

# Sexual Violence Case Management Pilot

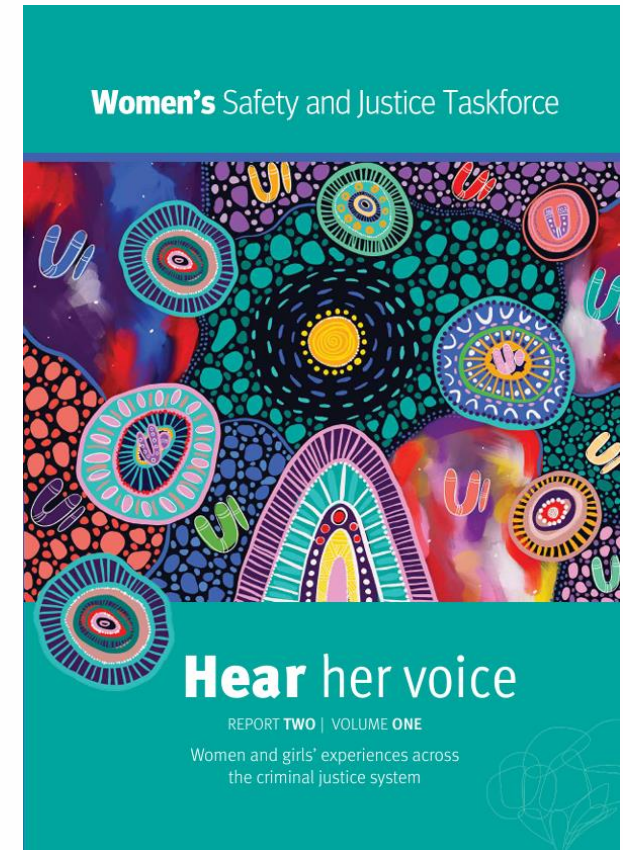
Early insights and emerging practice

His Honour Chief Judge Brian Devereaux SC  
Case Conference Registrar, Alexis Oxley  
Director, SV Case Reform, Lindsey Franklin-Browne

# Women's Safety & Justice Taskforce

The Taskforce identified that sexual offence cases take significantly longer to resolve relative to other cases and that *“long delays in trial proceedings and multiple adjournments are a major factor in increasing the trauma of the trial process for victim-survivors”*.

The Taskforce called for improved case management to *“increase efficiency; reduce the number of court appearances and the number of matters that unnecessarily progress to hearing; and improve the effectiveness and quality of responses to victim and witnesses.”*



*Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce (WSJT), Hear her Voice, Report Two, page 309*

# Key features of SV Case Management

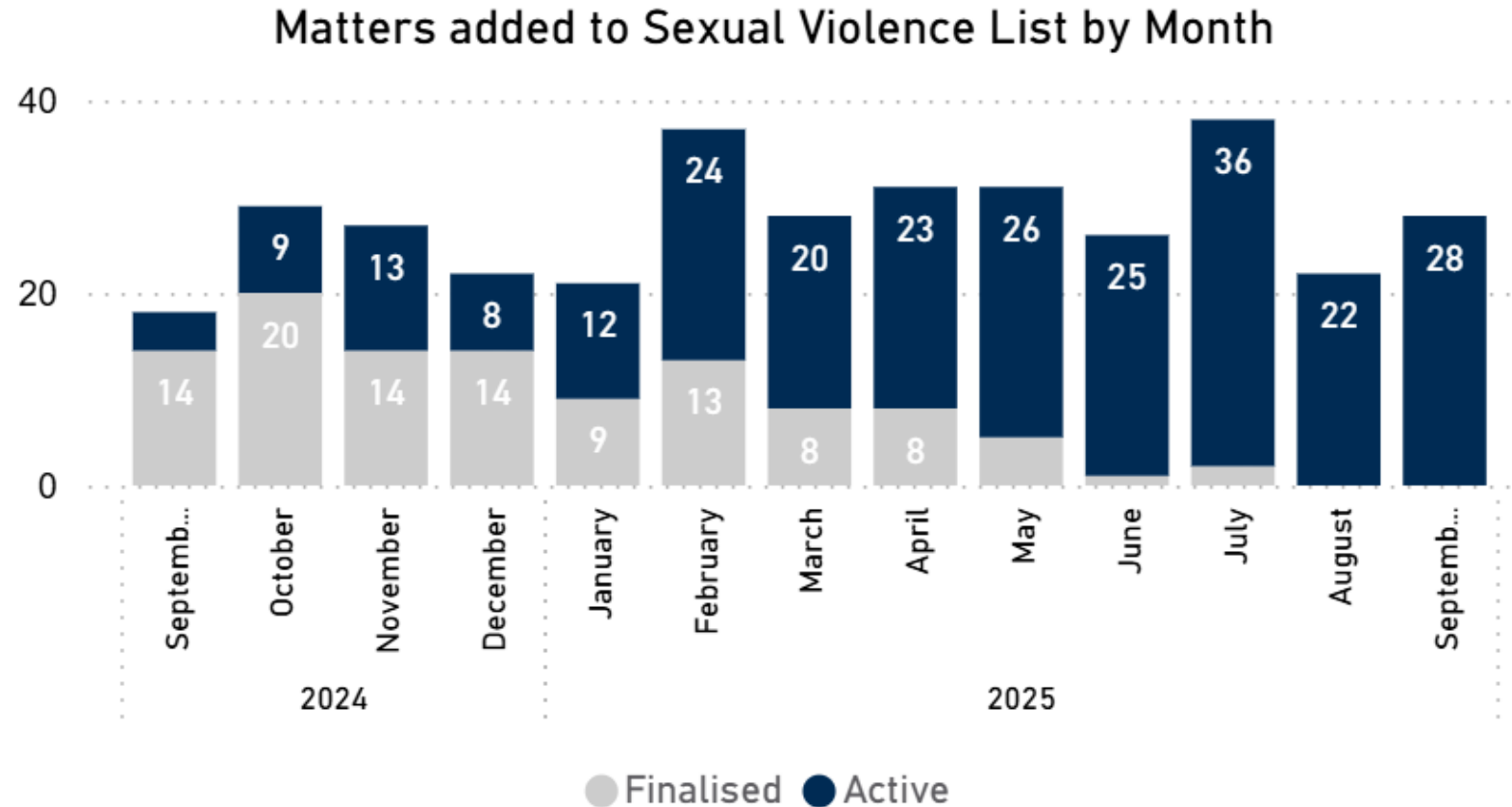
The Sexual Violence (SV) Case Management Pilot introduces:

- **SV Lists** enable the court to actively case manage and monitor SV offence proceedings
- **New Courts events** as part of the SV list including:
  - Case Review Hearings; Trial Readiness Hearings; Directions Hearing (Evidence of a Witness); Directions Hearing (Case Management)
- **Set trial dates** to be listed within eight months of indictment presentation
- **Online forms** requiring parties to share information with the Court and consider the matter earlier in proceedings
- **Mediated Case Conferencing** a without prejudice discussion to narrow issues and settle agreed facts
- **Dedicated court resources** including case managers to facilitate matter progression and manage case delays
- **A commitment to early allocation and continuity of trial Crown Prosecutor** to ensure consistent case progression, minimise delays due to re-briefing and provide consistency for the complainant to reduce attrition
- **New grant of Legal Aid** for completion of forms, solicitor appearance at the Case Review Hearing and solicitor and counsel appearance at the Mediated Case Conference

# Early data insights – SV list case numbers

As of 30 September 2025:

- 364 matters had been added to the SV list across the Brisbane and Ipswich District Courts.
- Of these, 254 matters were being actively case managed, and 110 matters had finalised.
- **Brisbane** accounted for 179 active cases with 87 matters finalised.
- **Ipswich** accounted for 75 active cases, with 23 matters finalised.



# Early data insights - finalisations



Of the 110 SV List matters finalised:

- 17 were finalised by trial;
- 64 were sentenced following a guilty plea;
- 27 were discontinued by way of Nolle Prosequi; and
- 2 were finalised at Adult Restorative Justice Conferencing

## Resolution prior to trial:

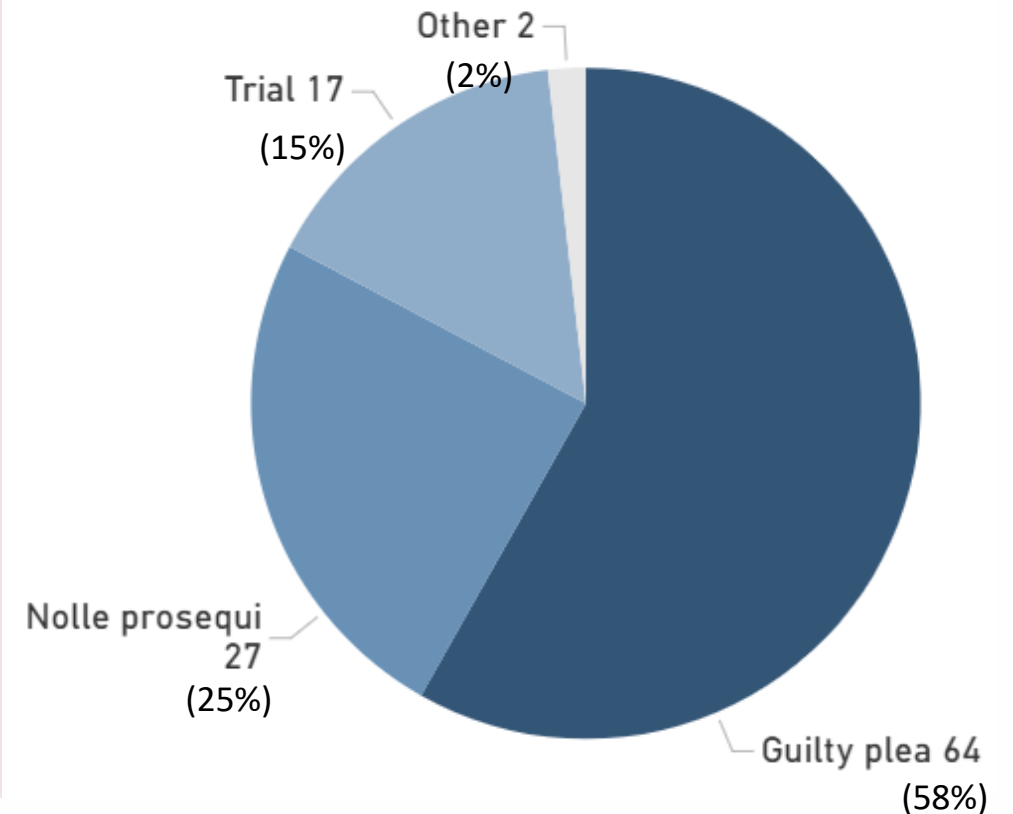
For matters discontinued by Nolle Prosequi:

- the median time from indictment presentation to finalisation was 4.6 months

For matters in which a plea was submitted:

- the median time from indictment presentation to plea was 2.1 months

SV List Matters Finalised by Type



# Early data insights – Time to Case Review and Trial

Median\* timeframes between court events indicate:

TIMEFRAME	HELD	LISTED**
Indictment to Case Review (Goal < 4 weeks)	4.6 weeks	4.7 weeks
Indictment to Trial (Goal < 8 months)	8.0 months***	8.9 months

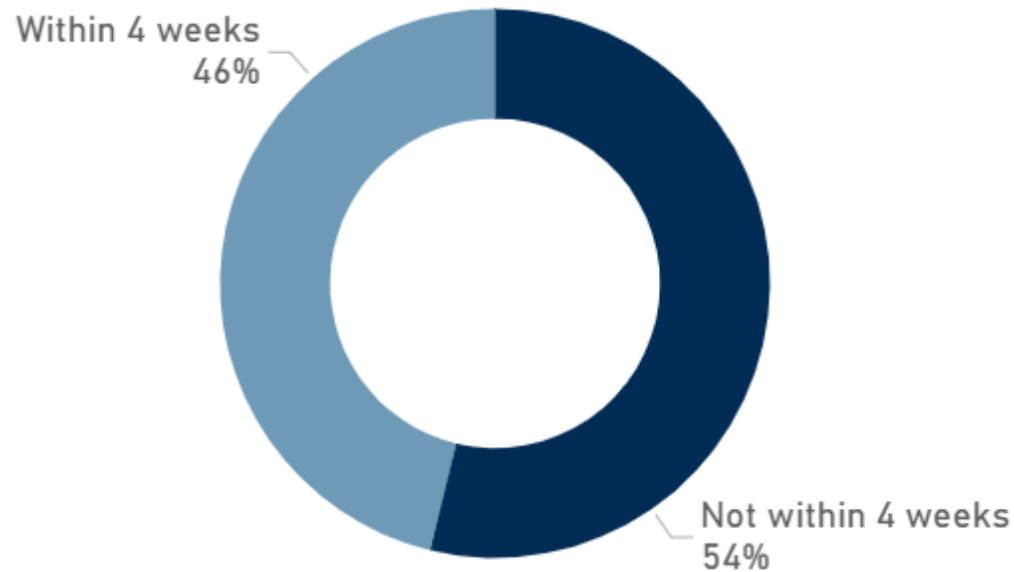
\* Median (the midpoint) has been reported instead of mean to reduce the influence of outliers

\*\* Listed court events have not be held and provide an estimate based on the listing date

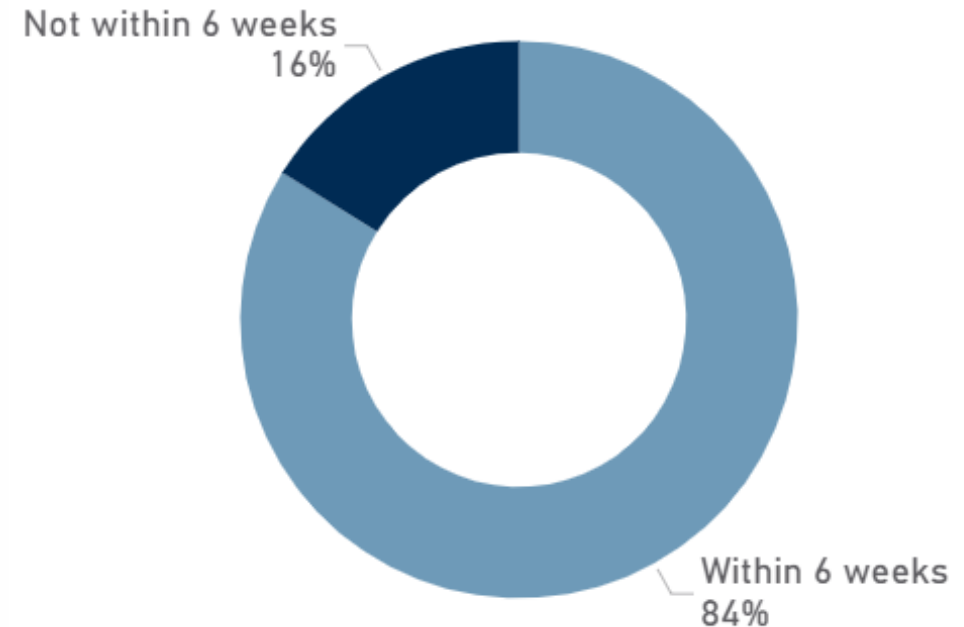
\*\*\* 17 SV List trials have been held which makes the data less stable

# Early data insights - Case Review Hearings

Case Review Hearings held within 4 weeks of being added to SV List

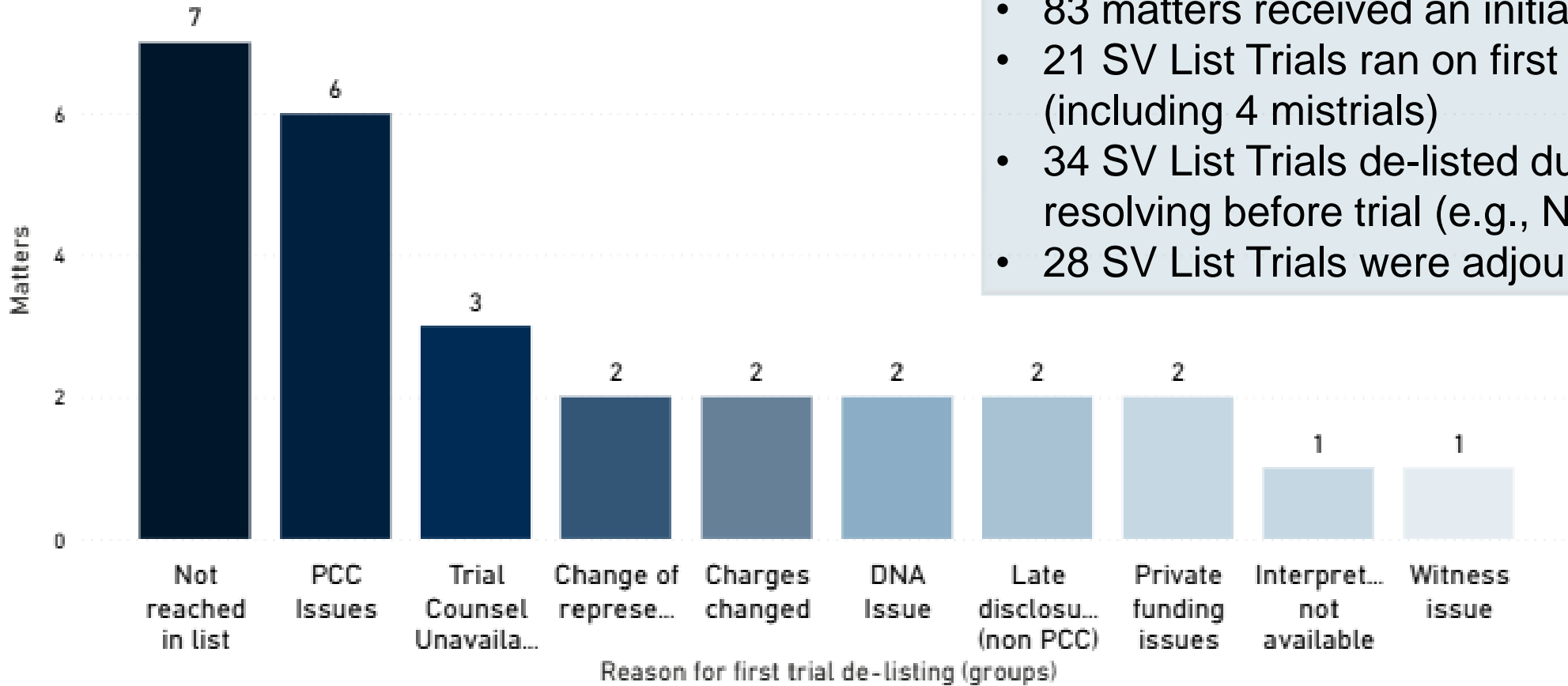


Case Review Hearings held within 6 weeks of being added to SV List



# Early data insights – Trial stability

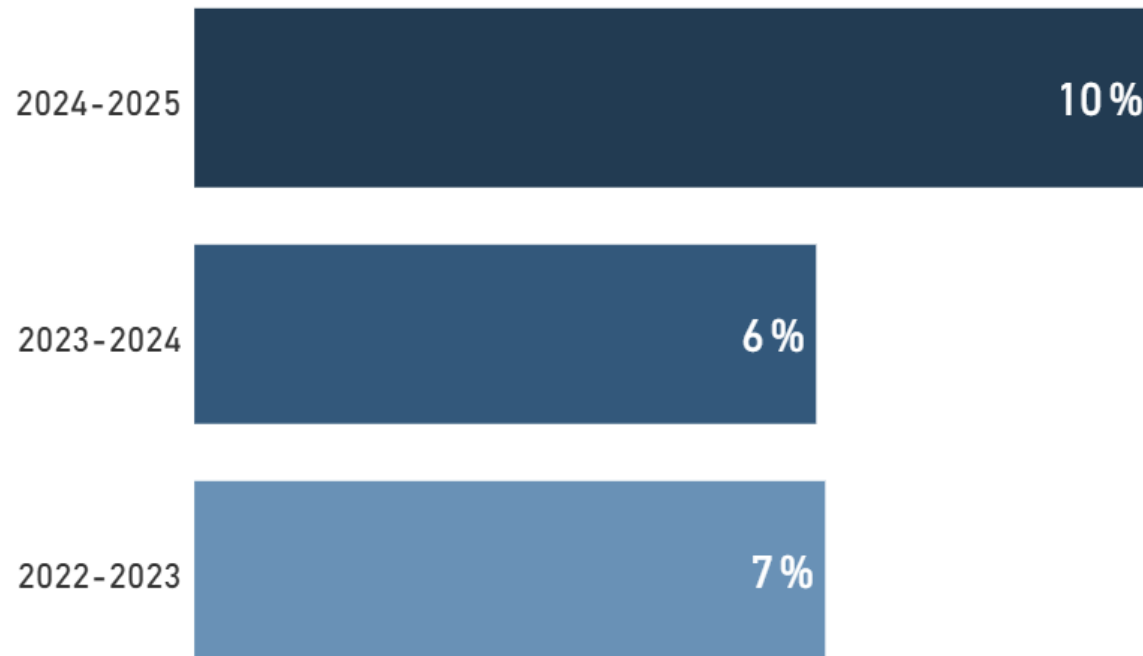
## SV List Matters – Reason for First Trial Adjournment



- Between 1 Sept 2024 and 30 Sept 2025:
- 83 matters received an initial trial listing
  - 21 SV List Trials ran on first listing (including 4 mistrials)
  - 34 SV List Trials de-listed due to matter resolving before trial (e.g., Nolle, plea)
  - 28 SV List Trials were adjourned

# Pre-post analysis – Matters listed for sentence

Proportion of SV List matters with result 'Listed for Sentence' at indictment presentation



- The proportion of SV offence matters listed for sentence at indictment presentation increased by 54% from 2022-23 to 2024-25.
- The increase may be due to early engagement by trial counsel and perceived scrutiny of sexual offence proceedings brought by case management.

# Pre-post analysis - Number of court events

- Of the 17 SV List Trials held to date:
  - the median number of court events held was 10.
- Between 1 Sept 2021 and 1 Sept 2024, 422 SV Trials were held:
  - of these, the median number of court events held was 12.
- The median number of court events for matters on the SV List finalised by Trial has decreased by 17% relative to SV Trials held between 2021-2024.

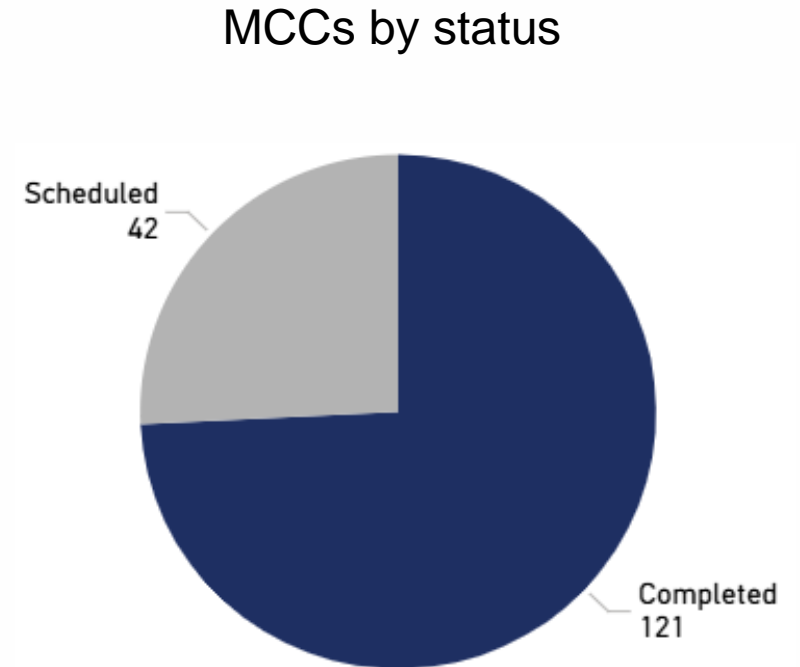
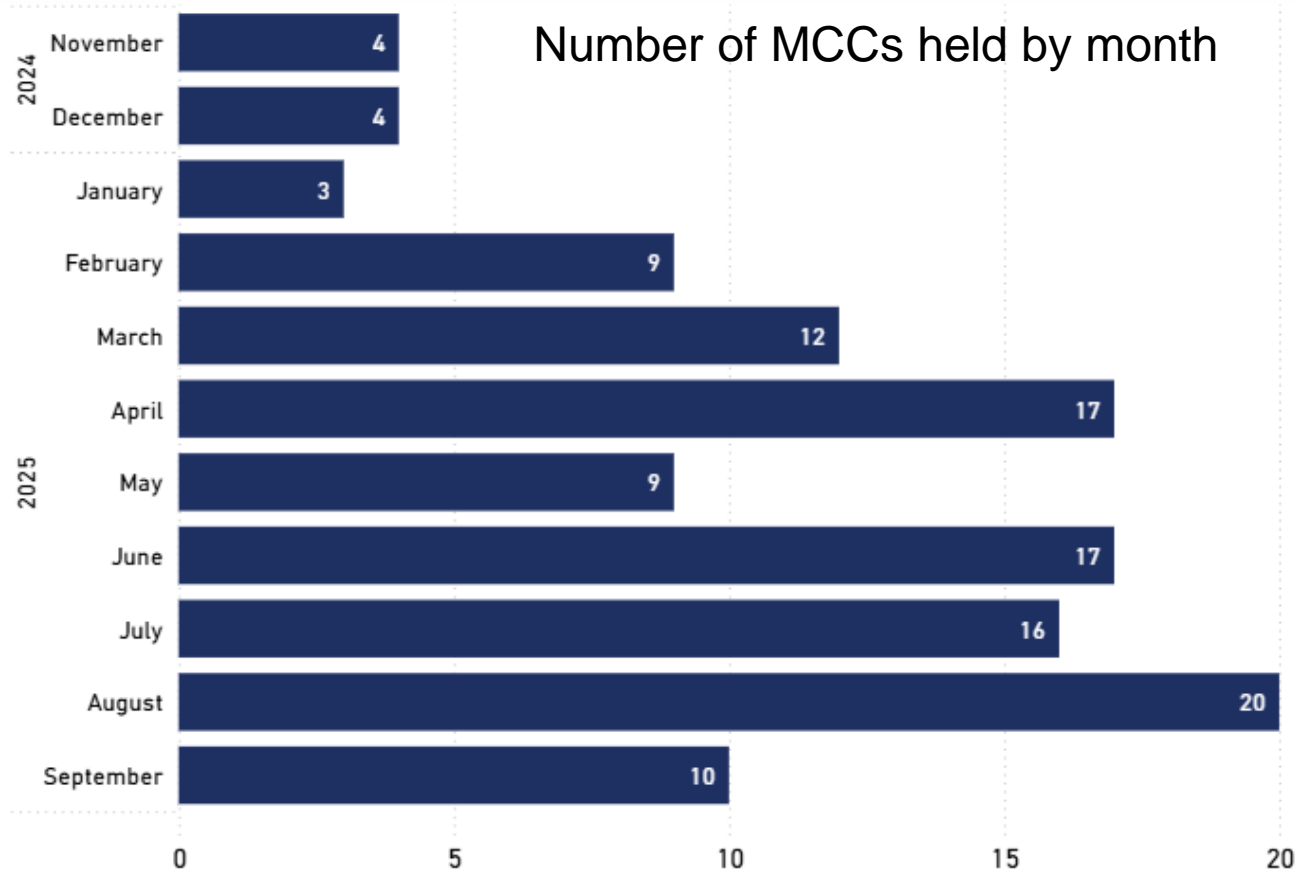
Median number of court events for matters that finalised by trial between 1 Sept 2021 and 31 Aug 2025



# Mediated Case Conference – Overview

- ✓ Conferences conducted by Case Conference Registrar
- ✓ Must be booked online via the Queensland Courts Website
- ✓ Must be held 2 weeks before the s.21AK or the Trial Readiness Hearing
- ✓ Held in a court room in the QEII Brisbane Courts of Law or Ipswich Courthouse
- ✓ Crown Prosecutor and Defence Counsel are required to attend, and the defendant be available if required
- ✓ Does not appear on the daily law list and is without prejudice (no transcript of proceedings)
- ✓ Defence have no obligation to reveal the nature of their defence before trial
- ✓ Any agreement may be reduced to writing, certified by counsel, and filed as draft orders by consent to be signed in chambers by the SV List Judge
- ✓ The PD requires prosecution to provide a trial plan and sentence indication
- ✓ The CCR will request additional material (including a statement of facts, complainant statement/s, defendant EROI transcripts, any agreed/proposed admissions)

# Mediated Case Conference - Early data insights



- Of the 121 MCCs held, 92 were in Brisbane and 29 were in Ipswich.
- Consent orders have been made in 39 matters and actions agreed in 78 matters.

# Mediated Case Conference - Early trends

## Adult Restorative Justice Conferencing (ARJC)

12 matters where mediation was raised during the conference process:

- 6 matters have been referred to ARJC
  - 1 Rejected
  - 1 Successful
  - 4 Remain pending
- 6 pending an update on whether a referral has been accepted for mediation by the ARJC service

# Mediated Case Conference - Narrowing issues and settling agreed facts

## Defence:

- Identified the issue for trial as consent/ mistake of fact as to consent
- Confirmed DNA evidence is not required
- Identified proposed admissions to eliminate the need to call particular witnesses for trial
- Confirmed identity is not an issue in dispute

## Prosecution:

- Identified uncharged acts, sexual interest, discreditable conduct, relationship evidence
- Whether an application for leave 14 days prior to the complainant giving evidence is required to lead evidence of consensual or non-consensual sexual activity which does not relate to the acts charged

# Mediated Case Conference – Testing Strengths and Weaknesses of the Case

## Case examples:

1. Independent assessment of both the strength and an area of weakness in the Crown case leading to early resolution
2. Independent assessment of the strength of the Crown case assisting early resolution
3. Early conference held with complainant identifying issues with the Crown case

# Mediated Case Conference – Minimising delay

## Case examples:

1. Use of MCC as opportunity to negotiate
2. Preparation for MCC providing early opportunity for resolution
3. Successful ARJC reference within 8 months of indictment presentation
4. Facilitating production of defendant in custody enabling early resolution

# SV Case Management - Feedback

## Challenges

- Increased handling of briefs & inadequate funding
- Counsel appearance at Case Review Hearings
- Protected Counselling Communication
- Directions Hearing (Evidence of a Witness)
- Delays in the Magistrates Court

## Achievements

- Case summaries developed for SV list judge
- Parties' compliance with court forms and preparation
- Early allocation of Trial Counsel
- High rates of finalisation early in proceedings
- Local Operational Working Groups

# Summary of Case Review Form changes

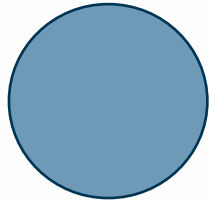
- Improved skip logic including a 'Ready for sentence' bypass
- Improved skip logic to direct questions to Defence or the Crown only
- Removal of extensive disclosure checklist and inclusion of free text field
- Date fields converted to free text fields to enable multiple date entries
- New questions on defendant custodial status
- New questions in relation to complainant and defendant conferencing
- Inclusion of edit functionality to enable form entries to be updated before CRH

# How SV Case Managers can assist

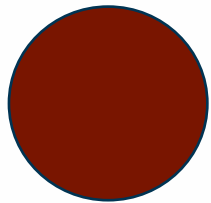
SV Case managers in Brisbane and Ipswich:

- are the main point of contact for the case management of matters on the SV list;
- review information provided by parties via court forms;
- prepare case summaries for the SV List Judges;
- liaise with parties to determine mutually agreeable dates with reference to the court calendar;
- administratively list matters including for example, subpoena return dates;
- administratively file documents received via email to ensure compliance with orders;
- escalate draft orders on behalf of the Case Conference Registrar; and
- monitor compliance with the Practice Direction, obtain feedback from stakeholders and lead continuous improvement of the program.

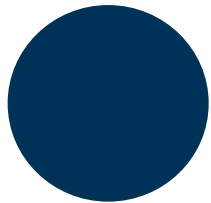
# SV Case Management Pilot - Evaluation



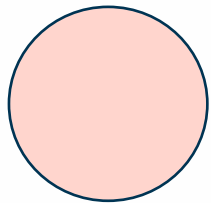
Preliminary data suggests that the SV list is working to identify and reduce delays, address unnecessary adjournments, and to stabilise trial listings.



An independent evaluation of the SV Case Management Pilot, led by Griffith University, commenced June 2025 and will run through to December 2026.



The evaluation will examine the SV case management model and program outcomes for parties, the judiciary, agency stakeholders and court users through focus groups, surveys and interviews.



To get involved email [SV.Case.Reform@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:SV.Case.Reform@justice.qld.gov.au)  
To provide program feedback visit: [courts.qld.gov.au/courts/district-court/sexual-violence-case-management-district-court](https://courts.qld.gov.au/courts/district-court/sexual-violence-case-management-district-court)

# Questions

For enquiries about the SV Case Management Pilot please email  
[SV.Case.Reform@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:SV.Case.Reform@justice.qld.gov.au)

Thank you to:  
His Honour Chief Judge Brian Devereaux SC  
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