downes +	
SA & NT	Justice O'Sullivan			
WA	Justice Banks-Smith Justice Colvin	Justice Jackson Justice Feutrill	Justice Vandongen	

ERCA workload snapshot: Original jurisdiction and appellate proceedings

FILINGS

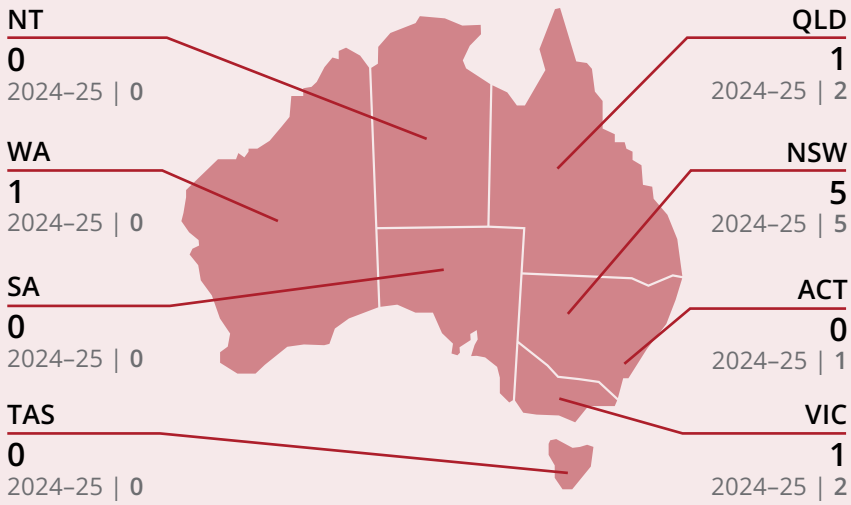
10 up **40%** from last year

FINALISATIONS

16 up **23%** from last year

114%
Finalisation rate

Filings by state and territory



Commercial Arbitration SUB-AREA

This sub-area concerns applications connected with domestic and international arbitration, including stays of court proceedings, enforcement of arbitral awards and related supervisory jurisdiction.

Proceedings are typically confined in scope and determined on defined legal questions. Timely resolution is important to support predictability and confidence in arbitration as a dispute resolution mechanism.

Judges aligned with the NPA under the NCF

NSW & ACT	Justice Stewart Justice Jackman	Justice Needham Justice Moore	Justice Younan
VIC & TAS	Justice Beach Justice Moshinsky	Justice O'Callaghan Justice Anderson	Justice Button Justice Neskovcin +
QLD	Justice Derrington Justice Sarah C Derrington	Justice Downes + Justice Longbottom	
SA & NT	Justice O'Sullivan		
WA	Justice Banks-Smith	Justice Jackson	Justice Feutrill

CA workload snapshot: Original jurisdiction and appellate proceedings

FILINGS

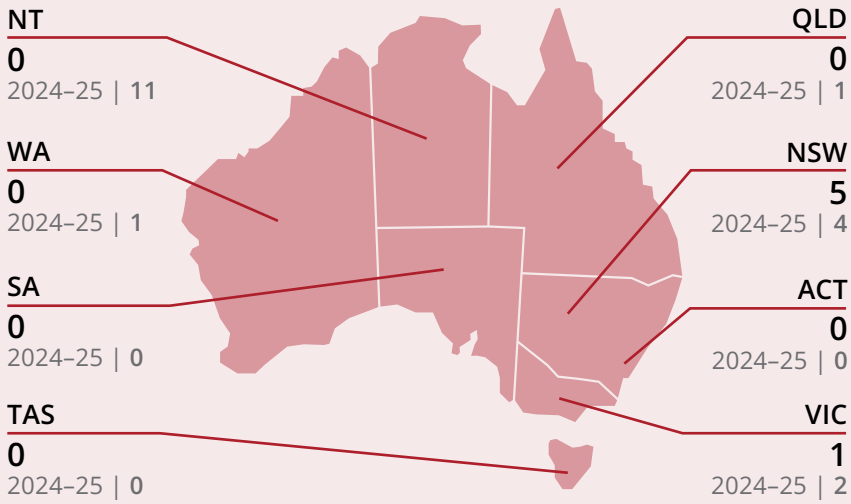
10 up **25%** from last year

FINALISATIONS

10 down **17%** from last year

100% **Finalisation rate**

Filings by state and territory



Looking ahead

Commercial and corporations work is expected to remain a substantial component of the Federal Court's caseload. Economic conditions, regulatory activity and legislative reform will continue to shape the type and timing of disputes coming before the Federal Court.

Looking forward, the Federal Court will continue to focus on:

- clear identification of issues at an early stage,
- proportionate and flexible case management,
- consistent national practices across registries,
- transparent processes that support public confidence.

These approaches reflect the Federal Court's statutory role and institutional constraints.

Employment and Industrial Relations



Why this work matters

The Employment and Industrial Relations NPA deals with disputes arising from the operation of federal workplace laws. These laws regulate the relationship between employers, employees, unions and, in some proceedings, the Fair Work Commission. The extensive reach of the Employment and Industrial Relations NPA means that the decisions of the Federal Court have the capacity to affect the lives of many of Australia's 14.5 million workers.

The Federal Court's role is to interpret and apply employment and industrial legislation according to law. It determines whether statutory obligations have been met, whether rights have been infringed, and what remedies are available under Commonwealth law. The Federal Court does not set workplace policy or resolve proceedings by reference to industrial outcomes; its function is strictly judicial.

Employment and Industrial Relations proceedings often concern issues that have immediate effects on work, income, and organisational operations. The Federal Court's work in this area supports confidence that workplace laws are applied consistently, fairly and transparently.

National Coordinating Judges



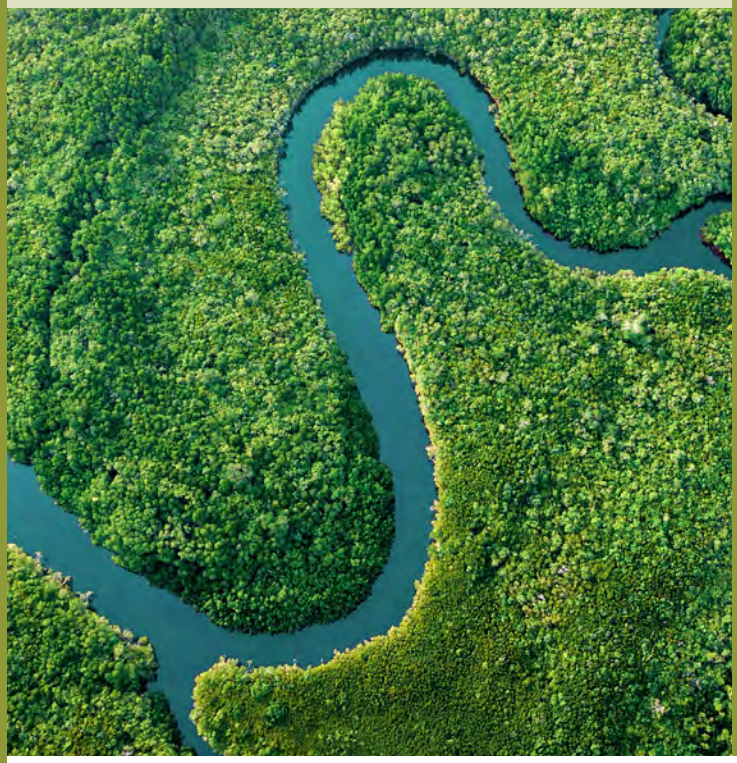
Justice Rangiah | **Justice Raper** | **Justice Dowling**

Judges aligned with the NPA under the NCF

	Justice Perram	Justice Abraham		
	Justice Wigney	Justice Halley	Justice Kennett	Justice Stellios
	Justice Bromwich	Justice Goodman	Justice Shariff	Justice Younan
NSW & ACT	Justice Lee	Justice Raper +	Justice Needham	Justice Lenehan
				Additional Judges
	Justice Wheelahan	Justice McEvoy		
	Justice Snaden	Justice Horan	Justice Bennett	Justice Murphy
VIC & TAS	Justice McElwaine	Justice Dowling +	Justice Hill	Justice O'Callaghan
	Justice Collier	Justice Sarah C Derrington	Justice Longbottom	
QLD	Justice Rangiah +	Justice Meagher	Justice Wheatley	
SA & NT	Justice Charlesworth	Justice O'Sullivan	Justice McDonald	
	Justice Banks-Smith	Justice Jackson		
WA	Justice Colvin	Justice Feutrill	Justice Vandongen	

National Coordinating Registrars: Tom Morgan, Michael Buckingham

E&IR overall workload snapshot:
Original jurisdiction and appellate proceedings



FILINGS
327 up 15% from last year

FINALISATIONS
249

CURRENT PROCEEDINGS
451 up 21% from last year

Finalisation rate
76%

Total judgments delivered
185 down 4% from last year

Total judgments delivered within 6 months
168 up 1% from last year

Filings by state and territory



Northern Territory
2
2025–24 | 2

Western Australia
30
2025–24 | 16

South Australia
15
2025–24 | 7

Tasmania
3
2025–24 | 1

Queensland
51
2024–25 | 28

New South Wales
132
2024–25 | 405

Australian Capital Territory
15
2024–25 | 9

Victoria
79
2024–25 | 110

What kinds of proceedings come before the Federal Court

Proceedingsin the Employment and Industrial Relations NPA arise primarily under *the Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth) and related Commonwealth legislation (including provisions of other Commonwealth anti-discrimination legislation and, in some cases, provisions of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth)). Proceedings include claims concerning:

- alleged contraventions of workplace laws and industrial instruments (including awards and enterprise bargaining agreements),
- civil penalty proceedings (for example, breaches of the National Employment Standards, general protections or employment record obligations),
- general protections and adverse action disputes,
- enforcement and related applications following proceedings in the Fair Work Commission,
- breaches of employment contracts, and
- whistleblower proceedings under the Corporations Act.

Parties may include individual employees, employers of varying size, unions, employer organisations and regulators. Some proceedings involve confined factual disputes, while others raise complex questions of statutory interpretation or involve large numbers of affected employees.

The Federal Court does not control the flow of employment and industrial proceedings. Filing volumes are influenced by legislative settings, regulatory activity, economic conditions and the choices of parties to commence proceedings.



Bromwich presenting at IRSNSW 2026 Conference on 1 May 2026

How this work is managed

Employment and Industrial Relations proceedings are managed within the NCF and the individual docket system, with a single judge ordinarily responsible for the proceeding from commencement to resolution.

This practice area frequently involves overlapping jurisdiction with the Fair Work Commission. Case management therefore takes into account the procedural history of a proceeding, including whether issues have already been considered in another forum.

Judges and judicial registrars actively manage employment and industrial relations proceedings to:

- focus early on the issues that must be determined,
- encourage proportionate steps commensurate with the scale of the dispute,
- manage interlocutory disputes efficiently.

Alternative dispute resolution may be used where appropriate, recognising that not all proceedings are suitable for facilitated resolution.

National General Protections List

On 17 December 2025, Chief Justice Mortimer issued a Notice to the Profession advising that the National General Protections List had been adopted on a permanent basis from that date. The permanent adoption of the National General Protections List followed the successful conduct of the Adverse Action List before judicial registrars in the Victorian District Registry of the Federal Court since 2019 and the pilot program of the National General Protections List before judicial registrars of the Federal Court since 3 July 2024. The purpose of the National General Protections List is to allow the initial case management of proceedings filed under the general protections provisions of the Fair Work Act to generally be undertaken by judicial registrars of the Federal Court.

The National General Protections List aims to:

- promote consistency and efficiency in the case management of general protections proceedings,
- ensure that general protections proceedings are heard in an appropriate court, having regard to any points of principle and the quantum of claims,
- ensure the resources of the Federal Court in relation to mediation are targeted towards the most appropriate proceedings,
- ensure early and appropriate case management and timetabling of any interlocutory or procedural issues before the proceeding is allocated to a docket judge.

Judicial registrar National General Protections List filings in the Employment and Industrial Relations NPA increased substantially over the reporting period. Filings rose from 14 proceedings in 2023–24 (when the list was first piloted) to 73 proceedings in 2024–25, before increasing further to 110 proceedings in 2025–26. This represents an increase of 37 proceedings (51 per cent) compared with the previous year.

These figures relate only to proceedings initially filed in the judicial registrar National General Protections List. Where a proceeding is subsequently docketed to a judge, it is thereafter recorded as a judge proceeding for filing purposes. Accordingly, the filing figures are not static and may change over time as proceedings are transferred from the judicial registrar list to a judicial docket.

Employment and Industrial Relations User Group

A User Group meeting was held on 20 March 2026 with attendance by Justices Raper and Dowling, Judicial Registrars Morgan and Buckingham and members of the profession. Topics of discussion included the 2026 Employment and Industrial Relations Seminar in September 2026 in celebration of the Federal Court's 50th Anniversary in lieu of the annual seminar series; feedback and suggestions from the profession on the National General Protections List; feedback and suggestions about the practices and procedures of the practice area, including the need to update the Employment and Industrial Relations Practice Note, and feedback from the profession about the change from four to three Full Court periods.

Since the User Group meeting, a formal process has commenced to update the **Employment and Industrial Relations Practice Note** with the updating of the Practice Note being initially discussed between the national practice area judges and then to be discussed with the profession.

Engagement with the legal profession

On 3 September 2025, the Federal Court hosted its annual Employment and Industrial Relations Seminar titled 'Sharpening the tools: Developments in emerging and familiar areas of employment law'. The event was held in person in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide and livestreamed on YouTube to enable interested parties to observe throughout Australia.

The seminar explored key and emerging issues in employment law. Justice Rangiah provided the opening remarks, followed by presentations from Victoria Brigden SC (NSW Bar) ('The whistleblower protection provisions of the *Corporations Act 2001*: Recent developments and issues'), Marc Felman KC (VIC Bar) ('Multiple decision makers in adverse action proceedings: A complexity in discharging the reverse onus'), and Gillian Walker SC (SA Bar) ('Judicial review of decisions of the Fair Work Commission: Key considerations and recent cases').



Participants attending Federal Court Seminar 'Sharpening the tools: Developments in emerging and familiar areas of employment law' in the Victorian Registry on 3 September 2025. Included in front row: Justice Dowling, Justice Wheelahan, Justice McElwaine and former National Judicial Registrar Edwards

Factors shaping the Federal Court's work

Work in the Employment and Industrial Relations NPA is shaped by changes in workplace legislation, regulatory priorities and broader economic conditions. Periods of legislative amendment or increased regulatory activity can influence both the volume and complexity of proceedings.

Litigants in person, particularly individual employees and small businesses, are a recurring feature of the Employment and Industrial Relations NPA and are one of the factors shaping the way the Federal Court manages this work. These proceedings can require careful case management, procedural guidance and registry engagement to support fair participation while preserving the Federal Court's neutrality and procedural fairness.

Balancing the need for efficient resolution with the complexity of statutory frameworks and the practical consequences for parties also remains an ongoing challenge.



Justice Lee presenting at the Phillipa Weeks Lecture at ANU on 'Ethics, Advocacy and Professional Responsibility in Industrial Law' on 25 February 2026



Justice Snaden hosting Judge Park of the South Korean Supreme Court as part of study tour focused on labour dispute resolution and the right to disconnect under Australian law on 27 August 2025

Looking ahead

Employment and Industrial Relations disputes are expected to remain a significant component of the Federal Court's work. Changes in workplace regulation and labour market conditions may continue to influence the types of proceedings brought before the Federal Court.

The Federal Court will continue to focus on transparent and consistent application of employment laws, proportionate case management, and fair participation for all parties, while remaining within the limits of its judicial role.

The Federal Court, like the Fair Work Commission, also expects to see an increase in Employment and Industrial Relations disputes as a result of litigants in person using artificial intelligence tools to prepare court documents and is cognisant of the implications, positive and negative, this has on the Federal Court to exercise its jurisdiction in this practice area.

Federal Crime and Related Proceedings

Why this work matters

The proceedings heard and determined in the Federal Crime and Related Proceedings NPA (Crime NPA) are of national significance and contribute to the protection of the Australian community. They include proceedings involving serious criminal allegations, personal liberty, public safety, and the application of Commonwealth law.

These proceedings can have serious consequences, including imprisonment, and may also affect regulatory systems, financial markets and public confidence in the rule of law. Decisions in this area are a critical part of the administration of criminal justice at the federal level and are essential to maintaining public confidence in the fair and independent determination of proceedings.

National Coordinating Judges



Justice Bromwich | **Justice Abraham** | **Justice Vandongen**

Judges aligned with the NPA under the NCF

All states and territories	Justice Rangiah Justice Wigney Justice Bromwich + Justice Lee Justice Colvin Justice Thawley	Justice Anderson Justice Abraham + Justice Downes Justice O'Sullivan Justice Kennett	Justice Horan Justice Shariff Justice McDonald Justice Vandongen + Justice Owens	Justice Bennett Justice Longbottom Justice Younan Justice Hill Justice Lenehan
Additional Judges	Justice Hespe	Justice Dowling (E&IR)	Justice Stellios	

National Coordinating Registrars: Jodie Burns, Alicia Ditton

CRIME workload snapshot:
Original jurisdiction and appellate proceedings



FILINGS
25 down 26% from last year

FINALISATIONS
23 down 18% from last year

CURRENT PROCEEDINGS
22 up 10% from last year

Finalisation rate
92%

Total judgments delivered
26 up 37% from last year

Total judgments delivered within 6 months
25 up 47% from last year

Filings by state and territory



Northern Territory
0
2025–24 | 2

Western Australia
1
2025–24 | 0

South Australia
0
2025–24 | 1

Tasmania
0
2025–24 | 0

Queensland
4
2024–25 | 11

New South Wales
13
2024–25 | 11

Australian Capital Territory
2
2024–25 | 1

Victoria
5
2024–25 | 8

What kinds of proceedings come before the Federal Court

Crime brings together federal criminal proceedings and related civil proceedings arising under Commonwealth laws. These proceedings span a range of statutory frameworks, including those relating to national security, serious and organised crime, corporations, financial services, taxation, fair work, competition and consumer protection, and customs.

On 12 June 2024 the Federal Court's jurisdiction was expanded to hear and determine a wider range of summary and indictable offences within the regulatory remit of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission.

Crime covers:

- **Federal criminal proceedings**
  Such as summary and indictable proceedings, bail applications, sentencing and criminal appeals. Recent sentence proceedings of note that have been determined by the Federal Court include *Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions v Kirby* [2025] FCA 757*, Forrest v Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions* [2026] FCAFC 69 and *Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions v Fairfull* [2026] FCA 748.

  Trial by jury on federal criminal offences on indictment is mandated by section 80 of the *Constitution.* There is no option of trial by judge alone. Jury trials require additional planning and coordination, including managing juror availability, empanelment processes, courtroom readiness and the scheduling of often lengthy hearings. Jury trials can involve complex evidence and multiple accused, and have a significant impact on the Federal Court's workload and listing practices.
- **Civil proceedings related to criminal law**
  Such as applications for judicial review of administrative decisions, extradition proceedings, proceedings under proceeds of crime legislation, contempt of court proceedings and applications for control orders. These proceedings engage the Federal Court in reviewing executive decision making, determining requests between countries for the return of individuals, addressing conduct that interferes with the administration of justice, and applying preventative regimes to protect the community. They may also involve applications challenging decisions concerning the refusal to release a prisoner serving a Commonwealth sentence on parole or on licence, and often require consideration of complex legal frameworks, including international obligations and statutory limits on restrictions of liberty. Recent proceedings to note include *LAZ24 v Purcell (Examiner)* [2025] FCAFC 132, *Roberts v Magistrate Gett* [2026] FCAFC 3 and *VII v Purcell (Examiner)* [2025] FCAFC 135.

Factors shaping the Federal Court's work

The Federal Court's workload in this practice area is influenced by factors outside its control, including investigative activity, prosecutorial decisions and legislative change. The investigation of alleged offences is carried out by investigating agencies, including the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, with prosecutions generally conducted by the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. These factors affect the number and type of proceedings filed, and contribute to variation in workload, duration and complexity across reporting periods.

The scale and complexity of proceedings also shape the Federal Court's work. Some proceedings involve a single accused and a narrow issue of law, while others involve multiple accused, large volumes of documentary or electronic evidence, or issues of international cooperation.

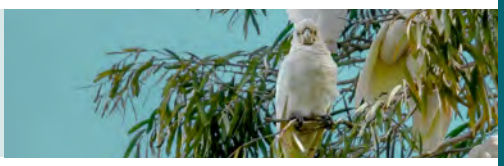
These variables influence how proceedings are managed and require the Federal Court to balance the need for timely resolution with the need to ensure procedural fairness, particularly in complex proceedings or those involving multiple accused, extensive evidence, or overlapping legal and factual issues.

How this work is managed

Crime proceedings are managed within the NCF and the individual docket system. Proceedings are allocated to a judge who generally retains responsibility for case management from filing through to finalisation. This approach supports continuity, early identification of issues and active management of the steps needed to prepare proceedings for hearing or determination.

Judges and registrars play a central role in managing the procedural and operational requirements of Crime proceedings. This includes setting timetables, resolving procedural issues, managing evidence and hearing requirements, and ensuring that proceedings progress efficiently while preserving procedural fairness.

Intellectual Property



Why this work matters

The role of the intellectual property (IP) practice area at the Federal Court is to decide IP disputes according to the law—promptly, courteously and effectively.

In so doing, the IP practice area interprets IP statutory law—including the *Patents Act 1990* (Cth), *Trade Marks Act 1995* (Cth), *Copyright Act 1968* (Cth), *Designs Act 2003* (Cth) and *Plant Breeders' Rights Act 1994* (Cth)—and develops the IP law of the Commonwealth, so as to fulfil the role of a court exercising the judicial power of the Commonwealth under the *Constitution.*

The enforcement of IP law in Australia is intended to protect the value of lawful IP rights in Australia in order to foster innovation and creativity.

Recent figures published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) suggest that:

- the value of corporate intangible assets worldwide approached USD 100 trillion in 2025,
- the 'intangible asset intensity, top 15 firms' in Australia is 74.5 per cent and the United States of America is 91.8 per cent. This indicator is intended to measure the proportion of intangible assets (such as intellectual property, brands, software, data, organisational capital) in the total enterprise value of a country's top 15 firms by intangible asset holdings (source: The Value of Corporate Intangible Assets Worldwide Approaches USD 100 trillion in 2025; The US Leads High-Income Economies; Morocco, China, and India Top Middle-Income Economies).

The IP practice area covers disputes concerning patents, trade marks, copyright, designs, circuit layouts, plant breeders' rights, as well as appeals from decisions of the Commissioner of Patents and Registrar of Trade Marks, and appeals from the Federal Circuit and Family Court (FCFCOA) (Division 2) (which has some jurisdiction to hear IP proceedings.

What kinds of proceedings come before the Federal Court

The IP practice area consists of three sub-areas. These are Patents and Associated Statutes, Trade Marks, and Copyright and Industrial Design.

Judges are aligned to each of the different sub-areas based on their specialised judicial skills allocated to the three sub-area based on professional experience prior to appointment to the Federal Court and interest and experience in the practice area.



Justice Burley



Justice Rofe

National Coordinating Judges

National Coordinating Registrar: Susan O'Connor



'Trade Mark Litigation in the Federal Court' seminar in Victorian registry on 30 July 2025

IP overall workload snapshot:
Original jurisdiction and appellate proceedings



FILINGS
149 up 5% from last year

FINALISATIONS
154 down 8% from last year

CURRENT PROCEEDINGS
193 down 3% from last year

Finalisation rate
103%

Total judgements delivered
90 up 10% from last year

Total judgments delivered within 6 months
76 up 17% from last year

Filings by state and territory



Northern Territory
0
2025–24 | 0

Western Australia
5
2025–24 | 3

South Australia
3
2025–24 | 8

Tasmania
0
2025–24 | 0

Queensland
18
2024–25 | 10

New South Wales
76
2024–25 | 69

Australian Capital Territory
2
2024–25 | 0

Victoria
45
2024–25 | 52

Patents and Associated Statutes SUB-AREA

Patents and Associated Statutes (PATNS) sub-area includes proceedings relating to:

- any patent dispute, with respect to infringement and/or validity of a patent,
- patent disputes concerning the exclusive right to commercially exploit inventions (inventive devices, substances, methods or processes),
- other disputes, including disputes concerning plant breeders' rights in new and distinct varieties of plants, and
- appeals from decisions of the Commissioner of Patents.

Judges aligned with the NPA under the NCF

NSW	Justice Perram Justice Burley + Justice Halley	Justice Jackman Justice Moore Justice Owens	Additional Judge Justice Bromwich
VIC & TAS	Justice Beach Justice Moshinsky	Justice O'Bryan Justice Rofe +	Additional Judge Justice Wheelahan
QLD	Justice Downes		
SA & NT	Justice O'Sullivan		
WA	Justice Jackson		

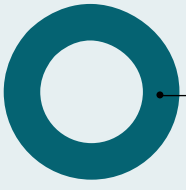
PATNS workload snapshot: Original jurisdiction and appellate proceedings

FILINGS

43 ↑ up **10%** from last year

FINALISATIONS

45 ↓ down **13%** from last year



105%
Finalisation rate

Filings by state and territory



Trade Marks SUB-AREA

The Trade Marks (TM) includes proceedings relating to:

- any trade mark dispute, with respect to infringement and/or validity of a trade mark,
- distinguishing goods and services (including in respect of a letter, number, word, phrase, sound, smell, shape, logo, picture and packaging),
- 'geographical indication' disputes involving a geographical indication or order term signifying a related attribute of goods,
- appeals from decisions of the Registrar of Trade Marks, and
- appeals from the FCFCOA (Division 2) concerning trade mark disputes.

Judges aligned with the NPA under the NCF

NSW	Justice Perram Justice Markovic Justice Bromwich	Justice Burley + Justice Halley Justice Jackman	Justice Moore Justice Owens Justice Younan
VIC & TAS	Justice Beach Justice Moshinsky Justice Wheelahan	Justice O'Bryan justice Anderson Justice Rofe +	Justice Hespe Justice Neskovcin
QLD	Justice Derrington	Justice Downes	Justice Meagher
SA & NT	Justice Charlesworth	Justice O'Sullivan	
WA	Justice Jackson	Justice Vandongen	

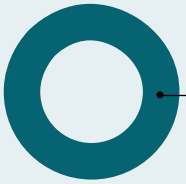
TM workload snapshot: Original jurisdiction and appellate proceedings

FILINGS

29 down **11%** from last year

FINALISATIONS

23 down **12%** from last year



103% Finalisation rate

Filings by state and territory



Copyright and Industrial Design SUB-AREA

The Copyright and Industrial Design (COPY) sub-area includes proceedings relating to:

- copyright disputes concerning literary, musical and artistic works such as books, computer programs, architectural drawings and other subject matter such as films and sound recordings, and including moral rights,
- design disputes concerning the distinctive shape, configuration, pattern or ornamentation of products in an industrial or commercial context,
- other disputes, including circuit layout disputes concerning layout designs for integrated circuits and computer chips,
- appeals from the FCFCOA (Division 2) concerning copyright disputes, and
- questions of law referred from the Copyright Tribunal of Australia.

The Federal Court of Australia also administers the Copyright Tribunal of Australia, which is an independent body established under Part VI of the *Copyright Act 1968* (Cth). It has jurisdiction with respect to statutory and voluntary licensing of copyright works. Justice Perram is the President of the Tribunal, and Justices Thawley, O'Bryan and Rofe are Deputy Presidents. The members of the Copyright Tribunal are Mr Michael Fraser AM, Ms Fiona Phillips and Ms Alida Stanley. Judicial Registrar O'Connor is the Registrar of the Tribunal. Registry services and administrative support for the Tribunal are provided by staff of the Federal Court.

The IP practice area may also encompass disputes concerning passing off, misleading or deceptive conduct, and other breaches of the *Australian Consumer Law*, as contained in Schedule 2 of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth).

IP disputes in the Federal Court are brought by a range of different people, from individuals to large corporate entities, including pharmaceutical and mining companies.

Judges aligned with the NPA under the NCF

NSW	Justice Perram Justice Markovic Justice Bromwich	Justice Burley + Justice Halley Justice Jackman	Justice Moore Justice Owens Justice Younan
VIC & TAS	Justice Beach Justice Moshinsky Justice Wheelahan	Justice O'Bryan Justice Anderson Justice Rofe +	Justice Hespe Justice Neskovcin
QLD	Justice Derrington	Justice Downes	Justice Meagher
SA & NT	Justice Charlesworth	Justice O'Sullivan	
WA	Justice Jackson	Justice Vandongen	

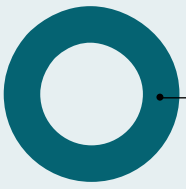
COPY workload snapshot: Original jurisdiction and appellate proceedings

FILINGS

42 ↑ up **35%** from last year

FINALISATIONS

48 ↑ up **48%** from last year



102%
Finalisation rate

Filings by state and territory



How this work is managed

First instance proceedings are heard by a single judge, while appellate proceedings are typically heard by three or more judges sitting together as the Full Court of the Federal Court. At first instance, a single judge of the Federal Court has jurisdiction to hear both civil and criminal disputes relating to infringement of any intellectual property right, although criminal disputes are rare. The Federal Court, constituted by a single judge also has jurisdiction to hear appeals from the Commissioner of Patents and the Registrars of Trade Marks, Designs and Plant Breeder's Rights. Such appeals are conducted as a hearing de novo (from the beginning).

The Full Court of the Federal Court hears appeals from: decisions of the FCFCOA (Division 2); first instance decisions of a single judge in the Federal Court; and a single judge's decision in a de novo appeal from the Commissioner or Registrars, although leave is required in order to appeal such a decision to the Full Court.

First instance IP proceedings are managed within the NCF and the individual docket system. Proceedings are ordinarily allocated to a single judge who remains responsible for case management and determination.

IP proceedings often involve specific features that influence how proceedings are run.

For example, in most patent proceedings, the parties will call expert witnesses to give opinion evidence in the proceeding. The purpose of expert evidence is for the Federal Court to receive the benefit of the objective and impartial assessment of an issue from a witness with specialised knowledge based on training, study or experience. The Federal Court may require experts who are to give evidence to meet for the purpose of identifying matters about which they agree and those on which they disagree, giving short reason for any disagreement, referred to as a 'joint expert conference', which may be facilitated by a judicial registrar of the Federal Court. This conference results in a 'joint expert report' being produced by the experts, which indicates the views of the experts on the identified issues, including explaining any differences in opinion. The Federal Court has issued an **Expert Evidence Practice Note (GPN-EXPT)** which sets out protocols for the use of expert evidence.

At the hearing, the experts are then called to give evidence together in their respective fields of expertise. This is referred to as 'concurrent evidence' or is colloquially referred to as 'hot-tubbing'. First, each expert will be asked to identify and explain the principal issues, as they see them, in their own words. After that, each may comment on the other's explanation. The experts are then cross-examined on a topic-by-topic basis, allowing the Federal Court and the legal representatives to focus on the critical differences in the reasoning of the experts.



Justice Burley, 2025 WIPO Intellectual Property Judges Forum, 10 to 15 October 2025

Intellectual Property Practice Note—Standard Directions for Australian Patent Proceedings (IP-2)

On 8 August 2025, the Federal Court published the Intellectual Property Practice Note—**Standard Directions for Australian Patent Proceedings (IP-2) (Practice Note)**.

The purpose of the Practice Note is to standardise the management of patent litigation through the use of standard directions and procedures. These directions will generally be made at the first return date, shortly after the filing of initial pleadings, and are designed to promote early issue resolution, strict adherence to timelines, and efficient management of complex proceedings.

In line with the Practice Note, parties are expected to raise key procedural matters, such as proposed amendments or reliance on experimental evidence, at the first return date. Any proposed variations to the standard directions should be agreed between the parties and submitted for the Federal Court's consideration in advance.

The Federal Court anticipates that this approach will support the setting of a provisional trial date within 18 months of commencement and reinforce compliance with the overarching purpose set out in section 37M of the *Federal Court of Australia Act 1976* (Cth) to facilitate the just resolution of IP disputes according to law, and to do so as quickly, inexpensively, and as efficiently as possible.

Working groups—Standard Directions for Australian Trade Mark proceedings

In the reporting period, the Federal Court convened working groups in Melbourne and Sydney (consisting of specialist judges, registrars, counsel and solicitors) to develop standard directions for Australian trade mark proceedings.

In line with the approach taken in patent proceedings, one of the key objectives of the standard directions in trade mark proceedings is to align case management with the federal Court's overarching purpose under section 37M of the *Federal Court of Act 1976* (Cth) to facilitate the just resolution of disputes, including IP disputes, according to law as quickly, inexpensively and efficiently as possible.

The Federal Court liaises with the legal profession through events focused on international collaboration, judicial education and procedural innovation. A list of these events can be found at **Appendix 1**.

Factors shaping the Federal Court's work

Factors shaping the Federal Court's work in the IP practice area include:

- rapid technological change,
- legislative and regulatory settings, and
- commercial drivers.

During reporting period, the IP practice area also saw an increase in applicants seeking urgent interlocutory injunctions in pharmaceutical and biosimilar patent disputes.

Alternative dispute resolution and mediation remain key features of the IP practice area, with most IP disputes being referred to mediation, either private or Court-appointed, at some stage during the proceeding, but usually after the close of pleadings.

Looking ahead

Looking ahead, there is likely to be an ongoing focus on case management, with a practice note regarding standard directions for trade mark proceedings likely to be published in the next reporting period.

The Federal Court also expects to see an increase in IP disputes concerning artificial intelligence.



Justice Moore, the Honourable David Yates, Registrar O'Connor, Justice Burley, Justice Rofe and the Honourable John Nicholas at 38th Annual IPSANZ Conference in Brisbane

Native Title



Why this work matters

Native title proceedings concern the recognition of the rights and interests that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples hold in land and waters under Australian law. This work arises from the statutory framework established following *Mabo v Queensland (No 2)* and reflects Parliament's response to the pre-existing rights of First Nations peoples.

The Federal Court's role in native title proceedings is to apply that framework according to law. While proceedings often involve issues of deep cultural, historical and community significance, the Federal Court's task is judicial rather than political or policy-driven. The work is important because it provides an independent forum in which claims, agreements and disputes about native title are determined transparently and according to law.

National Coordinating Judges



Justice O'Bryan



Justice Longbottom

Judges aligned with the NPA under the NCF

	Justice Collier	Justice Charlesworth	Justice O'Bryan +	
	Justice Murphy	Justice Burley	Justice Jackson	
	Justice Rangiah	Justice Sarah C Derrington	Justice McEvoy	Justice Bennett
	Justice Wigney	Justice Banks-Smith	Justice Raper	Justice Longbottom +
All states and territories	Justice Perry	Justice Colvin	Justice Kennett	Justice Hill
	Justice Moshinsky	Justice Stewart	Justice Stellios	Justice Lenehan

National Coordinating Registrar: Laurelea McGregor



Consent determination hearing Kado Muir & Ors on behalf of The Payarri People and State of Western Australia & Ors

NT workload snapshot:
Original jurisdiction and appellate proceedings



FILINGS
69 up 41% from last year

FINALISATIONS
60 up 2% from last year

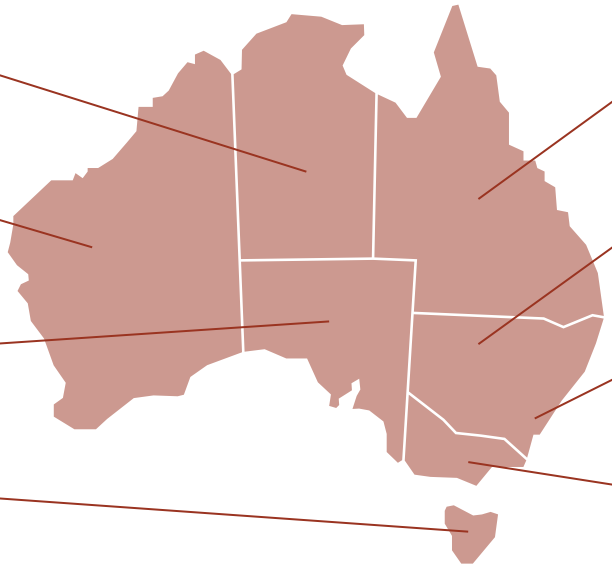
CURRENT PROCEEDINGS
230 up 4% from last year

Finalisation rate
87%

Total judgments delivered
66 up 8% from last year

Total judgments delivered within 6 months
56 up 14% from last year

Filings by state and territory



Northern Territory
7
2025–24 | 6

Western Australia
9
2025–24 | 12

South Australia
2
2025–24 | 1

Tasmania
0
2025–24 | 0

Queensland
28
2024–25 | 12

New South Wales
17
2024–25 | 17

Australian Capital Territory
0
2024–25 | 0

Victoria
6
2024–25 | 1

What kinds of proceedings come before the Federal Court

The Native Title NPA includes a distinct set of proceedings, including:

Table 4.3 Native Title National Practice Area proceedings

Application Type	Purpose
Native Title determination applications	Seek recognition that native title exists in a particular area.
Non-claimant applications	Usually brought by governments or other parties with a non-native title interest seeking certainty about whether native title exists in an area.
Compensation applications	Seek compensation on just terms for acts that have extinguished or impaired native title rights and interests.
Revised determination applications	Generally brought to vary native title outcomes where issues have changed or been clarified since a determination was made.
Post-determination applications	Deal with issues arising after a determination, including disputes about compliance with determinations or agreements.
Related interlocutory and procedural applications	Applications concerning procedural, case management, or interim issues arising during proceedings.

Many proceedings involve multiple parties, including traditional owner groups, governments, statutory bodies and commercial interests. Proceedings may extend over long periods and require careful case management due to their scope, complexity and the need for culturally appropriate processes.

Management of Native Title proceedings

Native title proceedings are managed within the Federal Court's NCF but involve specialised approaches reflecting their statutory character and distinctive features, as outlined below. Proceedings are generally allocated to judges with experience in native title law and practice, with additional judicial and judicial registrar involvement where appropriate.

Proceedings are commonly case-managed actively over extended periods, with attention given to the sequencing of issues, the coordination of parties and the efficient use of Federal Court time.

A significant proportion of native title work involves court-supervised mediation. Mediation can occur at multiple stages of a proceeding and may continue alongside formal case management steps.

Judicial registrars and external mediators, including First Nations mediators and facilitators, where appropriate, support this work. Its aim is to assist parties to resolve issues by agreement where possible, consistent with the statutory framework.

The Federal Court does not determine outcomes in mediation. Its role is to supervise lawful processes and, where agreement is reached, decide whether it should be recognised or given effect according to law.



On-Country hearing: Coen, Queensland

Features of native title matters

Native title proceedings have some distinctive features which differ from other areas of the Federal Court's work in several important respects:

- **Time and scale**
  Proceedings may span many years and cover large geographic areas.
- **Community involvement**
  Proceedings engage entire communities rather than individual litigants.
- **Evidentiary complexity**
  Evidence may include historical, anthropological and oral testimony.
- **Cultural considerations**
  Processes must be conducted in ways that respect cultural authority and knowledge systems.

These features require flexible and sustained case management, as well as coordination between judges, judicial registrars and parties.

Key influences of the Federal Court's native title workload

The Federal Court's native title workload is shaped by factors largely outside its control, including:

- The number and geographic scope of claims commenced.
- The pace of agreement-making between parties.
- The emergence of compensation claims, which raise novel issues of law and evidence.
- Resource-intensive hearings, particularly where matters cannot be resolved by agreement.

Native title proceedings must be balanced against the demands of proceedings in other jurisdictions, while also requiring continuity and long-term judicial engagement. This mean that, while some proceedings progress steadily through agreement, others require extended judicial involvement. Comparative statistics alone do not capture this variation.



First Peoples of the Millewa-Mallee Native Title Claim Group and State of Victoria & Ors consent determination hearing

2025–26 Highlighted proceedings

There were several significant judgments published in the Native Title NPA in the reporting period, which included:

Dimer on behalf of the Marlinyu Ghoorlie Claim Group v State of Western Australia (No 6) [2025] FCA 1641

The Federal Court recognised the Marlinyu Ghoorlie claim group as the native title holders for a substantial area of the Western Australian Goldfields, finding that native title exists throughout the claim area subject to extinguishment. The judgment resolved overlapping claim issues and established a foundation for the final determination of native title rights and interests.

Sampi v State of Western Australia (No 5) [2026] FCA 517

The Federal Court varied suppression orders over gender-restricted evidence made nearly two decades earlier. The named applicants in the proceeding had died and the orders as varied gave the Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC) access to, and control of, that evidence The Federal Court found that such an order was within its power and appropriate even without the RNTBC seeking the consent of all the common law holders of the native title. In considering the appropriateness of the orders, the Federal Court took into account articles 4 and 31 of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) GA Res 61/295, UN Doc A/RES/61/295 (2 October 2007, adopted 13 September 2007).



Cape York, Queensland



First Peoples of the Millewa-Mallee Native Title Claim Group and State of Victoria & Ors
Nichols Point, Victoria

Davey on behalf of the Gudanji, Yanyuwa and Yanyuwa-Marra Peoples v Northern Territory of Australia (No 5) (McArthur River Project Compensation Claim) [2026] FCA 153

The Federal Court made an award of compensation arising from the McArthur River Mine project, comprising approximately $54.7 million for economic and cultural loss suffered by the Gudanji, Yanyuwa and Yanyuwa-Marra Peoples. This claim for compensation was made under the *McArthur River Project Agreement Ratification Act 1992* (NT). The judgment was the first delivered since the High Court handed down its decision in *Northern Territory v Griffiths* [2019] HCA 7; (2019) 269 CLR 1 provides guidance for future native title compensation claims and the assessment of cultural loss.

Yindjibarndi Ngurra Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC v State of Western Australia (No 2) [2026] FCA 585

The Federal Court awarded over $150 million in compensation to the Yindjibarndi people for the impairment of native title rights arising from mining tenements associated with Fortescue's Solomon Hub Project in the Pilbara. The judgment is a landmark native title compensation decision, establishing important principles for assessing cultural loss and compensation for future acts affecting native title rights and interests.

Looking forward

Native title proceedings will continue to form a significant and distinct part of the Federal Court's work. Compensation claims and post-determination issues are expected to remain prominent, alongside the resolution of long-running claims.

The Federal Court will continue to manage proceedings actively and transparently while supporting agreement-making within statutory limits to ensure that determinations and agreements are made according to law. At the centre of this approach the Federal Court will maintain culturally appropriate processes.

These approaches reflect the Federal Court's statutory role and the enduring nature of this jurisdiction, rather than any assessment of outcomes.



On country hearing Coen, Queensland

Taxation

Why this work matters

The Federal Court exercises, together with the Administrative Review Tribunal, exclusive jurisdiction to review decisions made by the Commonwealth Commissioner of Taxation on objections by taxpayers against assessments for income tax, GST and other Commonwealth taxes. These reviews provide the avenue for ensuring that taxpayers are assessed for the correct amount of tax.

The Federal Court also exercises supervisory jurisdiction over administrative actions taken by Commonwealth officers. In doing so, the Federal Court helps ensure that the Commissioner of Taxation and other Commonwealth bodies exercise their powers according to law.

National Coordinating Judges



Justice Moshinsky



Justice Hespe

Judges aligned with the NPA under the NCF

NSW & ACT	Justice Perram Justice Wigney Justice Perry Justice Bromwich	Justice Thawley Justice Abraham Justice Goodman Justice Kennett	Justice Jackman Justice Needham Justice Owens	Justice Stellios Justice Younan Justice Lenehan
VIC & TAS	Justice Moshinsky + Justice O'Callaghan Justice Wheelahan	Justice McElwaine Justice McEvoy Justice Hespe +	Justice Button Justice Horan	Justice Neskovcin Justice Hill
QLD	Justice Derrington	Justice Downes	Justice Wheatley	
SA & NT	Justice Charlesworth	Justice O'Sullivan		
WA	Justice Colvin	Justice Feutrill	Justice Vandongen	

National Coordinating Registrar: Robyn Curnow

TAX workload snapshot:
Original Jurisdiction and appellate proceedings



FILINGS
146 up **20%** from last year

FINALISATIONS
132 up **13%** from last year

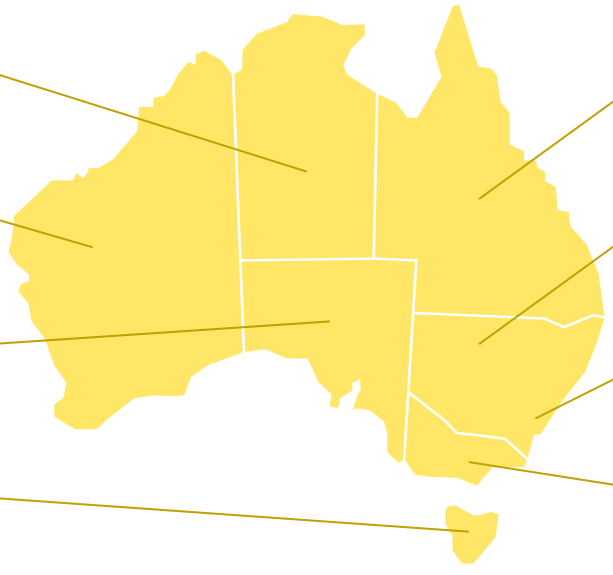
CURRENT PROCEEDINGS
255 up **6%** from last year

Finalisation rate
90%

Total judgments delivered
58 up 16% from last year

Total judgments delivered within 6 months
49 up 14% from last year

Filings by state and territory



Northern Territory
0
2025–24 | 0

Western Australia
6
2025–24 | 8

South Australia
6
2025–24 | 3

Tasmania
0
2025–24 | 0

Queensland
27
2024–25 | 35

New South Wales
57
2024–25 | 36

Australian Capital Territory
1
2024–25 | 1

Victoria
49
2024–25 | 39

Work profile

Filings in the Taxation NPA during 2025–26 increased by 20 per cent from the previous reporting period, returning to the same volume as 2023–24. Appeals from decisions of the ART have continued to increase over this period.

The number of taxation appeals under Part IVC of the *Taxation Administration Act 1953* (Cth) (Part IVC) has fluctuated over the last three years, but remains broadly consistent.

The majority of proceedings filed in the Taxation NPA are commenced in New South Wales.

What kinds of proceedings come before the Federal Court

Review of Objection Decisions

The process by which taxpayers can contest their Commonwealth taxation liabilities is generally provided for exclusively in Part IVC. The process involves taxpayers lodging notices of objection with the Commissioner of Taxation, whose officers then make a decision on that objection.

A taxpayer may bring an appeal in the Federal Court against objection decisions made by the Commissioner of Taxation under Part IVC. Examples of such appeals include appeals in respect of objection decisions on objections to income tax assessments, GST assessments and fringe benefits tax assessments. These appeals are important because taxpayers can only contest their substantive liability to these taxes through the process provided for in Part IVC.

Appeals may also be brought under Part IVC in respect of objection decisions concerning private rulings by the Commissioner of Taxation.

Instead of appealing an objection decision to the Federal Court, a taxpayer may under Part IVC seek review of an objection decision in the ART. Where a taxpayer has sought review by the ART, the Federal Court hears appeals from decisions made by the ART on a question of law.

Review of Departure Prohibition Orders

Apart from review of objection decisions, taxpayers can apply to the Federal Court under the *Taxation Administration Act 1953* (Cth) for review of a decision by the Commissioner to issue a departure prohibition order.

Judicial Review of other administrative decisions

Proceedings before the Federal Court in the Taxation NPA include judicial review of administrative decisions made by the Commissioner of Taxation or Deputy Commissioner of Taxation. The purpose of these proceedings is to ensure that these decision-makers exercise their administrative powers lawfully. These administrative powers include the Commissioner of Taxation's discretion to remit interest charges, approval of payment plans that allow taxpayers to pay their tax liabilities in instalments over an agreed period of time, and access powers that allow officers of the Australian Taxation Office to search premises or compel the provision of information or documents to the Commissioner.

Proceedings in the Taxation NPA also include judicial review of decisions made by regulators exercising power under tax-related legislation, such as the Tax Practitioners Board (in relation to the regulation of tax agents), and the Anti-Dumping Review Panel. The Federal Court also hears appeals from the Administrative Review Tribunal on review of decisions relating to tariff concession orders made by the Comptroller-General of Customs.

Freezing Orders

Proceedings in the Taxation NPA also include applications by a Deputy Commissioner of Taxation for freezing orders over assets of a taxpayer in order to protect the recovery of taxation liabilities and applications for variations to such orders.

How this work is managed

Taxation proceedings are managed within the NCF and the individual docket system, with a single Judge ordinarily responsible for a proceeding from commencement to resolution. Sometimes proceedings in the Federal Court need to be managed and heard concurrently with related proceedings lodged in the ART.

The proceedings in the NPA are generally managed in accordance with the Tax Practice Note.

Appeals on a question of law from decisions of the ART may be referred directly to a Full Court in some circumstances, such as where a Judicial Deputy President made the decision (or was a member of the Tribunal that gave the decision).

Judges and judicial registrars actively manage taxation proceedings to:

- identify opportunities for mediation or early resolution and facilitate communication between the parties,
- resolve interlocutory disputes efficiently,
- sequence proceedings to promote efficient and effective determination.

The Federal Court looks at ways to facilitate the resolution of issues as efficiently as possible. This may involve determining a separate question, where the answer to that question may resolve the entire proceeding, or the appointment of referees or joint experts.

Engagement with the profession

Judges in the Taxation NPA engaged with the profession and participated in public events during 2025–26:

Justice Perram

25 November 2025

Speaker, CPD presented by Ground Floor Wentworth, Sydney, entitled 'Surf's up: The latest wave of Part IVA cases'. The panel, comprising his Honour Bradley Jones SC, Lucy McGovern and Thomas Arnold, discussed how recent proceedings have impacted the landscape of Part IVA of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936* (Cth) including on the question of purpose, the construction of the alternative postulate, and decisions on evidence.



'Surf's up: The latest wave of Part IVA cases' CPD, Ground Floor, Wentworth, 25 November 2025. Left to right: Thomas Arnold, the Hon Justice Perram, Bradley Jones SC and Lucy McGovern

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Justice Lee 21 November 2025 Guest speaker at Westminster Tax Group Christmas Event on 'The Rise of Managerialism'.

Justice Hespe

20 November 2025

Presented at the Victorian Tax Bar Association's seminar Effective Appeal Statements in Federal Court Tax Litigation.

15 May 2026

Panellist on Taxation Litigation Panel at the Law Council of Australia's 2026 National Tax Workshop.



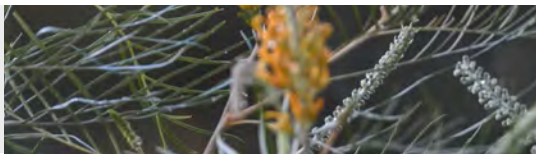
Victorian Tax Bar Association's seminar Effective Appeal Statements in Federal Court Tax Litigation on 20 November 2025
Left to right: Eugene Wheelahan KC, The Hon. Justice Hespe, Catherine Pierce KC

Pressures, trends, constraints and looking ahead

The substantive issues that come before the Federal Court often reflect the Commissioner of Taxation's audit activity over prior years. There has been a marked increase in litigants in person in the Taxation NPA, which may reflect the broader economic landscape.



Other Federal Jurisdiction



Why this work matters

The Other Federal Jurisdiction (OFJ) NPA deals with the range of proceedings that do not fall neatly within the subject-matter jurisdictions of the Federal Court's other NPAs, but are still central to the exercise of Commonwealth judicial power.

This NPA includes proceedings that directly affect individual reputation, personal rights and accountability, as well as proceedings that arise from the interaction of federal jurisdiction with state and territory laws. The Federal Court's role is to determine these disputes independently and according to law, ensuring that federal jurisdiction is exercised both consistently and transparently.

The OFJ NPA encompasses a wide variety of subject matters. It illustrates the broad range of issues that may come before the Federal Court to be heard and decided, and also demonstrates the need for flexible and consistent approaches to the way these proceedings are both managed and decided by the Federal Court within its single national framework.

NPA Judges

All judges hear and determine proceedings in the OFJ NPA (excluding defamation proceedings—refer to the table under Defamation sub area).

National Coordinating Registrar: Paul Farrell

What kinds of proceedings come before the Federal Court

Proceedings in the OFJ NPA arise from a variety of statutory and constitutional pathways. While the range of individual proceedings can be diverse, they are often grouped collectively because they share common procedural or jurisdictional features rather than specific subject matter.

A significant component of this NPA is defamation, which is treated as a distinct sub-area due to the significant volume and procedural characteristics of defamation proceedings. The defamation sub-area covers all defamation disputes within federal jurisdiction.

In addition, the OFJ NPA includes proceedings such as:

- Civil Aviation claims,
- Telecommunications proceedings,
- Election related disputes,
- General negligence claims.

The types of proceedings commenced in the OFJ NPA can vary significantly from year-to-year and can often be influenced by external factors including legislative changes and developments as well as significant and sometimes unforeseen events which attract federal jurisdiction.

OFJ overall workload snapshot: Original Jurisdiction and appellate proceedings



FILINGS

72 up 18% from 2025–26

FINALISATIONS

63 down 10% from 2025–26

CURRENT PROCEEDINGS

93 up 10% from 2025–26

How this work is managed

Proceedings in this NPA are managed within the NCF and the individual docket system, in most proceedings by a single judge, with particular expertise in the subject area, who is responsible for the proceeding from commencement through to determination.

Case management techniques and approaches are necessarily adapted to meet the specific nature of the dispute. While judges and judicial registrars continue to focus on ensuring that proceedings are conducted efficiently and fairly, different types of proceedings may require various levels of procedural formality or urgency, and are managed accordingly.

Where proceedings are relatively narrow in scope, proactive management is used to streamline steps and avoid unnecessary interlocutory activity and cost. Where proceedings are complex and/or sensitive, additional procedural safeguards may be required.

> What this means: **Flexibility within a consistent framework allows the Federal Court to efficiently manage a significantly diverse caseload without compromising fairness or transparency.**

Other federal jurisdiction proceedings

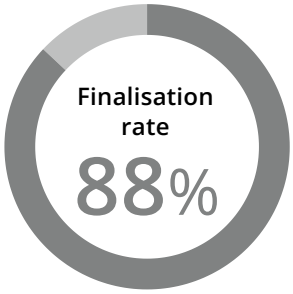
Other proceedings within this NPA are diverse in nature and scale. Some involve discrete jurisdictional questions or limited factual issues, while others may raise complex legal questions arising from the interaction of Commonwealth and state laws.

The diversity of these proceedings means there is no single procedural model for dealing with them. Judges and judicial registrars adapt case management approaches to the characteristics of each proceedings, focusing on clarity of issues and appropriate use of judicial resources.

Looking ahead

The mix and variety of proceedings within the OFJ NPA is expected to remain variable. Changes in communication technologies, legislative frameworks and litigation behaviour will likely influence both the nature and volume of proceedings for this NPA.

The Federal Court will continue to manage this work through the flexible application of consistent principles, with a focus on early issue identification, proportionate procedural processes and transparent decision-making within the parameters of the Federal Court's constitutional role.



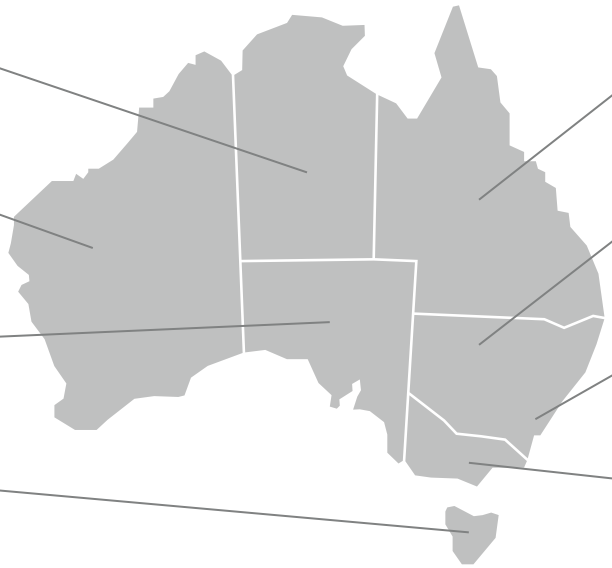
Total judgements delivered

56 up 4% from last year

Total judgments delivered within 6 months

47 down 4% from last year

Filings by state and territory



Northern Territory
3
2025–24 | **2**

Western Australia
6
2025–24 | **4**

South Australia
1
2025–24 | **1**

Tasmania
0
2025–24 | **1**

Queensland
10
2024–25 | **6**

New South Wales
26
2024–25 | **21**

Australian Capital Territory
1
2024–25 | **11**

Victoria
25
2024–25 | **15**

Defamation SUB-AREA

Defamation proceedings involve allegations that published material has caused harm to reputation. These proceedings sometimes involve well-known public figures and personalities as well as media organisations and online publishers. They can often attract significant public interest.

Defamation proceedings can contain highly technicallegal issues, so frequently involve complex interlocutory disputes relating to the content of pleadings, discovery of documents and evidence. They may also raise issues of urgency, possible suppression of specific information and confidentiality.

Judicial case management of defamation proceedings aims to identify and clarify issues as early as possible, manage the evidentiary scope and ensure the proceedings are progressed efficiently and quickly, recognising both the personal impact of these disputes and the public interest in their timely resolution. To assist with this, the Federal Court has developed and issued a specific Practice Note for the Defamation sub-area **Defamation (DEF-1)**.

National Coordinating Judges



Justice Wigney



Justice Wheelahan

Judges aligned with the NPA under the NCF

All states and territories	Justice Perram Justice Rangiah Justice Wigney + Justice Bromwich Justice Charlesworth Justice O'Callaghan	Justice Lee Justice Derrington Justice SC Derrington Justice Colvin Justice Wheelahan +	Justice Downes Justice O'Sullivan Justice McElwaine Justice McEvoy Justice Raper	Justice Button Justice Jackman Justice Needham Justice Vandongen Justice Owens

Common law negligence / Aviation / Other: All Judges

DEF workload snapshot: Original jurisdiction and appellate proceedings

FILINGS

38 up **27%** from last year

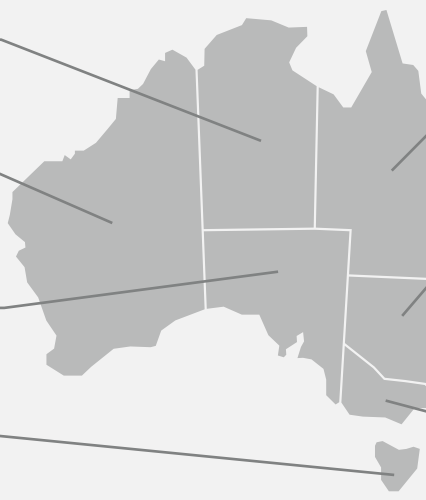
FINALISATIONS

31 down **18%** from last year

CURRENT PROCEEDINGS

50 up **16%** from last year

Filings by state and territory



NT
0
2024–25 | 1

QLD
7
2024–25 | 3

WA
1
2024–25 | 2

NSW
17
2024–25 | 13

SA
0
2024–25 | 0

ACT
0
2024–25 | 0

TAS
0
2024–25 | 1

VIC
13
2024–25 | 10

Work of the judges in other courts and tribunals

Judges of the Federal Court also exercise functions and hold concurrent appointments in other courts and Commonwealth tribunals where legislation requires judicial office holders. These appointments represent another important contribution judges make to the broader administration of justice while engaging with the Australian and international community. They also increase the demands placed on judges of the Federal Court and their workloads.

Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory

Under section 4A of the *Supreme Court Act 1933* (ACT), judges from other superior courts in the court hierarchy may be appointed as additional judges of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory.

The following judges of the Federal Court hold such an appointment: Justices Collier, Rangiah, Wigney, Bromwich, Charlesworth, Lee, Banks-Smith, Thawley, Wheelahan, Stewart, O'Bryan, Anderson, Abraham, O'Sullivan and Vandongen.

National and Supreme Courts of Papua New Guinea

The National Court and the Supreme Court are the higher courts of Papua New Guinea. The National Court is a trial court, while the Supreme Court is predominantly an appellate court and represents the highest court in Papua New Guinea.

During the reporting period both Justice Collier and Justice Logan served as Judges of the National Court and the Supreme Court of Papua New Guinea. As at 30 June 2026, Justice Collier is the only judge of the Federal Court currently appointed by the Governor General of Papua New Guinea to serve as a judge of these courts, following the retirement of the Hon. John Alexander Logan AM RFD from the Federal Court on 5 March 2026.

Supreme Court of Norfolk Island

The Supreme Court of Norfolk Island is the superior court of record for the Territory of Norfolk Island, which is an external Commonwealth territory. The Federal Court has jurisdiction to hear civil and criminal proceedings.

Judges of the Federal Court appointed to this Supreme Court are Justice Bromwich, appointed as the Supreme Court's Chief Justice, and Justices Wigney and Abraham as its judges.

Vanuatu Court of Appeal

The Court of Appeal is the highest court in the Republic of Vanuatu, which hears civil and criminal appeals from the country's Supreme Court. It meets three times a year for two weeks each session.

The Vanuatu appointments are session-based appointments rather than ongoing commissions. The President of Vanuatu appoints acting judges for particular court sessions, with appointments made shortly before each session. Both Justice Wigney and Justice Needham will be acting Judges of the Vanuatu Court of Appeal. In this reporting period, on 2 February 2026, Justice Wigney took the oath of office to serve as Acting Judge of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Vanuatu. His Honour served in the role for the period of 2 to 13 February 2026.

Administrative Review Tribunal

The Administrative Review Tribunal was established by the *Administrative Review Tribunal Act 2024* (Cth) and commenced operation on 14 October 2024, replacing the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. The Tribunal conducts merits review of administrative decisions made under Commonwealth law, with its aim to improve the quality of government decision-making.

Whilst the Federal Court does not administer the Tribunal, the President of the Tribunal is required to be a judge of the Federal Court. The current President is Justice Kyrou. Judicial Deputy Presidents of the Tribunal are also judges of the Federal Court and include Justices Collier, Perry, Derrington, Thawley, McEvoy, Hespe, Kennett and Jackman.

Australian Competition Tribunal

The Australian Competition Tribunal is a review body established under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth), which is administered by the Federal Court. It considers applications for review of certain decisions made under competition law which affect Australian consumers and businesses. The Tribunal may exercise all the powers of the original decision maker and may affirm, vary or set aside decisions under review.

From 1 January 2026, a new merger and acquisitions regime commenced, requiring certain business acquisitions to be approved by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. No proceedings have been commenced in the Tribunal during the reporting period and nor were any decisions delivered by it. However, as this recent reform is likely to increase the Tribunal's workload reviewing decisions of the Commission, the Federal Court has been involved in significant efforts to ensure that the Tribunal is resourced sufficiently to perform the anticipated expanded functions.

Presidential members of the Tribunal are judges of the Federal Court. The President is Justice O'Bryan. Deputy Presidents include Justices Moshinsky, Sarah C Derrington, Halley and Downes, together with appointees since the new merger regime, Justices Beach, Button, Neskovcin and Moore. The Tribunal also includes lay members appointed for their expertise in areas such as commerce, economics, law or public administration. The Tribunal is supported by Registrar Luxton and Deputy Registrars Segal, Colbran, Trott and Buckingham, and is administratively supported by staff of the Federal Court.

Copyright Tribunal of Australia

The Copyright Tribunal of Australia is an independent body established under the *Copyright Act 1968* (Cth) and administered by the Federal Court. It determines disputes about licensing arrangements for copyright material. These include:

- **Statutory licences**
  Which for example permit reproduction of certain copyright materials by educational institutions.
- **Voluntary licences**
  Which are the result of negotiation between a copyright owner or its representative, such as a collecting society, and the licensee who wants to use the copyrighted material or information. For example, the Tribunal can hear applications by licensors or would-be licensees where there has been a failure to agree on grant of a voluntary licence.

The Tribunal's work can be of great significance to copyright holders including artists, authors, and creative industries. While no new proceedings were commenced during the reporting period, the Tribunal delivered two decisions.

The President of the Copyright Tribunal must be a judge of the Federal Court, and the role is currently held by Justice Perram. The current Deputy Presidents are Justices Thawley, O'Bryan and Rofe of the Federal Court. The current non-judicial members, Mr Michael Fraser AM, Ms Fiona Phillips and Ms Alida Stanley, were reappointed on 8 June 2026 for terms lasting until 7 June 2030. The Registrar of the Tribunal is Senior Judicial Registrar O'Connor, of the Federal Court.

Defence Force Discipline Appeal Tribunal

The Defence Force Discipline Appeal Tribunal is established under the *Defence Force Discipline Appeals Act 1955* (Cth), to promote transparency of reviews of disciplinary decisions affecting Australian Defence Force personnel. On 4 March 2026, the Tribunal published a new Practice Direction, governing the practice and procedure of the Tribunal and guiding parties to navigate them.

No new proceedings were filed and no decisions were delivered during the reporting year.

Justice Perry of the Federal Court is the acting President of the Tribunal, following the former President, the Hon. John Alexander Logan AM RFD, retirement from the Federal Court on 5 March 2026 (ceasing in this role on the same date). Both Justice Perry and Justice Halley of the Federal Court are Deputy Presidents of the Tribunal. The Tribunal is supported by Registrar Luxton and Deputy Registrars Colbran, Lackenby, Stone and Trott of the Federal Court.



The work of the Federal Court's Judicial Registrars

This part explains the work undertaken by judicial registrars to support the Federal Court's management of proceedings. Judicial registrars manage particular categories of proceedings, conduct mediations and assist judges with case management and procedural issues. This allows proceedings to be managed at the appropriate level while preserving the role of judges in determining disputes that require judicial decision making.

Proceedings managed in judicial registrar lists

Under the NCF, some types of proceedings are allocated to a judicial registrar, or to a judicial registrar list, when they are commenced. These proceedings generally remain with judicial registrars until they are resolved.

Judicial registrar lists are used for categories of work that can be managed under delegated powers and established proceeding pathways. Most proceedings in these lists are in the Commercial and Corporations NPA, particularly Corporations and Corporate Insolvency. The National General Protections List, introduced as a pilot in September 2024, was adopted on a permanent basis on 17 December 2025. Further information is included in **Part 4** of this Report. The judicial registrar lists include:

- The Corporations List commonly includes winding-up applications, examinations, applications to set aside statutory demands and applications about external administration.
- The Bankruptcy List commonly includes creditors' petitions, applications to set aside bankruptcy notices and examinations under section 81 of the *Bankruptcy Act 1966* (Cth). These lists are generally held in person in each registry, reflecting the nature of the proceedings.
- The National General Protections List deals with proceedings under the general protections provisions of the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth).

The following table shows filings, finalisations and current proceedings in judicial registrar proceedings for 2023–24 to 2025–26. The figures measure work commenced and resolved in these lists. There was a 6 per cent increase in judicial registrar filings from the last reporting period. Finalisation also increased by 15 per cent year-on-year. Significantly, there has been a 51 per cent increase in the National General Protections List filings. They should be read with the explanatory notes, as some judicial registrar work is not separately captured in the Federal Court's statistics.

Proceedings allocated to registrars

2023–24 to 2025–26

FILINGS

up **16%** from last year

2,910 2025–26

2,751 2024–25 | 1,972 2023–24

FINALISATIONS

up **16%** from last year

2,787 2025–26

2,433 2024–25 | 1,884 2023–24

CURRENT PROCEEDINGS

up **16%** from last year

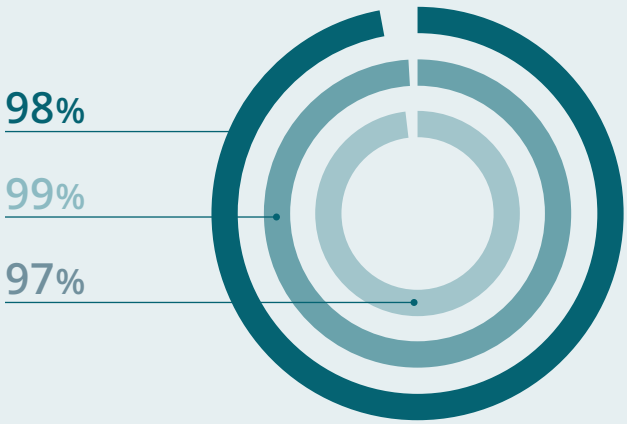
982 2025–26

859 2024–25 | 541 2023–24

Finalisation rate



Percentage of finalisations within 12 months



2025–2026 2024–2025 2023–2024

Filings by state and territory



Northern Territory
20 up 5%
19 2024–25 10 2023–24

Western Australia
221 up 7%
206 2024–25 141 2023–24

South Australia
173 up 18%
147 2024–25 114 2023–24

Tasmania
40 up 21%
33 2024–25 21 2023–24

Queensland
516 up 9%
473 2024–25 312 2023–24

New South Wales
1,161 up 13%
1,028 2024–25 837 2023–24

Australian Capital Territory
59 down 12%
67 2024–25 34 2023–24

Victoria
720 down 7%
778 2024–25 503 2023–24

Table 4.4 Proceedings allocated to registrars, filings in the lists by NPA, 2023–24 to 2025–26

Registrar proceedings	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
C&C: CORPS	1,707	2,346	**2,420**
C&C: GPI	251	331	**373**
E&IR	14	73	**110**

Explanatory note: One other proceeding was filed in 2024–25 and seven other proceedings were filed in 2025–26 in the ACLHR or OFJ NPAs. These proceedings were allocated directly to judicial registrars under delegated powers but do not form part of the main judicial registrar lists. They include, for example, certain preliminary discovery applications.

Mediation

The Federal Court may refer parties to alternative dispute resolution, including mediation, where it may help resolve a dispute or narrow the issues requiring determination. These options are available under section 53A of the *Federal Court Act 1976* (Cth) and Part 28 of the Federal Court Rules.

Mediation can reduce the time and cost of litigation for parties and assist the Federal Court to focus judicial resources on issues that require determination.

The individual docket system allows the docket judge, or a judicial registrar who is managing a judicial registrar proceeding, to identify when mediation or another form of alternative dispute resolution may be appropriate. Judicial registrars conduct this work across NPAs and may use technology or flexible meeting arrangements to support participation.

In reporting period, 709 proceedings were referred to mediation, a 23 per cent increase from 2024–25. The following table shows mediation allocations by NPA and registry of filing. The largest number of referrals was in the Commercial and Corporations NPA, with 269 mediation allocations (an increase from 223 in the previous reporting period), followed by the Employment and Industrial Relations NPA, with 227 mediation allocations.

Table 4.5 Proceedings referred to mediation and allocated to judicial registrars, by NPA, 2023–24 to 2025–26 periods

Mediation allocations by NPA	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
ACLHR	51	53	**85**
MIG	2	6	**15**
A&M	2	2	**6**
CRIME	0	0	**0**
C&C	197	223	**269**
E&IR	160	188	**227**
IP	53	60	**67**
NT	13	11	**8**
OFJ	15	15	**13**
Tax	16	21	**19**
Total	**509**	**579**	**709**

Proceedings referred to mediation and allocated to judicial registrars, by state and territory, 2023–24 to 2025–26 periods



(*) Explanatory note: Native Title allocation numbers do not generally reflect the work of specialist judicial registrars in that practice area. In Native Title proceedings, specialist judicial registrars are commonly allocated alongside judges when proceedings commence. Separate allocations to judicial registrars are not made or captured for the Federal Court's statistical reporting.

Case management, interlocutory applications and other work managed by judicial registrars

Judges, and in some proceedings judicial registrars, may refer work to judicial registrars for case management, interlocutory applications or other procedural matters. These referrals help proceedings progress and allow judicial attention to be directed to issues requiring determination by a judge.

Common referrals include case management hearings or conferences, examinations in corporations or bankruptcy proceedings, discovery disputes, subpoenas, notices to produce and costs applications. This work may be undertaken in Federal Court, in conferences with the parties, or on the papers.

Judicial registrars are supported by legal case managers, who assist with file and document management, listings, correspondence with parties and legal work associated with the management of proceedings. Further information about the role of the legal case manager is included in **Part 5** of this report.

The following table shows case management allocations by registry of filing and NPA. It measures referred case management work, not the whole of the work performed by judicial registrars.

Proceedings referred for case management and allocated to judicial registrars, by state and territory, 2023–24 to 2025–26 periods



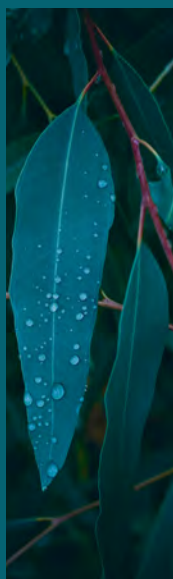
Table 4.6 Proceedings referred for case management and allocated to judicial registrars, by NPA, 2023–24 to 2025–26 periods

CM Allocations by NPA	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
ACLHR	50	65	72
MIG	206	175	311
A&M	1	0	5
CRIME	2	5	0
C&C	452	632	756
E&IR	69	82	86
IP	58	76	76
NT	10	10	14
OFJ	29	22	42
Tax	19	35	27
Total	896	1,102	1,389

PART 5

People and capability supporting judicial work

The Federal Court's judicial work described in **Part 4** of this Report is supported by a range of specialist and professional staff whose contributions are essential to the administration of justice and an accessible and efficient experience for court users.



People supporting judicial work

Judicial registrars

Earlier parts of this report introduced the important role of judicial registrars in supporting the Federal Court to discharge its judicial work and resolve disputes more efficiently and effectively. This section outlines that role in more detail, including the statutory functions, delegated powers and list work performed by judicial registrars.

Judicial registrars are legal professionals appointed under the *Public Service Act 1999* (Cth) after taking an oath or affirmation of office. They are appointed for their expertise in areas of law within the Federal Court's jurisdiction and perform statutory functions, as well as powers conferred by legislation, rules of court or delegation from judges.

In this context, delegated powers are powers that a judicial registrar may exercise because legislation, the Federal Court Rules or a judge authorises the judicial registrar to do so. These powers allow appropriate proceedings to progress without every step needing to be dealt with by a judge.

Judicial registrars exercise those powers in proceedings suitable for registrar determination or management, including case management conferences, mediation and other forms of alternative dispute resolution, interlocutory issues, and final determinations in certain categories of proceedings that fall within specialist judicial registrar lists.

Judicial registrar lists, including the judicial registrar Corporations List, Bankruptcy List and National General Protections List, support the Federal Court's judicial work by directing suitable proceedings to registrars who have authority to manage or determine them. This helps appropriate applications be dealt with efficiently, supports the timely progression of proceedings, and enables judges to focus on more complex proceedings that require judicial determination.

Together, this work forms part of the Federal Court's capability to manage judicial work within its jurisdiction, delegated powers and available resources, while maintaining the distinction between judicial decision-making, delegated judicial work and court administration.

One important example of this work is mediation. Most court-ordered mediations are conducted by judicial registrars accredited under the Federal Court Mediator Accreditation Scheme.

Federal Court Mediator Accreditation Scheme

The Federal Court Mediator Accreditation Scheme supports the Federal Court's mediation work by ensuring that mediations conducted through the Federal Court are undertaken by appropriately trained and accredited mediators. Judicial registrars accredited under the scheme conduct mediations across a range of practice areas. In that role, they assist parties to identify the issues in dispute, consider options for resolution and, where possible, reach agreement without the need for a trial or contested hearing. The scheme supports the Federal Court's broader use of alternative dispute resolution and the efficient use of judicial resources.

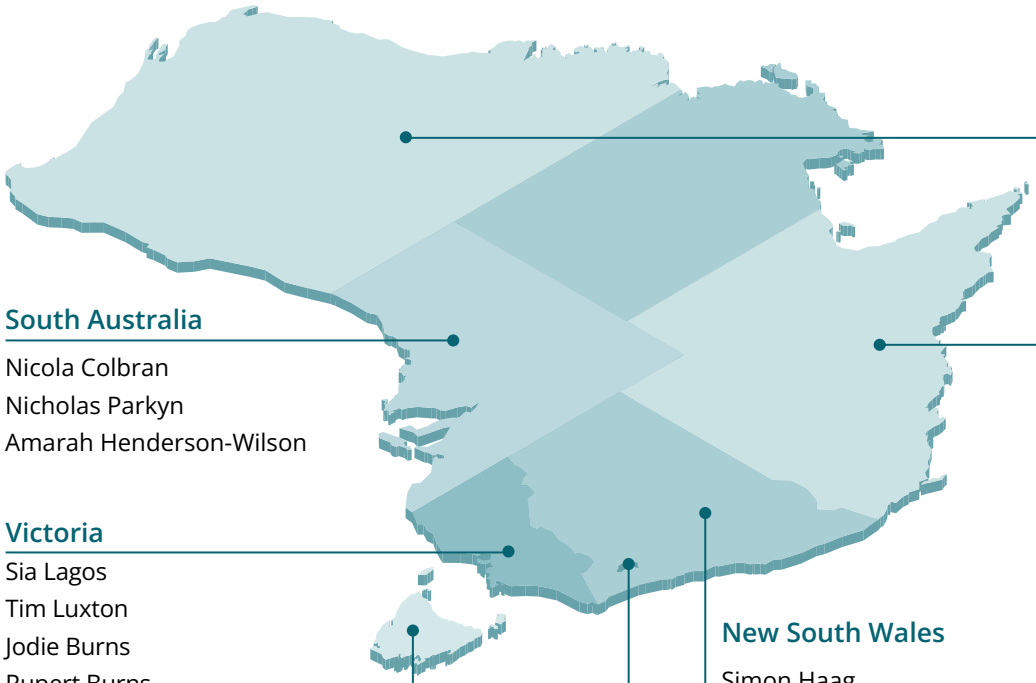
Updated judicial registrar titles

Clear and consistent titles assist people who use, work with, or scrutinise the Federal Court to understand the functions being performed. During the reporting period, the Federal Court reviewed judicial registrar titles to improve consistency and reduce complexity. From 2 March 2026, titles were updated as shown in Table 5.1. The changes did not alter the powers, duties or responsibilities of the people holding those offices.

Table 5.1 Updated judicial registrar titles

Previous title	New title
New role	Deputy Principal Registrar
National Judicial Registrar & District Registrar	District Registrar (state/territory)
National Judicial Registrar—Appeals	Senior Judicial Registrar—Appeals
National Judicial Registrar—Original Jurisdiction	Senior Judicial Registrar—Original Jurisdiction
Senior National Judicial Registrar	Senior Judicial Registrar
National Judicial Registrar	Senior Judicial Registrar
Judicial Registrar	Judicial Registrar
National Registrar	Judicial Registrar

Judicial registrars of the Federal Court and its locations



Western Australia

Russell Trott
Camille Goucke
Laurelea McGregor

South Australia

Nicola Colbran
Nicholas Parkyn
Amarah Henderson-Wilson

Queensland

Scott Tredwell
Peter Schmidt
Michael Buckingham
Helen Donovan
Georgia Morrison
Josie Salzman
Bernadette Henderson

Victoria

Sia Lagos
Tim Luxton
Jodie Burns
Rupert Burns
Jacinta Ellis
Catherine Forbes
Alison Legge
Robyn Curnow
Ann Daniel
Michael Gronow
Alison Hird
Lauren McCormick
Joanne Wilson
Sophie Bird
Peggy Kerdo
Stephanie Sanders
Thomas Stewart

Tasmania

Susie Stone

New South Wales

Simon Haag
Paul Farrell
Alicia Ditton
Claire Hammerton Cole
Susan O'Connor
Sydney Birchall
Christine Cody
Renée Krikorian
Thomas Morgan

Geoff Segal
Jarrod White
Sarah Bandal
Amy Lee
Tali Rubinstein
Michael Ryan
Carole Hemingway
Stuart Young

Australian Capital Territory

Kim Lackenby

Figure 5.1: Judicial Registrars of the Federal Court and its locations

The following table lists judicial registrars holding a commission in the Federal Court of Australia as at 30 June 2026.

Table 5.2 Current Federal Court judicial registrars at 30 June 2026

Name	Title	Location
Sia Lagos	Chief Executive Officer and Principal Registrar	VIC
Nicola Colbran	Deputy Principal Registrar	SA
Scott Tredwell	General Counsel	QLD
Simon Haag	Senior Judicial Registrar—Appeals	NSW
Susie Stone	Senior Judicial Registrar—Original Jurisdiction & District Registrar TAS	TAS
Paul Farrell	District Registrar NSW/ACT	NSW
Tim Luxton	District Registrar VIC	VIC
Nicholas Parkyn	District Registrar SA/NT	SA

Table 5.2 Current Federal Court judicial registrars at 30 June 2026

Name	Title	Location
Peter Schmidt	District Registrar QLD	QLD
Russell Trott	District Registrar WA	WA
Jodie Burns	Senior Judicial Registrar	VIC
Rupert Burns	Senior Judicial Registrar	VIC
Alicia Ditton	Senior Judicial Registrar	NSW
Jacinta Ellis	Senior Judicial Registrar	VIC
Catherine Forbes	Senior Judicial Registrar	VIC
Camille Goucke	Senior Judicial Registrar	WA
Claire Hammerton Cole	Senior Judicial Registrar	NSW
Alison Legge	Senior Judicial Registrar	VIC
Laurelea McGregor	Senior Judicial Registrar	WA
Susan O'Connor	Senior Judicial Registrar	NSW
Sydney Birchall	Judicial Registrar	NSW
Michael Buckingham	Judicial Registrar	QLD
Christine Cody	Judicial Registrar	NSW
Robyn Curnow	Judicial Registrar	VIC
Ann Daniel	Judicial Registrar	VIC
Helen Donovan	Judicial Registrar	QLD
Michael Gronow	Judicial Registrar	VIC
Alison Hird	Judicial Registrar	VIC
Renée Krikorian	Judicial Registrar	NSW
Kim Lackenby	Judicial Registrar	ACT
Lauren McCormick	Judicial Registrar	VIC
Thomas Morgan	Judicial Registrar	NSW
Georgia Morrison	Judicial Registrar	QLD
Josie Salzman	Judicial Registrar	QLD
Geoff Segal	Judicial Registrar	NSW
Jarrod White	Judicial Registrar	NSW
Joanne Wilson	Judicial Registrar	VIC
Sarah Bandal	Judicial Registrar	NSW
Sophie Bird	Judicial Registrar	VIC
Amarah Henderson-Wilson	Judicial Registrar	SA
Peggy Kerdo	Judicial Registrar	VIC
Amy Lee	Judicial Registrar	NSW
Tali Rubinstein	Judicial Registrar	NSW
Stephanie Sanders	Director Legal Operations Data & Analytics	VIC
Thomas Stewart	Judicial Registrar	VIC
Michael Ryan	Judicial Registrar	NSW
Bernadette Henderson	In-house Counsel	QLD
Carole Hemingway	Judicial Registrar	NSW
Stuart Young	Judicial Registrar	NSW

Registry

As described in **Parts 1** and **3**, the Federal Court is a national court which operates from physical locations and buildings across Australia, in every capital city and in some regional locations. Each of these physical buildings from which the Federal Court operates is a 'registry' that members of the public can access. Each registry of the Federal Court could not function without dedicated registry staff, who assist members of the public, especially litigants in person, with the procedural steps involved in commencing and maintaining proceedings.

Registry staff include client services officers, court officers, and other court support staff, who form part of the Federal Court's Court and Tribunal Services or Corporate Services, which are set out in **Part 6** of this Report.

Legal case managers

Legal case managers support judicial registrars in the progression of proceedings through the Federal Court. They work closely with judicial registrars, judges' chambers and registry staff to coordinate case management processes, communicate with parties and practitioners, and assist with the preparation of proceedings for hearings, conferences and other court events.

For court users, legal case managers are often an important operational contact about the procedural management of a proceeding. They assist with court lists, hearing arrangements, documents, compliance with timetables and directions, and the movement of proceedings through the Federal Court's national docket system. Their work helps ensure that proceedings are ready to be dealt with by a judicial registrar and that orders and procedural steps are followed.

Chambers staff: associates, research associates and executive assistants

Each judge of the Federal Court is supported by staff in their office, known as their 'Chambers'. The chambers staff assist with the legal, administrative and practical work required to prepare for hearings, manage proceedings and finalise judgments and orders. This support is usually provided by an associate and an executive assistant, or by two associates, depending on the particular chambers model.

Associates, research associates and executive assistants support judges and chambers with the legal, administrative and operational work required for proceedings. Their work assists with hearing preparation, urgent applications, communications, draft orders, judgments and the day-to-day management of proceedings in chambers. This support helps judges progress proceedings and conduct hearings in an orderly way.

Chambers staff also help maintain the formal record of each judge's proceedings. They assist with orders, documents, procedural steps, judgments and other court materials. This work supports the integrity of the Federal Court's records and helps ensure that parties, practitioners and the public can rely on them.

Associate positions are usually fixed-term roles of about 12 to 18 months. This structure gives lawyers close exposure to the work of Federal Court judges, federal jurisdiction and court procedure. It also contributes to the broader legal system by giving early-career lawyers practical insight into how federal proceedings are managed and decided.

Client service officers

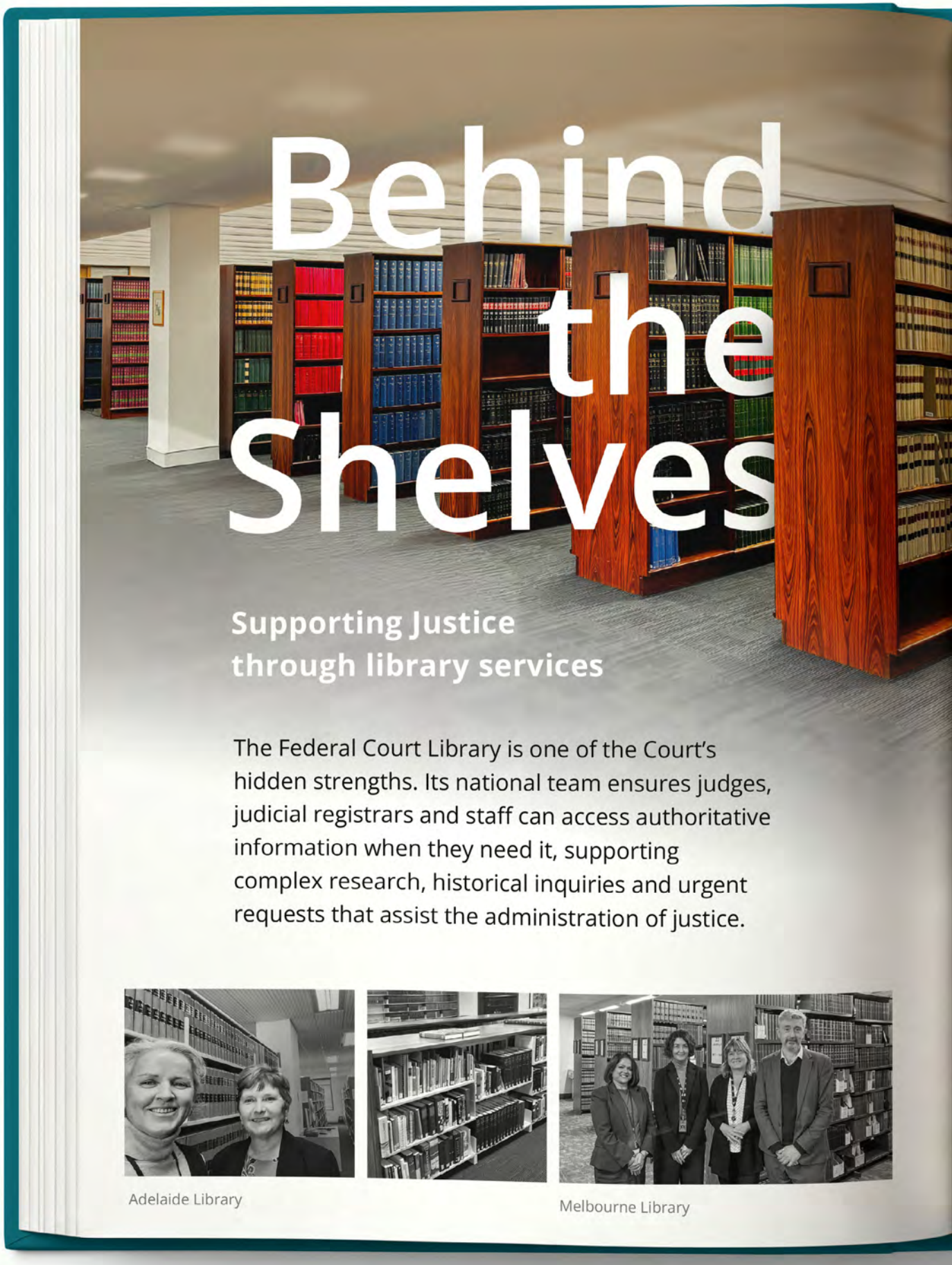
Client service officers play a vital role in the administration of justice. Often serving as an early point of contact for litigants, legal practitioners and members of the public, they support the accurate, efficient and impartial administration of the Federal Court's processes.

Working closely with both litigants in person and lawyers they provide practical information about court processes including filing and registry services. This includes assisting court users to understand procedural requirements, comply with Federal Court rules and navigate the Federal Court's physical and digital environments while maintaining appropriate boundaries.

Court officers

Court officers play a vital role, serving as the people who help ensure every hearing runs smoothly, professionally and efficiently. Working at the heart of courtroom operations, they support judges, registrars, legal practitioners, litigants and members of the public by preparing courtrooms, managing documents, administering oaths to witnesses and assisting with courtroom procedures. Their work helps create an environment in which parties can be heard fairly and proceedings can be conducted with confidence and respect.

Through their professionalism, courtesy and practical support, they help parties, witnesses, lawyers and visitors navigate what can often be a complex and unfamiliar environment. By ensuring proceedings are organised, respectful and accessible, they contribute to public confidence in the Federal Court and support the fair and efficient administration of justice. They also work closely with judges chambers' and support practical arrangements for hearings.



Behind the Shelves

Supporting Justice through library services

The Federal Court Library is one of the Court's hidden strengths. Its national team ensures judges, judicial registrars and staff can access authoritative information when they need it, supporting complex research, historical inquiries and urgent requests that assist the administration of justice.

Adelaide Library

Melbourne Library



A conversation with Georgia Livissianos, Director Library and Information Services

The Federal Court and its staff and officers are indebted to the skill, knowledge and loyalty of its team of Librarians. Their resourcefulness, speed and intuition are without peer in the Federal Court. They maintain an immense national collection and are themselves custodians of the Federal Court's institutional memory. They succeed in all things with characteristic humility and wit.

What role does the Federal Court Library play in supporting the work of the Court?

The Library supports judges, judicial registrars and staff by providing access to reliable legal information, research expertise and knowledge services. Its national team helps users find authoritative material quickly and confidently, including legislation, case law, specialist commentary, overseas authorities and difficult-to-locate resources.

How does the Library's work extend beyond legal research?

The team manages print and digital collections, maintains the library intranet, delivers training and inductions, and provides tailored current awareness services for the Federal Court's NPAs. These services help identify key judgments, legislative developments, publications and commentary in Australia and overseas.

How is the role of law librarians changing?

As legal research becomes more digital and information-rich, law librarians increasingly combine legal research, information management, technology, training and education expertise. They help users navigate large volumes of information, assess the reliability of sources and choose the right tools for the task.

What is the Library's focus for the future?

Technology continues to change how legal information is found, used and shared. The Library is exploring how emerging tools, including artificial intelligence, may support research and information services, while remaining focused on accuracy, reliability, risk management and confidence in the integrity of the Federal Court's information services. Its contribution remains both practical and strategic, supporting the Federal Court's work and preserving its institutional memory.



Sydney Library



Brisbane Library



Perth Library

Supporting the Federal Courts work

The CEO and Principal Registrar is responsible for providing registry and corporate services to the Federal Court. These functions are performed through a shared services model with other courts and tribunals. This section provides short reports on the support provided by Court and Tribunal Services and Corporate Services.

For more comprehensive reports on the functions and support provided by Court and Tribunal Services and Corporate Services in 2025–26 please refer to the Federal Court of Australia Listed Entity 2025–26 Annual Report.

Court and Tribunal Services

Report from the A/g Executive Director, Court and Tribunal Services

Court and Tribunal Services (CTS) is responsible for providing registry services to support the operations of the Federal Court. This includes providing high-level support for the judiciary and court users, maximising operational effectiveness through streamlined structures and digital innovations, maintaining a structure that promotes flexibility and responsiveness to new opportunities and demands, and supporting the Federal Court to take full advantage of the benefits of the Digital Court Program. CTS is also responsible for line management of Judges' chambers staff and managing several core contracts, such as the transcription program, as well as interpreter and translation services. CTS is composed of a range of teams responsible for delivering in-person registry services in locations across Australia, a national filing team, a national enquiries centre, and a court logistics and digital practice team.

Staff manage court filing processes, enquiries, document lodgements, and subpoenas. In addition to face-to-face services, staff support the logistical operations of each registry site. Staff process urgent enquiries and applications and provide support for a diverse range of clients with differing needs. A national approach ensures that the quality and productivity of registry services is the very best it can be. The focus on building consistency in registry practice across all court locations and expert knowledge will continue to support the important work of the judges and judicial registrars.

The 2025–26 reporting period was a year of optimisation and modernisation for CTS. The Registry Optimisation Program continued to deliver initiatives and supported high-level outcomes. Focus areas included improving access to data to better inform and enhance client service systems, as well as rolling out targeted staff training to ensure the delivery of high-quality client services.

CTS implemented a digital system to capture key client service data across its registry locations. Building on this foundation, CTS commenced development of an Integrated Client Service System, with the discovery phase now successfully completed to inform the next stages of design and implementation. CTS developed a national onboarding and induction program for client service staff. To complement this, client service skills documentation was developed to ensure staff are tracking the important skills and training required for high-quality service delivery.

Following the introduction of a modern contact centre system in the previous year, CTS has focused on optimising and evaluating its new functionalities to enhance reporting capabilities and improve the client service experience. To support this, CTS has implemented a quality assurance program for phone and live chat enquiries, underpinned by a code of conduct and defined quality metrics. This framework is designed to drive consistency, accountability, and higher service standards, ensuring the needs of the community are effectively met.

CTS continued to strengthen the knowledge and training resources available to registry staff to support consistent, high-quality registry practices and processes. This work included the continued development of a national client service officer manual and national induction planning, together with comprehensive guidance for registry staff on the Taxation NPA and Commonwealth Workplace Protection proceedings. Registry staff also received information and training on their role in supporting the Australian Competition Tribunal and upon the release of the Litigants in Person Practice Note. In addition, CTS piloted a centralised management system for document inspections by non-parties, enhanced registry complaints handling procedures, and provided training on the amendments made to the Federal Court Rules.

We also continued to support enhanced public understanding of the role of the Federal Court through a range of engagement activities. Registry staff contributed to educational programs with schools and universities, including a 'Law Day Out' for high school students, and supported visits by international delegations and other organisations with an interest in the work of the Federal Court. CTS also facilitated and supported 246 livestreams of court events, including hearings and judicial ceremonies.

We look forward to continuing our work with Chief Justice Mortimer and CEO and Principal Registrar Sia Lagos, to provide high-quality and innovative registry services to support the operations of the Federal Court.

Corporate Services

Corporate Services provides the essential business capabilities that enable the Federal Court and National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT). These services include technology, people and culture, finance, security, communications, information management, property, procurement, governance, publishing and library services.

During the reporting period, Corporate Services embedded the operating model introduced in the previous year, strengthening accountability, clarifying responsibilities and better aligning resources and specialist capability.

Significant progress was made in delivering innovative, secure and integrated digital solutions for the Federal Court and NNTT. This includes the replacement of all laptops, expanding video-conferencing capability so that all courtrooms are now equipped with up-to-date technology and progressing the transition of critical systems to contemporary cloud-based environments. This work lays the foundations for continued improvement to the Federal Court's case management system, CourtPath, supporting enhanced user experience and expanding capabilities for Federal Court judges, registrars and staff.

Corporate Services continued to invest in the people who support the work of the Federal Court and the NNTT, with initiatives focused on leadership capability, workforce development, employee wellbeing and workplace culture. This included the rollout of the Manager Essentials program, expanding access to online learning tools and enhanced performance and development practices. The People & Culture Team also assisted the Federal Court with strengthening support for judicial wellbeing services during 2025–26 which included enhancements to wellbeing resources, improving access to confidential and independent support for the judges.

As preparations progressed for the Federal Court's 50th Anniversary in 2026–27, Corporate Services supported a range of initiatives during 2025–26 to help mark this significant milestone. This included work to support the development of a dedicated anniversary website, digital displays across registries and the identification and preservation of archival material that will help tell the story of the Federal Court's first 50 years. Corporate Services looks forward to continuing to support the Federal Court's anniversary program in the year ahead. In parallel, work progressed to modernise information management arrangements and preserve the accessibility and authenticity of significant Federal Court and NNTT records, helping to safeguard important institutional history for future generations.

The Library Team continued to facilitate access to authoritative information and research expertise across the Federal Court, including directly supporting judges, judicial registrars and their staff, and continued to deliver expert research and knowledge support. In 2025–26 the Judgments Team received and published 2,030 judgments. The team continued to ensure judgments were published promptly on the Federal Court's website and shared with AustLII and other publishers, reflecting the Federal Court's commitment to access to justice.

The transcription and recording continuity event was a major focus for Corporate Services during 2025–26. It required a coordinated response from specialist teams across Corporate Services who worked closely with the Federal Court to maintain continuity of these critical services. Drawing on expertise from across technology, procurement, governance, finance, communications and other corporate functions, Corporate Services helped support the successful implementation of response arrangements while minimising disruption to court operations. The commitment and adaptability of staff across the broader Corporate Services group also ensured the continued delivery of essential business services, strategic initiatives and operational priorities throughout the response period.

We thank the Federal Court judges and colleagues across the Federal Court and NNTT for their ongoing partnership and commitment throughout the year. Building on the progress made during the year, Corporate Services looks forward to continuing its partnership with the Federal Court and NNTT to deliver the people, systems and services that support effective, accessible and efficient justice outcomes.

Digital Court Capability

Courtroom technology and digital hearing capability

In the reporting period, the Federal Court placed a strong emphasis on upgrading digital courtroom technology, with the implementation of new court-managed digital recording and transcription systems. This uplift has transformed how proceedings are captured and transcribed and is closely aligned with the broader strategy of providing innovative, secure and robust digital services.

The Federal Court also invested in the expansion of video-conferencing, audio-visual systems, and collaboration technologies to support flexible hearing arrangements and enhance accessibility for court users across all locations. Collectively, these advancements ensure the Federal Court provides modern, efficient, and accessible services.

Digital capability and information management

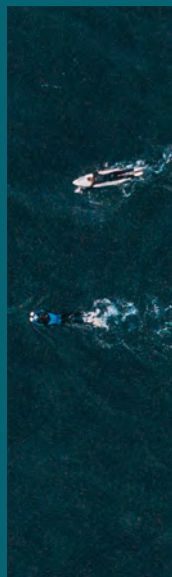
Alongside these technology upgrades, the Federal Court continued to advance the Digital Court Program, with CourtPath serving as the primary case management platform for Federal Law jurisdictions. This program is progressively replacing legacy systems with integrated, contemporary digital solutions and preparing for the enablement of future digital services, such as the controlled implementation of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Significant advancements were also made in our strategic focus areas of cloud adoption, data management, supporting the security, reliability, and sustainability of the Federal Court's technology environment. Enhanced data governance is supporting evidence-based decision-making and positioning the Federal Court to responsibly leverage emerging technologies, including AI.

PART 6

Community and international engagement

This part outlines how the Federal Court works beyond the courtroom to support access to justice, strengthen public understanding of its role, and contribute to the development of the legal system in Australia and internationally. Through court support services, community engagement and international collaboration, this work helps court users, builds confidence in the administration of justice, and reinforces the Federal Court's place in Australia's system of government and the wider legal community.



Supporting accessible justice

Accessible justice is central to public confidence in the administration of justice. The Federal Court's work in this area includes supporting litigants in person, facilitating access to legal assistance, and ensuring Federal Court processes are as accessible and inclusive as possible.

One way the Federal Court contributes to accessible justice is through its promotion and facilitation of alternative dispute resolution processes, and the efficient resolution of disputes by registrars, as described in **Parts 3** and **5** of this Report. These measures go towards reducing the financial barriers that prolonged litigation can pose to accessing justice, as well as encouraging out-of-court settlements in less adversarial settings where parties are on more equal footing. In this **Part 6**, other ways the Federal Court contributes to accessible justice are explored.

Litigants in person and pro bono assistance

'Litigants in person' are people who appear in court without a lawyer to represent them. There are litigants in person across all areas of the Federal Court's areas of practice. Litigants in person may be unrepresented for a range of reasons, including financial pressures and difficulties obtaining legal assistance. Some litigants in person may believe they simply do not need a lawyer.

Federal Court proceedings often involve complex legal and procedural issues. These can be very difficult to navigate for a person who does not have legal expertise. While judges and Federal Court staff can explain basic procedures to litigants in person, they cannot give legal advice. The Federal Court must ensure that all its proceedings are conducted fairly, efficiently and according to law.

The increasing number of litigants in person in the Federal Court raises important access to justice considerations. It also affects the way the Federal Court manages its proceedings, including to ensure that meritorious proceedings are given sufficient resources and that unmeritorious proceedings do not take up unnecessary time and cost.

The following data shows the scale and distribution of litigant in person (LIP) proceedings allocated to judges over the last three reporting years.

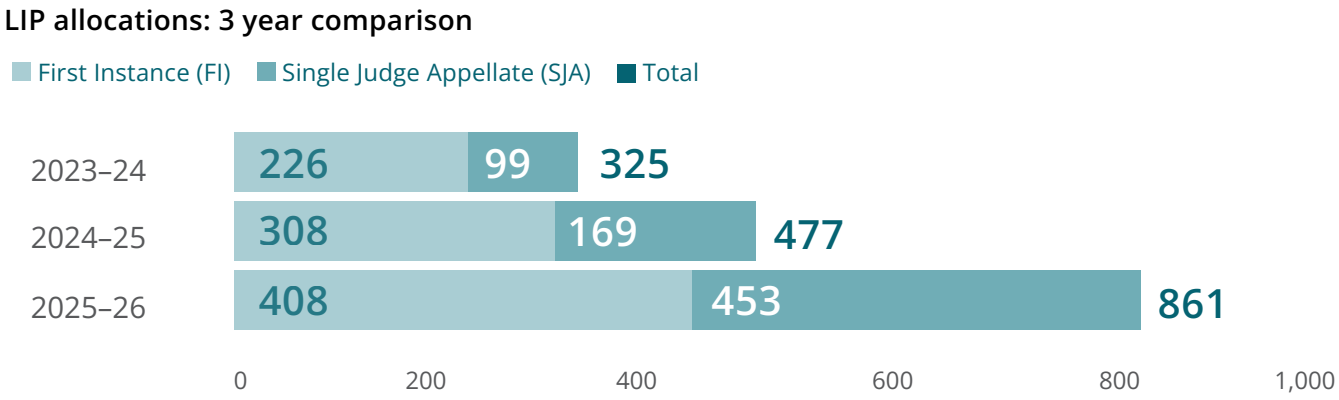


Figure 6.1: Proceedings commenced by litigants in person in the Federal Court's original and appellate jurisdictions and allocated to judges over the last three financial years, by whether proceedings were First Instance (FI) or Single Judge Appellate (SJA) proceedings. Full Court litigant in person proceedings are excluded. Please refer to explanatory memorandum under table 6.2 for explanatory notes

Key trends in proceedings commenced by litigants in person and allocated to judges in 2025–26

The data shows a substantial increase in proceedings commenced by litigants in person and allocated to judges in 2025–26. Total allocations increased from 477 in 2024–25 to 861 in 2025–26, with the largest growth occurring in single judge appellate proceedings.

Migration proceedings accounted for more than half of all litigant in person allocations in 2025–26. Administrative and Constitutional Law and Human Rights, Commercial and Corporations, and Employment and Industrial Relations proceedings also had significant numbers of litigants in person.

This distribution demonstrates why a coordinated Federal Court-wide response is required, combining early identification, clearer information, active case management and more targeted pro bono referral pathways.

Table 6.1 Proceedings commenced by litigants in person and allocated to judges over the last three financial years, by NPA and by whether proceedings were First Instance (FI) or Single Judge Appellate (SJA) proceedings. Full Court litigant in person proceedings are excluded.

LIP allocations by National Practice Area	2023–24			2024–25			2025–26		
	FI	SJA	Total	FI	SJA	Total	FI	SJA	Total
Administrative and Constitutional Law and Human Rights (excluding Migration)	88	10	98	110	11	121	120	17	137
Migration	64	69	133	88	127	215	106	380	486
Commercial and Corporations	34	5	39	55	13	68	91	18	109
Employment and Industrial Relations	22	10	32	27	10	37	51	30	81
Other NPAs (*)	18	5	23	28	8	36	40	8	48
Total	**226**	**99**	**325**	**308**	**169**	**477**	**408**	**453**	**861**

Table 6.2 LIP allocations by registry commenced

	2023–24			2024–25			2025–26		
	FI	SJA	Total	FI	SJA	Total	FI	SJA	Total
NSW	64	52	116	102	77	179	139	224	363
VIC	51	14	65	76	39	115	95	140	235
QLD	50	3	53	60	17	77	66	23	23
WA	33	19	52	42	21	63	61	38	99
SA	19	5	24	18	12	30	32	22	54
ACT	6	5	11	6	1)	7	11	5	16
TAS	3	1	4	3	0	3	2	1	3
NT	0	0	0	1	2	3	2	0	2
Total	**226**	**99**	**325**	**308**	**169**	**477**	**408**	**453**	**861**

(*) Explanatory memorandum for litigants in person data:

Reporting scope:

- Includes:
  - Allocations of proceedings to judges where the applicant/appellant was a LIP at the time of allocation.
  - Other NPAs (*): due to smaller numbers, the allocations in the following NPAs have been grouped together: Intellectual Property, Native Title, Other Federal Jurisdiction (including Defamation), Taxation and Crime and other Federal Statutes
- Excludes:
  - Full Court LIP allocations
  - Reallocations of LIP proceedings: Reallocations are excluded to avoid proceedings being counted more than once.
  - Respondent LIP allocations: At the allocation stage, it is uncommon for the Court to have reliable information about whether a respondent is legally represented.
- Reporting period: The reporting period is determined by the date of allocation, not the filing date of the proceeding.
- LIP status: A party's representation status may change during the life of a proceeding. For consistency, the data in this report reflects LIP status at the time of allocation only. The report does not track changes in representation after allocation.

Litigants in Person and Pro Bono Project

The increasing volume of unrepresented litigants in the Court has major implications for litigants, the legal assistance sector and the Federal Court itself. To address these challenges and adopt a more coordinated approach to litigant in person proceedings, the Court established the 'Litigants in Person and Pro Bono Project' (the 'Project') in August 2024.

The Project is one of the most significant institutional access to justice initiatives undertaken by the Federal Court in recent years. It recognises that the ability of an unrepresented litigant to understand and participate in proceedings is closely connected to the fair, efficient and orderly administration of justice.

The work carries particular importance because litigants in person form a substantial and growing part of the Federal Court's workload. Proceedings with litigants in person often involve more correspondence, greater procedural guidance, closer case management and careful balancing of the needs of all parties. This places considerable demands on judges, judicial registrars and registry staff, while also reinforcing the Federal Court's responsibility to ensure that its processes remain accessible and fair.

The Project responds to these demands through a multifaceted approach including improving information available to litigants in person, strengthening early intervention and judicial registrar-led case management, developing clearer expectations about participation in proceedings, improving data collection and analysis, and refining pathways to legal assistance and pro bono referral. This work is practical, as well as principled. It assists individual litigants to better understand what is required of them and helps represented parties and the Federal Court manage proceedings more efficiently. It also supports the Federal Court's broader commitment to access to justice within the confines of its limited judicial and administrative resources.

A significant achievement during the reporting year was the publication of the **Litigants in Person Practice Note (GPN-LIP)**. The Practice Note was developed following extensive consultation. It sets out, in plain language, information about the role of the Federal Court, the responsibilities of litigants in person, expected standards of conduct, and options for obtaining legal assistance. To support accessibility for a broader range of court users, translations were made available in eight commonly used languages.

The size and importance of this work should not be underestimated. The Project has required sustained commitment from judges, judicial registrars and staff across the Federal Court. This includes staff involved in project leadership, case management, registry operations, data analysis and communications. Their work is often detailed, practical and not always visible to the public. However, it is central to the Federal Court's ability to respond to a changing litigation environment. The dedication of all those involved has enabled the Federal Court to take a more structured, evidence-based and human-centred approach to the challenges presented by unrepresented litigants, while maintaining the independence and impartiality required of a Chapter III court.

Continuing support for litigants in person through the Litigants in Person and Pro Bono Project

Looking ahead, the Federal Court's focus will be on embedding the Litigants in Person and Pro Bono Project as a sustained part of its access to justice work. The Federal Court's data and experience from the reporting period shows that unrepresented litigants are not a short-term pressure, but an ongoing feature of the Federal Court's operating environment requiring consistent national attention.

The next phase of work will continue to strengthen early identification of litigants in person, clearer information about Federal Court processes and responsibilities, judicial registrar-led conferencing and case management where appropriate, and targeted referral pathways for legal assistance. These measures are important because they support fair participation by unrepresented parties while helping proceedings progress in a way that is orderly, efficient and fair to all.

This work will also depend on continued engagement with the legal profession, community legal organisations and legal assistance providers. Those relationships are essential to understanding the practical barriers faced by litigants in person and to ensuring that pro bono referrals and other support mechanisms are appropriately directed to where they can make the greatest difference.

Pro bono legal assistance

Pro bono legal assistance has long been an important part of supporting access to justice in Federal Court proceedings. The recent growth in litigant in person proceedings has underscored the continuing importance of this work. While the Federal Court cannot provide legal advice or representation, it maintains referral arrangements that enable certain litigants to be referred for pro bono assistance in appropriate proceedings.

The Federal Court Rules establish a procedure for pro bono referrals and make it clear that it is a decision for judges and judicial registrars as to whether a pro bono referral is appropriate in the circumstances.

Whether assistance is ultimately available depends on factors including practitioner availability and relevant expertise. Where pro bono assistance is provided, it can help a party understand the issues in dispute, prepare documents and evidence, comply with procedural requirements and participate more effectively in hearings, mediations and case management processes.

The Federal Court's pro bono referral arrangements operate across all areas of its jurisdiction. As litigant in person proceedings continue to increase, these arrangements provide an important mechanism for directing limited pro bono capacity to proceedings where assistance may make a practical difference.

During the reporting year, the Federal Court continued to review and strengthen its approach to pro bono referrals as part of the Litigants in Person and Pro Bono Project. This included widespread consultations with the community legal sector, legal practitioners and others. This work reflects the Federal Court's commitment to supporting access to justice while ensuring that referral pathways are clear, targeted and capable of operating effectively across all areas of jurisdiction.

In March 2026, the Federal Court and the Victorian Bar launched a 12-month pilot protocol to streamline referrals for pro bono legal assistance and amicus curiae appointments in the Victorian Registry. The pilot enables the Federal Court to use the Victorian Bar's online portal as a central mechanism for identifying barristers willing to accept pro bono referrals made by judges and judicial registrars.

Gratitude for pro bono support

The Federal Court is grateful to the members of the legal profession, community legal organisations and other legal assistance providers who contribute to pro bono legal assistance for parties in the Federal Court. Their contribution is generous, skilled and makes a significant difference to people who would otherwise have to navigate complex proceedings without representation. It can also assist the Federal Court and other parties by helping clarify issues, improve the preparation of material, support meaningful participation in mediation and hearings, and reduce avoidable delay. In this way, pro bono assistance supports not only individual litigants but also the broader operation of the Federal Court and the administration of justice.

Independent referrals

In some cases, the Federal Court may also appoint an independent lawyer as an 'amicus curiae' or 'contradictor'. Amicus curiae means 'friend of the Court', their role is to provide the Federal Court with impartial assistance , a broader perspective or legal expertise on a complex issue. Similarly, a contradictor can be appointed to provide the Federal Court with a balanced view on an issue on which there is no party to oppose the applicant's arguments.

Both these mechanisms support accessible justice by bringing into focus the broader implications of the legal issue for all affected parts of the community.

Interpreter services

Proceedings must be accessible to all participants, including those where English is not their primary language. Interpreter services play an important role in ensuring parties can participate effectively in hearings.

While parties must usually make their own arrangements for interpreters when required, the Federal Court arranges interpreter services where they require them for a hearing for litigants in person and for parties who qualify for fee exemptions. The Federal Court also provides accessible information on its website for parties who face language barriers when speaking to the Federal Court.

The Federal Court has developed a **'Working with Interpreters (GPN-INTERP)'** Practice Note to ensure that the use of interpreters (whether for spoken or signed language) promotes fair and efficient hearings.

The Federal Court does not have the resources to provide for translation of documents written in languages other than English. Parties are responsible for arranging the translation of documents for the Federal Court into English and the translation of Federal Court issued English documents into their own language to ensure understanding.

Community engagement and education

The Federal Court engages with the legal profession and the broader community to promote understanding of its role and to support developments within the legal system, while maintaining its impartiality as an institution.

Legal education and outreach

Judges contribute to legal education through lectures, conferences and professional events across Australia and internationally. These activities support legal education and promote engagement between the Federal Court, the profession and the community.

Supporting legal education

Judges often volunteer their time to preside over law-related competitions, such as 'moots' where law students and lawyers build their skills advocating for clients at mock hearings.

For example, over a three-week period from 4 September 2025 the African Australian Legal Network Mooting Competition was held in partnership with the Federal Court. Fourteen judges of the Federal Court participated in adjudicating the competition.

This provided competitors with an invaluable opportunity to receive feedback and develop advocacy skills in a true-to-life courtroom experience.

The Federal Court's facilitation of this event and others which strengthen diversity within the legal profession is grounded in a recognition of the importance of the profession reflecting the community it serves.

Clerkships and practical work experience

Throughout the reporting period, judges of the Federal Court continued to support programs coordinated by state Bar associations that provide opportunities for law students from diverse backgrounds who have limited connections within the legal profession or face financial barriers to entry.

Through the Victorian Indigenous Clerkship, New South Wales Indigenous Clerkship and Victorian Bar Diversity Clerkship programs, university students were welcomed into judges' chambers to gain first-hand insight into the work of the Federal Court, observe the day-to-day operation of chambers, and develop a greater understanding of the judicial system and the legal profession.

Student engagement

The Federal Court actively encourages its judges to engage with, and present classes to, young people from both high school and university.

This year Justice Collier coordinated the continuation of a recent initiative held at each of the Court's national registries, 'Inside the Courtroom: A Student's Guide to the Federal Court'. The sessions exposed law students to the court environment and facilitated open discussions with judges, judicial registrars, court officers, associates, and registry staff on the role of the Federal Court and its staff. This program provides young people with unique insights into the Federal Court's work, its role in society, and the varied career opportunities available.



Inside the Courtroom, hosted by Justice Collier held in Brisbane 2026

Next Generation Initiative

Since October 2024, the **Next Generation Initiative Practice Note** (**GPN-NGI**) has encouraged opportunities for junior counsel (early career barristers) to present substantive arguments in court hearings. While it is ultimately a matter for the parties to decide how their proceedings are presented, the Federal Court's objective is to foster the development of junior counsels' advocacy skills and court craft, contributing to the long-term strength of the legal profession.

The profession continues to engage with and actively discuss the initiative. On 15 April 2026, the ChIPs Australia and New Zealand (ANZ) Chapter, a professional organisation seeking to advance and connect women in technology, law and policy, hosted an event highlighting the initiative.

To assess the impact of the practice note, since its publication the Federal Court has been collecting high-level, de-identified data on counsel appearances during the three yearly Full Court and appellate sitting periods. Data so far collected from the November 2024, March, August and November 2025 sitting periods indicates a slight increase in appearances of junior counsel with substantial speaking roles. However, a larger dataset is required to more meaningfully assess trends and identify how the Federal Court can optimise this initiative.

Professional contribution and judicial learning

Judges contribute to legal research and law reform through publications, advisory roles and engagement with academic and professional bodies.

Simultaneously judges are themselves continually learning from the profession, community, and their peers from other judicial bodies to maintain the quality and consistency of their decision-making. Formal judicial education takes place through:

- courses offered by the National Judicial College of Australia which are an invaluable resource in refining judges' abilities to hear and determine proceedings fairly and efficiently,
- judges' conferences (refer to **Part 3** of this Report) often involve judicial education sessions. These often concern specific areas of law, practice and procedure relevant to the Federal Court, and may be delivered by current judges, retired judges, members of the academy or senior members of the legal profession,
- private seminars and conferences in Australia and internationally provide a further means for judges to stay informed on contemporary issues both across Australia and around the world.

Work with international jurisdictions

The Federal Court continued to play a significant role in strengthening judicial cooperation, professional exchange and institutional capability across the Asia-Pacific region during the reporting period. Through regional partnerships, bilateral court-to-court arrangements and judicial exchanges, the Federal Court worked with partner judiciaries to address common challenges relating to judicial leadership, case management, court administration, digitisation and access to justice. These activities aim to contribute to stronger justice institutions, enhanced regional cooperation and the promotion of judicial independence and the rule of law throughout the region.

Australia–Pacific Judicial Partnership

A significant development during the reporting period was the commencement of the Australia–Pacific Judicial Partnership (APJP), a major four-year, regional initiative funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and implemented by the Federal Court of Australia. Commencing in December 2025, the APJP supports judicial cooperation and capacity development across fifteen Pacific partner courts spanning Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. The Partnership focuses on judicial leadership, gender equity, case management, court administration and digital readiness, combining regional activities with ongoing technical assistance and locally led reform initiatives.

A key milestone for the Partnership was the Chief Justices' Leadership Forum, held in Nadi, Fiji, in February 2026. Organised jointly by the Federal Court of Australia and the New Zealand-funded Pacific Justice Sector Programme (PJSP), the Forum brought together Chief Justices and senior judicial leaders from 13 Pacific jurisdictions, together with representatives from Australia and New Zealand. The Forum effectively launched the APJP and provided an opportunity for judicial leaders to discuss judicial independence, constitutional governance, emerging regional challenges and the future direction of Pacific judiciaries. It also established the priorities that will guide APJP activities over coming year in supporting judicial leadership, case management, court administration and digitisation.

The Federal Court also launched an innovative judicial leadership initiative for women judicial officers. Delivered in partnership with the Pacific Association of Women Judicial Officers, the pilot program brought judges from the Solomon Islands, Tonga and the Republic of the Marshall Islands to Adelaide in May 2026 to participate in a professional development program. The visiting judges attended the International Association of Women Judges Asia-Pacific Conference before undertaking individually tailored programs with Australian judicial officers, including judges from the Federal Court of Australia, the Supreme Court of South Australia and the District Court of South Australia. Feedback from the pilot was extremely positive and will inform development of a broader Judicial Collegium model focused on peer learning, professional exchange and leadership development.

The APJP's first major regional technical activity was the Regional Case Management Workshop held in Papua New Guinea in June 2026. The workshop brought together judges, registrars and senior court officials from 13 Pacific jurisdictions to examine practical approaches to reducing delay and improving the timely resolution of proceedings. Facilitated jointly by Justice Vandongen, Director Legal Operations Data & Analytics, Stephanie Sanders and Senior Judicial Registrar Jodie Burns from the Federal Court, together with Deputy Chief Justice Kandakasi, Justice Eliakim, and Registrar Augerea from Papua New Guinea, the workshop used an innovative format centred on panel discussions, peer exchanges and problem-solving sessions rather than traditional lecture-based approaches. Participants developed country-specific action plans to strengthen case management practices, improve registry systems and address common bottlenecks affecting court performance. Feedback indicated satisfaction levels exceeding 80 per cent, while the active participation of smaller jurisdictions including Tuvalu, Tokelau and Niue demonstrated the value of a genuinely regional approach to judicial reform.

The partnership also launched the Mana Grants facility, a small grants program enabling partner courts to address locally identified reform priorities—encouraging innovation and local ownership of reform activities.

Supporting court digitisation remained another important area of focus. During the reporting period, the Federal Court facilitated the delivery of 196 ex-service laptop computers to courts in nine Pacific countries, supporting digital capability, improving access to information and supporting more efficient court administration. Additional shipments are planned as part of a broader target donation of 300 laptops across the region.

APJP also established the foundations for future work through the development of regional strategies on court administration and digitisation. Upcoming regional workshops will focus on budget development and advocacy, staff competency frameworks, standard operating procedures, digital readiness, case management systems and e-filing technologies. These initiatives are intended to support sustainable institutional reform and strengthen long-term judicial capability across Pacific courts.

Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea remains one of the Court's closest and longest-standing judicial partners. During the reporting period, cooperation deepened through both regional activities under APJP and a new bilateral initiative supported by DFAT. Developed jointly by the Federal Court and the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence, the initiative focuses on peer-to-peer exchange to maximise the efficient resolution of proceedings, strengthening decision-making and judgment-writing skills and supporting institutional efforts to minimise delay. Activities include judicial fellowships in Australia, specialist workshops on decision-making and judgment writing, a train-the-trainer program and a series of technical webinars addressing contemporary topics such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, intellectual property, judicial ethics and leadership.

The Federal Court also participated in activities marking significant milestones for Papua New Guinea's judiciary. The opening of the new National Court complex in Port Moresby in September 2025 was attended by Justice Rofe on behalf of the Chief Justice, together with Justices Collier and Logan in their capacities as part-time judges of Papua New Guinea, and Justices Longbottom and Wheatley. The Federal Court marked the occasion through the presentation of a ceremonial lectern to the National and Supreme Courts of Papua New Guinea. The Chief Justice subsequently attended celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of Papua New Guinea's independence, reflecting the enduring relationship between the two judiciaries.

Solomon Islands

Judicial engagement between the Federal Court and the High Court of the Solomon Islands continued during the year. Two judges of the Solomons Islands High Court participated in a judicial fellowship in Adelaide in November 2025 and were hosted by both the Federal Court and Supreme Court of South Australia, as well participating in National College of Judicial Administration (NJCA) judicial orientation courses.

In February 2026, Justices Rangiah and Charlesworth together with Design Lead Digital Court Program, David Sweeting, visited the Solomons Islands as part of a judicial development program. The visit included interactive workshops on court craft for judges of the High Court and Magistrates Courts, as well as a Digitisation Workshop to enhance the technological capacity of court staff.



Solomon Islands Digitisation Workshop

Indonesia

The Federal Court continued its longstanding relationship with the Supreme Court of Indonesia, one of the Federal Court's most significant judicial partnerships in the region. During the reporting period, a senior delegation led by Chief Justice Mortimer visited Indonesia to further strengthen bilateral judicial cooperation and discuss future areas of collaboration. The delegation included Justice Burley, Justice O'Bryan, Justice Button, District Registrar VIC Tim Luxton and International Programs Manager, Martin Clutterbuck, and was supported by both the Indonesian Supreme Court and the DFAT.

Discussions focused on strengthening institutional cooperation and identifying opportunities for future collaboration under the Memorandum of Understanding between the two courts. Particular attention was given to commercial law, including cross-border insolvency, competition law and intellectual property law, judicial reform and specialist areas of jurisdiction, reflecting Indonesia's interest in strengthening judicial capability in areas relevant to economic development and investment. The Chief Justice gave keynote presentations to Indonesian judges on climate change related litigation.

The partnership also continued to support Judicial Fellowships and professional exchanges. During 2026, preparations were completed for four Indonesian judges to undertake Judicial Fellowships in Australia focusing on competition law, intellectual property, enforcement of foreign judgments and court operations. Each Fellowship is linked to the development of practical law reform initiatives for implementation within Indonesian courts.



Indonesian delegation

Philippines

The Federal Court also continued to strengthen its relationship with the Supreme Court of the Philippines. During the reporting period, Chief Justice Mortimer led a senior delegation comprising Justice Burley, Justice Sarah C Derrington, Justice Thawley and senior Federal Court officials District Registrar NSW & ACT, Paul Farrell, Nathan Price (Acting Chief Information Officer), Jimmy Mastorakos (Executive Director Corporate Strategy & Programs) and Martin Clutterbuck on an official visit hosted by the Supreme Court of the Philippines. The visit formed part of an expanding program of cooperation between the two institutions and built on ongoing dialogue concerning judicial reform, court administration and specialist areas of legal practice. It complemented broader collaboration under a developing bilateral program through which the Federal Court has contributed expertise to discussions concerning new court rules and procedural reforms being considered by the Philippine judiciary.

The relationship was further strengthened through regional cooperation activities. The Supreme Court of the Philippines contributed expertise at the Chief Justices' Leadership Forum, including discussions on court communications and the challenges posed by misinformation, demonstrating the growing role of the Philippines judiciary as a regional source of expertise and innovation.



Delegation visit to Australian Embassy

International judicial visits and eExchanges

The Federal Court continued to host judicial exchanges and study visits throughout the reporting period, providing opportunities for mutual learning and professional collaboration.

In April 2026, the Federal Court hosted a delegation from the High Court of Zimbabwe undertaking a study tour on court-assisted mediation. The delegation met with the Chief Justice and Federal Court judges and received briefings on the Court's mediation framework and dispute resolution practices from senior court personnel.

The Federal Court also welcomed visiting judges from Papua New Guinea under a judicial exchange program conducted in cooperation with the Queensland Supreme Court. Participants observed Australian court processes and engaged with judges on issues relating to court administration and judicial practice. The exchange was regarded as highly successful and further strengthened professional links between the two jurisdictions.

Other exchanges included a visit by 15 Pacific lawyers from Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Tonga participating in a regional advocacy training program and the continuation of a longstanding exchange arrangement with Japan under which a visiting judge examined the Federal Court's approach to expert evidence.

Through these activities, the Federal Court continued to contribute to stronger judicial institutions, deeper professional relationships and greater cooperation among courts throughout the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.



Visit by Zimbabwe High Court to Federal Court

Contributing to regional court development

Laptop donation program

Over the past 12 months, the Federal Court has established an innovative project to donate its ex-service laptops to Pacific partner courts to assist in boosting their digital capacity and develop e-services. Many of these courts have insufficient laptops to meet their needs and some island courts have currently no access to computers.

In line with regular equipment upgrades, the Federal Court replaces its laptops with new models every 3 years. While older laptops are typically sent to e-waste for recycling, they are however still in good condition and represent valuable assets for resource-strapped Pacific courts.

As of 30 June, laptop donations thus far have included the provision of 45 laptops to Vanuatu, 40 laptops each to Solomon Islands and Kiribati, 20 laptops each to Tonga and Naoero, 10 laptops to Federated States of Micronesia, 5 laptops to Marshall Islands, and 8 laptops each to Tuvalu and Tokelau. Courts have reported on the effective use of the laptops for Magistrates Courts on outer islands, to support mobile hotlines for Family Protection Orders, to facilitate improved data entry on court databases and for document preparation. Over coming months, laptop distribution will be expanded to Samoa, Niue, Fiji and Cook Islands.

Feedback by courts on the laptop donations has been extremely positive. In his opening for the 2026 Legal Year, Chief Justice Palmer of the Solomons Island High Court expressed his great appreciation to the Federal Court for the donation of the laptops, to be used by the court in their e-filing, electronic case management, and broader digital transformation efforts. The High Court of Kiribati advised that the laptops would be used to improve efficiency in remote island locations as well as in the Family Court, whilst the Magistrates Court of Tonga noted the 'remarkable generosity' of the Federal Court and noted that the laptops would significantly enhance their operational efficiency, particularly in strengthening electronic case management processes and improving the timely handling of court proceedings.

Whilst the laptops are donated by the Federal Court at no cost, the absence of a shipping budget has required the Federal Court to be creative and rely upon the generosity of other actors to meet these costs. This has included financial support from DFAT, the New Zealand government funded Pacific Justice Sector Program (PJSP), the Australian Federal Police, various embassies and the Federal Court budget.

The Federal Court hopes that the initiative can provide a model for the greater institutionalisation of low-cost, high-impact technical support to Pacific partner countries. As the regular replacement of laptops is a standard practice across most government entities, the Federal Court hopes that such projects might be replicated across other government justice and judicial actors thus allowing Pacific partner communities to benefit from the greater use of technology for improved access to justice.

As at 30 June 2026, a total of 196 laptops has been distributed to 10 jurisdictions (Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Naoero, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu), with more to follow in coming months. A total of 300 laptops have been set aside by the Federal Court for donation.

Under its 4-year DFAT-funded APJP, the International Program Unit within the Federal Court works to promote digital tools, services and readiness for 15 Pacific courts through technical support, regional workshops and training opportunities. The donation of laptops provides a practical complement to the soft skills digital agenda, providing courts with the hardware necessary to increase efficiency and promote greater access to justice for their communities.



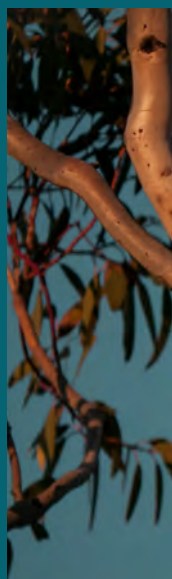
Laptop donation to Pacific courts



PART 7

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 arround 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.

PART 8



Governance

Information Publication Scheme (IPS)

Entities subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (FOI Act) are required to publish information to the public as part of the Information Publication Scheme (IPS).

The Federal Court has published, on its website (www.fedcourt.gov.au/ips), materials relating to the IPS. This includes the Federal Court's current Information Publication Scheme Plan as well as information about the Federal Court's organisational structure, functions, appointments, annual reports, consultation arrangements and the Freedom of Information contact officer as well as information routinely provided to the Australian Parliament.

The Federal Court is required to comply with the regulatory framework of the FOI Act and the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) subject to exceptions in relation to court documents and proceedings. Both these Acts are regulated by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.

The FOI Act gives the Australian public, including staff of the Federal Court, the right to access documents held by Australian Government agencies and Ministers. The *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) protects the privacy of individuals through regulating the way that certain agencies and organisations handle personal information. It also permits individuals to access their personal information and, like the FOI Act, allows individuals to request changes to their personal information.

The availability of some documents under the FOI Act will be affected by section 5 of that Act, which states that the Act does not apply to any request for access to a document of the Federal Court unless the document relates to matters of an administrative nature. Documents filed in court proceedings do not relate to matters of an administrative nature; they may, however, be accessible by way of an application for inspection of court documents under the Federal Court Rules.

Internal and external scrutiny

The Federal Court was not the subject of any reports by a parliamentary committee or the Commonwealth Ombudsman during the reporting period.

There were no external or internal evaluations during the reporting period.

Complaints

Complaints and complaints policy

The Federal Court has available avenues for the handling of complaints regarding the Federal Court, and Federal Court judges.

The Federal Court's general complaint policy is available on its website. (https://www.fedcourt.gov.au/feedbackand-complaints)

Complaints about judicial conduct

Judges, like all other citizens, are subject to the law, but the need to protect judicial independence in the interests of the whole community means that, in respect of their judicial conduct, they cannot be subject to direct discipline by anyone else, except in the extreme cases addressed by section 72(ii) of the *Constitution*.

Judges are accountable through the public nature of their work, the requirement that they give reasons for their decisions and the scrutiny of their decisions on appeal. With rare exceptions, all court hearings are open to the public and can be reported in the news media, and nearly all judgments of the Federal Court are available to the public through the internet.

Complaints about judges are received and considered in accordance with the Judicial Complaints Procedure and section 15(1AAA)–(1AB) of the Federal Court Act.

Financial management and compliance

The accountable authority, the CEO and Principal Registrar of the Federal Court of Australia Listed Entity, has overarching responsibility for the use and management of the public resources for which the accountable authority is responsible. This includes, appropriations for the Federal Court, the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Divisions 1 and 2) and the National Native Title Tribunal.

The Federal Court has an Operations and Finance Committee, which is made up of judges from the Federal Court as well as the CEO and Principal Registrar. For full details of financial management and compliance in 2025–26 please refer to the Federal Court of Australia Listed Entity Annual Report.

Correction of errors

There was one identified error contained in the Federal Court's 2024–25 Annual Report in Part 6, 'Report of the National Native Title Tribunal'. Figure 6.1 on page 158 (Registered Area & Body Corporate ILUAs, 1998–99 to 2024–25) is incorrect. The correct figures are displayed in Graph D of the 2025–26 Report of the National Native Title Tribunal.



'A Reconciled Future — where Country thrives on recognised native title rights and respectful relationships.'

PART 9

NNTT
National Native
Title Tribunal

National Native Title Tribunal



Overview

The 2025–26 reporting period has been a year of significant activity across multiple fronts. The National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) continued to develop and refine its services, raise awareness of its work, undertake a brand refresh in partnership with First Nations creative agency Yirra Miya, and contribute to the broader native title sector through inter-agency committees and reform processes.

A key focus during the year was the NNTT's contribution to the Australian Law Reform Commission's Future Act Review Report. The review considered many aspects of the NNTT's current work and makes recommendations that may have a significant bearing on the future operation of the native title system and the NNTT.

The NNTT acknowledges the contribution of Mr Glen Kelly, who completed his five-year term as a Member in March 2026. During his tenure, Glen finalised an important report following extensive consultation with parties to the expedited procedure in Western Australia. The report has since been published by the Western Australian (WA) Government, which is now rolling out its response. We thank Glen for his dedication and service to the NNTT and wish him all the best in his future endeavours. It has been a privilege to work alongside him.

The NNTT was also pleased to welcome Dr Giovanni (Joe) Fardin as a Member with the NNTT in May 2026. Based in Perth, Joe brings decades of industry and academic experience across native title resources and the academic sector. His experience includes working with the World Bank in Pacific nations. His expertise strengthens the Tribunal's capability and supports its ongoing work, and we look forward to the contribution he will make to the Tribunal.

The NNTT's Business Support Team (BST), together with colleagues across the Federal Court of Australia Corporate Services, have spent much of the year preparing to replace several key business systems that have reached the end of their operational life. Initial work to transition to a new cloud-based website and information management system commenced during the reporting period and will continue into 2026–27. Future systems improvements and efficiencies in respect of the NNTT's existing intranet, case management and databases are also being progressed, improving current performance and in preparation for system replacement and upgrade in the future.

The digitisation project, referenced later in this Report, is partially funded through new monies shared with the Federal Court Native Title Unit, has continued throughout the year with 5,700 paper files digitised. This comprises some 20 per cent of the total paper file archive held by the NNTT.

BST has also steered a successful rebranding process, which included the approval to use a new more informal logo on appropriate materials. The beautiful design work evident in this Report reflects the success of the new brand, the partnership with Yirra Miya, and our own enhanced internal capability to build a visual identity that reflects our vision and purpose.

Refining and promoting the NNTT's Promoting Agreement package under section 60AAA of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) (NTA) has been a whole-of-organisation effort. The model is designed to cater to the needs of First Nations parties and their representatives in the post-determination context is now actively being employed in several NNTT assistance processes around the country. The service is also being introduced to Prescribed Bodies Corporates (PBCs) through collaboration with the National Native Title Council (NNTC) via a Promoting Agreement presentation in its PBC Directors Training, and through a YouTube video and other products available online and in print.

The future act work under Subdivision P of the NTA continues to be a key part of the NNTT's work requiring considerable resourcing. Some 85 per cent of that work is in Western Australia and the number of objection applications to the expedited procedure remaining active at the end of the reporting period are at a three-year high. The rate of expedited procedure decisions, future act determination application decisions, and section 150 conferences remain reasonably constant with a downturn in the number of section 31(3) mediation requests received.

In contrast to the previous reporting period, the number of claimant and non-claimant native title applications increased during 2025–26. Many of the remaining native title applications raise complex issues when applying the registration test. Claims also outnumbered Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs), challenging the trend seen in recent years.

The Geospatial Services Team continues to provide demonstrations of the NNTT's online mapping and spatial data services for various stakeholders on request. It has provided several information sessions this past year to introduce the changes and enhancements in the upgraded Native Title Vision facility. Geospatial provides regular mapping products to other NNTT teams and to third parties to use in their own systems, either by downloading the data, or by taking advantage of web map services. It has been particularly occupied with generating maps for PBCs featuring layered data over their determination areas to assist the section 60AAA service.

The NNTT has maintained a strong presence in the native title system, contributing to initiatives aimed at strengthening the current capability of the system and enhancing resilience to manage future changes. It takes its stakeholder education responsibilities seriously, responding to several requests for bespoke training from government, industry and First Nations groups. It has also provided information sessions during the notification period for large new native title applications where many non-native title interests exist.

Establishment

The NTA established the NNTT as an independent body with a range of important statutory functions. The NTA is itself recognised as a 'special measure' designed to advance and protect the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (First Nations Peoples). The preamble makes clear its broader purpose of advancing reconciliation among all Australians, which is in turn embraced by the NNTT vision statement:

'A Reconciled Future — where Country thrives on recognised native title rights and respectful relationships.'

Key objectives of the NTA are to:

- provide for the recognition and protection of native title
- establish mechanisms for the determination of native title, including claimant, non-claimant, revision, and compensation applications
- set out how future acts may proceed validly, ensuring certainty for all parties

The NTA requires that the NNTT perform its functions in a manner that is fair, just, economical, informal, prompt and has regard for the cultural and customary concerns of First Nations Peoples.

Office locations

The NNTT maintains offices in Brisbane, Cairns, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth and Sydney.

The President, Members and the Native Title Registrar

The President, Members of the Tribunal and the Native Title Registrar are statutory office holders appointed by the Governor-General for specified terms not exceeding five years. The NTA sets out the qualifications required for appointment and defines the respective roles, functions, and responsibilities of these offices.



Kaurna Country. Port Wilunga Beach, South Australia

Statutory office holders

Table 9.1 NNTT statutory office holders as of 30 June 2026

Title	End of term	Term	Location
President Kevin Smith	July 2028	Five Years	Brisbane
Member Nerida Cooley	February 2029	Five Years	Brisbane
Member Lisa Eaton	December 2027	Five Years	Perth
Member Simon Grant	March 2030	Five Years	Brisbane
Member Joe Fardin	May 2031	Five Years	Perth
Registrar Katie Stride	August 2028	Five Years	Brisbane



President Kevin Smith



Registrar Katie Stride

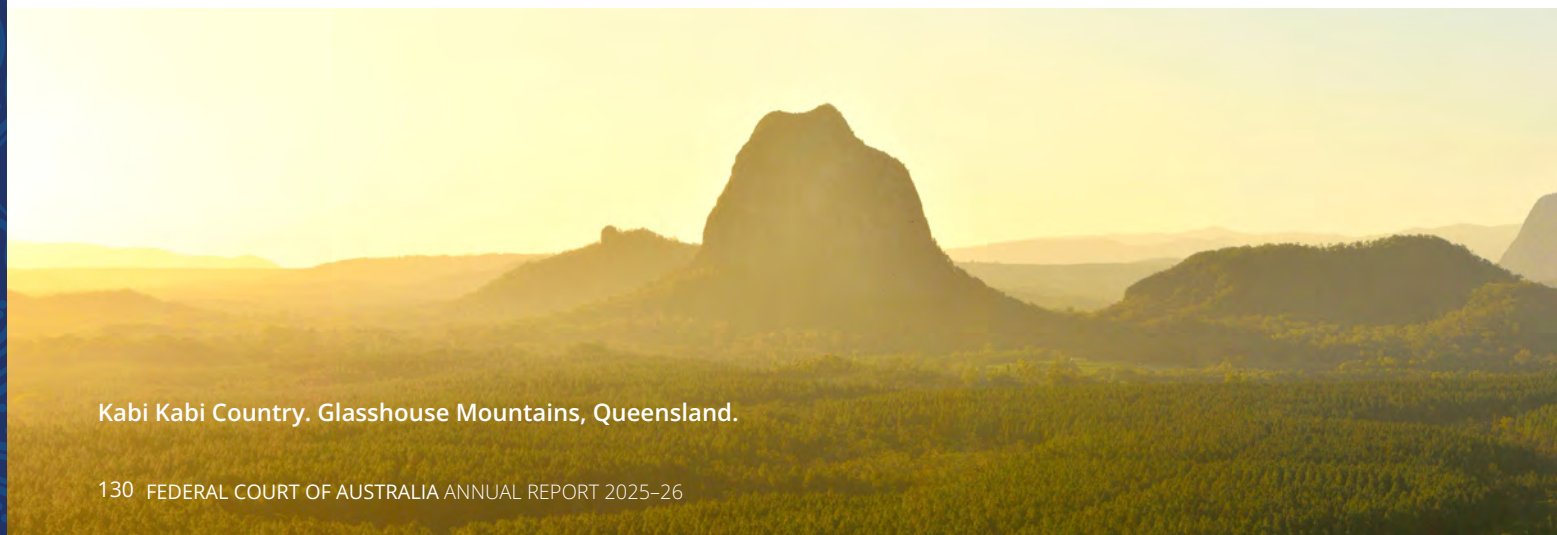
Functions and powers of the President

- The NTA provides that the President is responsible for the administrative affair—except for matters under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth) (PGPA Act) of the *Public Service Act 1999* (Cth) (PSA Act)—of the NNTT, assisted by the CEO and Principal Registrar of the Federal Court of Australia, who may delegate their powers to the Native Title Registrar or other NNTT staff members.
- The President can direct who mediates, provides assistance or undertakes reviews or inquiry functions, and can direct where the Tribunal sits and the procedures it follows.

Functions and powers of the Native Title Registrar

Under the NTA, the Registrar has specific functions to:

- assist the President manage the administrative affairs of the NNTT and for that purpose, is delegated most of the functions of the CEO and Principal Registrar of the Federal Court of Australia in relation to the NNTT,
- provide assistance to people preparing native title applications and more generally in respect of training, education and mapping,
- consider whether claimant applications meet the requirements of the registration test, to be included on the Register of Native Title Claims,
- give notice of new and amended claim applications, compensation applications, and of ILUAs in accordance with the NTA,
- consider whether ILUAs meet the necessary requirements of the NTA for registration,
- maintain the Registers of Native Title Claims, National Native Title Register, Future Act Applications and Determinations, Registered ILUAs and the record of State Deeds.



Kabi Kabi Country. Glasshouse Mountains, Queensland.



From left to right: **Member Simon Grant, Member Lisa Eaton, Registrar Katie Stride, President Kevin Smith, Member Nerida Cooley, Member Dr Joe Fardin.**

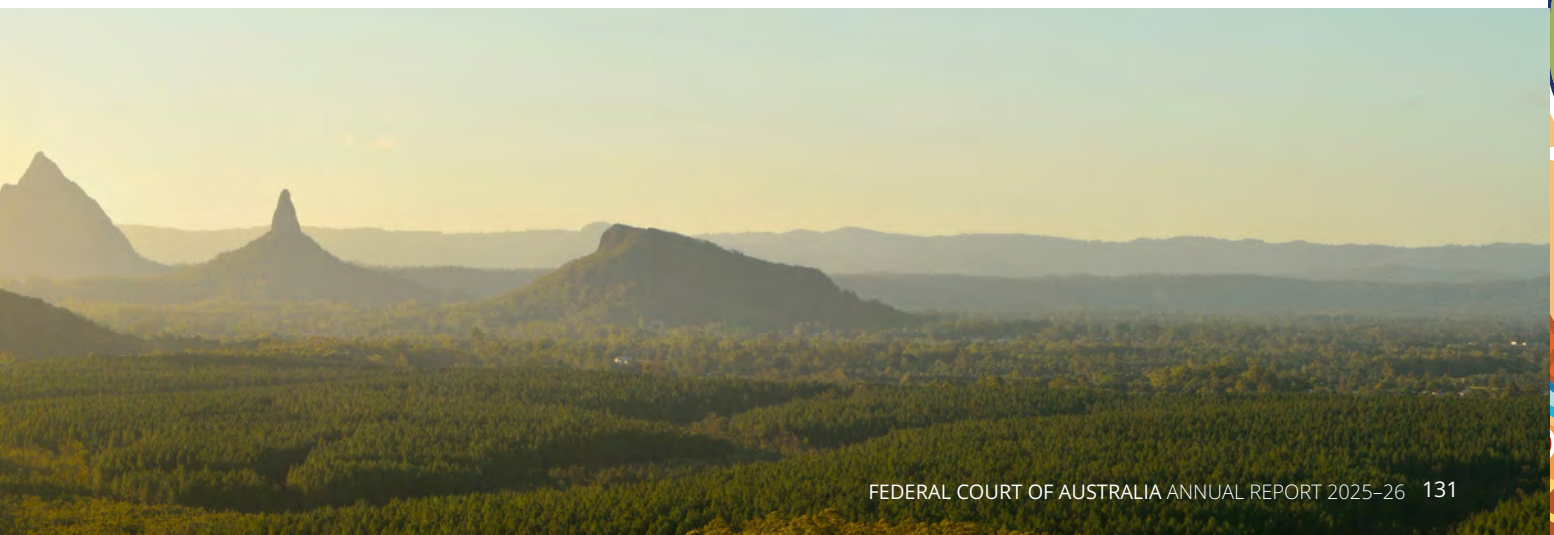
Functions and powers of the Tribunal

Under the NTA, the Tribunal (defined as the President and Members) has specific functions to:

- mediate native title proceedings or conduct reviews, upon referral to it by the Federal Court of Australia,
- determine objections to the expedited procedure,
- mediate between parties in the right to negotiate proceedings,
- determine future act determination applications,
- assist people to negotiate ILUAs and resolve any objections to ILUA registration,
- assist representative bodies in performing their dispute resolution functions,
- reconsider decisions of the Native Title Registrar not to register claimant applications on a request for internal review, and
- conduct special inquiries under ministerial direction.

Functions and powers of the NNTT

- Assist in promoting agreement post-determination, on request by Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate (RNTBCs) and common law holders.
- Assist native title representative bodies and service providers in the exercise of their dispute resolution powers.



Cultural acknowledgement and reconciliation

The NNTT would not exist were it not for the High Court's landmark decision in *Mabo*, which recognised the continuing existence of Indigenous peoples in Australia since time immemorial and the integral relationship they have with Country. The NNTT recognises and acknowledges the traditional owners of Country throughout Australia today and acknowledges their ancestors.

The launch of the Federal Court of Australia Listed Entity's 2026–2027 Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) on 15 April 2026 in Brisbane marked an important milestone in our reconciliation journey. Led by Native Title Registrar and RAP Champion Katie Stride, the event brought together the Courts and the NNTT reflecting a unified commitment to reconciliation and a shared vision of learning, respect and meaningful connection.

The RAP reinforces our ongoing commitment to working respectfully with First Nations peoples and strengthening enduring relationships. The NNTT continues to demonstrate leadership through communications, social media, and engagement on key national days of significance for First Nations Peoples. We remain committed to continuous improvement in the effort to realise the NNTT vision.







Kevin Smith (President NNTT), Kirsty Maylin (RAP Working Group and Director Indigenous Policy (FCFCOA), Libby Ferrari (CEO Reconciliation Qld, Katie Stride (Registrar NNTT)

2025–26 Business support – at a glance

Client enquiries

1,764

Website traffic / views

702,815

Social media posts

112

External training and presentations

12

Cultural Agility sessions hosted in NNTT offices nationally

4

Documents digitised

5,714

Cultural artwork: logo and branding

The NNTT has introduced a new logo and brand identity, following approval from the Prime Minister's Branding Unit and with the support of the Attorney-General.

As an independent statutory body established under the NTA, and in line with the Australian Government Branding Guidelines, courts and tribunals are exempt from standard branding requirements—and may adopt distinct branding where appropriate.

The new identity, developed by First Nations creative agency Yirra Miya, has been designed to better engage First Nations communities throughout their native title journeys by consistent and recognisable application. The artwork reflects the NNTT's commitment to culturally informed and respectful practice while reinforcing its role as a trusted, impartial, and independent body.

NNTT
National Native Title Tribunal



Logo co-created by Yirra Miya Artists Leticia Anne Forbes and Lauren Henry.

Designed to work alongside the cultural artwork, our logo's meeting place represents the current context of the NNTT reflecting the space cultivated through our work internally and externally, whilst committing to be respectful of land, cultural connections, people, and community.

The different layers in our logo meeting place intertwine colours of water, country, and sky to reflect the diverse landscapes across Australia.

By Wodi Wodi Walbunja Artist Lauren Henry
©Yirra Miya 2025

The cultural artwork acknowledges the rich history of the NNTT and key moments in our history which have shaped the present. The artwork also highlights how our present moments will impact the future of the Tribunal while also providing a place for First Nations communities to feel supported on their native title journeys.

Cultural Agility Training

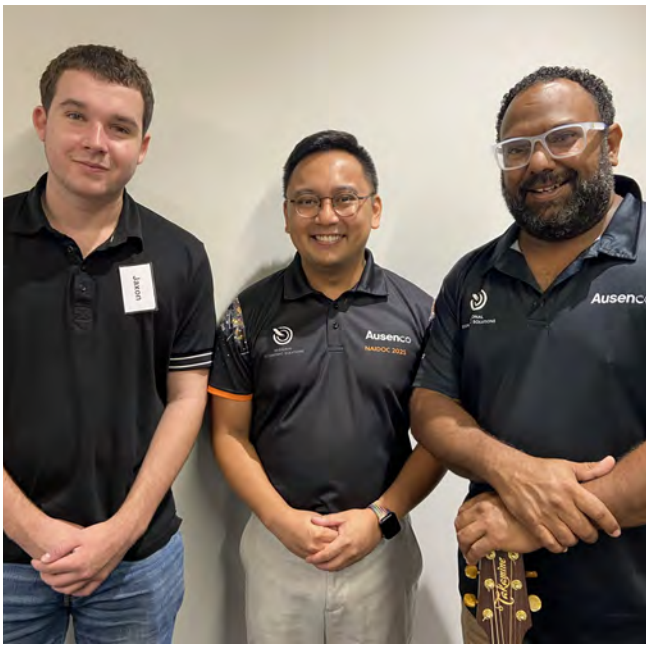
Foundation 2-day workshop

Fifteen staff from the NNTT and an additional two participants from the Federal Court of Australia took part in the foundational two-day Cultural Agility Training workshop held in Brisbane in March 2026. Facilitated by Ivan Ingram, Jeremy Marou and Jaxon Wilson, from the First Nations provider Regional Economic Solutions, the workshop used storytelling to build understanding of Australia's legislative history, the importance of Country, and the lived experiences of First Nations Peoples. Participants also explored practical ways to strengthen cultural agility in their day-to-day work and engagement.

The training was both extremely informative and deeply memorable. A Dispute Resolution and Assistance Case Manager provided the following feedback:

'I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to participate. It was very eye-opening to see the injustice embedded in Australia's early legislative instruments toward First Nations Peoples. Many thanks to Jaxon, Jeremy, and Ivan for their powerful truth-telling.'

Following the foundational training, 36 NNTT staff attended Day 3 of the program across three locations—Brisbane, Sydney and Perth. This personal and professional reflection day builds on the educative components of the two-day workshop, focusing on the **Closing the Gap** and Governance of Indigenous Data frameworks, the Listed Entity RAP commitments and how these learnings can be applied in everyone's sphere of influence.



Jaxon Wilson, Ivan Ingram, Jeremy Marou



Foundational two-day Cultural Agility Training held in Brisbane in March 2026



Day 3 Cultural Agility Training in Perth, 18 June 2026

AIATSIS 2026: NNTT relaunches ‘Promoting Agreement model’

From 1 to 5 June 2026, a delegation of NNTT staff attended the AIATSIS 2026 Summit on the Gold Coast. The 2026 theme **‘Our Truth. Our Power. Our Future’** provided an opportunity to network, gain knowledge and share the NNTT’s work.

NNTT Native Title Registrar, Katie Stride, and Dr Ivan Ingram (Regional Economic Solutions) jointly presented on **‘Indigenous Data Sovereignty, Native Title Records and Artificial Intelligence’**. Legal & Compliance Director Paulette Dupuy and Manager Mike Raine delivered a session titled **‘There’s ILUAs in them there hills!: Tips an tools for ILUA landscapes.’**

In the exhibition hall, the NNTT’s stall attracted steady interest, showcasing **Native Title Vision**, and the **Promoting Agreement framework.**

More than 70 delegates visited the NNTT’s stall, sparking conversations on post-determination assistance, geospatial services, ILUAs and native title applications. Staff connected with a wide range of stakeholders, including PBCs, government representatives, researchers and organisations such as UNESCO, CSIRO and the National Native Title Council.







NNTT participation at AIATSIS 2026 Summit

Innovation: social media and website accessibility improvements

Social media innovation and website development

In 2025–26, the NNTT strengthened its digital presence through a more strategic and data-driven approach to social media. A key achievement was transitioning to the Listed Entity's social media management platform, Brandwatch, which enabled improved monitoring, audience insights and more targeted content delivery. The NNTT also introduced the digitalisation of statutory notifications on its LinkedIn and Facebook platforms, increasing reach, efficiency and accessibility for stakeholders.

These initiatives and the current redevelopment of the NNTT website have enabled the NNTT to better inform stakeholders, increase engagement and modernise the way we communicate key information.

The NNTT recently launched its new website, featuring a modern, minimalist design that improves usability and delivers a more intuitive experience across devices, with improved accessibility and navigation on mobile phones and tablets. Phase 2 of this project is a comprehensive content review of the site that will take place over the next reporting year.

NNTT's Digitisation Project update

Priority Reforms 1 and 4 of the Closing the Gap Agreement supports the digitisation of paper and audio-visual native title records so that responsible custodianship can support Indigenous data governance practices. Funding from the 2024–25 Federal Budget has enabled the continuation of this work, with appropriate protections maintained for confidential and culturally sensitive material.

During the reporting period, the project progressed to the large-scale digitisation of Perth office records. By June 2026, 97 per cent of Perth files (5,714 files) had been digitised and downloaded from secure transfer, with 65 per cent also completing further checks against National Archives of Australia standards, internal quality assurance and filed. Some 20 per cent of the NNTTs paper file archive has been digitised with the project funding largely expended.

Financial review

The Federal Court's appropriation includes funding for the operation of the NNTT. This funding is detailed at sub-program 1.1.2 in the Court's Portfolio Budget Statements. A sum of $10,326 million was originally budgeted for the NNTT's operations in 2025–26. A further revenue payment increased this amount to $10,383 million. The total expenditure for the reporting year was $11,475 million.

The Federal Court Listed Entity Annual Report shows the consolidated financial results for both the Federal Court and the NNTT.

External scrutiny

Freedom of information

During the reporting period, one request was received under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (FOI Act) for access to documents. The NNTT publishes a disclosure log on its website, as required by the FOI Act. The disclosure log lists four documents released in full and one document released in part in response to the one FOI request processed during the reporting period.

Accountability to clients

The NNTT maintains a Client Service Charter (Commitment to Service Excellence) to ensure that service standards meet client needs. During the reporting period there were no complaints requiring action under the Charter.

Statutory office holder conduct next reporting year

There is a code of conduct for NNTT statutory office holders that have been reviewed for currency during the reporting period to be republished in the next year. During the reporting period, there were no complaints concerning Members that required action in accordance with the code.

Online services

The NNTT maintains a public website at www.nntt.gov.au, which provides accessible, up-to-date information on its functions and services. The website enables users to search key statutory registers, including the National Native Title Register, the Register of Native Title Claims, the Future Act Register and the Register of ILUAs.

Native title spatial information and related data are also available online through Native Title Vision, supporting improved access to geospatial information.

Following amendments to the NTA in 2021, the NNTT also established and maintains a publicly accessible record of section 31 agreements provided to it from 2021.

Australian Human Rights Commission

Under section 209 of the NTA, the Commonwealth Minister may, by written notice, direct the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner to report to the Commonwealth Minister about the operation of the NTA or its effect on the exercise and enjoyment of human rights by First Nations Peoples.

The NNTT has provided Social Justice Commissioner Ms Katie Kiss with statistics and other information required to produce reports on request through the 2025–26 year.

Geospatial



Nanda Country. Kalbarri National Park, Western Australia.

This part of the NNTT report looks at how the Geospatial Services Team supports the work of the NNTT through the delivery of high-quality mapping, spatial information, and geospatial services that are essential to the administration and navigation of the native title system.

2025–26 Geospatial – at a glance

Geospatial assistance requests—applications section 78 assistance

104

Geospatial assistance requests—ILUAs section 24 assistance

25

Mapping and assistance requests (other)

228

Compliance assessment reports

144

Geospatial assistance requests (other)

497

Geospatial search requests—section 78(2) assistance

2,046

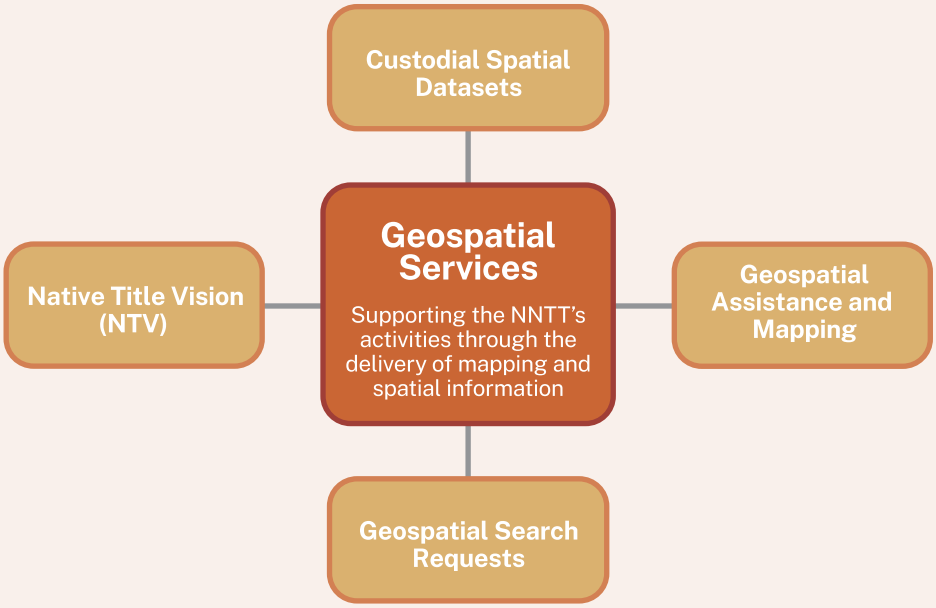
Overview

The Geospatial Services Team supports the work of the NNTT through the delivery of high-quality mapping, spatial information, and geospatial services that are essential to the administration and navigation of the native title system.

The team is responsible for:

- Managing, maintaining, and distributing authoritative spatial datasets that underpin the NNTT's registers and schedules for native title determinations, applications, and future acts ILUAs.
- Producing maps and geospatial information products to support native title applicants, registered native title bodies corporate, commonwealth, state and territory government agencies, industry stakeholders, researchers, and the broader community.
- Providing geospatial analysis and advisory services that assist decision-making, spatial planning, and the interpretation of native title-related information.

Through these services, the team plays a critical role in enabling stakeholders to understand the spatial extent and status of native title matters across Australia.



Assistance

There continues to be strong national demand for geospatial products and services that support stakeholders in accordance with the provisions of the NTA. Assistance provided by Geospatial Services includes the preparation of maps, boundary descriptions, and overlapping interest reports to support parties preparing applications and associated documentation for native title proceedings, as well as parties involved in agreement-making processes (ILUAs). The team also provides pre-lodgment compliance assessment advice for applications, determinations, and ILUAs.

The Geospatial Services Team continues to enhance and deliver Native Title Vision (NTV), the NNTT's free online mapping platform. NTV enables stakeholders to view and query the NNTT's custodial datasets alongside a range of third-party spatial information, including non-freehold land tenure, mining and petroleum tenements, and administrative boundaries. Training and technical support are provided to stakeholders as required to maximise the effective use of the platform.

The NNTT's custodial spatial datasets remain freely available for integration into external systems through downloadable datasets and web map services. These services are widely utilised by Commonwealth and state government agencies, with NNTT custodial datasets incorporated into numerous online applications systems across Australia.

Pursuant to section 78(2) of the NTA, individuals and organisations may request searches of the NNTT's registers to determine whether a particular area of land or water is subject to a native title interest. Geospatial Services conducts these searches and provides reports identifying the area of interest and any overlapping native title matters.

Geospatial Services also delivers critical support across the NNTT for a range of business functions. This includes the preparation of mapping products to support the NNTT's 'Promoting Agreement' functions, spatial analysis and mapping services for mediation functions, and the preparation of compliance assessment reports for new and amended native title matters, and applications subject to registration.

Since 2014, Geospatial Services has compiled a National Indigenous Estate dataset on behalf of the Productivity Commission. The analysis derived from this dataset underpins the provision of nationally consistent statistics for the Closing the Gap (CtG) Dashboard, supporting the monitoring and reporting of Indigenous land and water outcomes across Australia.

Three-year comparison—assistance requests for geospatial services

Table 9.2 Geospatial services assistance requests completed

Title	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Geospatial Services assistance requests	1,097	913	998
Geospatial search requests—section 78(2) assistance	2,099	2,080	2,046

National Native Title Status

Determinations

The 677 registered determinations (including 129 where native title does not exist in the entire determination area) as of 30 June 2026 covered a total area of about 4,271,458 km^2 or 55.5 per cent of the land mass of Australia and approximately 177,324 km^2 of sea (below the high-water mark) as indicated in Table 9.3—Registered Native Title determinations (by area coverage) as at 30 June 2026.

One conditional determination (South Australia) is still awaiting registration. Upon registration, this determination will increase the areas determined to about 4,286,826 km^2 or 55.7 per cent of the land mass of Australia as indicated in Figure 9.1—Registered Native Title Determinations as at 30 June 2026.

The conditional consent determination is *Branson on behalf of Ngadjuri Nation #2 Native Title Claim v State of South Australia* [2023] FCA 715.

Indigenous Land Use Agreements

Registered ILUAs cover about 2,713,573 km^2 or 35.3 per cent of the land mass of Australia and approximately 52,802 km^2 of sea, as indicated in Figure 9.2—Registered Indigenous Land Use Agreements as at 30 June 2026 and Table 9.4—Registered Indigenous Land Use Agreements (by area coverage) as at 30 June 2026.

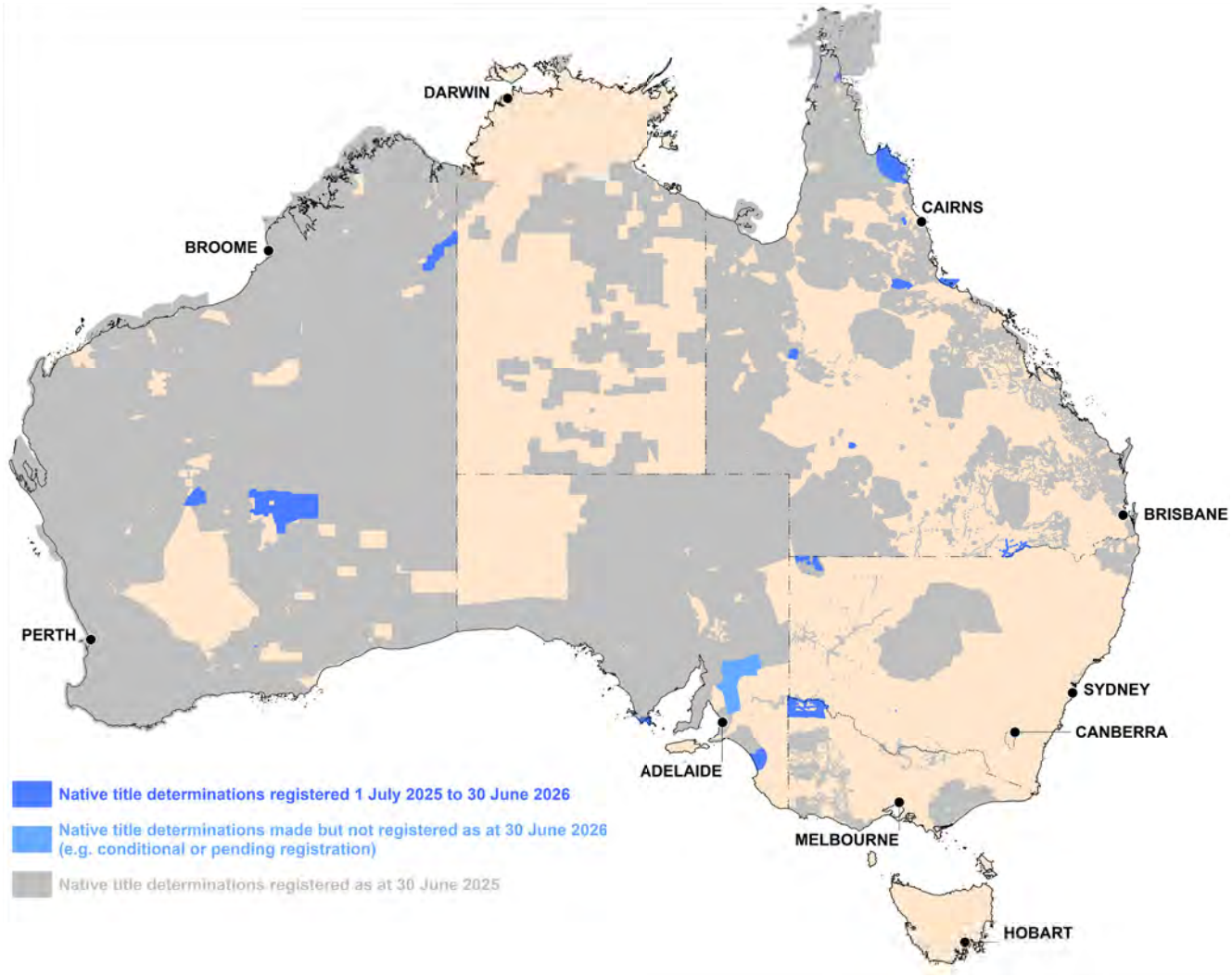


Figure 9.1: Native Title Determinations as of 30 June 2026

Table 9.3 Registered Native Title Determinations (by area coverage) as of 30 June 2026

Jurisdiction	Native title exists (exclusive)	Native title exists (non-exclusive)	Sub-total	Native title does not exist	Total area (km²)	Determined Area %
Landmass	43	62	104			
ACT	0	0	0	0	0	0%
NSW	684	10,521	11,205	101,718	112,923	14.1%
NT	14,056	361,699	375,755	828	376,583	27.9%
QLD	84,414	610,888	695,302	137,267	832,569	48.1%
SA	7,858	548,110	555,968	92,821	648,789	65.9%
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0%
VIC	0	20,154	20,154	11,018	31,172	13.7%
WA	1,111,070	835,819	1,946,889	322,533	2,269,422	89.6%
Total	**1,218,082**	**2,387,191**	**3,605,273**	**666,185**	4,271,458	**55.5%**
Offshore	0	114,746	114,746	62,578	117,324	

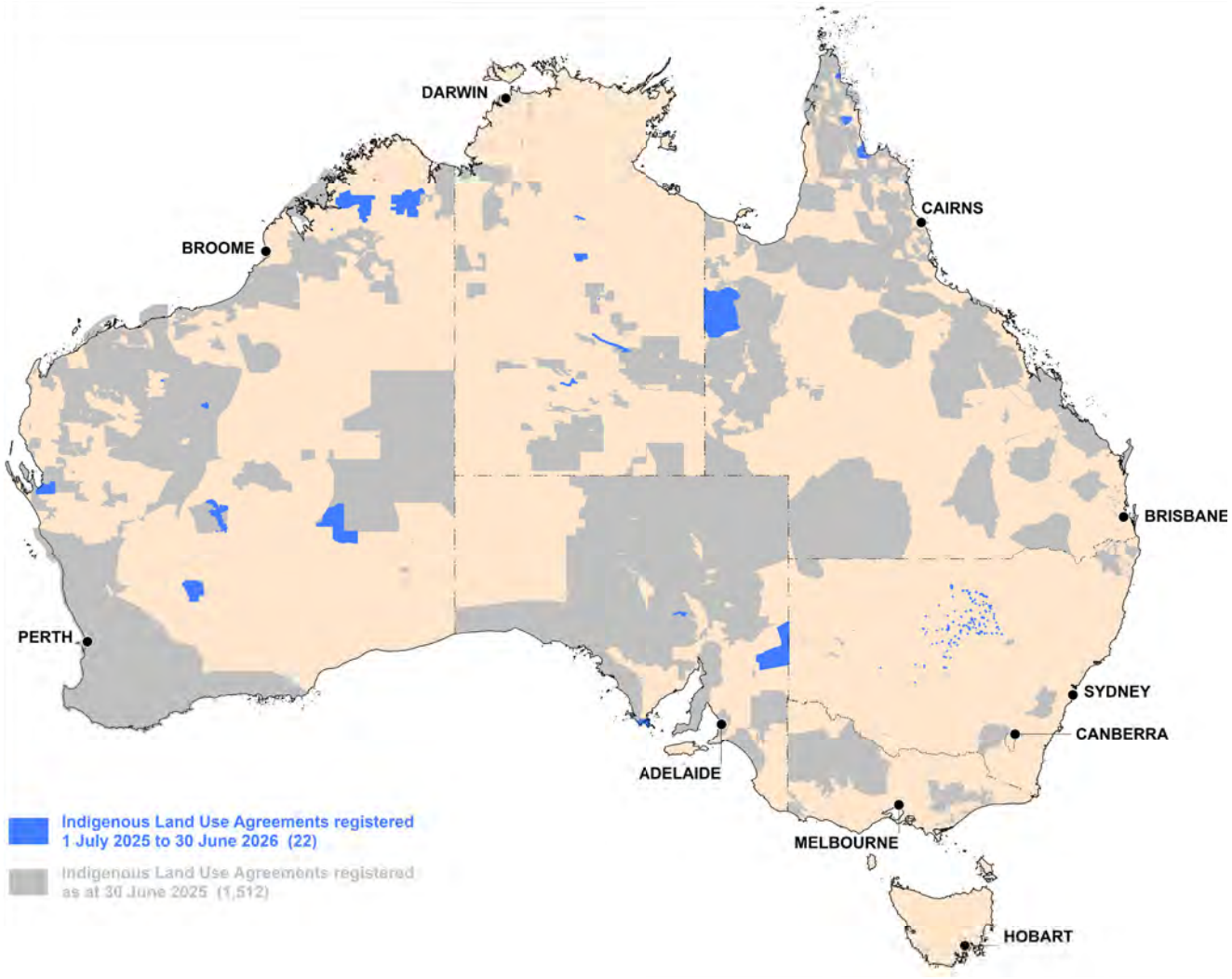


Figure 9.2: Registered Indigenous Land Use Agreements as of 30 June 2026

Table 9.4 Registered Indigenous Land Use Agreements (by area coverage) as of 30 June 2026

Jurisdiction	Area of land covered (km²)	% of land covered	Area of sea covered (km²)
ACT	0	0	0
NSW	33,524	4.20%	8
NT	182,260	13.50%	29
QLD	835,693	48.30%	6,9278
SA	609,882	62.00%	1,849
TAS	0	0%	0
VIC	86,766	38.10%	272
WA	965,448	38.20%	34,940
Commonwealth	0	0%	8,776
Total	**2,713,573**	**35.30%**	**52,802**



Baiyungu Country. Coral Bay, Western Australia.

Dispute Resolution and Assistance



This section reports on the NNTT's future act functions under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth)

Karlu Karlu Country. Devils Marbles, Northern Territory.

2025–26 Future Acts – at a glance

Advertised section 29 notices

2,762

Objections lodged

1,415

Objections finalised

1,228

Active objections

1,590

Tenements cleared

1,173

section 150 conferences concluded

22

Future acts

The NNTT's future act case management supports lawful decision-making about acts that are covered by Subdivision P of the NTA, which may affect native title rights and interests. The case management procedures provide a framework for proponents, native title parties and state governments to negotiate, object, mediate and, where necessary, have matters determined by the Tribunal. The NNTT's role is to support agreement-making wherever possible and provide a fair, just, economical, informal and prompt pathway for determination where agreement cannot be reached.

In 2025–26, this work continued in a high-volume environment. The NNTT received 2,762 section 29 future act notices, comprising 2,180 notices that asserted the expedited procedure applied to the grant of tenements and 582 that did not.

Three-year comparison—section 29 notices and core future act activity

Table 9.5 Section 29 notices and core future act activity

Statistic	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Advertised section 29 tenement notices—total	2,468	2,347	2,762
Section 29 notices including the expedited procedure statement	2,188	2,039	2,180
Section 29 notices not including the expedited procedure statement	280	308	582
WA advertised tenements section 29 notices—total	1,966	1,926	2,306

Expedited procedure

The expedited procedure is designed for future acts expected to have minimal impact on native title. If a government party asserts the expedited procedure applies to the grant of a future act, and no native title party objects, the government party may do the act. If a native title party objects and the parties cannot otherwise reach agreement, the Tribunal must hold an inquiry into whether the expedited procedure should apply. If it does not apply, the matter proceeds through the usual section 31(1) right to negotiate process.

Over the reporting year, 1,415 objections were lodged and 1,228 were finalised. Finalisations increased by 20 per cent from the previous year; however, active objections rose to 1,590 at year end. Agreement remained a key resolution pathway: 529 objections were withdrawn following agreement, while 289 matters were closed after the relevant tenement application was withdrawn. The NNTT made 43 substantive determinations; 34 that the expedited procedure applied and nine that it did not.

Three-year comparison—Expedited Procedure Objection Applications and Outcomes

Table 9.6 Expedited Procedure Objection Applications and Outcomes

Statistic	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Objection applications lodged	1,097	1,442	1,415
Active objection applications at end of financial year	980	1,404	1,590
Objection applications finalised	869	1,018	1,228
Withdrawn following agreement	362	305	529
Tenement application withdrawn	278	397	289
Determination—expedited procedure applies	12	8	34
Determination—expedited procedure does not apply	8	3	9
Dismissed—section 148(b)	87	92	13

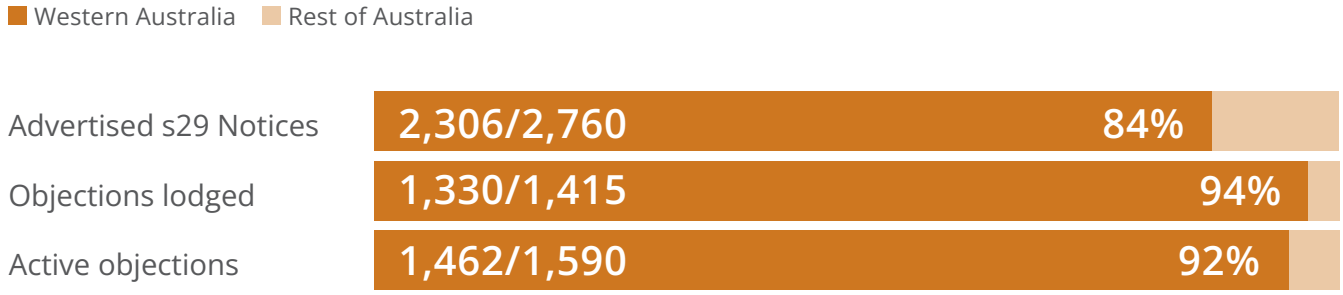


Figure 9.3: Percentage of national objection activity in WA.

Future Act Determinations

Where the expedited procedure does not apply, or is not asserted, parties must negotiate in good faith. If agreement is not reached after the statutory negotiation period, a party may apply to the Tribunal for a future act determination. The Tribunal will conduct an inquiry, taking into account the criteria set out in section 39 of the NTA, and may determine that the act may be done, may be done subject to conditions, or must not be done. If any party asserts that negotiations in good faith have not occurred, the Tribunal will hold an inquiry to establish whether that is the case. A finding of a failure to negotiate in good faith means the Tribunal has no jurisdiction to determination the application.

Over the reporting year, 18 future act determination applications (FADAs) were lodged across New South Wales (2), Victoria (4), Queensland (1) and Western Australia (11). Eleven FADA applications remained active as of 30 June 2026.

The Tribunal finalised 14 FADA decisions during the reporting year. Of these, the Tribunal made six substantive determinations, the reasons for which can be found on the NNTT's website. Four of the decisions found that the future act could be done (two subject to conditions), one related to a preliminary issue of whether a hearing was required and one found that negotiation in good faith was not satisfied and was dismissed under section 148(1) of the NTA.

Other matters were finalised through withdrawal, either by agreement under section 31(3)(b) of the NTA or withdrawal of the tenement application.

Three-year comparison – FADAs and outcomes by tenement

Table 9.7 FADAs and Outcomes by Tenement

Statistic	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
FADAs lodged	8	21	18
Active FADAs at end of financial year	7	7	11
FADAs finalised	17	21	14
Application withdrawn	1	0	4
Application withdrawn—section 31(1)(b) agreement	5	6	2
Determination—act may be done	6	8	2
Determination—act may be done subject to conditions	0	6	2
Dismissed—section 148(a) negotiation in good faith not satisfied	5	1	2
Tenement application withdrawn	0	0	2

Future act agreement-making assistance: section 31(3) mediation and section 150 conferences

Agreement-making remains central to the future act system. Under section 31(3), negotiation parties may ask the NNTT to assist them to reach agreement about proposed future acts subject to the right to negotiate.

In 2025–26, five new section 31(3) mediation requests were submitted, 14 remained active and 23 were finalised.

Three-year comparison—section 31(3) mediations and section 31 deeds

Table 9.8 Section 31(3) mediations and section 31 deeds

Statistic	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Section 31(3) mediation requests	34	28	5
Active section 31 mediation requests at end of financial year	35	32	14
Section 31 mediation requests finalised	33	31	23
Section 31(1)(b) agreement outcomes	0	5	4

Pursuant to section 150 of the NTA, the President or an Inquiry Member may direct the holding of a conference to assist parties in resolving any matter that is relevant to an NNTT inquiry. Section 150 conferences can help parties better understand issues, explore options for reaching agreement and narrow matters in dispute.

Over the year, 19 section 150 conferences were directed in the context of objection applications and 20 were concluded. A further two section 150 conferences in the context of FADAs were directed and two were concluded.

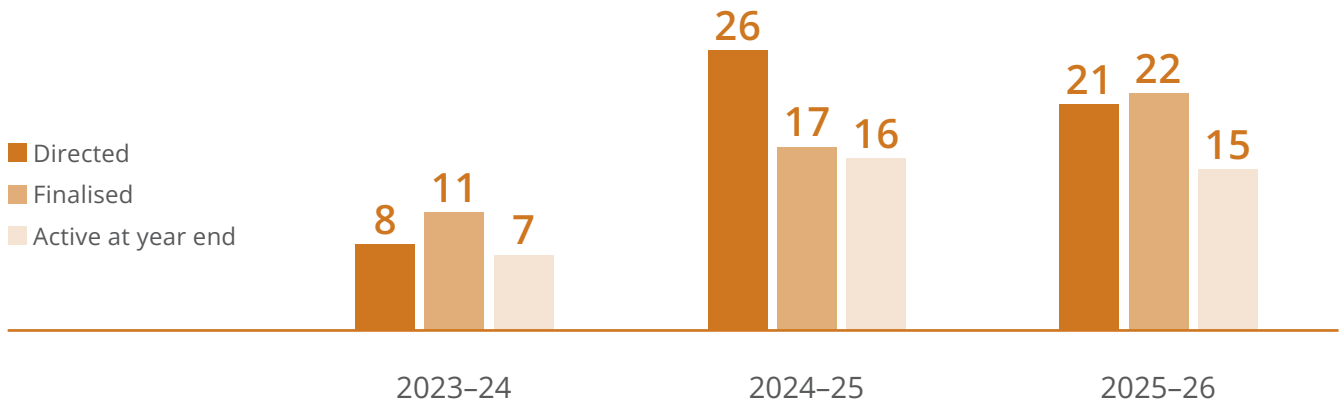


Figure 9.4: section 150 conferences

Three-year comparison—section 150 conferences

Table 9.9 section 150 conferences

Statistic	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Section 150 objection conferences directed	8	25	19
Section 150 objection conferences active at end of financial year	7	15	14
Section 150 objection conferences concluded	10	17	20
Section 150 FADA conferences directed	0	1	2
Section 150 FADA conferences active at end of financial year	0	1	1
Section 150 FADA conferences concluded	1	0	2

Record of section 31 deeds

A section 31 deed records the agreement of the parties to the doing of a future act to which the 'right to negotiate' applies. Often some or all the parties will also enter into another written agreement, known as an 'ancillary agreement'.

As required under section 41B of the NTA, since 2021, the Registrar has kept a public record of the section 31 agreements received that is published to the NNTT website.

Six-year comparison—by jurisdiction

Table 9.10 Record of section 31 deeds

Jurisdiction	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	Total
NSW		1	6	5	4	4	**20**
NT			1	2	1	1	**5**
QLD	21	39	40	31	25	17	**173**
VIC		4	5	1	1	2	**13**
WA	9	25	32	18	35	55	**174**
Total	**30**	**69**	**84**	**57**	**66**	**79**	**385**

New developments and key achievements

At the request of the Premier of Western Australia in February 2025, the NNTT assisted with the Western Australia Government's review of Western Australia's native title and Aboriginal heritage processes as they operate within the mining and exploration sector. Consultation occurred across July to October 2025 with stakeholders including exploration and mining proponents, Traditional Owner organisations and Aboriginal heritage professionals, with additional engagement with relevant native title legal service provider or representitive body. Regional forums were held in Karratha, Kalgoorlie and Broome to support participation. The final report, **Review of Native Title and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Processes**, made 25 recommendations. The Western Australia Government has developed several initiatives in response to the report's findings.

During the year, the NNTT invested in sector-wide capability building for statutory dispute resolution. It partnered with the Resolution Institute of Australia to co-design mediation accreditation training, supporting a more consistent and culturally responsive approach to mediation.

The NNTT has responded to an increasing number of requests from industry and government to provide education and information on native title and future act activities and processes.

The NNTT continues to strengthen its future act case management, mediation and conferencing practice responding to a changing environment and emerging trends.

2025–26 Post Determination Assistance – at a glance

Requests from Common Law Holders (CLHs)

67

Native Title Journey Timelines

22

NNTC PBC Forums

3

Requests from RNTBCs

15

PBC area maps

50

NNTC PBS Directors Training

2

Promoting Agreement assistance requests

Section 60AAA of the NTA provides that a PBC or Native Title holder may request the NNTT to assist with promoting agreement about matters relating to native title or the operation of the NTA. The NNTT has packaged the expertise and resources it holds that could assist PBCs in their self-determination journey under the service banner of 'Promoting Agreement'.

In the reporting period, three PBCs requested Promoting Agreement assistance regarding longstanding disputes. In all three matters, a significant amount of preparatory work was undertaken in conjunction with the PBC board and the relevant native title legal service provider (Native Title Representative Bodies (NTRB)) before community education and mediation sessions were held on Country.

In the reporting period, the NNTT received 67 requests for assistance from individual native title holders. The assistance provided to them includes providing copies of relevant documents (for example, the RNTBC Rule Book), sector navigation and referrals to related agencies (for example, Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC)).

Promoting Agreement information products

YouTube video and factsheet

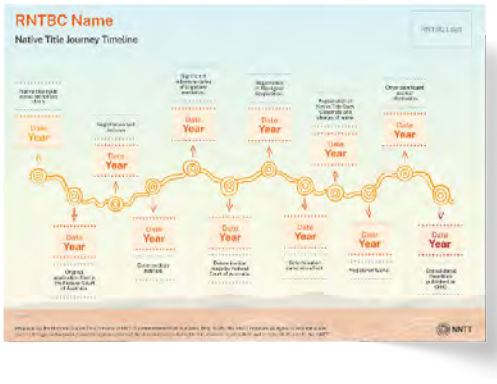
The NNTT produced a video and factsheet in-house which highlight that the NNTT's Promoting Agreement service is a request-driven pathway to obtaining support in a holistic and facilitative way.



Native Title Journey Timelines

Native Title journey timelines outline significant milestones along a group's native title claim proceeding.

Fifteen requests for the timelines were received from PBCs in the 2025–26 reporting period. We also prepared seven timelines for PBCs participating in National Native Title Council PBC Forums and Directors Training.



PBC area maps

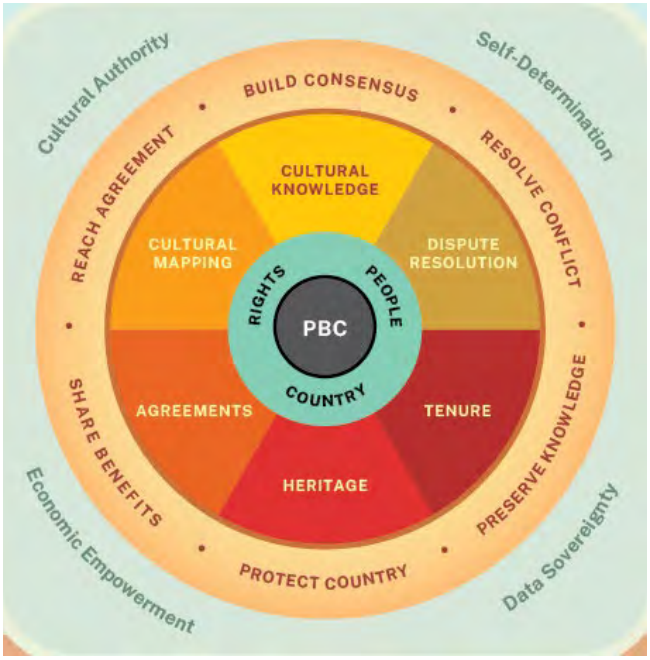
Fifty PBC area maps have been requested during the reporting year. The maps depict areas of:

- determined outcomes (exclusive, non-exclusive and does not exist),
- land tenure,
- topography,
- Native title agreements (ILUAs, state deeds, section 31 agreements), and
- future acts.

Further layers of data can be added by request from PBCs developing plans for various purposes.

Promoting Agreement graphic

The graphic reflects the six priority areas of: Cultural Mapping; Cultural Knowledge; Dispute Resolution; Tenure; Heritage; and Agreements.



Three-year comparison—Section 60AAA requests for assistance

Table 9.11 Section 60AAA requests for assistance

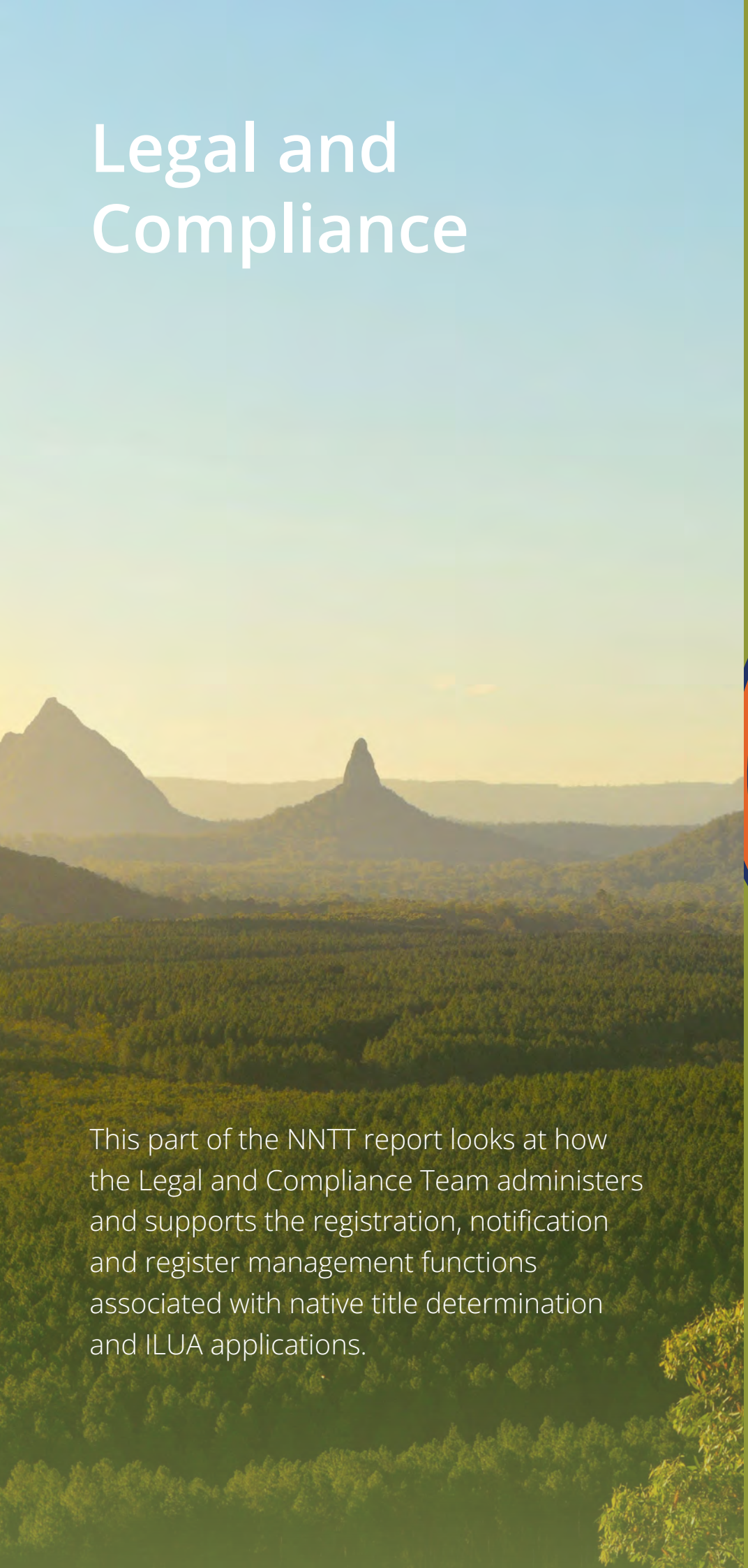
Statistic	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Requests for post determination assistance from CLHs:	71	68	67
Requests for post determination assistance from RNTBCs:	4	9	16

Capability strengthening

In the reporting period, the NNTT continued to participate in capability strengthening for PBCs by:

- co-designing community education sessions with NTRBs,
- delivering training at NNTC PBC Directors Training (Perth and Broome), and
- participating in NNTC PBC Regional Forums (Townsville, Broome and Kalgoorlie).

Legal and Compliance



This part of the NNTT report looks at how the Legal and Compliance Team administers and supports the registration, notification and register management functions associated with native title determination and ILUA applications.

2025–26 Legal and compliance – at a glance

New NTDAs received

55

Registration decisions made

31

Determinations registered

26

ILUAs registered

22

Total assistance requests received

16

Total notices published

54

The Registers

Under Parts 7, 8 and 8A of the NTA, the Native Title Registrar is responsible for the following registers:

- The Register of Native Title Claims (RNTC) records details of claimant applications that have met the statutory conditions for registration. As of 30 June 2026, 98 claimant applications were registered on the RNTC however, it should be noted that a proportion of these applications were received prior to the commencement of the reporting period. Where an application is not accepted for registration, reconsideration by the NNTT is available under section 190E or the applicant may apply for judicial review in the Federal Court. Two applications for reconsideration were received during 2025–26.
- The National Native Title Register (NNTR) records specific information concerning approved determinations of native title made by the Federal Court of Australia, the High Court of Australia or a recognised state or territory body. As of 30 June 2026, 677 determinations were recorded on the NNTR, including 129 determinations that native title does not exist.
- The Register of ILUAs records area agreements and body corporate agreements that have met the statutory conditions for registration.

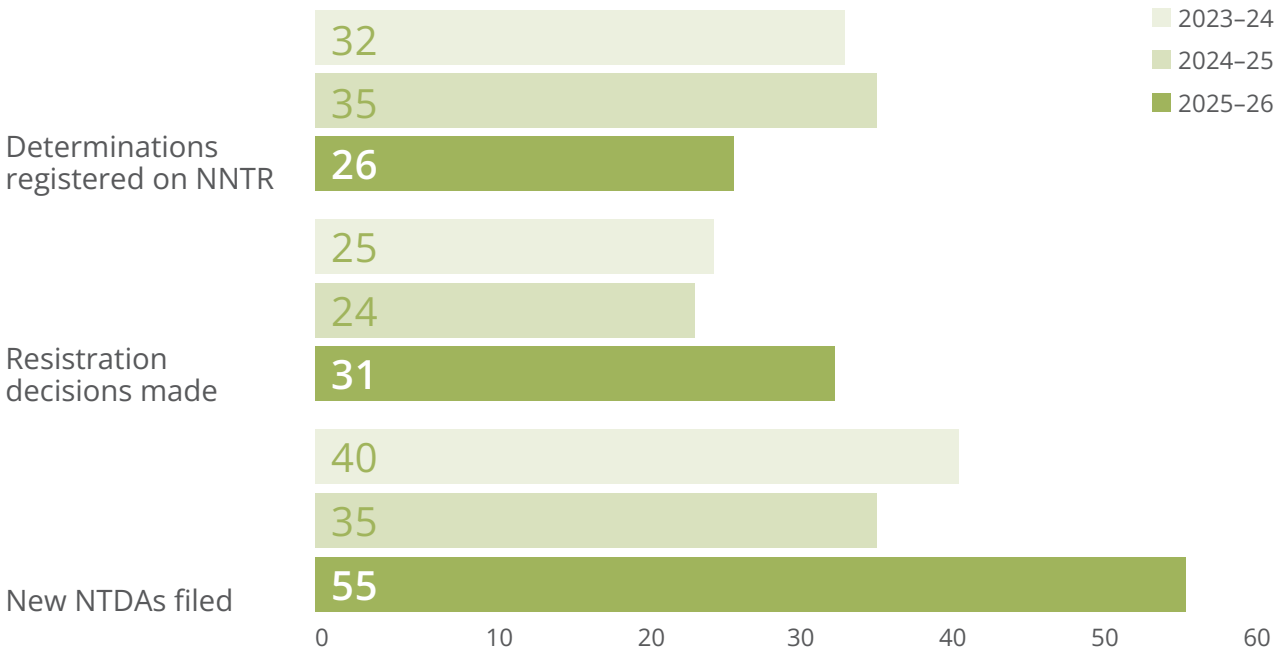


Figure 9.5: Native title determinations applications.

Native title determination applications

Under section 61 of the NTA, four types of native title applications may be made:

- Claimant native title determination application.
- Non-claimant native title determination application.
- Compensation application.
- Revised native title determination application.

2025–26 Filed

Table 9.12: Native title determination applications by state

Native title determination applications	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Total
Claimant (new)	1	2	7	0	0	6	7	**23**
Non-claimant	13	1	15	0	0	0	0	**29**
Compensation	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	**1**
Revised native title determination	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	**2**
Total	**14**	**5**	**22**	**1**	**0**	**6**	**7**	**55**

In this reporting period there was a significant increase in the number of non-claimant applications filed in Queensland (15 this reporting period compared to five in the previous reporting period). There was also an increase in the number of new claimant applications received (23 in this reporting period compared to 16 in the previous reporting period). Consequently, 31 registration decisions have been made in the reporting year compared to 24 in the previous year. Of the 31 registration decisions during this reporting period, 10 related to applications or amended applications received in the previous reporting period.

Indigenous Land Use Agreements

Under the NTA, the Native Title Registrar is responsible for the Register of ILUAs. Parties to an ILUA may apply to the Native Title Registrar for registration of an ILUA. Each registered ILUA, in addition to taking effect as a contract among the parties, binds all persons who hold, or may hold, native title in relation to any of the land or waters in the area covered by the ILUA.

2025–26 Lodged

Table 9.13: Indigenous Land Use Agreements by state or territory

Indigenous Land Use Agreements	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Total
Area Agreement	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	**5**
Body Corporate Agreement	0	1	3	1	0	1	8	**14**
Total	**2**	**1**	**5**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**8**	**19**

In this reporting period there was a decrease in the ILUA applications received, in particular in Queensland (five in this reporting period compared to nine in the previous reporting period) and South Australia (one in this reporting period compared to nine in the previous reporting period).

ILUAs registered and removed

Of the 1,534 ILUAs on the Register of ILUAs at the end of the reporting period, the majority are in Queensland.

During the reporting period, the Native Title Registrar registered 22 ILUAs—15 less than in the previous year. Fifteen body corporate and seven area agreement ILUAs were accepted for registration and entered in the Register of ILUAs.

During the reporting period eight ILUAs were removed from the Register of ILUAs.

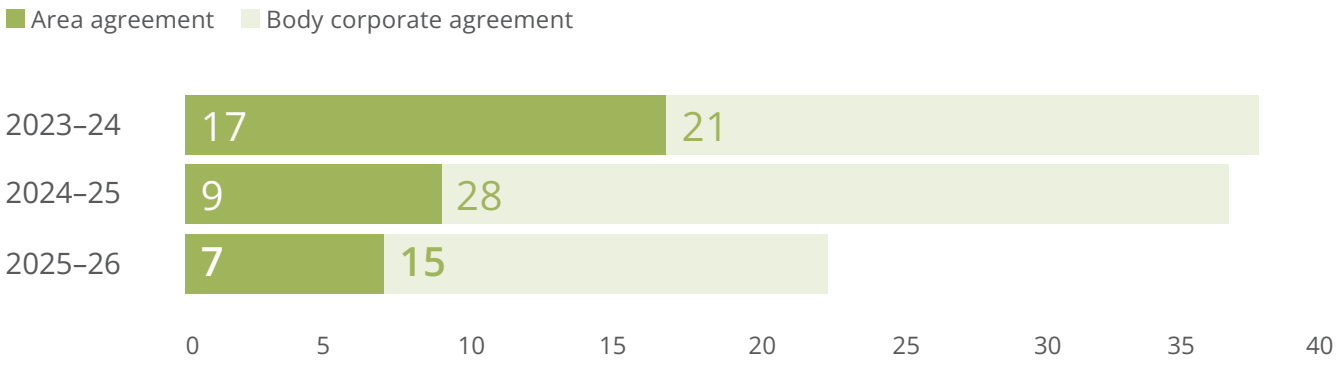


Figure 9.6: New ILUAs registrations 2023–24 to 2025–26.

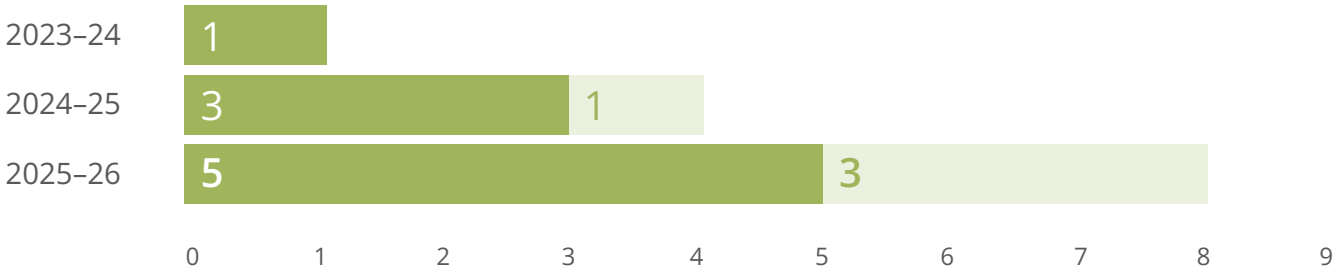


Figure 9.7: ILUAs removed from Register 2023–24 to 2025–26.

There are an increasing number of ILUAs being removed from the Register of ILUAs. ILUAs may be removed under section 199C of the NTA for reasons including because they have expired, because they have been terminated or following a determination of native title where the determined native title holders are inconsistent with the native title party in the ILUA.

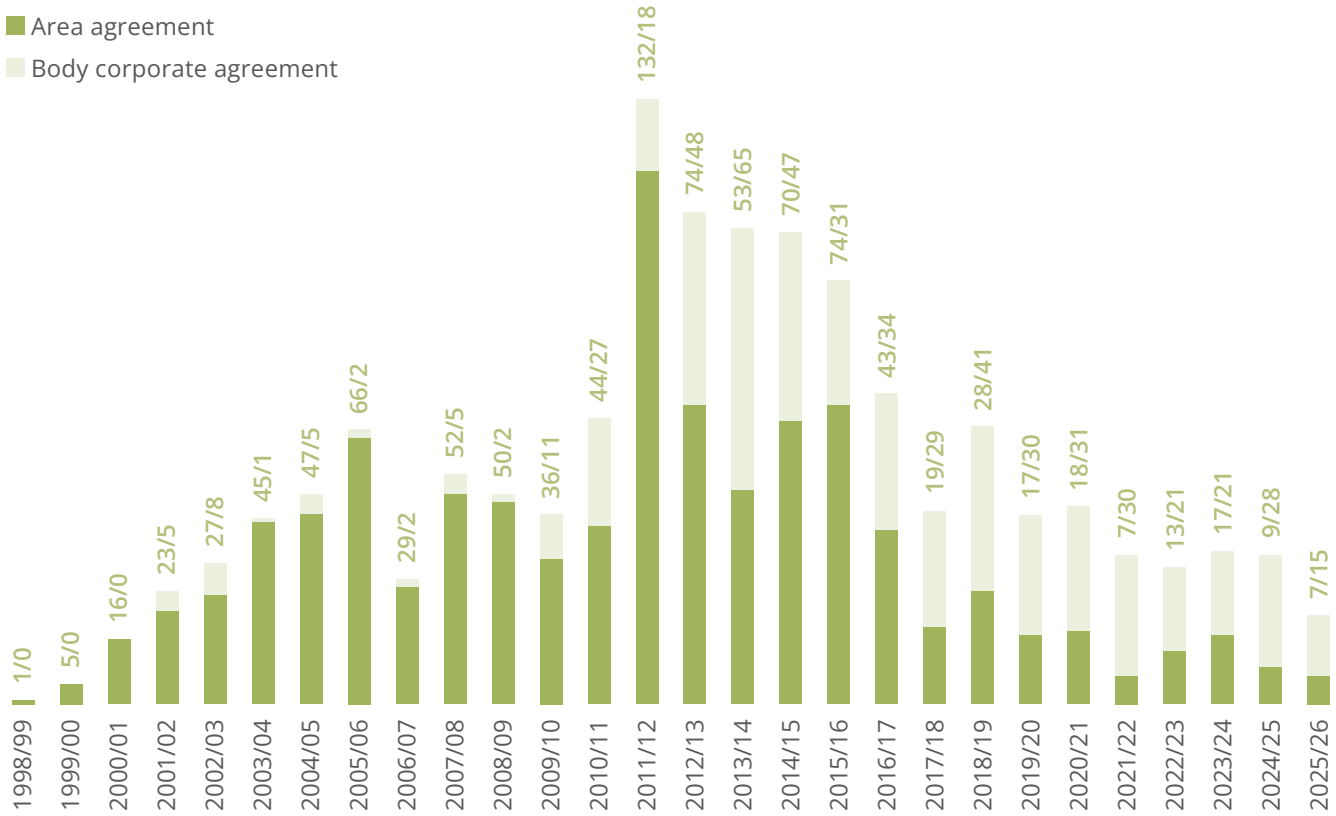


Figure 9.8: Registered area and body corporate ILUAs 1998–99 to 2025–26.

The percentage of body corporate ILUAs registered is increasingly exceeding the number of area agreements registered as more ILUAs are made over areas where native title has been determined to exist.[4]

[4] Note: An error was identified in the NNTT section of the 2024–25 FCA Annual Report. Figure 6.1 on page 158 (Registered Area and Body Corporate ILUAs, 1998–99 to 2024–25) is incorrect. The correct figures are displayed in Figure 9.8 above.

Assistance functions

Claims assistance

The Native Title Registrar may assist applicants under section 78(1)(a) of the NTA. Such assistance often includes preliminary assessments of draft native title determination applications for compliance with conditions of the registration test.

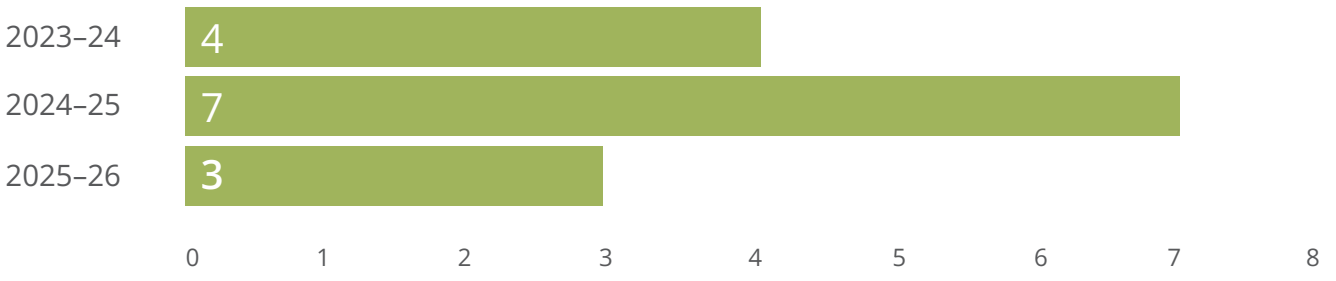


Figure 9.9: NTDA assistance requests provided 2023–24 to 2025–26.

ILUA assistance

The Native Title Registrar may assist applicants under sections 24BG(3) and 24CG(4) of the NTA. Such assistance often includes preliminary assessments of draft ILUA applications and agreements.

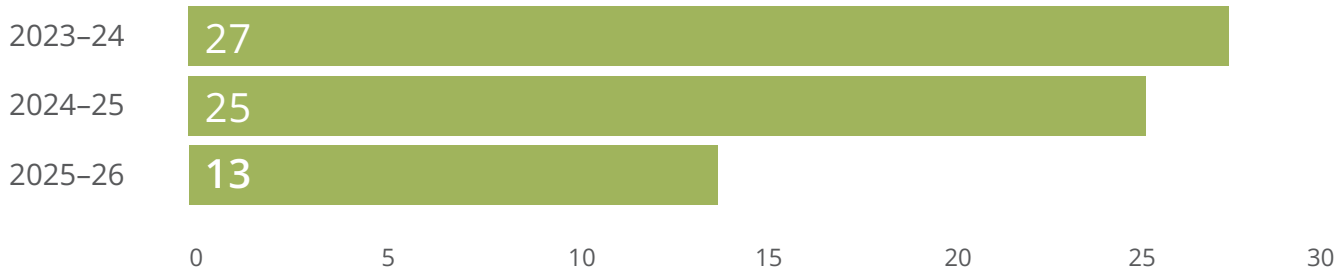


Figure 9.10: ILUA assistance requests provided 2023–24 to 2025–26

Notifications

The Native Title Registrar is responsible for the notification of native title determination applications and ILUAs.

NTDA notifications

Under section 66 of the NTA, native title determination applications must be publicly notified. This includes claimant applications, non-claimant, compensation and revised applications and certain amended claimant applications. Notices may be published in a newspaper, the NNTT website, NNTT social media and by correspondence.

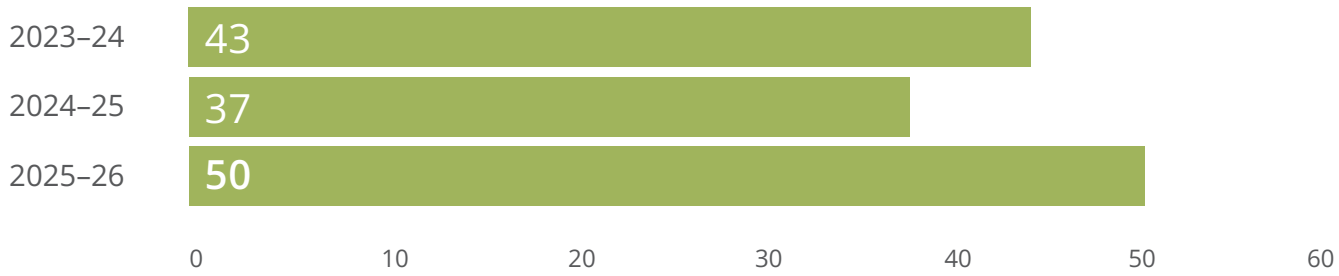


Figure 9.11: NTDA notifications 2023–24 to 2025–26

ILUA public notifications

ILUA applications that are publicly notified are limited to area agreements under section 24CH(1)(b) of the NTA. Body corporate agreement applications are not publicly notified, but notice is provided by correspondence to certain parties under section (start date) 24BH(1) of the NTA.

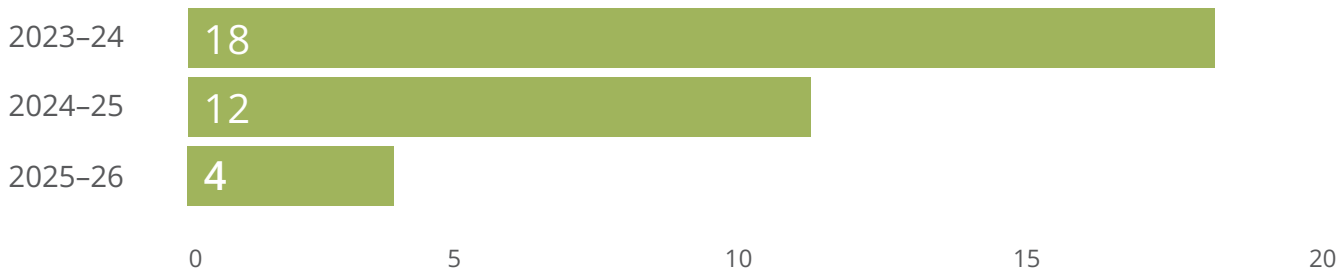


Figure 9.12: ILUA public notifications 2023–24 to 2025–26

Presentations, information sessions and enhancements

The Legal and Compliance Team participated in a number of presentations throughout 2025–26. Presentations were delivered to seven external stakeholder groups, and the 2026 AIATSIS Summit.

The Legal and Compliance Team completed a review of its ILUA workflow processes during the reporting period. The completion of this project has achieved efficiencies to the internal ILUA registration process and simplified communications with external users.

Updates to the search functionality on the NNTT website for the Register of ILUAs were also completed in the reporting period. The ILUA Register can now be searched by 'ILUA Party name' and/or 'ILUA Party type', enhancing the external user experience.



Kaurna Country. Port Wilunga Beach, South Australia.

PART 10



Appendices



APPENDIX 1:
Judges' activities 2025–26

This appendix lists some activities undertaken by judges throughout the reporting period. It does not include roles on other courts or tribunals (which are listed in **Part 1** and explained in **Part 4**) or internal committee memberships (which are listed in **Part 3**).

CHIEF JUSTICE MORTIMER

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Senior Fellow	Melbourne Law School
Member	Advisory Board, Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies
Member	International Association of Refugee Law Judges
Member	Board of Advisors of the *Public Law Review*

Activities

Date	Activity
2 July 2025	Delivered opening remarks at the Supreme Court Prize Ceremony in Melbourne.
25 July 2026	Attended the 2025 Melbourne Law School Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies, Constitutional Law Conference.
22 July 2025	Attended the opening of the 48th Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia in Canberra.
30 July 2025	Delivered opening remarks for the Intellectual Property Federal Court NPA event.
31 July 2025	Delivered keynote address at the Australian Institute of Administrative Law, National Conference 2025.
16 September 2025	Attended and participated in the opening ceremony for the Waigani National Court Complex in Papua New Guinea.
23 September–3 October 2025	Attended the Philippine Competition Commission and participated in a brown-bag cluster exchange of conversations to foster connections between the Australian judiciary and Philippine academic and legal leaders in Manila. Delivered speech titled 'The Judge as architect of justice: What do we wish future leaders really knew?'. Delivered opening remarks on a session for the Philippine's Judicial Academy. Delivered a speech on native title in Australia. Delivered a speech on 'Climate justice and environmental litigation: Challenges for the judiciary'. Addressed the Women's Leadership Forum hosted by Women Judges Association. Attended and presented at the University of Airlangaa, International Seminar on Globalisation of Commercial Legal Disputes. Participated in a Q&A Pannel in Jakarta regarding the Implications of Climate Change for Judiciaries.
8 October 2025	Delivered a guest lecture with David Manne for the Refuge Law class at Melbourne Law School.
9 October 2025	Spoke on a panel at the 50th Anniversary of the Australian Law Reform Commission.

Date	Activity
21 November 2025	Delivered the welcome address and keynote on the 'State of judicature' at the 2025 Australian Legal Convention.
8 December 2025	Visited the ACT District Registry to meet with staff members and the legal profession.
9–13 February 2026	Attended the Chief Justices' Leadership Forum in Fiji and delivered the keynote address on 'Separation of powers and judicial independence' at the Chief Justices' Leadership Forum.
24 February–5 March	Visited the NSW District Registry to meet with staff members, the legal profession and community legal centres.
26 February 2026	Addressed AGS at their *In Conversation* event in a Q&A format in Sydney.
27 February 2026	Delivered the keynote address at the Law Council of Australia Commonwealth Law Conference on the topic of litigants in person.
10 March 2026	Attended the 20th Annual Victorian Parliamentarians Iftar Dinner.
16–18 March 2026	Visited the SA District Registry to meet with staff members, the legal profession and community legal centres.
23 March 2026	Visited the ACT District Registry to meet with staff members, the legal profession and community legal centres.
26 May 2026	Attended the Justice Leaders AI Forum hosted by the Law Institute of Victoria.
1–5 June 2026	Visited the QLD District Registry to meet with staff members, the legal profession and community legal centres.
3 June 2026	Delivered a keynote address at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) Conference convened by AIATSIS in partnership with the Danggan Balun Aboriginal Corporation, at the Gold Coast. Keynote addressed the role of the Court in supporting meaningful participation in native title proceedings, and facilitating agreement making.
16 June 2026	Delivered opening remarks at the 25th Anniversary of the Corporations Act Seminar.
17 June 2026	Delivered the 'Whitmore Lecture' at the Council of Australasian Tribunals NSW Lecture on the topic of Litigants in Person.
17–25 June 2026	Visited the VIC District Registry to meet with staff members, the legal profession and community legal centres.

JUSTICE COLLIER

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Member	Governing Council of the Queensland University of Technology

Activities

Date	Activity
11–15 July 2025	Acting Chief Justice.
4 to 6 August 2025	Presented at Papua New Guinea Judges retreat.
11–15 August 2025	Hosted Papua New Guinea Judges as part of Judicial Fellowship & MoU, Brisbane.
9–11 September 2025	Attended opening of the Waigani National Court Complex, Papua New Guinea.
20 September–5 October 2025	Acting Chief Justice.
8 November 2025	Attended Papua New Guinea 50th Anniversary Independence Gala Ball.

Date	Activity
11 December 2025	Silk Bows ceremonial sitting.
12–29 December 2025	Acting Chief Justice.
19 January 2026	Swore in new ART Members in Brisbane.
25 January–14 February 2026	Acting Chief Justice.
4 February 2026	Presented at Legal Aid Civil Law Conference.
15 April 2026	Hosted 'Inside the courtroom' session for law students, Brisbane.
19 April 2026	Keynote speaker at ARITA 2026 National Conference.
22–24 June 2026	Co-facilitated Maritime Law Conference, Papua New Guinea.

JUSTICE PERRAM

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Member	Council of the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration

Activities

Date	Activity
9 August 2025	Chaired panel discussion 'Justice in an era of heightened security' at the Crossroads Australian Bar Association Conference, Melbourne.
11 September 2025	Bar Practice Course (NSW) applications session.
20–22 November 2025	Participated in panel discussion on artificial intelligence and the law at the Australian Legal Convention, Canberra.
25 November 2025	Participated in panel discussion on Tax at Part IVA, Sydney.
12 February 2026	Guest speaker at Advanced Judicial Skills and Techniques program dinner, Sydney.
4 May 2026	Hosted book launch of The Law of Estoppel in Australia at the Federal Court of Australia with the Hon Andrew Bell AC, Chief Justice of NSW.
14 May 2026	Presented opening address and applications session, Bar Practice Course (NSW).
11 June 2026	National Judicial College of Australia appellate workshop.
27 June 2026	Australian Institute of Judicial Administration Council meeting.

JUSTICE MURPHY

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Principal Fellow	Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne
Chair	Melbourne Law School Advisory Council

Activities

Date	Activity
4–15 September 2025	Coordinated the African Australian Legal Network (AALN) Mooting Competition.
Ongoing	Assisted with the Class Actions Initiative of the Supreme Court of the Philippines on behalf of the Federal Court of Australia.

JUSTICE RANGIAH

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional Organisation
Vice-President	Australian Judicial Officers Association
Member	Griffith University Law School Advisory Committee
Member	University of Queensland Law School Pro Bono Committee

Activities

Date	Activity
15–18 July 2025	Hosted Bar Association of Queensland Indigenous Law Students Program.
3 September 2025	Chaired Federal Court of Australia E&IR Seminar in Sydney.
10–12 September 2025	Judicial Officers with Leadership Responsibilities, Sydney.
9–11 October 2025	2025 AJOA Colloquium, Perth.
12–16 October 2025	IAJ Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan.
20–22 November 2025	Australian Legal Convention, Canberra.
4 December 2025	Delivered keynote address, Pride in Law 9th Annual Address.
12–13 February 2026	Co-presented 'Advanced judicial techniques—Concurrent Evidence from expert witnesses' at the National Judicial College of Australia's program, Sydney.
23 February–26 February 2026	Presented workshops on effective case management and court craft for judges and magistrates of the High Court of the Solomon Islands under the MOU, Honiara.
14 March 2026	AJOA Governing Council Meeting, Sydney.
25 March 2026	Judging panel, Culture & Law Moot organised by the Asian Australian Lawyers Association.
1 June 2026	Presentation to State Magistrates Conference, Brisbane.
12–13 June 2026	AJOA Governing Council Meeting.

JUSTICE WIGNEY

Activities

Date	Activity
7 July 2025	Participated in the New South Wales Bar Association's First Nations Clerkship Program 2025 with the Federal Court of Australia.
25 July 2025	Hosted the International Day for Judicial Well-being for Judges of the Federal Court of Australia and New South Wales Supreme Court.
22 August 2025	Attended the Papua New Guinea Golden Jubilee Address by the Honourable Sir Gibuma Gibbs Salika GCL KBE CSM OBE, Chief Justice of the National and Supreme Court of Papua New Guinea.
2 February 2026	Sworn in as a judge of Supreme Court of the Republic of Vanuatu.
2–13 February 2026	Served on the Vanuatu Court of Appeal as Acting Judge of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Vanuatu for appeals in civil and criminal matters.
23 May 2026	Attended the 2026 Competition Law Conference and moderated a session regarding cartel exceptions and their fitness for purpose.

JUSTICE PERRY

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Foundation Fellow	Australian Academy of Law
Patron	NSW Chapter, Hellenic Australian Lawyers Association
Member	Advisory Committee, Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law, University of NSW
Member	Advisory Council, Centre for International and Public Law, ANU
Member (to July 2025)	Organising committee, Hellenic Australian Lawyers Association Conference 2025 (from March 2024)
Member (to October 2025)	Law School External Advisory Board, University of Adelaide

Activities

Date	Activity
7–10 July 2025	Presented at Global Summit of Hellenic Lawyers on Safeguarding Democracy, 'Rule of law and justice: Global challenges and the Role of AI', Athens, Greece, with funding provided by the Federal Court of Australia and the Hellenic Australian Lawyers Association. Co-presented session: AI and Democracy: Legal Accountability, Ethical Considerations and Regulatory Challenges Posed by Machine Technologies Without Borders. Panellist on Q&A: 'Navigating the Future—Challenges and Innovations for Modern Bar Associations and Courts, and the Emerging Impact of AI on these Institutions'.
24 July 2025	Presented on Australian native title law to the Philippines Supreme Court Sub-Committee on the Creation of a Judicial Curriculum for Land Registration visiting delegation in Sydney.
6 November 2025	Presented 'In defence of the human' at the Royal Society of NSW & Learned Academies Forum on 'AI: The Hope and the Hype'.
December 2025	Paper 'AI and democracy' published in Law Institute Journal, 2025, December, pp. 22–29. This article is an edited version of the speech given by Justice Perry on 8 July 2025 at the Inaugural Hellenic Lawyers Congress in Athens. Legal accountability, ethical considerations, and regulatory challenges posed by machine technologies without borders are examined.
21 May 2026	Delivered keynote address on 'Mentoring and the virtues in the age of AI' at the launch of the NSW 2026 Greek–Australian Society Mentoring Program, Sydney.
10 June 2026	Presented on 'AI and the law: In defence of the human' to the Anglo-Australasian Lawyers Society breakfast seminar.
18 June 2026	Co-presented a webinar with Judicial Registrar Cody on 'What do judicial officers need to know about AI?' to the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence.

JUSTICE MOSHINSKY

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Fellow	Australian Academy of Law
Member	Victorian Events Organising Committee, Australian Academy of Law
Member	Advisory Committee, Centre for Comparative Constitutional Law, Melbourne Law School

Activities

Date	Activity
30 September 2025	Sir Zelman Cowen Address, Melbourne University Law Review Annual Dinner.
19 October 2025	Remarks upon the launch of 'Civil Penalties in Australia' by Matthew Peckham, Cam Truong KC, Ian Latham and Amanda Storey (LexisNexis, Australia, 2025).
2 February 2026	Attended on behalf of the Federal Court of Australia the ceremony at the High Court of Australia for newly appointed senior counsel.
23 February 2026	Hosted Indigenous Clerk in the week of 23 February 2026.
27 February 2026	Presented 'An introduction to the Federal Court of Australia' to the March 2026 Readers' Course participants.
5 March 2026	Speech for IPSANZ Dinner, Melbourne: 'A survey of recent US cases on copyright and AI'.
16–19 April 2026	Attended the National Judicial College of Australia's Indigenous Justice Conference, Alice Springs.
16 June 2026	Chaired the 25th Anniversary of the Corporations Act seminar, Federal Court.

JUSTICE BROMWICH

Activities

Date	Activity
21 October 2025	Spoke as part of the keynote panel discussion at the AGS Senior Executive Forum in Canberra.
13 November 2025	Along with Hespe J, presented in the ACT Registry on court etiquette and advocacy for new lawyers as part of the Court's Continuing Professional Development program.
24–28 November 2025	Met with interns as part of the Victorian Bar's 2025 Diversity Internship Program.
25–27 March 2026	Attended the 12th Appellate Judges Conference, Perth.
1 May 2026	Addressed the IRSNSW 2026 Conference, Wollongong.

JUSTICE CHARLESWORTH

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Member	Women Lawyers' Association South Australia Inc
Member	Legal Practitioners' Education and Admissions Council

Activities

Date	Activity
17–18 July 2025	Attended and presented two sessions at the CivCon2025 'Civil Law's Next Chapter Conference' organised by the Northern Territory Bar Association, Darwin.
30 July 2025	Hosted the Trade Mark Litigation in the Federal Court Seminar, Adelaide.
2–3 September 2025	Attended the National Judicial College of Australia Writing Better Judgments—Mastering the Skills of Judgment Writing Program, Brisbane.
21–22 November 2025	Attended the Australian Legal Convention, Canberra.
8 December 2025	Welcomed Mortimer CJ and guest speakers to the Paul Finn Archival Display, Commonwealth Law Courts Building, Adelaide.

23–27 February 2026	Delivered workshops on effective case management and court craft for judges and magistrates of the High Court of the Solomon Islands, under MOU, Honiara.
4 March 2026	Roma Mitchell Secondary College Panel discussion member and guest speaker for International Women's Day.
23 March 2026	Panel discussion member at Turnaround Management Association event.
11–12 May and 18–21 May	Welcomed and provided mentorship to judges and magistrates from the Pacific Islands as part of a mentorship program organised by the Australia–Pacific Judicial Partnership.
21 May 2026	Presented at the Adelaide Law School as part of the Adelaide Law School Research Seminar Series.

JUSTICE BURLEY

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Member	Minds Count Foundation Board
Member	Editorial Board, Journal of the Intellectual Property Society of Australia and New Zealand
Member	Intellectual Property Working Groups (Patents and Trade Marks)

Activities

Date	Activity
30 July 2025	Presented at and facilitated the Federal Court of Australia's 'Trade Mark Litigation in the Federal Court' event held in Melbourne (livestreamed to Adelaide and Perth) in collaboration with the Intellectual Property Society of Australia and New Zealand and IP Australia.
12 August 2025	Moderated panel discussion for the Copyright Society of Australia entitled 'Productivity—A New Challenge for Copyright' with Professor Daryl Lim (Penn State Dickson Law), Professor Alain Strowel (UC Louvain and University of Alicante) and Associate Professor Rita Matulionyte (Macquarie Law School).
18 August 2025	Presented at and facilitated the Federal Court of Australia's 'Trade Mark Litigation in the Federal Court' event held in Sydney (livestreamed to Brisbane) in collaboration with the Intellectual Property Society of Australia and New Zealand and IP Australia.
22 August 2025	Delivered introductory speech for Sir Gibuma Gibbs Salika GCL KBE CSM OBE, Chief Justice of Papua New Guinea, Supreme and National Courts of Papua New Guinea at the Whitlam Institute's Papua New Guinea Golden Jubilee Address at the Federal Court of Australia.
29–31 August 2025	Attended the Intellectual Property Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Conference.
30 August 2025	Presented session entitled 'An overview of the intellectual property legal system in South Korea, and comparisons with Australia' with South Korean High Court Judge Young Gi Kim and Australian barrister Megan Evetts, at the Intellectual Property Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Conference.
30 August 2025	Presented the winner of the annual John Emmerson QC Essay Prize at the Intellectual Property Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Conference.
21–27 September 2025	Visited the Supreme Court of the Philippines with Federal Court of Australia delegation including Chief Justice Mortimer and Justices Derrington and Thawley. Led discussion entitled 'Regulating for Equity: What Should the Next Generation Understand About Innovation and Public Interest?'.

Date	Activity
28 September–4 October 2025	Visited the Supreme Court of Indonesia with Federal Court of Australia delegation including Chief Justice Mortimer and Justices O'Bryan and Button. Led working group meeting on the World Intellectual Property Organisation's Indonesian Bench Book and gave presentation entitled 'Challenges in the future of global International Intellectual Property Disputes' and 'Emerging issues and development in intellectual property: The Australian experience'.
14–15 October 2025	Attended the World Intellectual Property Organisation Judges' Forum 2025 in Geneva.
14 October 2025	Presented at the World Intellectual Property Organisation Judges' Forum 2025 in Geneva. His Honour moderated and presented at a forum entitled 'Pharmaceutical Patents' that included panellists Ingo Beckedorf of the European Patent Office, Ángel Galgo Peco of the Court of Appeal of Madrid, Judge Hoffmann of the Federal Court of Justice in Karlsruhe and Justice Manson of the Federal Court of Ottawa.
30 October 2025	Hosted the Minds Count Annual Lecture 2025.
4 November 2025	Presented to law students at the University of Bhutan (virtually) on advocacy skills
29 January 2026	Presented to students of the UNSW Law and Technology: Comparative Perspectives Master's Program that included students visiting from the University of Zurich. The presentation focused on topics of law and technology in the Federal Court of Australia, with a particular focus on intellectual property and artificial intelligence.
10 February 2026	Gave presentation at the Pacific Justice Sector Programme's '2026 Chief Justices' Leadership Forum' on behalf of the Australia–Pacific Judicial Partnership entitled 'Regional judicial priorities and needs'.
25 March 2026	Presented at and facilitated the Federal Court of Australia's 'Tips and Traps in Expert Witness Conferences and Joint Reports in Patent Proceedings' event (first segment) held in Sydney in collaboration with the Intellectual Property Society of Australia and New Zealand and IP Australia. Panel discussion involved Senior Judicial Registrars Legge and O'Connor, with Andrew Fox SC in Sydney and Kate Beattie SC in Melbourne. This event was livestreamed to Perth, with Justice Jackson hosting the livestreamed event in the Perth registry.
1 April 2026	Presented at and facilitated the Federal Court of Australia's 'Tips and Traps in Expert Witness Conferences and Joint Reports in Patent Proceedings' event (second segment) held in Melbourne in collaboration with the Intellectual Property Society of Australia and New Zealand and IP Australia. Panel discussion involved Senior Judicial Registrars Legge and O'Connor, with Andrew Fox SC in Sydney and Kate Beattie SC in Melbourne.
25 March 2026	Hosted Judge Hiroyoshi Kimura from the Chiba District and Family Court.
25 March 2026	Hosted legal studies students from Asquith Girls High School.
6 May 2026	Hosted legal studies students from Turramurra High School.

JUSTICE MARKOVIC

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Convenor	Harmonised Bankruptcy Rules Monitoring Committee
Court's representative	Judicial Insolvency Network and member of the Steering Committee
Member (until 6 March 2026)	Steering Committee, National Judicial Orientation Program, organised by the National Judicial College of Australia
Member	INSOL and the International Insolvency Institute

Membership	Professional organisation
Member	Committee, appellate judgment writing program organised by National Judicial College of Australia
Member (until 6 March 2026)	Program Advisory Committee, National Judicial College of Australia

Activities

Date	Activity
13 and 14 November 2025	Attended National Judicial Orientation Program, Adelaide.
17 April 2026	Acted as a judge, at the final of the 10th annual Ian Fletcher International Insolvency Moot (as part of a panel discussion of three), held at Norton Rose Fulbright, London.
18 April 2026	Attended the 7th JIN Conference.
19–20 April 2026	Attended the 15th multinational judicial colloquium on insolvency which is organised jointly by INSOL, UNCITRAL and the World Bank Group. Participated in a panel discussion which addressed the topic 'Exploring how Mediation can Add Value to Insolvency Proceedings'.
27 October 2025 6 January 2026 24 March 2026 11 May 2026	Attended Steering Committee Meetings of the Judicial Insolvency Network (held by Zoom).
11 and 12 June 2026	Attended as member of the organising committee and presented at the National Judicial College of Australia's Appellate Judgment Writing course.

JUSTICE LEE

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Board Member	Whitlam Institute, University of Western Sydney
Board Member	Northfield Foundation

Activities

Date	Activity
14 August 2025	Guest speaker at the Law Australasia Conference, speaking on 'Against managerialism'.
22 August 2025	Introductory address for keynote speech by PNG CJ Sir Gibbs Salika to mark 50th Anniversary of Papua New Guinea independence, co-hosted by the Federal Court of Australia and the Whitlam Institute.
28 August 2025	Participant in conclave panel discussion at the Expert Witness Symposium, hosted by Experts Direct.
28 August 2025	Delivered keynote address at International Association of Defence Counsel's regional meeting.
2 September 2025	Guest speaker at Level 22 Chambers, speaking on 'The seven capital sins of advocacy'.
7 November 2025	Guest speaker at the Newcastle Law Society's Annual Dinner, speaking on 'Professionalism, Ethics, and the Managerial Mindset'.

Date	Activity
10 November 2025	Participated in panel discussion at the Whitlam Institute Symposium 'The Whitlam Dismissal and Crisis of November 1975' at the Australian National University, Canberra.
11 November 2025	Participated in Judges' Panel discussion at the 50th Anniversary of the Dismissal dinner at Old Parliament House, Canberra.
12 November 2025	Delivered keynote address 'Four decades in law – some personal reflections' at the City of Sydney Law Society's Annual Dinner.
21 November 2025	Guest speaker at Westminster Tax Group Christmas Event, speaking on 'The Rise of Managerialism'.
28 November 2025	Guest speaker at William Roberts Lawyers 20th Birthday dinner.
28 January 2026	Participated in Judges' Panel discussion on 'Media and Free Speech' at the Media Law Resource Centre's Australian Media Lawyers Conference.
25 February 2026	Guest presenter at the Phillipa Weeks Lecture at the Australian National University, speaking on 'Ethics, advocacy, and professional responsibility in industrial law'.
30 March 2026	Guest speaker at The Queen's Club, delivering a speech on 'Open justice in the age of livestreaming'
20 April 2026	Guest speaker at Board Matters Event, hosted at Nasdaq Offices, speaking on the topic of directors' duties.
30 April 2026	Guest speaker at New Chambers Event, delivering the speech 'The seven deadly sins and seven heavenly virtues of advocacy'.
6–8 May 2026	Attended the 41st International Financial Law Conference, Spain.
21 May 2026	Guest speaker at NSW Young Lawyers Event, hosted by the Law Society of NSW, speaking on specialisation.
24 May 2026	Special guest speaker at the Australian Council of Jewish Schools (ACJS) Conference dinner, speaking on current national education priorities.

JUSTICE ROGER DERRINGTON

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Member	Australian Association of Constitutional Law Inc
Adjunct Professor	TC Beirne School of Law at the University of Queensland
Fellow	Australian Academy of Law

Activities

Date	Activity
17 August 2025	Teaching—University of Queensland LLM—Laws 7709—Interpretation of Statutes and Instruments—Lecture 13: Statutes and Administrative Law.
18 August 2025	Co-hosted IPSANZ seminar with Downes J—'Trade Mark Litigation in the Federal Court'.
11 October 2025	Teaching—University of Queensland LLM—Laws 7709—Interpretation of Statutes and Instruments—Lecture 17: Contractual Context and Coherence.
24 March 2026	Panel discussion Member, Bar Association of Queensland—Bar Practice Course session: Commencing Proceedings and Pleadings.
1 April 2026	Panel discussion Member, 2026 Cooper Foote Society Event at King's College, University of Queensland.

Date	Activity
2 May 2026	Teaching—University of Queensland LLM—Laws 7778—Advanced Civil Litigation —Lecture: Trials.
3 May 2026	Teaching—University of Queensland LLM—Laws 7778—Advanced Civil Litigation —Lecture: Federal Court of Australia.

JUSTICE SARAH C DERRINGTON

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Emeritus Professor	University of Queensland
Titular Member	Comite Maritime International (CMI) and a member of the International Working Group on Marine Insurance
Chair	UNCITRAL National Coordinating Committee for Australia (UNCCA)
Councillor	Bond University Council
Fellow	Australian Academy of Law
Fellow	Nautical Institute
Fellow	Queensland Academy of Arts and Sciences

Activities

Date	Activity
3 July 2025	Australian Competition Tribunal workshop, Melbourne.
11 July 2025	Member of the Grand Final Judging Panel discussion for the International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot (IMLAM) 2025, Sydney.
15 August 2025	Chaired the Admiralty Rules Committee (online).
2 September 2025	Presented the Sir Anthony Mason Oration at the 2025 Blue Mountain Law Society Succession Conference, New South Wales.
21 to 27 September 2025	Official visit of the Delegates of the Federal Court of Australia to the Philippines.
9 October 2025	Attended the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) 50th Anniversary Celebration, Melbourne. Panellist featuring ALRC presidents, past and present, focussed on the 'ALRC and its development over the years'.
24 October 2025	Hosted the UNCCA UN Day Lecture, Canberra.
12 November 2025	Panel discussion member for the Ciarb Australia 30th Anniversary, reflecting on 'Key Trends and Anticipated Developments', Brisbane
13 November 2025	Inaugural guest speaker, 'Future of the Profession' at The Moreton Club, Brisbane.
17 November 2025	Co-convenor of the Federal Court of Australia's Admiralty & Maritime Users' Group (online).
18 November 2025	Attended the Launch of the 2026 Civil Litigation Skills Course, Perth.
29 January 2026	Attended the MLAANZ (Qld Branch) 2025 AGM, Brisbane
24 February 2026	Attended the AALS Breakfast Seminar, Sydney.
10 March 2026	Judged the University of Queensland Willem C Vis International Commercial Arbitration Practice Moot.
13 March 2026	Facilitator of the QLS Symposium session, 'Resolving Complexity through Interconnection: Legal Practice, Courts, and Emerging Technologies', panellists were the Hon. Susan Kiefel AC and the Hon. Glenn Martin AM.

18 March 2026	Presented the 2026 Macrossan Lecture, 'Is Australian legal education still serving the needs of the profession?', Brisbane.
16 April 2026	Chaired Admiralty Rules Committee (online).
24 April 2026	Attended luncheon with District Court Judges, Brisbane.
1 May 2026	Attended Queensland Bar Council luncheon, Brisbane.
12 May 2026	Hosted (online) Justice Maria Filomena Monette Singh of the Supreme Court of the Philippines for morning tea, along with Justice Rofe.
19 May 2026	Chaired UNCCA AGM, Melbourne.
20 May 2026	Hosted the Annual UNCCA May Seminar, Melbourne.
20 May 2026	Presented 'Impartiality and Bias' at an Administrative Review Tribunal training session, Melbourne.
26 May 2026	Presentation to the Year 12 and Year 10 Students of The Southport School (TSS), Gold Coast.
10 June 2026	Met with the Chinese Delegation, Sydney.
17 June 2026	Judged the University of Queensland IMLAM Exhibition Moot, Brisbane.
22–26 June 2026	Facilitated a Maritime and Admiralty Law workshop for Papua New Guinea & Pacific judiciary in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

JUSTICE BANKS-SMITH

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Council Member	National Judicial College of Australia
Fellow	Australian Academy of Law
Member	Australian Judicial Officers Association
Member	Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration
Member	Australian Association of Women Judges
Patron	Women Lawyers of Western Australia

Activities

Date	Activity
29 July 2025	Guest speaker at the launch of the Women Lawyers of Western Australia Mentoring Program.
30 July 2025	Presented at the Civil Litigation Skills and Advocacy Workshop Part B 'Enforceability of Guarantee: Common Law and Equitable Principles'.
6 August 2025	Attended 2025 Sir Francis Burt Oration by Professor Devika Hovell, Professor of Law at the London School of Economics.
29–31 August 2025	Head Coach at the Piddington Society's 2025 Advocacy Weekend.
4 September 2025	Hosted unveiling of the artwork Seven Sisters by Debbie Hanson at the Federal Court of Australia, Perth.
11 September 2025	Provided opening remarks for Equitable Briefing Event hosted by King & Wood Mallesons.
22 October 2025	Presented Anglo-Australasian Law Society (WA) Black Label Series Seminar 'Where are we now? Revisiting tips on court preparation and hearings in a world of AI, litigants in person, streaming, rules and more rules'.
30 October 2025	Attended Women Lawyers of Western Australia Patrons Dinner.

Date	Activity
18 November 2025	Attended Piddington Society's Launch of the 2026–2027 Civil Litigation Skills and Advocacy Course (Part A).
20 to 22 November 2025	Attended the Australian Legal Convention, Canberra.
3 February 2026	Chaired the Keynote Presentation at the Society of Corporate Law Academics Conference, University of Western Australia.
13 March 2026	Attended the Women Lawyers of Western Australia 2026 Honours Dinner as Patron.
27 March 2026	Attended the 12th Appellate Judges' Conference, Perth.
19 May 2026	Presented at the Civil Litigation Skills and Advocacy Workshop Part A 'Misleading or deceptive conduct'.

JUSTICE COLVIN

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Committee Member	NJCA Judicial Officers with Leadership Responsibility Program
Fellow	Australian Academy of Law
Member	Australian Judicial Officers Association
Member	Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration

Activities

Date	Activity
23 September 2025	Presided over Mock Appeal for the Piddington Society's Civil Litigation Skills and Advocacy Workshops.
10 October 2025	Speaker at the 2025 Australian Judicial Officers Association Colloquium.
29 October 2025	Attended Pro Bono Services Thank You Breakfast hosted by the Federal Court Judges, Perth.
18 November 2025	Presented keynote address at the Piddington Society's Launch of the Zelestis/ Murphy 2026–2027 Civil Skills Course (Part A).
20–22 November 2025	Attended the Australian Legal Convention, Canberra.

JUSTICE THAWLEY

Activities

Date	Activity
10 July 2025	Attendance at Attorney-General's visit to Administrative Review Tribunal.
22–28 September 2025	Part of Court delegation to Philippines with the Chief Justice.
14 October 2025	Attendance at first anniversary celebration of the Administrative Review Tribunal.
19 January 2026	Swearing in of Administrative Review Tribunal members.
20 April 2026	Panellist in Insurance Continuing Professional Development Seminar hosted by Ground Floor Wentworth Chambers.
19 May 2026	Speaker in ACCC conference on AI, presenting topic 'Responsible Use, Disclosure and the Limits of the Machine'.
4-–5 June 2026	Meeting as Federal Court of Australia representative on the Consultative Council of Australasian Law Reporting, Perth.
9 June 2026	Swearing in of Administrative Review Tribunal members.

Date	Activity
Ongoing	Federal Court of Australia's representative on the Consultative Council of Australasian Law Reporting [2026].

JUSTICE WHEELAHAN

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Program Planning Committee Appointment	Writing Better Judgments Ill (WBJ Ill) Appointed 27 September 2024 for a term of five years.
Member	Australian Judicial Officers Association

Activities

Date	Activity
10 September 2025	Presented a session 'An Introduction to Civil Appeals' for the Victorian Bar Readers Course September 2025 .
4 and 9 September 2025	AALN Mooting Competition – Presiding Judge
1–3 October 2025	National Judicial College Writing Better Judgments III—presenting: • Structured approach to judgment writing, • Writing persuasive sentences, • Editing workshop.
15 October 2025	IPSANZ Moot – Presiding Judge.
25 February 2026	Presented a session 'An Introduction to Civil Appeals' for the Victorian Bar Readers Course March 2026.

JUSTICE STEWART

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Member	Maritime Law Association of Australia and New Zealand
Member	Maritime Law Association of South Africa
Member	Australian Judicial Officers Association
Member	Australian Association of Constitutional Law
Member	New South Wales Bar Association
Chair	ACICA Judicial Liaison Committee, Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration
Member	National Judicial College of Australia Program Advisory Committee
Member	Admiralty Rules Committee

Activities

Date	Activity
6 August 2025	'Literature, lawyers and liberty': Remarks to the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators Australia Masterclass.

JUSTICE O'BRYAN

Activities

Date	Activity
31 July–5 August 2025	GARMA Festival.
24 August 2025	Chapter published 'Agreed penalties and the Court's discretion' in The Law of Civil Penalties, Federation Press 2025.
4–5 September 2025	Presenting at the 2025 Law Council of Australia Competition & Consumer Workshop.
29 September–3 October 2025	Member of FCA delegation to visit Supreme Court of Indonesia.
30 October 2025	Presenting at the ACCC Competition Conference.
16–20 April 2026	National Judicial College of Australia Indigenous Justice Program, Alice Springs.

JUSTICE JACKSON

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Member	Inter-jurisdictional Judicial Education Committee (WA)
Member	Piddington Society's Courts and Tribunals Committee
Fellow	Australian Academy of Law
Member	Australian Academy of Law WA Event Organising Committee
Member	Australian Judicial Officers Association

Activities

Date	Activity
11 July 2025	Presided over Mock Trial for the Western Australian Bar Association's Essential Trial Advocacy Course and attended Course Closing Dinner.
25 July 2025	Attended International Judicial Wellbeing Day Event for Federal Court of Australia and Supreme Court Judges hosted by the Federal Court of Australia, Perth.
30 July 2025	Presented at the Trade Mark Litigation in the Federal Court of Australia Seminar.
6 August 2025	Attended 2025 Sir Francis Burt Oration by Professor Devika Hovell, Professor of Law at the London School of Economics 'Everything everywhere all at once: International criminal law in an unruly world'.
11 August 2025	Attended 2025 Bar Readers Course Function.
12 August 2025	Attended Supreme Court of Western Australia Function to welcome the Justices of the High Court of Australia to Perth.
21 August 2025	Participated in panel discussion at the ARITA WA Division's Conference session 'Views from the Bench: an overview of recent cases and developments in the insolvency and restructuring space'.
26 August 2025	Presented at the Francis Burt Chambers / Circle Green Event Continuing Professional Development Seminar 'Introduction to Migration Law.'
29–31 August 2025	Coach at the Piddington Society's 2025 Advocacy Weekend.
4 September 2025	Attended unveiling of the Seven Sisters Artwork by Debbie Hanson, Federal Court of Australia, Perth.
24 September 2025	Presided over Mock Appeal for the Piddington Society's Civil Litigation Skills and Advocacy Workshops.
17 October 2025	Attended 2025 Bar and Bench Dinner.

Date	Activity
29 October 2025	Attended Pro Bono Services Thank You Breakfast hosted by the Perth Registry Federal Court of Australia Judges.
14 November 2025	Attended Shoreline Chambers Opening Event.
24 November–5 December 2025	Jointly hosted two Summer Clerks during each week of the 2025 Courts Summer Clerkship Program.
2–3 February 2026	Participated in panel discussion and attended the Society of Corporate Law Academics Conference.
5 February 2026	Attended the Opening of the Legal Year held at the Supreme Court of Western Australia.
5 February 2026	Attended Supreme Court of Western Australia's 2025 Senior Counsel appointees' function.
13 February 2026	Sat on the Special Sitting of the Federal Court of Australia bench for Western Australia's 2025 Senior Counsel appointees.
13 February 2026	Attended the Francis Burt Chambers Luncheon for the Federal and Supreme Court Judges.
25 March 2026	Hosted the Federal Court of Australia/IPSANZ Event at the Perth Registry 'Expert evidence in Patent Proceedings'.
28 April 2026	Attended 2026 Bar Readers Course Function.
20 May 2026	Presented at Piddington Civil Litigation Skills Workshop.
25 May 2026	Presented at the Australian law discussion with Indonesian Judges.
29 May–1 June 2026	Presented at the Piddington Society's Bali Conference.

JUSTICE SNADEN

Activities

Date	Activity
22–24 August 2025	Presented talk 'Build the man a statue! Remembering the other architect of Chapter III' at The Samuel Griffith Society Conference, Perth.
27 August 2025	Hosted Judge Park from the South Korean Supreme Court, who was on a study tour examining labour dispute resolution in Australia.

JUSTICE ANDERSON

Activities

Date	Activity
25 September 2025	Grand Final Judge, 13th Annual Kirby Contract Law Moot, co-hosted by the Federal Court of Australia and the Sir Zelman Cowen Centre.
2 to 3 October 2025	Attended the National Judicial College of Australia 'Writing Better Judgments III – Mastering the Skills of Judgment Writing' program, Brisbane.

JUSTICE ABRAHAM

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Member	Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration
Member	Australian Judicial Officers Association
Member	Women Lawyers Association of New South Wales
Member	New South Wales Bar Association
Member	International Association of Women Judges

Activities

Date	Activity
11 September 2025	Presided over advocacy session for the New South Wales Bar Practice Course.
14 May 2026	Presided over applications before a Federal Court of Australia Judge as part of the New South Wales Bar Reader's Course.

JUSTICE HALLEY

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Member	Australian Judicial Officers Association
Member	New South Wales Bar Association

Activities

Date	Activity
11 September 2025	Presented a speech to Bar Readers on the history and practices of the Federal Court of Australia.
21 October 2025	Attended the announcement and celebration of senior counsel appointments.
6–11 November 2025	Attended 6th Full Meeting of the Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts Conference (SIFoCC), New Delhi, India.
5 February 2026	Attended the Opening of Law Term Dinner 2026.
25 March 2026	Attended drinks reception with the Judges of the FCFCOA (Division 2).
4 May 2026	Attended the book launch for 'The Law of Estoppel—Principles, Case Notes, Precedents'.
14 May 2026	Conducted the New South Wales Bar Practice Course interlocutory hearings.
23 May 2026	Attended the 2026 Competition Law Conference.

JUSTICE CHEESEMAN

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Council Member	University of New South Wales
Member	Australian Judicial Officers Association
Member	New South Wales Bar Association

Activities

Date	Activity
2 July 2025	Attended the 'Next 100 Years of Women Lawyers in NSW' function at NSW Parliament House, Sydney.
21 July 2025	Panellist on the 'Introduction to Torrens Title System in Australia' academic discussion for the Philippines judiciary, Sydney.
20–21 August 2025	Attended and presented at the 'Turnaround Management Association 2025 APAC Regional Conference' held in Singapore. Panellist on the 'Insolvency Judges' Panel.
5 September 2025	Attended presentation on 'What is IA ethics, and why do we need it?' by Professor John Tasioulas from the University of Oxford, Sydney.
19–22 April 2026	Attended and presented at the 'Fifteenth Joint INSOL/UNCITRAL/World Bank Group Multinational Judicial Colloquium on Insolvency and the INSOL Conference' held in London. Panellist on the 'Forum Shopping' Panel. Attended a reception hosted by the Australian chapter of the Turn Around Management Association at the residence of the Australian High Commissioner to London, the Honourable Jay Weatherill AO.

JUSTICE ROFE

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Member	Editorial Board, Journal of the Intellectual Property Society of Australia and New Zealand
Member	Victorian Women Lawyers Association
Member	Diversity Internship Steering Group
Member	Federal Court of Australia User Group (IP sub-group)
Member	Federal Court of Australia and Melbourne Law School 50th Anniversary Conference Organising Committee

Activities

Date	Activity
30 July 2025	Hosted the 'Trade Mark Litigation in the Federal Court' event at the Victorian Registry of the Federal Court of Australia, alongside Justice Stephen Burley and National Judicial Registrar and District Registrar Tim Luxton. The event was held in collaboration with the Intellectual Property Society of Australia and New Zealand.
18 August 2025	Hosted the 'Trade Mark Litigation in the Federal Court' event at the New South Wales Registry of the Federal Court of Australia, alongside Justice Stephen Burley and National Judicial Registrar Susan O'Connor. The event was held in collaboration with the Intellectual Property Society of Australia and New Zealand.
29–31 August 2025	Attended the 38th IPSANZ Annual Conference in Brisbane.
10 September 2025	Attended the opening of the Waigani National Court Complex in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.
2–3 October 2025	Attended the NCJA Writing Better Judgments III – Mastering the Skills of Judgment Writing Course, Brisbane.
12 October 2025	Attended the ChIPs Australia and New Zealand (ANZ) Chapter Champions' Breakfast.
12 October 2025	Attended the Francis Gurry Lecture on Intellectual Property and Dinner.
24 November 2025	Attended the Victoria Silk Bows ceremony.
26 November 2025	Attended the Federal Court of Australia and Supreme Court Judges' Dinner.
3 December 2025	Attended the List A Annual Cocktail Party.
4 March 2026	Attended the International Women's Day Breakfast hosted by Nicholes Family Lawyers.
5 March 2026	Attended the IPSANZ VIC Annual Judges' Dinner, featuring Justice Mark Moshinsky as speaker.
10 March 2026	Attended and presented at the Allens' International Women's Day event.
10 March 2026	Attended the 20th Annual Victorian Parliamentarians Iftar Dinner.
25 March 2026	Hosted the 'Tips and Tricks in Expert Witness Conferences and Joint Reports in Patent Proceedings' event at the New South Wales Registry of the Federal Court of Australia, alongside Justice Stephen Burley, Senior National Judicial Registrar Alison Legge and National Judicial Registrar Susan O'Connor. The event was held in collaboration with the Intellectual Property Society of Australia and New Zealand and IP Australia.
1 April 2026	Hosted the 'Tips and Tricks in Expert Witness Conferences and Joint Reports in Patent Proceedings' event at the Victorian Registry of the Federal Court of Australia, alongside Justice Stephen Burley, Senior National Judicial Registrar Alison Legge and National Judicial Registrar Susan O'Connor. The event was held in collaboration with the Intellectual Property Society of Australia and New Zealand and IP Australia.
15 April 2026	Presented at the 'In Conversation with Justice Rofe—An Update on the Court's Next Generation Initiative' event hosted by the ChIPs Australia and New Zealand (ANZ) Chapter.
12 May 2026	Hosted Justice Maria Filomena Monette Singh of the Supreme Court of the Philippines for morning tea, along with Justice Sarah C Derrington.
16 June 2026	Met with participants in the Victorian Bar's Pacific Lawyers Advocacy Training Program and spoke on effective advocacy.

JUSTICE DOWNES

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Chair	Committee for the Harmonisation of Rules of the Council of Chief Justices of Australia and New Zealand

Activities

Date	Activity
15 October 2025	Chaired meeting of Committee for the Harmonisation of Rules.
10 November 2025	Attended dinner for newly appointed King's Counsel in Queensland.
21 April 2026	Presentation at Qld Bar Association, Brisbane.
3 June 2026	Chaired meeting of Committee for the Harmonisation of Rules.

JUSTICE GOODMAN

Activities

Date	Activity
11–12 June 2026	National Judicial College of Australia Appellate Judgment Writing course, Sydney.

JUSTICE O'SULLIVAN

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Member	Australian Judicial Officers Association

Activities

Date	Activity
25 July 2025	Attended Intern Day for Judicial Wellbeing—SA Federal Court of Australia & Supreme Court Justices, hosted by the Federal Court of Australia.
30 July 2025	Local registry host for the 'Trade Mark Litigation in the Federal Court' seminar.
5 August 2025	Presented seminar to the SABA Bar Readers Course, Adelaide.
7 August 2025	Hosted a talk with students visiting the Court from Immanuel & Kings Baptist Colleges.
18 August 2025	Hosted and organised a lunch for current and retired justices for the Federal Court of Australia 50th Anniversary.
3 September 2025	Hosted South Australian Registry ER/IR Seminar with legal profession & Live Web Link.
8–10 September 2025	Attended SICC-SJC Commercial Law Series 'Judicial Support of Arbitration', Singapore.
17 September 2025	Attended 'Welcome to the Profession' cocktail evening for South Australian Law Society.
24 September 2025	Attended Special Sitting to welcome new Senior Counsel, Supreme Court of South Australia.
6 November 2025	Organised and hosted an informal meet and greet with visiting Solomon Island and Federal Court of Australia judges.

Date	Activity
19 January 2026	Swore in new Adelaide based ART members.
21 February 2026	Presented 'Breach of fiduciary duty—the good, the bad and the ugly' at the South Australian Bar Association Conference, Barossa Valley.
25–28 March 2026	Attended the 12th Appellate Judges' Conference, Perth.
9 June 2026	Swore in new Adelaide based ART members.

JUSTICE FEUTRILL

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Member	WA State Committee, Australian Centre of International Commercial Arbitration (ACICA)
Member	Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration
Member	Australian Judicial Officers Association
Honorary Fellow	Law School of the University of Western Australia
Lecturer	International Commercial Arbitration at the University of Western Australia
Member	Member of the WA Branch of the Maritime Law Association of Australia and New Zealand (MLAANZ)

Activities

Date	Activity
17–18 July 2025	Honorary Fellow of the University of Western Australia, co-lecturing International Commercial Arbitration.
23 July 2025	Chaired session on 'Generative AI in Arbitration and the Courts' at Launch seminar of Ciarb Australia and the Federal Court of Australia Seminar Program.
18 September 2025	Presided over a moot in the first round of the annual African Australian Legal Network's mooting competition.
23 September 2025	Co-presided with the Hon Michael Corboy SC over a mock appeal on Appellate Advocacy Training Exercise on the topic of 'Contract, third party enforcement and construction; misleading or deceptive conduct; assignment' as part of the Piddington Society's Part B Civil Litigation Skills and Advocacy Workshop.
22–24 October 2025	Participated in the National Judicial College of Australia's 'Writing Better Judgments II' workshop.
30 October 2025	Co-presented Quayside Chambers Continuing Professional Development session 'Recent cases concerning the enforcement of arbitral awards against states'.
11 February 2026	Co-presented with the Hon Jeremy Allanson SC 'Workshop 2—Construction of Contracts, Implied Terms, Sale of Pastoral Lease, Royalty Agreement' at the Civil Litigation Skills and Advocacy Workshops.
29 April 2026	Presented Western Australian Bar Association Bar Readers' Course on the topic of 'The role of the barrister—ethics and professional responsibilities'.

JUSTICE McEVOY

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Visiting Professor	University of Virginia School of Law
Board Member	Oz Child
Court's representative	Organising Committee, Supreme and Federal Court of Australia Judges' Conference
Member	American Law Institute
Member	Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration
Member	Australian Judicial Officers Association
Member	Victorian Bar Inc.
Member	Tasmanian Bar
Member	Medico-Legal Society of Victoria

Activities

Date	Activity
8–18 September 2025	Taught Globalisation and Private Dispute Resolution Course at University of Virginia School of Law, Charlottesville, USA.
2 October 2025	Attended and presided at Australian African Legal Network mooting competition semi-finals.
14 November 2025	Tasmanian Bar 'Bench and Bar' event, Hobart.
16–20 March 2026	Participated in the Federal Court of Australia, Supreme Court of Victoria, County Court of Victoria and the Victorian Bar Indigenous Clerkship Program.
29 June to 3 July 2026	Attended and presented a paper at the CommBar International Commercial Law Conference, Dublin.

JUSTICE HESPE

Activities

Date	Activity
4 September 2025	Presided over a moot for the African Australian Legal Network's annual mooting competition.
13 November 2025	Panellist on the 'Court Etiquette and Advocacy for Early Career Lawyers' seminar conducted by the ACT Law Society.
20 November 2025	Presented in the Victorian Tax Bar Association's 'Effective Appeal Statements in Federal Court of Australia Tax Litigation' seminar.
24–28 November 2025	Host for Victorian Bar's 2025 Diversity Internship Program.
15 May 2026	Panellist on 'Taxation Litigation Panel discussion' at the Law Council of Australia's 2026 National Tax Workshop.

JUSTICE RAPER

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Federal Court of Australia representative	Judicial Council for Diversity and Inclusion
Member	New South Wales Bar Association
Member	Australian Judicial Officers Association

Activities

Date	Activity
31 July–5 August 2025	Attended Garma Festival of Traditional Cultures, remote north-east Arnhem Land, Gulkula, Northern Territory.
September 2025	Coordinated the Annual Employment and Industrial Relations NPA Seminar Series.
September 2025	Coordinated the First Nations clerkship program in the Federal Court of Australia.
September 2025	Sat on mock court sessions for the Bar Readers Course.
17 February 2026	Delivered keynote address at Maddock's Launch of their Equitable Briefing publication.
May 2026	Sat on mock court sessions for the Bar Readers Course.

JUSTICE KENNETT

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Fellow	Australian Academy of Law
Member	Australian Judicial Officers Association
Member	NSW Bar Association

Activities

Date	Activity
3 November 2025	Delivered Constitutional Law Address 'Parliament, the executive and the courts: Who has the last word?' to NSW Young Lawyersz.
1 December 2025	Representative of the Chief Justice meeting with the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD), Canberra.
6 February 2026	Presented at G+T Centre of Public Law Constitutional Law Conference on two cases about heads of power: s 109 of the Constitution and the acquisition of property (G Global 120E T2 Pty Ltd as trustee for the G Global 120E AUT v Commissioner of State Revenue; and G Global 180Q Pty Ltd as trustee for the G Global 180Q AUT v Commissioner of State Revenue (2 matters); Stott v The Commonwealth of Australia & Anor).

JUSTICE BUTTON

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Teacher	Writing Better Judgments program run by the National Judicial College of Australia
Fellow	Australian Academy of Law
Liaison Judge	Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts (SIFoCC)

Activities

Date	Activity
31 July 2025	Panellist at the CommBar Class Actions Event.
30 August–1 September 2025	Presented a seminar at the Banking & Financial Services Law Association 41st Annual Conference in Queenstown, New Zealand.
18 September 2025	Attended the Tax Bar Association Spring event.
28 September–4 October 2025	Participated in the Federal Court of Australia's judicial cooperation and engagement delegation to Indonesia.
9 October 2025	Attended the Australian Law Reform Commission's 50th Anniversary event.
28 October 2025	Attended the Tax Bar Association Annual Dinner.
30 October 2025	Attended the Australian Academy of Law's Annual General Meeting and Patron's Address.
7–10 November 2025	Presented at the 6th Full Meeting of the Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts Conference (SIFoCC) in Delhi, India.
18 November 2025	Participated in Federal Court of Australia activities with visiting delegation of judges from Indonesia.
24 November 2025	Attended the Victorian Silk Bows Ceremony.
24–28 November 2025	Hosted an intern as part of the Victorian Bar's 2025 Diversity Internship Program.
17 February 2026	Participated in meeting of the Australian Academy of Law.

JUSTICE JACKMAN

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Australian Representative	International Jurisdiction Taskforce on Digital Assets
Chairman	Displaced Students Trust

Activities

Date	Activity
4 September 2025	Delivered speech 'Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain Technology in Insurance Litigation' at APIG National Conference, Sydney.
3 December 2025	Delivered a paper entitled 'Innovation' to the NSW Committee of the Intellectual Property Service of Australia and New Zealand.
7 March 2026	Presented paper on 'Common Counts, Common Law and Common Sense' at the Symposium on Australian Restitution in the 21st Century, Adelaide.
14 April 2026	Presented paper on 'Civilisation and Citizenship: The Words and Deeds of Sir Victor Windeyer', Aletheia Lecture at ACU, North Sydney.

Date	Activity
11 June 2026	Presented paper on 'Some Axioms Proved Upon our Pulses' to the Rule of Law Institute and Education Centre.
22–26 June 2026	Conducted seminar series on 'Leaders in Jurisprudence' at St Andrew's College within the University of Sydney.

JUSTICE HORAN

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Fellow	Australian Academy of Law
Member	Australian Association of Constitutional Law
Member	Australian Judicial Officers Association

Activities

Date	Activity
18 September 2025	Delivered Continuing Professional Development session 'Precedent and pitfalls: Navigating the use of previous authorities', to the Tasmanian Bar, Hobart.
30 October 2025	Attended at Australian Academy of Law, Annual Patron's Address.
25–28 March 2026	Attended the 12th Appellate Judges' Conference, Perth.

JUSTICE SHARIFF

Activities

Date	Activity
20 August 2025	Speaker at AI and Legal Practice event at Sydney Law School.
22 October 2025	Speaker at the FCFCOA (Division 2) GFL Judges' Meeting alongside Judge Johns OAM and McKinnon C 'Different perspectives across the fair work landscape'.
4 November 2025	Speaker at NSW Bar Association Continuing Professional Development alongside Chief Justice Bell 'Litigating with AI: views from the Bench'.
13 November 2025	Speaker at AustLII's Law Via Internet Conference 'Artificial intelligence use in the Federal Court of Australia'.
21 November 2025	Speaker at COAT NSW Conference 'Diversity in judiciary and tribunals – how diversity within judicial and tribunal membership and assist in promoting access to justice'.
24 November 2025	Speaker at College of Law Postgraduate Programs Graduation Ceremony, NSW Parliament House.
3 February 2026	Speaker at 12 Wentworth Selborne Chambers Seminar 'Trial craft, advocacy, and the use of AI: Views from the Bench'.
21 March 2026	Speaker NSW Bar Association Sydney Continuing Professional Development Conference 'Reasonable apprehension of bias: Who is the fair-minded lay observer?'.

JUSTICE NESKOVCIN

Activities

Date	Activity
21 July 2025	Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts (SIFoCC), Online Roundtable discussion: Cross border insolvency.
6–11 November 2025	6th Full Meeting of the Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts Conference (SIFoCC), India.
20 March 2026	Melbourne University Roundtable on AI in the courts.
18 June 2026	Presentation of Federal Court practice to the Tasmanian Legal Practice Course, Hobart.

JUSTICE DOWLING

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Member	Australian Judicial Officers Association

Activities

Date	Activity
21 August 2025	Moderated Industrial Bar and Criminal Bar debate.
18 September 2025	Adjudicated African Australian Legal Network Moot.
22–24 October 2025	Attended the National Judicial College of Australia 'Writing Better Judgments' program.
13 November 2025	Industrial Bar Association Annual Dinner.
13 April 2026	Welcomed delegation from Zimbabwe Judicial Service Commission.
16–20 April 2026	Attended the National Judicial College of Australia Indigenous Justice Program, Alice Springs.
15 May 2026	Victorian Bar Dinner.

JUSTICE NEEDHAM

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Life Member	NSW Bar Association
Life Member	NSW Women Lawyers
Honorary Member	Collaborative Professionals (NSW) Inc
Ongoing	Federal Member, Australian Association of Women Judges [AAWJ] Committee
Ongoing	Member, Australia-Pacific Judicial Partnership [APJP] Committee

Activities

Date	Activity
28 August 2025	Presented at ExpertsDirect Symposium—AI & Future of Law Panel discussion.
11 September 2025	Bar Practice Course 2025—Advocacy Session.

Date	Activity
7 November 2025	Introduction for Judge Navi Pillay at book launch of 'Feminist Judgments: Reimagining the International Criminal Court'.
14 November 2025	Delivered keynote address to the International Association of Women Judges Dinner, Adelaide.
25 November 2025	Presented at STEP Emerging Professionals Network Event.
12 February 2026	Presented AI session at Advanced Judicial Skills and Techniques, HC Coombs Centre, Kirribilli.
12 February 2026	Presented at Women Lawyers Association of NSW 2026 launch event, Sydney.
27 February 2026	Delivered keynote address at 2026 National Costs Law Conference, Melbourne.
5 March 2026	Panellist at NSW Bar Association New Barristers Committee Judicial Q&A.
18–20 March 2026	Attended the National Judicial College of Australia 'Writing Better Judgments' course, Sydney.
21 March 2026	Presented at Two Wentworth Succession Conference.
27 March 2026	Pre-recorded presentation for 'Collaborative Practice at Disrupting Tradition: Innovative Strategies in Family and Estates Law Conference', Sydney International Convention and Exhibition Centre.
12–15 May 2026	Chaired panel discussion at International Association of Women Judges Regional Conference, Adelaide.
21 May 2026	Bar Practice Course 2026—Day with Judges.

JUSTICE McDONALD

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Fellow	Australian Academy of Law
Member	Prizes & Scholarships Committee, Australian Academy of Law
Member	Australian Association of Constitutional Law,
Member	Australian Institute of Administrative Law
Member	Australian Judicial Officers Association
Member	South Australian Courts Respectful Behaviour Committee

Activities

Date	Activity
4 August 2025	Presented to the South Australian Bar Association's Bar Readers' Course.
6 February 2026	Presented at Gilbert + Tobin Constitutional Law Conference, Sydney.
31 March 2026	Presented at Judges' Meeting, Healesville.
16 April 2026	Presented at Adelaide Law School seminar series, Adelaide.
5 May 2026	Guest lecturer, Adelaide University Master's program.

JUSTICE VANDONGEN

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Fellow	Australian Academy of Law
Member	Australian Judicial Officers Association
Member	Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration

Activities

Date	Activity
25 July 2025	Attended International Judicial Wellbeing Day Event for Federal Court and Supreme Court Judges hosted by the Federal Court of Australia in Perth.
30 July 2025	Attended the Trade Mark Litigation Seminar at the Federal Court of Australia, Perth.
3 September 2025	Attended Employment and Industrial Law Seminar 'Sharpening the tools: Developments in emerging and familiar areas of employment law'.
4 September 2025	Presided over African Australian Legal Network's Annual Mooting Competition (First Round).
24 September 2025	Presided over Mock Appeal for the Piddington Society's Civil Litigation Skills and Advocacy Workshops.
9–11 October 2025	Attended the 2025 Australian Judicial Officers Association Colloquium.
29 October 2025	Attended Pro Bono Services Thank You Breakfast hosted by the Federal Court judges, Perth.
24 November to 5 December 2025	Jointly hosted two clerks in the 2025 Courts Summer Clerkship Program.
5 February 2026	Attended the Opening of the Legal Year held at the Supreme Court of Western Australia.
13 February 2026	Sat at the Special Sitting of the Full Court of the Federal Court of Australia for Western Australia's 2025 Senior Counsel appointees.
13 February 2026	Attended Francis Burt Chambers Luncheon for the Federal and Supreme Court Judges.
4 March 2026	Presented Continuing Professional Development session 'Court Etiquette - The Good, the Bad and the Ugly' for the Piddington Society.
19 May 2026	Special Ambassador for the Law Access 2026 Walk for Justice.
29 May 2026	Presented session on Criminal Law Advocacy to Legal Aid WA.
2– 4 June 2026	Attended Australia–Pacific Judicial Partnership Regional Case Management Workshops, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.
17 June 2026	Presented at Piddington Society and ANZAPPL 'Trends over the past three decades'.
24 June 2026	Presented a Continuing Professional Development Session for Quayside Chambers 'Keeping up with the Joneses: The Application of the Rule in Jones v Dunkel'.

JUSTICE MOORE

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Member	Intellectual Property Society of Australia and New Zealand Inc
Member	Australian Judicial Officers Association

Activities

Date	Activity
June 2025–June 2026	Attended meetings with the profession in relation to trade mark litigation and potential reforms, including convening a meeting with members of the profession in Queensland.
7 August 2025	Presented at a Continuing Professional Development event on the new merger review scheme.
14–15 August 2025	Participated as a subject matter specialist in the National Judicial Colloquium on Intellectual Property Adjudication in the Philippines, organised by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in collaboration with the Supreme Court Philippine Judicial Academy, Supreme Court Sub-Committee on Commercial Courts, and the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines.
18 August 2025	Attended a Trade Marks Litigation Seminar of the Intellectual Property Society of Australian and New Zealand (IPSANZ).
29–31 August 2025	Attended the 38th IPSANZ Conference, Brisbane.
11 September 2025	Acted as a hearing judge for the New South Wales Bar Readers' Course Interlocutory Application session.
18 September 2025	Hosted two readers as part of the New South Wales Bar Readers' Course 'Day with Judges' session.
19 February 2026	Presented at a Continuing Professional Development event on good practices for barristers appearing before the Federal Court of Australia.
25 March 2026	Hosted Judge Hiroyoshi Kimura of the Japanese Chiba District and Family Court.
25 March 2026	Attended the IPSANZ seminar on 'Tips and Traps in Expert Witness Conferences and Joint Reports in Patent Proceedings'.
27 March 2026	Attended the 9th Judicial Seminar on Commercial Litigation hosted by the Supreme Court of New South Wales.
20 May 2026	Attended part of the Maurice Blackburn Class Actions and Corporate Conduct Symposium.

JUSTICE OWENS

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Fellow	Australian Academy of Law

Activities

Date	Activity
6 March 2026	Presented 'Cross examination of difficult witnesses' at the Bar Association of Queensland Annual Conference.
27 March 2026	Presented 'Equitable obligations and the point at which they become fiduciary' at the 12th Appellate Judges' Conference, Perth.
20 May 2026	Panellist in discussion 'Class Actions and the Courts' at Maurice Blackburn Class Actions and Corporate Conduct Symposium.

JUSTICE STELLIOS

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Fellow	Australian Academy of Law
Fellow	Academy of Social Sciences in Australia
Member	Australian Association of Constitutional Law
Honorary Professor	Australian National University Law School

Activities

Date	Activity
21 August 2025	Attended 'Continental Drift: Constitutional Development & Divergence in NZ and Australia' presented by the Rt Hon Dame Helen Winkelmann at the Monash Law School 2025 Lucinda Lecture.
5 September 2025	Presented 'Navigating Federal Court of Australia appeals: A view from the Bench' to the ACT Law Society, Canberra.
16 September 2025	Attended meeting between the ACT profession and the Courts.
9–14 November 2025	Participated in the National Judicial Orientation Program, Adelaide.
20 to 22 November 2025	Presented 'Courts and declining public trust: Causes and solutions' at the Australian Legal Convention, Canberra.
23 January 2026	Presented a guest Q&A session at ANU Law School on the Federal Court of Australia and Chapter III of the Constitution.
20 March 2026	Presented 'Making, communicating and reviewing government decisions' to the ACT Law Society.
28 March 2026	Presented 'Maximising the Federal Court of Australia's unique jurisdiction in the ACT' to the ACT Bar Association.
27 May 2026	Presented a guest lecture on Conflict of Laws at ANU Law Schoo.l

JUSTICE YOUNAN

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Member	Australian Judicial Officers Association

Activities

Date	Activity
25–26 September 2025	Presented 'The primacy of secondary sources of law: Contribution to judicial decision-making' at the Melbourne Journal of International Law's 25th Anniversary event, Melbourne.
30 September 2025	Judged the Baker McKenzie National Women's Moot 2025.
13 October 2025	International Arbitration Conference 2025, 'Revolutions and Solutions: Future-Proofing Arbitration', Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration, Sydney.
22–24 October 2025	Attended the National Judicial College of Australia 'Writing Better Judgments' program.
12 November 2025	Chaired the Australian Association of Constitutional Law seminar at the Federal Court of Australia.
2 February 2026	Judged the University of Sydney 2026 Jessup practice moot at the Federal Court of Australia.
11 March 2026	Presented 'Balance the scales' at the Wenona School's 140th Anniversary Breakfast, North Sydney.
23 March 2026	Judged the University of Technology Sydney 2026 Jessup practice moot at the Federal Court of Australia.
5 May 2026	Judged the Sydney University Law Society Public International Law Moot Grand Final 2026 at the Federal Court of Australia.
14 May 2026	Presided over Federal Court of Australia applications as part of the New South Wales Bar Readers' Course.

JUSTICE BENNETT

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Member	Melbourne Law School Advisory Council
Member	Judicial Officers' Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Committee

Activities

Date	Activity
1 September 2025	Adjudicated Round 1 of the 2025 Victorian Women Lawyers Warren Moot.
4 September 2025	Participated in Panel discussion at the Law Council's Competition Workshop session titled 'Refocusing on Remedies: Implications for Competition and Consumer Law Enforcement'.
18 September 2025	Adjudicated the African Australian Legal Network moot.
9–14 November 2025	Attended National Judicial Orientation Program, Adelaide.
27 November 2025	Presented at the launch of the Pro Bono Barrister Administrative Review Tribunal Scheme.

Date	Activity
20 February 2026	Participated in Panel discussion 'Tips and tricks for new barristers: advice from the Bench' at the Victorian Bar's New Barristers' Conference.
11 March 2026	Delivered keynote address at official launch of the Federal Court of Australia Pro Bono Counsel Referral Scheme in partnership with Victorian Bar.
12 March 2026	Participated in Panel discussion at the Victorian Women Lawyers' International Women's Day Dame Roma Mitchell Memorial Lunch.
18 March 2026	Delivered keynote address at RMIT School of Law's event 'Becoming a lawyer: The path to practice'.
20 March 2026	Represented the Federal Court of Australia at the 2026 Immigration Law Conference, Brisbane.
29 April 2026	Presented at the launch of the Warren Centre for Civil Justice at Monash University.

JUSTICE LONGBOTTOM

Activities

Date	Activity
11–15 August 2025	Hosted PNG Judges as part of Judicial Fellowship & MoU.
9–11 September 2025	Attended opening of the Waigani National Court Complex, Papua New Guinea.
3 February 2026	Delivered speech 'Preparation for and appearing at a trial in the Federal Court of Australia' at Legal Aid Queensland's Civil Law Conference.
11 March 2026	QUT Oxford International IP Moot at the Federal Court of Australia, Brisbane.
17–20 March 2026	Attended the National Judicial College of Australia 'Writing Better Judgments I' course, Sydney.
29 April 2026	Bar Practice Course mock hearing at the Federal Court of Australia, Brisbane.
26 May 2026	Attended Native Title Forum at Federal Court of Australia, Perth.

JUSTICE WHEATLEY

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Member	Bar Association of Queensland
Member	Women Lawyers Association of Queensland
Member	Australian Judicial Officers Association

Activities

Date	Activity
11–15 August 2025	Hosted PNG Judges as part of Judicial Fellowship & MoU.
19 August 2025	Attended and adjudicated the WIRQ Annual Great Debate.
9–11 September 2025	Attended opening of the Waigani National Court Complex, Papua New Guinea.
23 October 2025	Presented lecture on Federal Court of Australia Jurisdiction to University of Queensland Law School, Brisbane.
17–20 March 2026	Attended the National Judicial College of Australia 'Writing Better Judgments' course, Sydney.
29 April 2026	Mock Hearing for Queensland Bar Practice Course attendees.

Date	Activity
30 May 2026	Panel discussion 'Artificial Intelligence in Practice' at the Gold Coast Bar Association Conference.

JUSTICE HILL

Memberships of external professional organisations

Membership	Professional organisation
Fellow	Australian Academy of Law

Activities

Date	Activity
25–25 July 2025	Speaker, 2025 CCCS Constitutional Law Conference, University of Melbourne.
8–13 March 2026	Attended the National Judicial College of Australia's Judicial Orientation Program, Brisbane.
16–19 April 2026	Attended the National Judicial College of Australia's Indigenou Conference, Alice Springs.

JUSTICE LENEHAN

Activities

Date	Activity
22 April 2026	Delivered keynote address for Issue 49 (1) of the UNSW Law Journal.

APPENDIX 2:
Registry locations

Principal Registry

Law Courts Building
Queens Square
Sydney NSW 2000

Phone: (02) 9230 8567
Fax: (02) 9230 8824
Email: query@fedcourt.gov.au
Contact hours: 8.30am–5.00pm

Australian Capital Territory District Registry

Nigel Bowen Commonwealth Law Courts
Cnr University Avenue and Childers Street
Canberra City ACT 2600

Phone: 1300 720 980
Fax: (02) 6267 0625
Email: actreg@fedcourt.gov.au
Counter hours: 9.00am–4.30pm
Contact hours: 8.30am–5.00pm

New South Wales District Registry

Law Courts Building
Level 17, Queens Square
Sydney NSW 2000

Phone: 1300 720 980
Fax: (02) 923f0 8535
Email: nswreg@fedcourt.gov.au
Counter hours: 9.00am–4.30pm
Contact hours: 8.30am–5.00pm

Northern Territory District Registry

Supreme Court Building
Level 3, State Square
Darwin NT 0800

Phone: 1300 720 980
Fax: (08) 8941 4941
Email: ntreg@fedcourt.gov.au
Counter hours: 9.00am–4.00pm
Contact hours: 8.45am–4.30pm

Queensland District Registry

Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts
Level 6, 119 North Quay
Brisbane QLD 4000

Phone: 1300 720 980
Fax: (07) 3248 1260
Email: qldreg@fedcourt.gov.au
Counter hours: 9.00am–4.00pm
Contact hours: 8.30am–5.00pm

South Australia District Registry

Roma Mitchell Commonwealth Law Courts
Level 5, 3 Angas Street
Adelaide SA 5000

Phone: 1300 720 980
Fax: (08) 8219 1001
Email: sareg@fedcourt.gov.au
Counter hours: 9.00am–4.30pm
Contact hours: 8.30am–5.00pm

Tasmania District Registry

Edward Braddon Commonwealth Law Courts
39–41 Davey Street
Hobart TAS 7000

Phone: 1300 720 980
Fax: (03) 6232 1601
Email: tasreg@fedcourt.gov.au
Counter hours: 9.00am–4.30pm
Contact hours: 8.30am–5.00pm

Victoria District Registry

Owen Dixon Commonwealth Law Courts
Level 7, 305 William Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Phone: 1300 720 980
Fax: (03) 8600 3351
Email: vicreg@fedcourt.gov.au
Counter hours: 9.00am–4.30pm
Contact hours: 8.30am–5.00pm

Western Australia District Registry

Peter Durack Commonwealth Law Courts
Level 6, 1 Victoria Avenue
Perth WA 6000

Phone: 1300 720 980
Email: waregistry@fedcourt.gov.au
Counter hours: 8.30am–4.00pm
Contact hours: 8.30am–5.00pm
International callers: +612 88337402

APPENDIX 3:
Judicial committees

Federal Court judicial committees, as at 30 June 2026

Committee	Committee members	Staff representatives
Digital Practice The Digital Practice Committee engages with Judges and Registrars of the Court and makes recommendations on issues, opportunities, and risks associated with the Court's use of technology as part of its digital practice.	Justice Wheelahan (C) Justice Shariff Justice Bennett	Tim Luxton Thom Stewart Jimmy Mastorakos Nathan Price Erin Murphy (S) Paul Kennedy
International Cooperation The International Cooperation Committee assists the Chair in overseeing the international programs conducted by the staff of the Court's International Programs Unit.	Justice Collier Justice Wigney Justice Burley (C) Justice SC Derrington Justice Rofe (DC) Justice O'Sullivan Justice Longbottom	Nicola Colbran Alicia Ditton Helen Burrows (S) Martin Clutterbuck
Judicial Education The Committee is responsible for, from time to time, designing and delivering a program of judicial education to assist the Chief Justice in satisfying the obligation in s 15(1AA)(b)(iii) of the *Federal Court of Australia Act 1976* (Cth) to ensure that arrangements are in place to provide judges with appropriate access to judicial education.	Justice Stewart (C) Justice O'Bryan Justice Neskovcin Justice Stellios Justice Wheatley Justice Hill	Sydney Birchall Michael Serban (S)
Judgment Publication & Style Guide The Committee considers issues relating to the Court's Style Guide for the publication of judgments as they arise.	Justice Wheelahan (C) Justice Stewart Justice Feutrill	Georgia Livissianos Angela Fassoulas Sona Muradyan Renee Krikorian
Judicial Wellbeing The Committee develops initiatives to optimise the health and longevity of Judges with an emphasis on mental clarity in the performance of judicial work.	Justice Charlesworth (C) Justice Perram Justice Banks-Smith Justice Meagher Justice McEvoy	Jane Sandry (S) Sally Ryan
Judicial Workplace Conduct The Committee's role is to recommend and co-ordinate education and programs for judges in relation to their workplace responsibilities.	Justice Markovic (C) Justice Moshinsky Justice Halley	Nicola Colbran Kali Malotsis
Library and Archives The Committee's role is the continual review of library services, along with the maintenance and preservation of archival records for the Federal Court.	Justice O'Callaghan (C) Justice Jackman Justice Horan Justice Younan	Amarah Henderson-Wilson Cara Lawson Georgia Livissianos (S)

Committee	Committee members	Staff representatives
Operations and Finance Forum The Forum provides advice to the Chief Justice about managing the Court's finances and budget.	Chief Justice Mortimer (C) Justice Moshinsky Justice Bromwich Justice Colvin Justice O'Bryan Justice Abraham Justice Downes Justice Raper Justice Moore	Sia Lagos Nicola Colbran Cara Lawson Scott Tredwell Attilio Martiniello Louise Kenworthy Jimmy Mastorakos Matthew Davis Andrea Jarratt (S)
Media The Committee is responsible for providing practical guidance and advice to the Chief Justice, judges and staff on supporting media reporting on the courts to ensure continued open and accessible justice, and on other media-related matters.	Justice Needham (C) Justice McDonald Justice Owens Justice Longbottom	Paul Farrell Jacinta Ellis Robyn Curnow Louise Kenworthy Cara Lawson Abbi Clifford Ryan Tennison (S) Georgia Livissianos Selected external media representatives
Social Media The Committee considers and makes recommendations about issues, opportunities, and risks associated with the Court's use of social media. It promotes awareness and understanding of the benefits of social media within the judiciary supporting the development of high-quality, informed, and appropriate content.	Justice Bennett (C) Justice McDonald Justice Owens	Jacinta Ellis Rachael Cowdell Federal Court Project officer (S)
Remuneration The Committee's purpose is to assist in the discharge of the court's institutional function by seeking to ensure that its judges and their staff are properly remunerated.	Justice Snaden (C) Justice Derrington Justice Anderson	Jordan Tutton (S)
Rules The Committee engages in ongoing review, amendment and updating of the Federal Court Rules to take account of legislative changes, as well as identification of areas for improvement which are brought to the Committee's attention through caselaw and feedback.	Justice Wheelahan Justice Kennett Justice Halley Justice Downes (C) Justice Button Justice Dowling Justice McDonald Justice Vandongen Justice Owens	Nicola Colbran Peter Schmidt (S) Scott Tredwell

Other committees

Committee	Committee members	Staff representatives
Audit and Risk Committee Provides advice to the accountable authority of the Listed Entity to meet their duties and obligations under the PGPA Act.	Justice Thawley (Deputy Chair) Justice Harper (FCFCOA) (Division 1) Judge Laing (FCFCOA) (Division 2) Ian Govey (Independent Chair) Lloyd Dobson (External member) Sue-Ellen Bickford (External member)	Sia Lagos (See *PGPA Act*) David Pringle (FCFCOA) Katie Stride (NNTT) Cara Lawson Attilio Martiniello (S) Nathan Price Chris Leeming Scott Tredwell Steven Christiansen
Judges Security Committee Provides advice to the accountable authority to meet duties and obligations in relation to security matters across the Listed Entity, the Federal Court and the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia.	Justice Perry Justice Rofe Deputy Chief Justice McClelland (FCFCOA Division 1) (C) Judge Vasta (FCFCOA Division 2) Judge McNab (FCFCOA Division 1)	Laurelea McGregor Steve Fewster (S) Chris Leeming Cara Lawson

C = Convenor

DC = Deputy Convenor

S = Principal support person

APPENDIX 4:
Airline memberships

On several occasions, the Federal Court has indicated that domestic airlines, Qantas Airways Ltd and Virgin Australia Airlines Pty Ltd, have offered, at their discretion, Federal Court judges membership to their invitation-only lounges. As members of a national court that sits around the country, Federal Court judges travel regularly. The lounges offer spaces for judges to continue with their court preparation and work as they travel, in confidential settings. It is a matter for each judge whether or not they take up membership.

At various times in recent years, the Federal Court has confirmed that many judges do accept membership to airline lounges. Fifty-six judges reported that they held a membership with either the Chairmans Lounge or the Beyond Lounge.

In relation to cases in the Federal Court, it is a matter for each judge on whether they consider it appropriate to disclose lounge membership or membership of any frequent flyer program having regard to the nature of the issues raised in a particular case.

APPENDIX 5:
Glossary

ADR: alternative dispute resolution, which are methods of resolving a legal dispute without it being decided by a judge after a court hearing, such as mediation.

Amicus curiae: meaning 'friend of the court', they are a third party whose role is to provide the Court with impartial assistance and a broader perspective or legal expertise on a complex issue.

Appeal: an application by a party to the Federal Court to reconsider a previous decision in the same proceeding.

Appellate jurisdiction: involves the court hearing appeals from judicial decisions made by judges, whether other judges of the Federal Court exercising original jurisdiction, or judges from other courts or bodies.

APS: the Australian Public Service, to which all employees of the Federal Court belong.

Case: a general term used to describe a proceeding before a Court. *Case* and *proceeding* are sometimes used interchangeably in this report.

Case management hearing: a hearing held early in the proceeding or at later stages, to establish how it will progress, and deal with next steps including timelines and procedural issues.

CCP: the Commonwealth Courts Portal, the public-facing online database of all proceedings heard in the Federal Court.

Chambers: the office of a judge which is managed by their support staff, called Associates or Executive Assistants.

Civil proceedings: proceedings that involve disputes between parties, such as individuals, companies or government decision-makers.

Contradictor: a third party appointed to provide the Court with a balanced view regarding an issue on which there is no party to oppose the applicant's arguments.

Criminal proceedings: proceedings that involve a person (a 'defendant') accused of committing an offence being prosecuted by a government body.

CTS: Court and Tribunal Services, the department responsible for providing registry services to support the operations of the Federal Court.

Docket: the list of proceedings which a judge is responsible for managing and seeing through to resolution.

Ex tempore: meaning 'on the spot', referring to when judges deliver the reasons for their decision orally rather than being written and published. Judges often deliver ex tempore reasons on procedural issues, evidentiary rulings, applications for costs, and where an urgent decision is required or an application is not contested.

Federal Court (or Court): the Federal Court of Australia.

Federal Court Act: the *Federal Court of Australia Act 1976* (Cth), the legislation establishing the Federal Court passed by the Commonwealth Parliament.

Federal Court Rules: the *Federal Court Rules 2011* (Cth), which establish the procedural framework for proceedings heard by the Federal Court.

Filing: when a party brings a proceeding to the Federal Court, they do so by providing documents to one of the court's physical registries or through the Court's eLodgment system of electronic filing. When a document is accepted by the Court it is 'filed'.

Generative artificial intelligence: a type of computer-based technology which uses large amounts of existing information to create new documents, text, images or other content with little or no human involvement.

Hearing: a formal event before a judge or registrar where parties present information to the judge or registrar to consider. Usually a hearing is in a court room, but some hearings may be online.

Interlocutory disputes: disputes that arise between the parties part-way through the proceeding, which are ordinarily secondary to the overall legal issue.

Judiciary: the court system.

Judicial power: the power exercised by courts which involves interpreting and applying law to disputes between parties in order to determine their legal rights and responsibilities.

Jurisdiction: refers to the types of proceedings the Federal Court has the legal authority to hear and determine.

Listings: any events that take place in the life of a proceeding including the various types of hearings.

Litigants in person: people who commence or defend proceedings without legal representation.

Moots: mock court hearings where law students and lawyers build their advocacy skills.

NPAs: National Practice Areas, the nine established areas of law into which proceedings heard by the Federal Court are categorised.

Original jurisdiction: refers to proceedings heard and determined by the Federal Court for the first time. This includes the determination of 'appeals' from non-judicial decisions of persons, authorities or tribunals other than courts.

Overarching purpose: the purpose guiding the Federal Court's practices and procedures in civil proceedings, being to facilitate the just resolution of disputes according to law as quickly, inexpensively and efficiently as possible.

Registry / registries: the physical buildings or locations from which the Federal Court operates which members of the public can access, and the body of staff that they mostly communicate with.

Rule of law: the principle that every person is entitled to the law's protection and that no person is above or beyond the reach of the law.

Principal Registrar: the Chief Executive Officer and Principal Registrar of the Federal Court, who assists the Chief Justice in managing the Court's administrative affairs.

Pro bono: meaning free of charge, pro bono legal assistance includes that coordinated through the Federal Court's Pro Bono Referral Program.

Proceeding: a legal matter or case brought before the Court for a decision. Proceedings include applications, appeals, class actions, judicial review applications and other matters the Court has authority to hear.

PART 11



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