



SUPREME COURT OF QUEENSLAND

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19



**SUPREME COURT OF
QUEENSLAND**
CHAMBERS OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

31 October 2019

Queen Elizabeth II Courts of Law
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The Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Leader of the House
1 William Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Attorney

I enclose my report, under s 19(1) of the *Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991*, on the operation of the Supreme Court for the year ended 30 June 2019.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Holmes'.

Catherine Holmes
Chief Justice

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An abstract painting with thick, expressive brushstrokes. The composition is dominated by a large, bright yellow area in the upper right, which transitions into a pale, off-white or light beige background. On the left side, there are dark, almost black, vertical strokes that contrast sharply with the lighter colors. In the lower right, there are prominent, textured strokes of red and pink, suggesting a landscape or a specific emotional tone. The overall style is gestural and painterly, with visible texture and a sense of movement.

CHIEF JUSTICE'S OVERVIEW 2018-2019

CHIEF JUSTICE'S OVERVIEW 2018-2019

Performance

This overview concerns the performance of the Supreme Court over the past year and particular events and developments. The statistics cited have been collated on the basis of the requirements of the Australian Government's Productivity Commission for the production of its annual "Report on Government Services" (RoGS). Queensland has altered its counting rule to align with the methodology adopted by other jurisdictions for the purposes of that report, so that where previously separate indictments presented against a defendant on the same day were counted as a single lodgement, they are now counted as separate lodgements.

Disposition of Caseload

Trial Division

Criminal

On the criminal side, there were 2418 lodgements. The trial division ended the year with 773 outstanding cases, having disposed of 2430 (a clearance rate of 100.5%).

Of the outstanding cases, 11.4% were more than 12 months old (from date of presentation of indictment), and 4.3% more than 24 months old. Some of the last group would result from orders for re-trials made on appeal.

Civil

On the civil side, there were 2956 lodgements. The trial division ended the year with 2575 outstanding matters, having disposed of 2895 matters (a 97.9% clearance rate).

Of the outstanding matters, 26.8% were more than 12 months old, and 9.1% more than 24 months old.

Court of Appeal Division

The Court of Appeal division disposed of 346 criminal appeals this year (318 last year), representing a clearance rate of 95.3%. As of 30 June, 283 criminal appeals awaited disposition (247 last year).

The Court of Appeal also disposed of 151 civil appeals (171 last year), with a clearance rate of 89.3%, leaving 128 outstanding at the end of the year (93 last year).

Observations on the Court's Caseload

Adjusting the figures for previous years to reflect the new accounting system for RoGS purposes, it can be seen that the number of criminal lodgements has not continued at its upward trajectory but, as was the case last year, has plateaued at a level far higher than previous years; at about 3 times the figure for the 2012/13 year.

As reported last year, the criminal list continues to impose significant demands on the available judicial resources. Nonetheless, a statewide clearance rate of 100.5% was achieved. Another pleasing outcome is that the number of defendants in the group whose matters were more than 12 months (but less than 24 months) old has decreased markedly, by about 50% across the State. This is despite what has been a continuing upward trend in case complexity, the average number of indicted counts for each defendant and the number of summary charges to be dealt with on sentence. The achievement is in no small measure due to active case management on the part of the Brisbane-based criminal list judges, the regional judges and the hard work

and dedication of the Registry criminal list managers, not to mention the trial and sentencing judges who undertook the increased workload.

Civil lodgements captured by the RoGS figures increased this year by 6.3% (or 174 cases). The clearance rate, however, was a very satisfactory 97.9%.

The Court's Resolution Registrar continues to provide valuable service in identifying and assisting in the resolution of matters capable of early resolution, but the position remains a temporary one.

Cases not forming part of the RoGS statistics (applications for bail, forfeiture, probate, applications for admissions as a legal practitioner and orders under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act*) continue to form an expanding part of the Court's workload.

The number of bail applications lodged increased 47.5% (by 184 applications) between 2014/15 and the current year, when 571 applications were lodged. The number of fresh applications under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act* reduced to 20 this year, compared to 38 the previous year, but as the numbers of prisoners subject to orders under the Act steadily increase, so do the number of reviews which the Court is required to conduct. Some of those are required periodic reviews under the statute, while others are breach hearings. The lack of accommodation options, particularly secure accommodation for those suffering mental illness, for prisoners on supervision orders also has caused an increase in the number of court reviews required in particular matters. By way of comparison, where the Court conducted 172 reviews under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act* in the 2014/15 year, for the 2018/19 year, 336 were required; almost doubling in number.

In the 2018/2019 year, five representative proceedings, or class actions, were filed. Those matters require a considerable application of judicial time in their management.

In December 2018, an additional judge was appointed to the Court, relieving some of the burden on the judges, but with no prospect of any reduction in the workload, further additional appointments, with a corresponding increase in registry support, will be necessary.

Southport sittings

A circuit sittings was held at Southport for two weeks, commencing 20 August 2018. Despite notice of the intention to hold the circuit being given as early as February 2018 there was insufficient work to occupy the entire circuit sittings.

During the circuit sittings, one listed criminal trial was heard (over a period of four days), together with 15 sentences and one breach proceeding. No civil applications or trials were sought to be heard in that sittings.

At the conclusion of that sittings, the court determined to hold a further two weeks sittings at Southport in the second half of 2019. Notice of that sittings was given to the profession in March 2019. Despite callovers being held on 30 April 2019 and 18 June 2019, there was, again, a lack of sufficient work to fill a two week sittings.

At the time of the callover on 18 June 2019, only three matters were listed for determination at those sittings, being one criminal trial and two sentences. There was an indication that one civil trial may be ready to proceed, subject to the receipt of outstanding expert reports.

The Court's ICT Systems

Much of the inconvenience which Gold Coast practitioners identify in having to travel to Brisbane to file Supreme Court process would, no doubt, be alleviated had the Court an electronic filing system. Unfortunately, the Court, unlike most other superior courts in Australia, continues to have a very limited capacity for electronic lodgement of documents.

The Court's capacity to conduct eTrials is, in some respects, relatively rudimentary, although the technical

support provided by Departmental staff is exemplary. There was a powerful illustration of what might be achieved with the running this year of two large commercial matters involving tens of thousands of documents, in which the parties were in a position to fund outside providers of the technology and skills needed. The result was a much more sophisticated system, particularly in relation to document access, than anything available to the Court.

I have expressed concern in earlier years about the viability of the Queensland Jury Administration System (the system used to manage the attendance and payment of jurors at criminal trials). Funding has now been made available to replace that system by the end of 2021.

The lack of separation between the Court's IT systems and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General's network remains an issue.

Six judges took part in a trial of judicial access to iPads loaded with legislation and case law for court use. It is to be extended to all judges.

Guideline for Working with Interpreters

The Court adopted a Guideline for working with interpreters which was adapted from the recommended National Standards for Working with Interpreters in courts and tribunals produced by the Judicial Council for Cultural Diversity.

Chief Justice's Calendar

Over the reporting year, I sat in Brisbane in the Court of Appeal (six weeks), the criminal jurisdiction (six weeks and one day), civil sittings (six weeks and one day), and the applications court (one week). I undertook week-long circuits, with a mix of civil and criminal matters, to each of the regional centres of Townsville, Cairns and Rockhampton (the last being shortened when matters resolved). I spent a further nine days presiding over admissions ceremonies, at which 1037 new practitioners were admitted. The balance of my time was occupied with administrative and official responsibilities.

In the course of engagement with the profession and the public, I attended numerous functions organised by professional associations, law schools, community legal services, volunteer groups and others. I gave some 24 speeches and addresses at conferences and functions in Brisbane and regional centres. In addition I delivered the Lucinda Lecture on Constitutional Law at Monash University and wrote an essay on judicial independence for The Australian newspaper's Legal Review magazine.

I attended the 52nd meeting of the Council of Chief Justices of Australia and New Zealand, in Sydney in April 2019. An additional commitment was to undertake the role of Acting Governor on nine occasions, for periods aggregating 43 days.

International aspects

On 9 September 2018 I hosted a meeting of Chief Justices from 38 Commonwealth countries in association with the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges' Association Conference held in Brisbane.

Between 13 October and 29th October 2018 I travelled to China to take part in meetings and seminars at the Beijing Supreme Peoples' Court; the Beijing High People's High Court; the Beijing Fourth Intermediate People's Court; the Shanghai High People's Court; the Zhejiang High People's Court; the Hangzhou Internet Court; the National Judges College; the Xi'an Intermediate People's Court; and the Yunnan High People's Court.

On 7 March 2019 I met the recently appointed Chief Justice of Papua New Guinea, Sir Gibbs Salika, and in June 2019 travelled to Port Moresby to give a presentation at the Fraud and Corruption Conference and to deliver the annual Sir Buri Kidu Lecture.

Judicial Appointments

The Hon Justice Elizabeth Sybil Wilson was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland on 3 December 2018.

The Hon Justice Thomas Joseph Bradley was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland on 3 December 2018.

Judicial Retirements

On 29 November 2018 Justice Roslyn Atkinson AO retired as a Judge of the Supreme Court after 20 years of dedicated service.

Recognition

The Honourable Justice Debra Mullins has been recognised for her commitment to women and her service to the law, with an Officer of the Order of Australia award.

Acknowledgement

I thank the Judges, officers of the Registry, the Court's administrative staff, and the Director-General and his staff for their contribution to ensuring the effective discharge of the Court's responsibilities for another year.



PROFILE OF THE SUPREME COURT

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The Supreme Court comprises the Office of the Chief Justice and two divisions: the Court of Appeal Division and the Trial Division.

Judges of the Supreme Court

(listed in order of seniority)

Office of the Chief Justice

Chief Justice

The Honourable Catherine Ena Holmes

Court of Appeal Division

President

The Honourable Walter Sofronoff

Judges of Appeal

The Honourable Justice Hugh Barron Fraser

The Honourable Justice Robert William Gotterson AO

The Honourable Justice Philip Michael Hugh Morrison

The Honourable Justice Anthe Ioanna Philippides

The Honourable Justice Philip Donald McMurdo

Trial Division

Senior Judge Administrator

The Honourable Justice Ann Majella Lyons

Trial Division Judges

The Honourable Justice Roslyn Gay Atkinson AO (retired 29 November 2018)

The Honourable Justice Debra Ann Mullins AO

The Honourable Justice James Sholto Douglas

The Honourable Justice Alfred Martin Daubney AM

The Honourable Justice Glenn Charles Martin AM

The Honourable Justice Peter David Talbot Applegarth

The Honourable Justice David Kim Boddice

The Honourable Justice Jean Hazel Dalton

The Honourable Justice David Octavius Joseph North (Northern Judge)

The Honourable Justice James Dawson Henry (Far Northern Judge)

The Honourable Justice David John Sandford Jackson

The Honourable Justice Peter James Flanagan
The Honourable Justice Timothy Francis Carmody
The Honourable Justice Martin Burns
The Honourable Justice John Kennedy Bond
The Honourable Justice Susan Elizabeth Brown
The Honourable Justice Helen Patricia Bowskill
The Honourable Justice Peter John Davis
The Honourable Justice Graeme Francis Crow (Central Judge)
The Honourable Justice Soraya Mary Ryan
The Honourable Justice Elizabeth Sybil Wilson (appointed 3 December 2018)
The Honourable Justice Thomas Joseph Bradley (appointed 3 December 2018)

Other Appointments

Mental Health Court

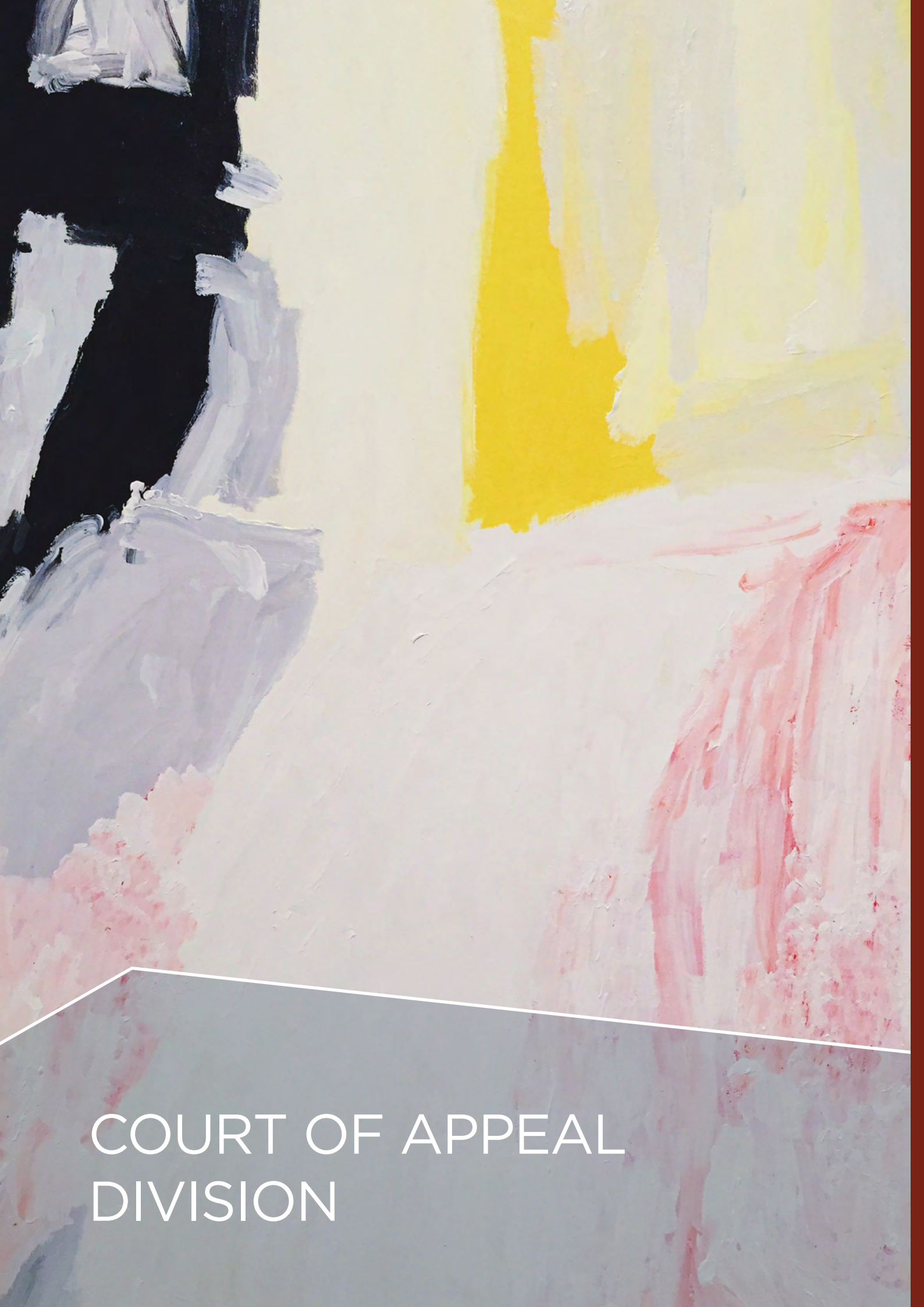
The Honourable Justice Jean Hazel Dalton
The Honourable Justice Peter James Flanagan

Land Appeal Court

The Honourable Justice Jean Hazel Dalton (Southern District) (resigned 31 December 2018)
The Honourable Justice Debra Ann Mullins (Southern District) (appointed 1 January 2019)
The Honourable Justice David Octavius Joseph North (Northern District)
The Honourable Justice James Dawson Henry (Far Northern District)
The Honourable Justice Graeme Francis Crow (Central District)

Industrial Court

The Honourable Justice Glenn Charles Martin AM



COURT OF APPEAL
DIVISION

COURT OF APPEAL DIVISION

Governance

Organisational Structure

The Court of Appeal hears appeals:¹

- in criminal and civil matters from the Trial Division of the Supreme Court of Queensland;
- in criminal and civil matters from the District Court of Queensland;
- from the Planning and Environment Court;
- from the Land Appeal Court; and
- from other tribunals, principally the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT).

An appeal from the Court of Appeal to the High Court of Australia can proceed only by way of special leave. For most cases, the Court of Appeal is Queensland's final appellate court.

The President of the Court of Appeal is the Hon Justice Walter Sofronoff. The Court of Appeal also consists of five judges of appeal. During 2018/2019, they were:

- the Hon Justice Hugh Barron Fraser;
- the Hon Justice Robert William Gotterson AO;
- the Hon Justice Philip Hugh Morrison;
- the Hon Justice Anthe Ioanna Philippides; and
- the Hon Justice Philip Donald McMurdo.

The Court sat as a bench of three judges for 30 weeks during the year, which is nine less than last year. The President and the judges of appeal together sat 172 individual judge weeks this year,² compared to 200 weeks last year. The Court continues to allocate one week out of every month, and two weeks before Court vacations, as judgment writing weeks, and therefore non-sitting weeks.

A total of 413 matters were heard this year and 476 judgments were delivered.³ See appendix 1, Tables 1 and 2.

The reduction in sitting days and judgments delivered appears to be the result of two factors. First, three judges were occupied for several weeks preparing a judgment in a very lengthy multi-party case. Second, there were many more cases that were abandoned or settled by the parties.

The Chief Justice sat in the Court of Appeal, apart from admissions ceremonies, for six weeks this year.

Trial Division judges sat in the Court of Appeal for 63 individual judge weeks this year.

Without the Chief Justice and Trial Division judges sitting regularly, the Court could not manage its caseload in an efficient and timely manner. The Chief Justice and Trial Division judges bring diverse experience to the consideration and determination of appeals. The President will continue to work closely with the Chief Justice and Senior Judge Administrator to ensure that Trial Division judges continue to have an opportunity to sit in the Court on a regular basis.

The Court continues to monitor certain kinds of matters which require special management, including:

- appeals concerning short custodial sentences;

¹ Including applications and references.

² This expression refers to every week an individual judge sits in the Court of Appeal.

³ These figures are non-RoGS (Report on Government Services).

- appeals by the Attorney-General of Queensland or the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions against sentences where respondents have been released into the community;
- matters involving children;
- appeals against interlocutory decisions so that the determination of the principal action is not unnecessarily delayed pending appeal;
- pressing commercial disputes which have been dealt with expeditiously in the Trial Division's commercial list; and
- other matters where urgency is demonstrated.

The President has continued to case manage matters identified by the Registry staff as being of a complex nature or at risk of undue delay in hearing the appeal. In this way the Court ensures timely disposition of such matters. The President and the judges of appeal value the service provided by the Senior Deputy Registrar, the Registrar and Deputy Registrars, Appeals Registry staff, associates and executive secretaries. Without their professionalism the work of the Court would become impossible.

The President and the judges of appeal also valued the commitment and support of the Executive Director of the Supreme, District and Lands Courts Service, Ms Julie Steel, and her staff.

The Court is also grateful to Glen Morgan and his security team who have continued their discreet and effective work.

Human Resourcing Issues

The Court of Appeal Registry consists of nine positions. The following four positions were consistent throughout last financial year: Team Leader (Khamelia Adams), Registrar (Mark Slaven), Deputy Registrar (crime) (Shana Buchan) and Distributions Officer (crime) (Rosemary Kunst). The remaining five positions encountered staff movements throughout the financial year, however, were never left vacant for any extended period. It is an objective of the Registry to maintain continuity of staffing wherever possible. The level of service provided by staff to the judges and court users continually reflects positively on the Court and has assisted in the accomplishment of the Court's work in a timely manner. Continuity of staffing in the Court of Appeal Registry remains desirable in order to ensure that matters are handled in an efficient manner.

Auscript

As has been the case in previous years, there has been no major delay in the receipt of transcripts for the preparation of appeal record books.

Performance

Disposal of Work

This year 532 matters were commenced in the Court of Appeal (363 criminal matters and 169 civil matters). This is an increase from the 486 matters commenced last year (350 criminal matters and 136 civil matters). There are 411 active matters, an increase from 340 last year. The Court finalised 497 matters, an increase from 489 matters finalised last year. See appendix 1, table 3.

The Court's clearance rate of 95.3% for criminal matters has increased this reporting year, when compared to 90.9% last year. The Court's clearance rate in civil matters, however, decreased significantly from 125.7% last year to 89.3%.⁴ Overall, 76.9% of Court of Appeal matters were finalised within 12 months of lodgement.

⁴ See reasons for reduction of clearance rates on page 13.

See appendix 1, table 4. In civil matters not finalised within 12 months of lodgement, the Court offered parties hearing dates during the year and the delay was occasioned at the request of one or both parties. Some delay in criminal matters was caused by self-represented appellants seeking adjournments to find legal representation or referral to the pro bono scheme.

The median time for the delivery of reserved judgments in criminal and civil matters were 102 and 139 days, respectively. Overall, the median time between hearing and delivery of reserved judgments was 106 days, which remains the same as last year. See appendix 1, table 5.

Origin of Appeals

Filings from the Trial Division increased this year both in civil matters from 110 to 133 and criminal matters from 101 to 106. Filings from District Court civil matters have continued to decrease from 79 to 69, though District Court criminal matters have slightly increased from 308 to 311. Planning and Environment Court filings have remained at eight this year. Other civil applications and appeals, principally from QCAT, also increased this reporting year from 28 to 30. See appendix 1, table 6.

There has been an increase in the number of general civil appeals filed from 109 to 144 this year, though civil applications filed have decreased from 98 to 82. Filings of sentence applications have continued to increase from 155 to 180 but filings of conviction-only appeals decreased from 91 to 85. A total of 48 combined conviction and sentence appeals were filed this year, up from 40 the previous year. Filings of sentence appeals brought by the Queensland Attorney-General and the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions decreased marginally to seven compared to nine last year. See appendix 1, table 7.

During the reporting year there were 33 applications for special leave to appeal from the Court of Appeal to the High Court of Australia, five of which were granted.⁵ See appendix 1, table 10. The High Court did not deliver judgments this reporting year in respect of appeals from the Court of Appeal which had been granted special leave. See appendix 1, Table 11.

Reasons of the Court

This year there were 406 outcomes for the Court of Appeal, an increase of 27 from 379 last year. The reasons in 18 of these outcomes were delivered as a judgment of the Court or with all judges concurring without separate reasons, an increase of five from last year. 323 outcomes were delivered with eight separate concurring reasons, an increase of eight from last year. 19 outcomes were delivered with two joint concurring reasons and one separate reasons, an increase of 13 from last year.⁶

Out of the total 406 outcomes, 21 involved dissents (a decrease of four from last year). There were 25 outcomes where reasons were delivered by a single judge, an increase of five from last year. See appendix 1, table 12.⁷

Cairns Sittings

The Court of Appeal's northern sitting for 2019 was held in Cairns from Monday 3 June to Friday 7 June.

Four judges participated: the President, Justice Gotterson and Justice McMurdo from Brisbane and Justice Henry from Cairns. The Court heard an appeal against conviction, a sentence application by the Attorney-General and two general civil appeals.

⁵ *Brisbane City Council v Amos* [2019] HCA Trans 66; *Lee v Lee & Ors*; *Hsu v RACQ Insurance Limited* [2019] HCA Trans 67; *Fennell v The Queen* [2019] HCA Trans 58; *De Silva v The Queen* [2019] HCA Trans 70; *Australian Securities and Investments Commission v King & Anor* [2019] HCA 104.

⁶ These figures are non-RoGS.

⁷ These figures are non-RoGS.

A total of 13 barristers, six of whom were regionally based, participated in the sittings (seven from Brisbane, three from Cairns, and three from Townsville). Of the 13 appearances by barristers, three (23.1%) were female.

The judges also participated in a dinner with the members of the Cairn's Bar Association, and a welcome function hosted by the Far North Queensland Law Association.

Women Barristers in the Court of Appeal

This year saw an increase in the number of female counsel appearing in the Court of Appeal. Female counsel appeared in 22.9% of all Court of Appeal matters this year, compared to 22.1% last year. Despite a small increase, where 25% of members at the Bar are women, it nevertheless reflects the under-representation of female counsel appearing in the Court of Appeal. The President remains hopeful that the increase in appearances by female counsel in the Court of Appeal is indicative of a longitudinal trend towards greater representation of women at the Bar.

Female counsel appeared in 31.3% of criminal matters, compared to 30.5% last year, and in 12.4% of civil matters, compared to 13% last year.

Self-Represented Litigants

The President has worked closely with the Registry to case manage many of the self-represented matters to ensure that timelines for the lodgement of materials are followed and the matter proceeds to a substantive hearing in an efficient manner. Matters have been listed for mentions or reviews where required, although generally hearings involving self-represented litigants proceed in a timely manner.

The number of self-represented litigants in cases where judgment was delivered in the Court of Appeal has slightly decreased from 88 matters last year to 84 matters this year. At least one party was self-represented in 25 civil matters in which judgment was delivered this reporting year (16.8%), compared to 35 last year (24.3%). At least one party was self-represented in 59 criminal matters in which judgment was delivered this reporting year (22.9%), compared to 53 last year (22.6%). See appendix 1, table 8.⁸

Many matters involving self-represented litigants are finalised before the hearing. This reporting year 134 matters involving self-represented litigants were finalised either before or after the hearing (20.3% of matters lodged this year). This included 55 civil appeals (22.9% of matters lodged this year) and 79 criminal appeals (18.9% of matters lodged this year). See appendix 1, table 9.⁹

Self-Represented Success Rates

A total of 3.4% of self-represented criminal litigants (compared to 18.9% last year) and 28% of self-represented civil litigants (compared to 11.4% last year) were successful in their appeals.

By way of comparison, this year the success rate in all¹⁰ criminal appeals was 22.2%, and in civil appeals was 29.4%. The disparity in the rates between all appeals and those involving self-represented litigants, may indicate that self-represented litigants could benefit from services that provide advice as to the prospects of their appeal.¹¹

LawRight

LawRight Self-Representation Service (SRS) this year again provided valuable assistance to self-represented litigants in, or considering commencing proceedings in, the Court of Appeal.

⁸ These figures are non-RoGS.

⁹ These figures are non-RoGS.

¹⁰ Matters that were determined this financial year involving represented and self-represented parties.

¹¹ These figures are non-RoGS.

- Of the SRS's 129 applications for assistance this year, nine were in respect of appeals. Of these, five concerned potential appeals, and the remaining four concerned current appeals.
- Each of the nine applications received advice from LawRight:
 - o Of the potential appeals, all five applicants were advised not to commence appeals as they did not have promising prospects. Four applicants followed this advice, and the remaining applicant commenced an appeal and later reached an agreement to dismiss the appeal.
 - o Of the current appeals, three were advised that they had either no or limited prospects of success, while the remaining one withdrew instructions. From the three advised: one applicant discontinued the appeal, one was unsuccessful on appeal, and the other matter is yet to be determined.

The service provided is invaluable, not only to self-represented litigants, but also to the Registry, court staff, judges and the wider community. The Court extends their thanks to LawRight and, in particular, its directors, Linda MacPherson and Sue Garlick, and the SRS solicitors, Ben Tuckett and Melinda Willis.

Pro Bono Assistance

The Court of Appeal pro bono scheme entered its 19th year and continues to operate. This year 14 appellants were assisted. The President wishes to express his gratitude to the generous and public-spirited barristers listed in Appendix 2. Particular thanks are extended to the following barristers who acted pro bono in applications and appeals in the Court of Appeal in the last year:

Nathan Boyd
 Daniel Caruana
 Janice Crawford
 Benjamin Dighton
 Chau Donnan
 Angus Edwards
 Nathan Edridge
 Simon Hamlyn-Harris
 Sophie Harburg
 Andrew Hoare
 Michael Horvath
 Joshua Jones
 Robert Lake
 Sean Lamb
 Andrew O'Brien
 Ruth O'Gorman
 Phil O'Higgins
 Benedict Power
 Sally Robb
 Penny White
 Patrick Wilson

Technology and Infrastructure

This year the Court heard 21 matters where at least one party appeared by video link, compared to 29 last year. The quality of these links remained variable. The poor quality of some video links was often the product of sub-standard facilities at the other end of the links, particularly in correctional centres.

The Registry has continued to maintain electronic files for each matter, where materials filed by parties are scanned and digitised (or copied, if electronically filed) and made available to judges and their associates. The Registry has been proactive in educating associates and other staff on following a best practice process to avoid inadvertent removal or deletion of electronic material. The Registry will continue to work with the Court Service Centre in identifying ways to improve the provision of electronic material to the Court and parties.

The President, in consultation with senior Registry staff, implemented a new method of preparing appeal record books. Formerly, appeal record books were prepared in chronological order. This meant that often the most relevant documents, such as the notice of appeal and primary court's decision, were placed at the end, which was inconvenient as many matters spanned numerous volumes of appeal record books. This year appeal record books have been prepared with the notice of appeal, or application for leave to appeal, at the beginning, followed by the primary court's decision, and then any relevant primary court documents.

All Court of Appeal judgments delivered during this year were again available free to the public on the internet through:

- AustLII; and
- the Supreme Court Library website which includes:
 - o links to judgments of the Full Court and the Criminal Court of Appeal, the predecessors of the Court of Appeal;
 - o links to the Summary Notes which provide a brief overview of relevant cases.

The Court's research officer, Mr Bruce Godfrey, continued coordinating the publication of Court of Appeal judgments. The President and judges of appeal are grateful for the work Mr Godfrey does in ensuring compliance with the many legislative naming prohibitions.

- Mr Godfrey arranged hard copies and electronic links to the judgments for all major Brisbane media outlets.
- He prepared judgments which were:
 - o published on the Supreme Court Library website;
 - o distributed to interested Queensland judicial officers, the Queensland Law Society, and the Bar Association of Queensland; and published in *Proctor*, the Queensland Law Society journal.

Future Directions and Challenges

This year saw the judicial iPad pilot program (of which the President was a member), which will be expanded to all judges of the Supreme Court. It is hoped that with this new technology, the judges of appeal, and trial division judges sitting the Court, will be able to more readily access electronic files in chambers, court and elsewhere.

The aging Court of Appeal Management System (CAMS) has remained largely unchanged since its introduction. In the upcoming year, the President intends to meet with stakeholders to consider appropriate options to update CAMS. It is hoped that an updated management system will be compatible with all court devices and software, integrate with other management systems used by the Supreme Court, and improve the reliability of reporting by expanding data entry and capture methods.

This year, with the growing need for pro bono assistance, the President met with law firms interested in supporting the Scheme. Next year, the President, in consultation with the Registry, barristers and law firms, is looking to review the current Court of Appeal Pro Bono Scheme. The President and judges of appeal appreciate the work done by pro bono counsel and solicitors, and welcomes their suggestions for the better application of the Scheme.

In 2020, the Court of Appeal looks forward to a week-long sitting in Townsville. Despite the relatively small sittings in Cairns this year, the Court considers it desirable to maintain an annual regional circuit. Should the number of appeals filed regionally increase, the Court will consider the possibility of holding regional sittings more frequently.

This year, the President has been in discussions with Justice Buss, the President of the Western Australian Court of Appeal, about trialling a judicial exchange. Having received appropriate approvals from each State government and Chief Justice, the Presidents will be able to sit as an acting judge of appeal in the opposite State in the next reporting year. Through this experience, the judges hope to learn the different administrative processes behind each court, and implement appropriate changes in their own Court of Appeal. Such a program has the potential to expand to exchanges with other States and Territories.

Appendix 1

Table 1: Judgments, Criminal Matters

Judgments	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Outstanding at start of year	30	52	74
Reserved	231	223	178
<i>Ex tempore</i> judgments delivered	45	92	92
Reserved judgments delivered	222	200	211
Outstanding at end of year	52	75	44

Table 2: Judgments, Civil Matters

Judgments	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Outstanding at start of year	45	36	54
Reserved	112	136	108
<i>Ex tempore</i> judgments delivered	82	96	46
Reserved judgments delivered	115	122	127
Outstanding at end of year	36	55	37

Table 3: Annual Caseload – Number of Cases

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	Change from Previous Year
Lodged*	n/a	486	532	+9.5%
Heard**	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a%
Finalised***	n/a	489	497	+1.6%
	Lodged 2018-2019	Heard 2018-2019	Finalised* 2018-2019	Active (including reserved judgments not yet delivered)
Criminal	363	n/a	346	283
Civil	169	n/a	151	128
TOTAL	532	n/a	497	411

* Report on Government Services (RoGS) figures are not available from Court of Appeal Managements System (CAMS) prior to 2017-2018.

** RoGS figures are not available from CAMS prior to 2017-2018.

*** Includes matters abandoned, withdrawn, discontinued, struck out or stayed.

Table 4: Performance Indicators

	Clearance Rate %	% finalised within 12mths	% finalised > 12mths old	% finalised > 24mths old	% Active > 12mths old	% Active > 24mths old
Criminal	95.3%	78.9%	21.1%	3.2%	14.5%	1.8%
Civil	89.3%	74.8%	25.2%	0.0%	10.2%	0.8%
ALL CASES	92.3%	76.9%	23.2%	1.6%	12.4%	1.3%

* RoGS figures report on cases based on the initiating application. Multiple applications may be lodged on a case.

Table 5: Time between Hearing and Delivery of Reserved Judgments

Type of cases	Median number of days		
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Criminal cases	70	103	102
Civil cases	108	119	139
ALL CASES	78	106	106

Table 6: Court in which Matters were Commenced

Court	Number of matters filed		
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Trial division – civil	138*	110*	133*
Trial division – criminal	115*	101*	106*
District court – civil	94	79	69
District court – criminal	262	308	311
Planning and Environment Court	4	8	8
Other – civil (cases stated, QCAT, tribunals, etc.)	36	28	30
Magistrates Court – criminal	0	1	1
Other – criminal	1	3	1

* These statistics include Circuit Court matters.

Table 7: Types of Appeals Filed

Appeal type	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Civil			
General including personal injury	135	109	144
Applications	119	98	82
Leave applications	12	12	6
Planning and environment	1	5	6
Other	5	1	2

Appeal type	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Criminal			
Sentence applications	147	155	180
Conviction appeals	98	91	85
Conviction and sentence appeals	38	40	48
Extensions (sentence applications)	20	18	18
Extensions (conviction appeals)	15	21	11
Extensions (conviction and sentence)	5	13	8
Sentence appeals (A-G/Cth DPP)	4	9	7
Other	51	66	62

Table 8: Matters Determined where One or Both Parties Self-Represented*

Number of cases**	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Civil	36	35	25
Criminal	74	53	59
TOTAL	110	88	84

* The above table represents final outcomes from the Court of Appeal, i.e. judgments delivered. In some matters there is more than one outcome. For example, when there are multiple parties in criminal matters, each party has a separate outcome, despite only one QCA number being allocated to the overall decision.

** non-RoGs figures.

Table 9: Matters Finalised where One or Both Parties Self-Represented*

Number of cases	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Civil	75	86	55
Criminal	114	83	79
TOTAL	189	169	134

* non-RoGS figures (including matters abandoned, withdrawn, discontinued, struck out or stayed).

Table 10: Applications for Special Leave to Appeal to the High Court of Australia

Applications 2018-2019	Criminal	Civil
Granted	3	2
Refused	13	15

Table 11: Appeals from the Court of Appeal to the High Court of Australia

Appeals 2018-2019	Criminal	Civil
Granted	0	0
Refused	0	0

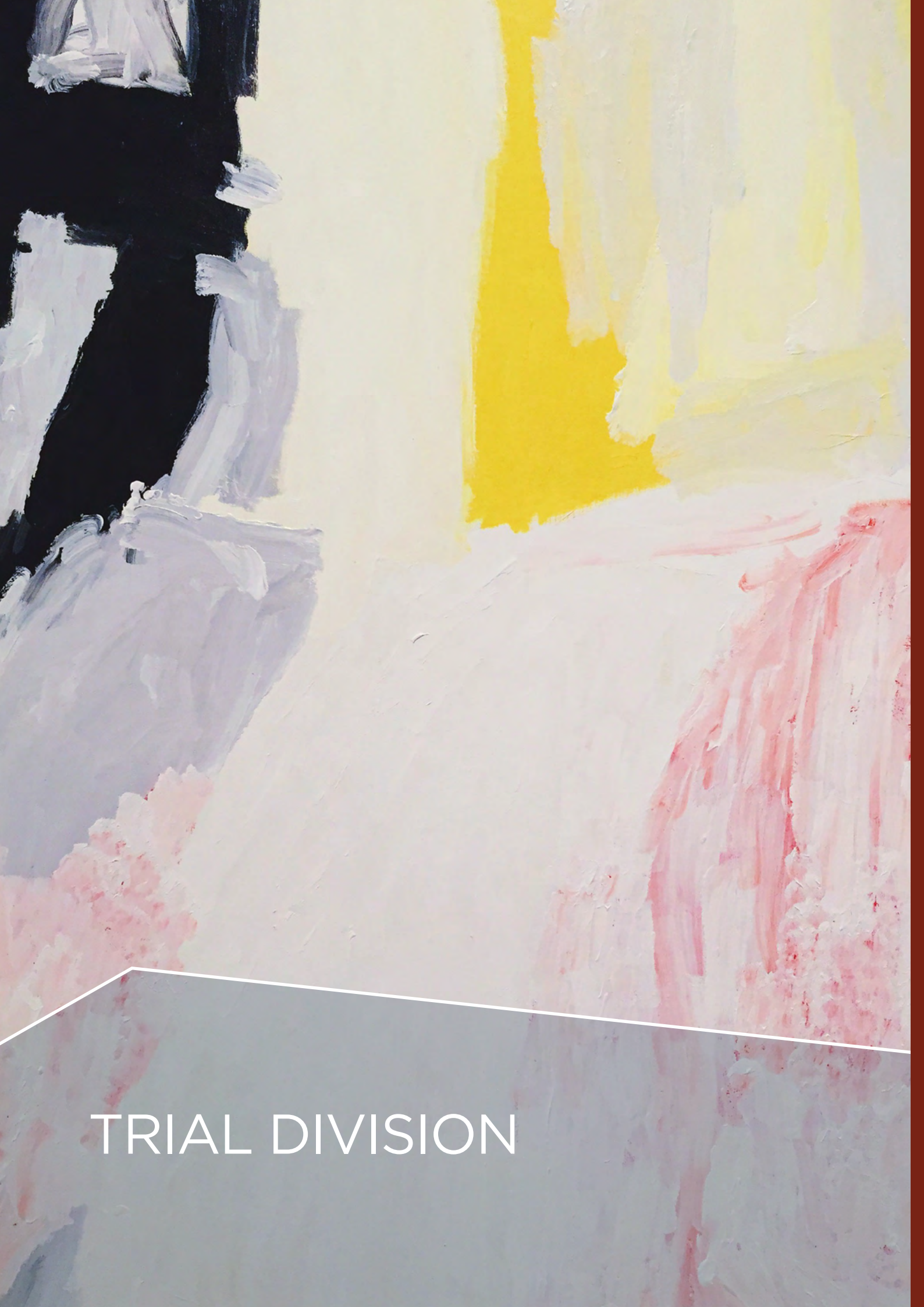
Table 12: Reasons of the Court

Judgment of the Court or all concurring without separate reasons	Three separate concurring reasons	Two joint concurring reasons and one separate reason	Two joint concurring reasons, one dissent	Separate concurring reasons, one dissent	Single judge	Total outcomes for the Court of Appeal
18	323	19	13	8	25	406

Appendix 2

Court of Appeal Pro Bono List for 2018-2019

Simone Bain	Mark Green	Kerri Mellifont QC
Andrew Boe	Simon Hamlyn-Harris	Bruce Mumford
Nathan Boyd	Kylie Hillard	Peter Mylne
Peter Callaghan SC	Andrew Hoare	Peter Nolan
Daniel Caruana	Saul Holt QC	Andrew O'Brien
Anthony W Collins (Townsville)	Jeffrey Hunter QC	Gerard O'Driscoll
Michael Copley QC	Mark Johnson	Tom Polley (Rockhampton)
Janice Crawford	Josh Jones	Benedict Power
Patrick Cullinane (Mackay)	Viviana Keegan	Colin Reid
Robbie Davies	Stephen Keim SC	Peter Richards
Ralph Devlin QC	Tony Kimmins	Tim Ryan
Benjamin Dighton	Simon Lewis	Julie Sharp
Angus Edwards	Donald MacKenzie	Joshua Trevino (Cairns)
Eoin Mac Giolla Ri	Gregory Maguire	Bret Walker SC
Tony Glynn QC	Frank Martin (Toowoomba)	Neville Weston
Justin Greggery QC	Mark McCarthy	Patrick Wilson



TRIAL DIVISION

TRIAL DIVISION

The Work of the Trial Division

The trial division resolves matters commenced by indictment (in criminal cases), claim or originating application (in civil proceedings) by trial, hearing or consensus.

The Senior Judge Administrator is responsible for the administration of the trial division.

Criminal trials are usually heard with a jury. Civil cases are almost always determined by judge alone.

Criminal trials mainly concern murder, manslaughter and more serious drug offences including the importation of border controlled drugs and drug trafficking.

In its civil jurisdiction, the Court deals with a wide range of cases, including contests about commercial matters, building and engineering contracts, civil wrongs, wills and estates, conveyancing, insurance and judicial review of administrative decisions. The Court has a number of class actions currently on foot with the first likely to be listed for trial in early 2020. It is likely that such actions will require a significant allocation of judicial resources in the future.

Trial division judges also sit on the Court of Appeal and the Land Appeal Court. Two judges serve on the Mental Health Court and a number of judges devote extra time to manage the Criminal List, the Dangerous Prisoner Sexual Offenders List, the Commercial List, the Case Flow List, and the Supervised Case List which includes the Self Represented Case List. That additional management has assisted in the expeditious determination of many of those matters. A judge is President of the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and since 2015 an additional judge has been allocated to that Tribunal.

Some judges also act as members of bodies such as the Queensland Law Reform Commission and many are involved with groups that have a responsibility for implementing procedures to improve the administration of justice, including the Rules Committee and the Streamlining Criminal Justice Committee. A number of judges also assist in training newly appointed judges from all around Australia in the National Judicial Orientation Program which is conducted over a week and generally held twice a year. Assistance is also regularly provided by trial division judges to the Bar Practice Course and other professional education programs.

The Structure of the Trial Division

The Court is divided into far northern, northern, central and southern regions, reflecting the decentralised nature of the State and its large area.

Most of the trial division judges are based in Brisbane in the southern region. That region includes Toowoomba, Maryborough and Roma.

The Central Judge resides in Rockhampton, where he presides at civil and criminal sittings. He also conducts sittings in Bundaberg, Longreach, Mackay and assists in Townsville as required.

The Northern Judge resides in Townsville and he circuits to Mackay.

The Far Northern Judge resides in Cairns and he circuits to Mt Isa.

In Townsville, Rockhampton and Cairns, a registrar and support staff assist the judges.

More than 80% of the workload arises in and around, and is dealt with, in, Brisbane.

Information about the organisation and practices of the trial division, including its calendars, law lists, fact sheets, Practice Directions, and reasons for judgment, are published on the Queensland Courts website:

www.courts.qld.gov.au.

Developments

The challenges highlighted in last year's Annual Report remain constant - the increasing length and complexity of civil cases and the consistently high volume of criminal lodgements.

Not only did the number of civil lodgements increase over the year but there has been a noticeable increase in the number of long civil trials. In the last half of the reporting year, one civil case was allocated 16 weeks and will continue for a further 22 weeks in the next reporting year. That has had a significant impact on the allocation of judicial resources as it essentially means that one judge will be committed to one trial for an entire year with very little ability to hear other matters.

These longer civil trials require great judicial oversight and management in the lead up to the trial and a substantial amount of time needs to be allocated for judgment writing after the conclusion of the trial. The consequence of having longer trials is that inevitably the Court's clearance rates will be affected. Whilst the Court's eTrials system is a good platform for the management of trial documents in straightforward cases, the complexity of these trials has led a number of the parties to privately engage external providers to assist them with not only the management of exhibits and documentation but to provide real time transcripts. The Court's eTrial team has provided invaluable assistance in ensuring that these matters have proceeded in a seamless way with the Court's current transcription services. A matter which is impacting on the management of matters in the civil jurisdiction, however, is the ongoing and articulated frustration of the profession which has been caused by the inability to file documents electronically. Whilst eFiling is now common practice in other states and in the Federal jurisdiction the Court's current IT platform cannot support such systems.

The number of self-represented litigants continues to increase, which involves a significant contribution of time by the judge who manages that list. The Court's ability to meet the needs of all litigants, from sophisticated commercial parties in long trials to self-represented litigants is another constant challenge. During the course of the year, a number of the judges have been engaged in ongoing dialogue with the Bar Association and the Queensland Law Society about improving civil case management in the Supreme Court, which has resulted in some real improvements in the day to day management of these cases, particularly with the assistance of the Resolution Registrar. The trial of that role has been strongly endorsed by the profession and will continue and indeed expand over time given its pivotal interface with the profession, litigants, registry officers and the judiciary. Discussions also occurred throughout the year with the profession as to whether there is a need to establish a Wills and Estates List.

As foreshadowed last year, the rate of criminal finalisations could not continue as it resulted in unsustainable workloads for both judges and the Criminal Registry. Whilst the number of trials finalised has decreased, and the number of defendants finalised has similarly decreased, the clearance rate has still remained at more than 100%, which is a significant clearance rate given it involved almost two and a half thousand defendants. As the number of criminal lodgements in Townsville continues to remain high, Brisbane based judges continue to travel to Townsville to assist with the workload, particularly in civil.

The preparation by Justice Bowskill and the Cultural Diversity Committee of a Guideline for Working with Interpreters has greatly assisted court users and trial division judges, particularly in the criminal jurisdiction, in adopting and implementing National Standards for working with interpreters. Other initiatives which have also assisted in the efficient and timely disposal of the work of the trial division have been the standardisation of bail conditions and the simplification of the conditions in supervision orders under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act*.

In recognising the role played by judicial support staff, there has been a particular focus in the last twelve months on the training needs of associates and executive secretaries with an emphasis on resilience training for associates, given the increasing recognition of the impact of vicarious trauma as a result of confronting nature of some of the trials.

The composition of the trial division was altered by the retirement of Justice Roslyn Atkinson AO on 29 November 2018 and the appointments of Justice Elizabeth Wilson and Justice Thomas Bradley on 3 December 2018.

Criminal Jurisdiction

For the purposes of comparison between numbers of defendants and lodgements in the 2017/18 year and the current year, the 2017/18 numbers have been re-counted using the current methodology for RoGS purposes; that is, that separate indictments presented against a single defendant on the same day are treated as separate lodgements.

On the basis of the re-calculated 2017/18 figures, it can be seen that the number of criminal lodgements state-wide decreased very marginally, from 2,424 to 2,418. The number of defendants finalised by trial state-wide decreased from 63 to 45. The average length of a trial decreased from 5.9 days to 5.5 days. The reduction in finalisations by trial and verdict was accompanied by a 9.5% decrease in finalisation by guilty plea from 2,193 to 1,984.

Overall, the number of defendants finalised decreased by 9.6%, from 2,689 to 2,430. Despite the aforementioned, the clearance rate remained in positive territory at 100.5% compared to 110.9% in 2017/18. The number of defendants pending increased from 769 to 773.

Brisbane's clearance rate decreased from 111.2% to 100.2%, with a reduction in active pending defendants of 2.5% from 651 to 635.

The number of active defendants greater than 12 months old has decreased by 33.8% statewide, from 17.3% (133 defendants) to 11.4% (88 defendants). In Brisbane, the decrease was greater being 42.3%, from 18.9% (123 defendants) to 11.2% (71 defendants).

In March 2019, a number of initiatives in the management of the Brisbane Criminal List were introduced. These have substantially reduced the number of pre-trial and pre-sentence court reviews required for the management of each matter and, further, have enabled significantly more matters to be listed administratively (i.e., through the Registry criminal list manager in consultation where necessary with the Criminal List judge). In consequence, there has been a marked decrease in the length of time required for the bi-weekly criminal list reviews and a corresponding lessening of the burden on practitioners to appear in court simply to obtain a listing.

Summary of Activity on Criminal List - By Location

Centre	Number of defendants ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾			Clearance rate ⁽⁴⁾	Backlog Indicator ⁽⁵⁾	
	Lodged	Finalised	Active		% > 12mths	%> 24mths
Main centres						
Brisbane	1,846	1,850	635	100.2%	11.2%	4.6%
Cairns	148	144	24	97.3%	-	-
Rockhampton	105	88	18	83.8%	16.7%	-
Townsville	161	162	40	100.6%	25.0%	10.0%
Main centre Totals	2,260	2,244	717	99.3%	11.7%	4.6%
Regional centres						
Bundaberg	9	13	2	144.4%	-	-
Longreach	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mackay	61	71	19	116.4%	-	-
Maryborough	18	22	9	122.2%	22.2%	-
Mount Isa	8	16	-	200.0%	-	-
Roma	1	1	2	100.0%	-	-
Toowoomba	61	63	24	103.3%	8.3%	-
Regional centre Totals	158	186	56	117.7%	7.1%	0.0%
State Total	2,418	2,430	773	100.5%	11.4%	4.3%

Notes:

(1) Defendant: As defined by the RoGS rule: A 'defendant' is defined as 'one defendant; with one or more charges; and with all charges having the same date of registration'. Defendants with outstanding bench warrants and defendants with secondary charges such as breaches of court orders are excluded. Also excluded are defendants who have been committed to the Supreme Court and are awaiting presentation of indictment.

(2) The unit of measurement of workload is the number of defendants per case. Where a case has multiple defendants each defendant is counted separately. Where the same defendant has two cases lodged on the same day they are counted as two lodgements. Where the same defendant has multiple cases lodged on different days they are counted once for each case.

(3) The above figures are not comparable to previous years due to the change in counting rule as outlined in (2). In previous years a defendant who had two cases lodged on the same day was counted once whereas it is now counted twice.

(4) Clearance Rate: Finalisations/Lodgements.

(5) Backlog Indicator: the number active defendants with proceedings older than the specified time.

Mental Health Court

Two trial division judges devote six weeks a year each to the Mental Health Court, which deals with issues of criminal responsibility and fitness for trial. That Court has a considerable workload, which means that the judges allocated to that Court have a very heavy caseload for the duration of their appointment, usually for a term of three years to six years.

Civil Jurisdiction

Lodgements increased this year by 6.3% (174 cases) from 2,782 in 2017/2018 to 2,956. Finalisations increased by 4.2% (116 cases) from 2,779 in 2017/2018 to 2,895.

The clearance rate decreased by 2.0% from 99.9% in 2017/2018 to 97.9%.

There was an increase of 2.3% (57 cases) in active pending matters (2,575 as at 30 June 2019 up from 2,518 last year). The number of pending cases older than 12 months and less than 24 months decreased from 511 as at 30 June 2018 to 457, representing 17.7% of the active pending caseload.

Cases more than 24 months old increased by 52 in 2018/19 and stood at 234 cases at 30 June 2019.

Summary of Activity on Civil List - By Location

Centre	RoGS civil files ^{(1) (2)}			Clearance rate ⁽³⁾	Backlog Indicator ⁽⁴⁾	
	Lodged	Finalised	Active		% > 12mths	%> 24mths
Main centres						
Brisbane	2,560	2,495	2,258	97.5%	27.7%	9.7%
Cairns	103	126	58	122.3%	22.4%	3.4%
Rockhampton	149	133	147	89.3%	19.7%	2.7%
Townsville	57	61	42	107.0%	23.8%	9.5%
Main centre Totals	2,869	2,815	2,505	98.1%	27.1%	9.1%
Regional centres						
Bundaberg	5	4	5	80.0%	40.0%	20.0%
Longreach	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mackay	69	68	56	98.6%	17.9%	7.1%
Maryborough	1	2	-	200.0%	-	-
Mount Isa	-	1	-	-	-	-
Roma	-	-	-	-	-	-
Toowoomba	12	5	9	41.7%	11.1%	0.0%
Regional centre Totals	87	80	70	92.0%	18.6%	7.1%
State Total	2,956	2,895	2,575	97.9%	26.8%	9.1%

Notes:

(1) The RoGS unit of measurement for the civil jurisdiction is a case. Secondary processes such as interlocutory applications are excluded.

(2) The trial division also deals with matters which, for reporting purposes, have been grouped as non-RoGS civil, non-RoGS criminal and probate. RoGS files include claims in the majority of originating applications. Non-RoGS civil includes such proceedings as admission as a legal practitioner and appointment as a case appraiser.

(3) Clearance Rate: Finalisations/Lodgements.

(4) Backlog Indicator: the number active defendants with proceedings older than the specified time.

Civil Jurisdiction - Brisbane

Case Flow Management

During the year under review, the Case Flow List was managed by Justice Bowskill. Much of the work of the Case Flow List is able to be done “on the papers”, thereby minimising the costs associated with personal appearances before the court. Efficiency in this process requires the co-operation of the parties’ representatives and extensive input by the Case Flow Manager and the managing judge’s associate, and considerable oversight and supervision by the managing judge. There remains, however, a significant need for pro-active or interventionist judicial management, which is accommodated by ten Case Flow Review days during the year. The case flow process aims to ensure that matters on the list do not stagnate, that they progress towards a resolution (either by mediation or trial) and that costs are minimised wherever possible. It is proposed to review the Case Flow List, and procedures, in the coming year, to ensure it remains an efficient and effective case management tool within the court.

Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act Applications

Applications under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003* (Qld) for continuing detention or supervision orders, annual review of a continuing detention order or hearings with respect to the contravention of supervision orders, are case managed. Justice Burns was responsible for the management of the list until 21 January 2019, when Justice Davis assumed responsibility for managing the list.

All such applications and hearings are reviewed in advance of their listed hearing dates at the weekly reviews held on Friday at 09:15. Where necessary, directions are made, and/or further review dates listed to ensure the matters are ready to proceed for the listed hearing date. Often where there are delays in receipt of relevant reports, or other factors which may affect the readiness of the matter for hearing, the supervising judge will hear a further review of the matter outside of the regular review time.

The supervising judge works closely with the registry staff to manage the listings as efficiently as possible. The hearings are allocated to one of the judges sitting in the applications jurisdiction, with up to two hearings listed each week on Monday, and one listed on Tuesday. There has occasionally been cause to list two hearings on a Tuesday where exceptional circumstances necessitate it.

Commercial List

The Commercial List provides for the management and prompt hearing of proceedings involving issues of a commercial character. The current Commercial List judges are Justice Jackson and Justice Bond.

A case is placed on the list if a Commercial List judge considers that it is appropriate for inclusion, having regard to its nature, the issues in dispute and whether there are circumstances of urgency.

A party wishing to have a case placed on the list files an application and supporting material by email, which includes a Commercial List Statement setting out the relevant matters. The two Commercial List judges alternate on a monthly basis to hear these listing applications. A case listed by one of the judges is managed by that judge, who makes directions and generally hears any contested interlocutory applications as well as the trial. Trial dates will be allocated by the judge at a point when it is clear that remaining interlocutory steps will be completed by those dates.

The Commercial List judges endeavour to provide early hearing dates for interlocutory disputes and trials. Priority is accorded to Commercial List cases in the calendars for those judges.

Practitioners are encouraged to propose directions for the conduct of their cases which recognise the particular importance of expedition in the resolution of commercial disputes. Alternative dispute resolution in this list will be facilitated by the court, but on the footing that it should not significantly delay the progress of the case towards a final hearing and determination.

The court documents for a case entered on the Commercial List are filed electronically and are uploaded and accessible through the court's electronic file web page at <http://apps.courts.qld.gov.au/esearching/>

As at 30 June 2019, there were 58 cases on the list. During the prior year, 39 cases were added to the list. In total 31 cases on the list were finally resolved, of which 13 were finally resolved by judgment or after trial. There were 161 other hearings, being 59 interlocutory hearings (including listing applications and other interlocutory applications) and 102 reviews.

Supervised Case List and SRL Supervised Case List

Supervised Case Lists provide judicial management of civil cases where the hearing is estimated to take more than five days or where supervision is needed because of the complexity of the matter, the number of parties or for some other reason. The list also supervises cases in accordance with *Practice Direction 10 of 2014* where one or more of the parties is a self-represented litigant.

Justice Mullins has continued to manage the Supervised Case List for self-represented parties. Justice Applegarth and Justice Brown are the other Supervised Case List judges. The aim of supervision is to narrow

the issues in dispute and to effect a just and timely resolution of them as efficiently as possible – saving time and reducing costs for the parties and the court.

General Supervised Case List

Cases are placed on the Supervised Case List at the request of one or more of the parties. They are also placed on this list at the court's initiative, such as where a judge conducting an interlocutory hearing sees the need for ongoing judicial management of the case. Cases are also regularly referred to this list after a case flow review. Many cases on this list fall within the general "commercial law" category. Cases on the list cover a wide range of civil matters, including complex building and engineering claims, public liability and other insurance litigation, personal injury claims and defamation claims.

The judges conducting reviews typically seek to ensure that all issues in the case are identified by the pleadings; to ensure that substantial efforts are made to resolve the case, or, so far as possible, narrow the issues to be decided; to improve the efficiency and utility of expert evidence at trial; and to see that matters on this list are only given trial dates when there is a high likelihood that the trial will be able to start on the allocated date, and be completed within the estimated time. Trial plans are an important part of this process. The Supervised Case List judges also seek to ensure that parties adopt an efficient and proportionate approach to the management of documents at all stages of litigation.

A Supervised Case List manager, who manages and assists with other lists, administers the Supervised Case Lists. However, parties communicate directly with the associates to the Supervised Case List judges, and the associates, under the supervision of their judges, have a significant workload in attending to those communications, settling orders, reviewing compliance with orders and arranging reviews. Given their many other judicial duties, the judges who conduct the Supervised Case Lists have limited time to closely case manage cases on the list.

The Resolution Registrar continues to assist the judges to improve case management and the timely resolution of matters requiring supervision. The Resolution Registrar can conduct case conferences to narrow and better identify issues, expeditiously and informally resolve disputes over documents and trial preparation, and improve the efficiency of civil litigation. After a review the Supervised Case List judges can seek the support of the Resolution Registrar to progress the management of a case, or the Resolution Registrar can refer a matter for supervision by a Supervised Case List judge.

The separate conduct of a Self-Represented Litigant List has removed a significant workload from the other two Supervised Case List judges. The total number of cases being supervised on all supervised lists remains steady.

The Self-Represented Litigant Supervised Case List

Matters are added to the list when identified by Registry staff as involving a self-represented party, by the direction of a judge sitting in the applications jurisdiction who has heard a matter involving a self-represented litigant and identifies the matter as one which would benefit from management, or as a result of the represented party notifying the List manager that another party is self-represented. A matter will be removed from the list when the self-represented party obtains legal representation.

The List manager provides each self-represented party with the kit for self-represented parties that is described in paragraph 4 of *Practice Direction 10 of 2014*. In addition, LawRight has facilitated contact with self-represented parties by sending a representative to attend review hearings. Not all matters involving self-represented parties fall within the types of matters for which LawRight can provide assistance. The attendance of the representative at the review hearing for those matters where it is likely that LawRight might offer some assistance has been efficient in achieving early referral to LawRight.

Management of cases involving self-represented parties can assist in streamlining the timing and the ambit of interlocutory applications and focussing the parties on the issues that will determine the outcome of the litigation. The practices that apply generally to cases on the Supervised Case List are also used for the Self-Represented Litigants Supervised Case List.

The Future of Case Management

The Court, with the support of the profession, developed and introduced in 2018 a practice direction to improve the just and expeditious resolution of the real issues in dispute at a minimum of expense.¹² More recently, in consultation with the profession, the Court has established Registry practices that will encourage compliance with that practice direction.

The current Supervised Case List judges and the Court in general are reviewing the supervision of all forms of civil proceeding, including matters which presently might be placed upon the Supervised Case List.

An alternative to having complex, long matters supervised on the Supervised Case List (where the supervising judge is unlikely to be the trial judge) is for appropriate matters to be allocated at an earlier stage to a single judge to case manage and (usually) try. There is likely to remain, however, a role for a list to case manage complex matters or matters which otherwise require supervision.

Streamlining Criminal Justice Committee

At the Court's initiative the Streamlining Criminal Justice Committee (SCJC) was established in April 2016 and chaired by Justice Douglas. Justice Boddice replaced Justice Douglas in June 2019 because of the latter's pending retirement. During 2018/2019 the SCJC continued to focus on work to streamline the delivery of criminal justice in Queensland courts. Its members come from the great majority of bodies concerned with the administration of criminal justice in Queensland; all levels of the State courts, including judges, magistrates and registry staff, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) and other State government departments, the Director of Public Prosecutions (Qld), the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, the Queensland Police Service, the Australian Federal Police, Legal Aid Queensland, Queensland Corrective Services, the Queensland Law Society and the Bar Association of Queensland.

The SCJC received funding from DJAG to complete a system-mapping and problem identification exercise. This work was facilitated by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). The final PwC report was presented to members of the SCJC and other stakeholders on 18 May 2017. The PwC report identified six problem areas where process and operational improvements could be pursued to streamline the system; namely, disposition options, early engagement and continuity of representation, early engagement among police, defence and prosecution, effective management of cases, whole of system analytics, performance and outcomes and bail application and adherence.

During 2018/2019 the SCJC's working groups, having identified numerous possible steps that can be taken to address improvements in those areas and having reported on them to the Attorney-General, continued to propose and supervise pilot programs to help determine what efficiencies may be achieved, for example, by earlier engagement between prosecution and defence lawyers and clearer identification of prisoners on remand who may be entitled to bail. Bail conditions were also simplified significantly.

Major legislative change suggested to the *Justices Act 1886* and other legislation and other recommendations requiring funding of the transition from paper files to electronic files and verdict and judgment records and the better use of information technology in the administration of the system remain with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General for consideration. Similarly the need for increased resourcing of QPS and John Tonge so that drug analysis certificates, forensic reports, transcripts of interviews and CEM reports can be obtained in a timely manner remains to be considered. The committee's work continues, particularly in assessing the results of the pilot programs.

¹² PD 18 of 2018 is available at: <https://www.courts.qld.gov.au/courts/supreme-court/practice-directions?root=85534>

Regions

Southern Region

Justice Peter Applegarth assumed management of the Southern Region circuits in June 2015.

Central Region

The Central Judge is based in Rockhampton and is responsible for the work of the Court in Rockhampton, Gladstone and Longreach. He shares the work of the Mackay region with the Northern Judge.

As in previous years, there has been no need to allocate any sitting time to Longreach. Eight weeks were allocated to sittings in Rockhampton for civil work, and twelve weeks for criminal work. Five weeks were allocated to sittings in Mackay. The Central Judge also sat in Townsville for one week and in the Court of Appeal in Brisbane for three weeks.

The trend of increasing criminal lodgements in Rockhampton has continued. For the period 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019 there were lodgements in relation to 105 defendants, compared to 75 defendants in 2017/18. These lodgements principally relate to offences against the *Drugs Misuse Act*.

Similarly with civil lodgements, the number of lodgements has increased by 26.3% from 118 cases in 2017/18 to 149 cases in 2018/19. While official clearance rates in Rockhampton are below 90.0%, this does not reflect on the availability of the court to litigants. As has been the practice for many years, parties are offered trial dates as soon as they indicate their readiness.

The trend of increasing need for sitting time in Mackay continues. The bulk of the criminal work in Mackay relates to offences against the *Drugs Misuse Act*. As well, there have been several substantial civil trials.

Application days were held in Rockhampton on an approximately six-weekly basis. On these days, ceremonies were conducted, if needed, for those seeking admission to the profession who have a connection to Central Queensland. There were 12 practitioners admitted in 2018/2019. Most continue to practise in the region.

In late 2018, significant renovation works of the Virgil Power Building began. The building work has been undertaken primarily at night time so as to minimise the effect on the Court sitting hours. The building work is scheduled for completion on 31 October 2019.

Northern Region

The Northern Judge is responsible for the work of the Court within the Northern District of the Court and is based in Townsville. In the year covered by this report he shared the work in the circuit centre of Mackay with Justice Crow, the Central Judge.

The singular event affecting the disposition of the work of the Court in Townsville during the year of this report was the natural disaster of the February floods which occasioned the closure of the registry and the courthouse. On the afternoon of 31 January 2019 the Northern Judge was presiding at a criminal trial that was scheduled to take up to 10 sitting days. A number of jurors reported, through the bailiff, to the Court that they anticipated having difficulty returning to their homes that evening because of flooding. The Registrar promptly took steps to make arrangements for any disrupted juror to be accommodated at a motel in the city and to be provided with a meal allowance. The weather conditions deteriorated so that by Friday 1 February 2019 it was impossible for many of the jurors to travel from their homes to the courthouse. Further to this, the Registrar reported that a significant number of registry staff were either cut off or having difficulty in travelling to the courthouse. Accordingly the trial did not resume on the Friday. The subsequent flooding and natural disaster necessitated a disaster declaration in Townsville and on Monday 4 February 2019 the Chief Justice ordered that the registry be closed. It did not reopen until the morning of 11 February 2019.

The flooding event resulted in the abandonment of the trial and the discharge of the jury. Therefore that

lengthy trial had to be rescheduled which in turn had the result of forcing the later rescheduling of a number of other trials in 2019. Thus this event had a significant effect on the Court and the disposition of work in Townsville in the first half of 2019.

Notwithstanding this, the combined efforts of the Registrar and her officers with the co-operation by the profession made it possible to bring forward some matters and prepare them for hearing earlier than anticipated resulting in pleasing clearance rates by the end of the year. In crime a clearance rate of 100.6% was achieved and in civil a clearance rate of 107.0% was achieved.

In addition to sitting duties in Townsville the Northern Judge presided at circuit sittings at Mackay (as did the Central Judge). Mackay remains a busy circuit but notwithstanding the clearance rate in both crime and civil is pleasing.

Justice North continued the Court's involvement with the profession in its professional development during the year. In May he attended and participated in the North Queensland Law Association's annual conference held in Townsville. Additionally his Honour attended a number of professional CPD Seminars co-ordinated by the Townsville District Law Association and the North Queensland Bar Association.

Admission ceremonies were conducted throughout the year in Townsville. In all 32 new lawyers were admitted (26 of whom were women). Many of the admittees have made arrangements to further their careers in Northern or regional Queensland.

Far Northern Region

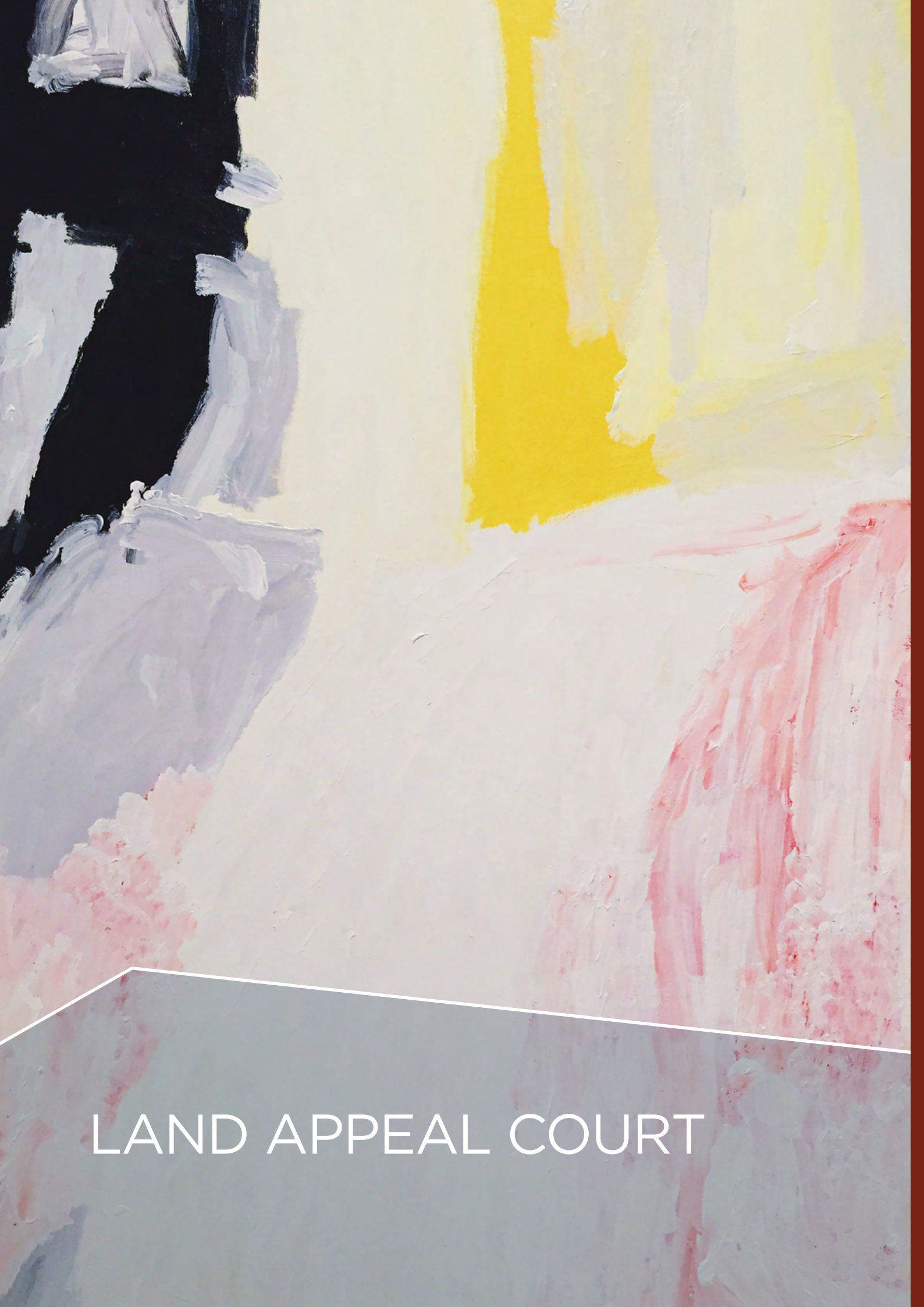
The Far Northern Judge, Justice Henry, sat at Cairns for 10 weeks in the civil jurisdiction and 14 weeks in the criminal jurisdiction. He sat at Cairns with the Court of Appeal in its one week northern circuit. His Honour circuted to Brisbane for four weeks in the Court of Appeal. He circuted to Mackay for two and a half weeks and Mount Isa for six days. He had five judgment writing weeks and six weeks long leave. In his absence the Chief Justice circuted to Cairns for one week in the criminal jurisdiction and Justice Applegarth circuted to Cairns for two weeks in the civil jurisdiction and one week in the criminal jurisdiction.

In Cairns, applications mornings are typically conducted every Wednesday and Friday, and applications days conducted fortnightly, with a view to ensuring applications are disposed of promptly.

In the 2018/19 year, the number of matters lodged in the criminal jurisdiction increased to 148, compared to 120 in the previous year, an increase of 23.3%. In the civil jurisdiction, lodgements increased by 18.4% to 103 compared to 87 the previous year. These increases represent a return to the levels of 2016/17 after decreases in 2017/18.

In conjunction with the Bar Association of Queensland and Queensland Law Society, the court coordinated the Cairns Judiciary 2018/19 CPD Series – a series of professional development sessions delivered by Cairns resident Supreme and District Court Judges and local practitioners. Justice Henry delivered seminars for the Queensland Regional Magistrates Conference, the QLS Modern Advocate Series, and the North Queensland Law Association, which held its annual conference in Townsville.

During the year 22 new practitioners were admitted: 13 women and 9 men. Many took up positions in the far north having completed law degrees at the Cairns campus of James Cook University. Links with the University were maintained by the court's support of the James Cook University law student mooting competition and its teaching support for the university's law subject, *"Advocacy and Criminal Sentencing"*.



LAND APPEAL COURT

LAND APPEAL COURT

The Land Appeal Court hears appeals from the Land Court and is constituted by a Judge of the Supreme Court and two Members of the Land Court, other than the Member whose decision is under appeal. The Land Appeal Court has limited original jurisdiction under the *Biological Control Act 1987* and the *Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act 1988*.

The Land Appeal Court may sit at Brisbane, Rockhampton, Townsville and Cairns. From time to time, the Chief Justice nominates a Supreme Court judge to act as a Member of the Land Appeal Court for the Southern Region. Justice Dalton was the judge for the 2018/2019 financial year until 31 December 2018 and Justice Mullins has been the judge nominated for the Southern Region since 1 January 2019. Justice Crow is the Land Appeal Court judge for the Central Region. Justice North is the Land Appeal Court judge for the Northern Region. Justice Henry is the judge of the Land Appeal Court for the Far Northern Region.

A party to a proceeding in the Land Appeal Court may appeal a decision of that Court to the Court of Appeal on the ground of error or mistake in law or jurisdiction. A further appeal could lie to the High Court of Australia, but only with special leave.

Appeals to the Land Appeal Court are by way of rehearing, usually on the record of the Court below. The Land Appeal Court has power to admit new evidence, but only if the Court is satisfied that such evidence is necessary to avoid grave injustice and that adequate reason can be shown why the evidence was not previously given. By convention, the Supreme Court judge presides, but all Members of the Land Appeal Court sit as equals and the decision of the majority is the decision of the Land Appeal Court.

There were nine appeals lodged in the Land Appeal Court in 2018/19, compared with seven appeals filed in 2017/18. The appeals and their current status are listed as follows:

Nature of Appeals	District Lodged	File number and name	Final/Awaiting Outcome/Notes
Land Valuation	South East - Brisbane	LAC002-18 - <i>Valuer-General v Eastcote Pty Ltd</i> Filed on 12/7/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judgment delivered on 19 July 2019 Costs submissions due 2 August 2019 Lower Court appeal remitted
Local Government Regulation - Categorisation	South East - Ipswich	LAC003-18 - <i>Ipswich City Council v BWP Management and W&V Nominees</i> Filed on 25/7/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judgment delivered on 21 June 2019 Costs Judgment delivered on 16 July 2019 COA application filed on 2/8/2019
Conduct and Compensation - Appeal against order for monies payable	Central - Emerald	LAC004-18 - <i>Lewthewaite Corporation Pty Ltd v Starr and Anor</i> Filed on 28/8/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dismissed by consent. Final order made on 6 December 2018
Land Valuation	South East - Logan	LAC005-18 - <i>BWP Management v Valuer-General</i> Filed on 9/11/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awaiting final judgment as of 31 May 2019

Mining jurisdiction	Central	LAC006-18 - <i>Cherwell Creek Coal v BHP & Ors</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awaiting final judgment as of 15 May 2019 (Reserved in Brisbane)
		LAC007-18 - <i>Cherwell Creek Coal v BHP & Ors</i>	
		LAC001-19 - <i>Cherwell Creek Coal v BHP & Ors</i>	
		LAC002-19 - <i>BHP & Ors v Cherwell Creek Coal</i>	
Local Government Regulation - Categorisation	South East - Western Downs	LAC003-19 - <i>Western Downs Regional Council v Geldard</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently waiting for material to be filed Hearing to occur in first LAC sittings week of 2020

There were a total of seven judgments delivered on LAC matters this financial year. Four of them were final judgments and 3 were costs judgments.

There were two appeals filed in the Court of Appeal in this financial year. Both of these appeals have now been finalised.

There was one Judicial Review application made in the Supreme Court (Springsure Creek). The matter was heard and finalised within the financial year.

There were no applications for special leave filed in the High Court during the reporting period.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OVERVIEW

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OVERVIEW

Office of the Executive Director

Supreme District and Land Courts Service

The Office of the Executive Director, Supreme District and Land Courts Service is responsible for the management and coordination of registry administration, as well as the provision of judicial support services for the Supreme Court of Queensland.

Ms Julie Steel is the Executive Director and is supported by executive, administrative and registry staff throughout Queensland.

In addition to the Executive Director role, Ms Steel is the Vice President of Protect All Children Today, having been a Board member since 2014, and is an ex-officio member of the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting, and of the Legal Practitioners Admissions Board. Ms Steel is also a member of the Public Records Review Committee at Queensland State Archives, and of the Supreme Court Library Committee, and regularly attends meetings of the Rules Committee.

Registry Services

Court registries are responsible for:

- receiving and sealing documents for filing and service;
- providing information about court processes and the progress of particular matters;
- maintaining court records and ensuring that documents such as Verdict and Judgment Records are created and distributed to give effect to orders of the court;
- organising resources to enable matters to progress through the system and hearings to proceed; and
- performing all necessary administrative work associated with the criminal and civil jurisdictions of the court.

There are permanent Supreme Court registries at Brisbane, Cairns, Rockhampton and Townsville, and a further 11 centres throughout the state are visited on circuit. Local Magistrates Court registry staff perform the registry role in those centres.

The Supreme Court undertook a two week circuit to Southport during August 2018. The registry of that centre deserve thanks for their efforts in ensuring the efficient running of that circuit.

Registrars within the permanent registries have the responsibility of determining certain applications without the necessity for judicial involvement, including probates, letters of administration, winding up orders, default judgments and warrants to enforce the court's civil orders.

Registry Workloads

During the year, there was a change to the RoGS counting rules for criminal lodgements.¹³ As a result, criminal performance data for 2018/19 is not directly comparable to previous years.

Across the state, there were 2,418 criminal lodgements during 2018/19. In Brisbane, 1,846 lodgements were received.

¹³ Further information about the change is available on page 1 of this report.

There were decreases in criminal trials proceeding before the Supreme Court during 2018/19, from 62 to 58, and average days per trial, from 5.9 days to 5.5 days.

Registries of the Supreme and District Courts are expected to undergo a period of significant transformation in the coming years as a result of future technological and legislative reform. Accordingly, temporary roles of Director, Strategy and Support, and Senior Project Officer have been created in the directorate to oversee and manage strategies that will ensure a more responsive and adaptable registry to benefit all courts' users.

The role of Resolution Registrar previously referred to has been extended until 31 December 2019 and the success of the role since its inception means a submission will be made well before that date for the role to be made permanent.

Court Network Volunteers

Court Network's volunteers again provided a range of support services to court users through its Court Network outreach and support services in Cairns, Townsville and Brisbane, and the Victim Support Unit in Brisbane, Ipswich, Sunshine Coast and Gympie. The volunteers provide court users with non-legal information, practical and emotional support, and advocacy and referrals to enable them to access justice.

During 2018/19, volunteers assisted 8,846 court users through the Brisbane Information Kiosk, 4,189 court users through the Brisbane Supreme and District Court Networker service, 218 in Cairns and a further 409 in Townsville. Since the program commenced, in excess of 77,000 court users in Queensland have been assisted.

The Victim Support Unit provides coordinated cross-jurisdictional support for adult victims in the criminal justice system. During the year, more than 920 VSU clients were assisted with approximately 3,500 hours of service provided. Since commencing in September 2013, more than 2,400 clients have been assisted.

Court Network also coordinates a Justice of the Peace (JP) service in the Brisbane Supreme and District Courts. During 2018/19, the service provided 751 volunteer hours and assisted 967 clients with 3,070 documents.

Acknowledgements

The ongoing enthusiasm, commitment and professionalism of registry staff in discharging their duties are without doubt, some of the most significant assets of the Court. Workloads are managed efficiently and the many challenges and changes that arise are embraced.

The continuing support and assistance of legal practitioners and judges, particularly in the face of the difficulties which sometimes arise in providing registry services, is greatly appreciated. Their willingness to engage with the registry to improve services is equally appreciated.

An abstract painting with thick, expressive brushstrokes. The composition features a dark, vertical, black and grey form on the left side. The upper right quadrant is dominated by bright, saturated yellow and light cream tones. The lower right and bottom center are filled with soft, blended washes of pink, red, and light grey. The overall texture is visible and tactile, suggesting oil or acrylic paint.

SUPREME COURT OF
QUEENSLAND LIBRARY

SUPREME COURT OF QUEENSLAND LIBRARY

The Supreme Court Library Queensland (SCLQ) was established under statute to serve the administration of justice in Queensland through provision of legal information services to the Queensland judiciary, legal profession and public. As the primary legal information provider for the state's judiciary and legal profession, the library provides a comprehensive suite of services including reference, research and document delivery, training and support, and publication of the official unreported decisions of Queensland courts and tribunals, together with a variety of current awareness services offering access to the latest developments in Queensland law. All of these services are freely available to Queensland's judges and their associates across the state.

The library maintained print collections in eight provincial courthouses in addition to the main library collection in Brisbane at the QEII Courts of Law. It also continued to service the judges' library collection on level 15 of the QEII building, and chambers collections by undertaking regular maintenance of print subscription services and processing new acquisitions. In 2018/19 our combined print collection comprised over 160,000 items, with the library purchasing 225 new monographs during the year, and maintaining over 300 print subscriptions.

For members of the judiciary their statewide desktop access to an expanding collection of over 1000 online resources available via the library's Judicial Virtual Library (JVL) is their most comprehensive, current and reliable source of legal information. In 2018/19 the library catalogue enabled access to more than 65,000 online full text titles, with 779 new records added to the catalogue during the year. During 2015-16 the library negotiated expanded access rights for many library members to a selection of the most popular online publications as part of its Virtual Legal Library (VLL) offering to the legal profession, and during 2018/19 an additional 181 Queensland legal practitioners registered for and began using this ground breaking service.

As the publishing arm of the Queensland courts, the library has maintained its commitment to timely publication of the official version of full text judgments from Queensland courts and tribunals. Most decisions are published online within an hour of being handed down, making the SCLQ website the primary and most current and authoritative access point for Queensland case law. In 2018/19 the library published over 1900 new decisions from Queensland courts and tribunals (excluding new collections). Some 317 of them were from the Supreme Court Trial Division, 13 from the Mental Health Court, 10 from the Industrial Court, and 332 from the Court of Appeal. In addition 17 Supreme Court pre-trial rulings were published in various places. The library also expanded the publicly available case law with the addition of historical decisions of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission and judgments of the Industrial Court of Queensland for the period 2006 to 2009, and all content that was previously only available via the library's paid subscription service QLI Online. By the end of June 2018 the total number of full text Queensland decisions available from the library website was over 45,500. The number of public sentencing remarks the library made available on its website also increased substantially, and during 2018/19, 253 Supreme Court sentencing remarks transcripts were published.

The library is also responsible for provision and maintenance of the Queensland Sentencing Information Service (QSIG), with use of the service continuing to steadily increase. During 2018/19 there were over 46,500 visits to the QSIG database, 16% more than the previous year (and an average of 154 unique visits a day), resulting in over 830,000 page views. In the course of the year subscriptions to QSIG by sole practitioners, law firms and small public sector agencies or business units increased by 17%, from 691 to 806 (in addition to the 'corporate' subscriptions of major criminal justice sector agencies such as DPP, LAQ and QPS which provide access to many individuals employed by them). QSIG is relied upon by the prosecution, defence and judiciary to promote consistency and fairness in sentencing criminal offenders and is available to all judges.

Our library's websites are the primary means of accessing our information resources and services for the majority of our customers. In 2018/19 more than 7.5 million page views were recorded from the SCLQ public website, JVL, VLL and library catalogue combined. Specialist legal research tools developed by the library, including the Uniform Civil Procedure Rules Bulletin, comprise part of the wide range of legal content

available to the judiciary via the library's websites. In all, CaseLaw services (including the official unreported judgments collection) recorded more than 5.1 million page views over the year.

The library provides a range of current awareness services to judges, including the *Judicial Daily Update* service, a daily news and current awareness newsletter tailored specifically for the Queensland judiciary. It also publishes and distributes the *Queensland Legal Updater* (QLU), a weekly email bulletin designed to update legal professionals on changes to legislation and developments in case law relevant to legal practice in Queensland. Together, the judicial current awareness services and QLU recorded over 121,000 views during the year.

Throughout the year the library's Information Services team continued to assist the judiciary and legal profession with navigating and effectively using the legal research tools within the library's print and online collections. The team responded to a total of almost 8500 information enquiries (nearly 7% higher than the previous year), comprising 4780 reference, 1769 research and 1947 basic requests. A total of over 20,000 documents were supplied in response to these queries (almost double the previous year's total). During 2018/19 the library maintained weekly afternoon clinics on level 15 of the QEII Courts of Law building to assist judges and their associates with their legal information needs. In that same year the library became the official member library of the Bar Association of Queensland and saw a significant increase in the level of service provision to the private bar after welcoming that new member group.

The library's legal heritage and education programs are designed to foster broad appreciation of Queensland's legal heritage and to promote an understanding of the Queensland justice system and its role in society. Highlights during 2018/19 included:

- Almost 7000 visitors (a 5% increase on 2017/18) participated in the popular education program, including over 2000 participants in judges' or magistrates' information sessions and over 5000 students witnessing the law in action by observing court proceedings.
- A new exhibition, *Overturing terra nullius: the story of native title*, opened to the public on 1 April 2019 in the Sir Harry Gibbs Legal Heritage Centre. That exhibition charts the important events and milestones in the history of recognising land rights in Australia and explores the process of law reform that made this possible, focusing on the period of the landmark court judgments of *Mabo v Queensland (No. 2)* [1992] HCA 23 and *Wik Peoples v Queensland* [1996] HCA 40 and the enactment of the *Native Title Act* 1993 (Cth) and its amendment in 1998.
- Another exhibition, *Next Witness*, was installed in the library space on level 12 of the QEII courts building and opened on 2 May 2019. Based on artist Julie Fragar's experience as an observer from the public gallery of a criminal trial, the exhibition comprises five large and three smaller works that cut across time, space and perspectives, to consider—all at once—a crime's circumstances, the courtroom as a very specific social space, and the inextricable role of the public as witness.
- The 2019 Supreme Court Oration was presented by Her Excellency Margaret Beazley AO QC Governor of New South Wales, and two lectures in the Selden Society series were presented by Queensland judges, The Hon Justice Patrick Keane AC of the High Court and The Hon John Dowsett AM, President of the National Native Title Tribunal.
- The *Queensland Legal Yearbook 2017* reviewed the year's legal events and statistics, and contained speeches by members of the judiciary in 2017.

Looking ahead to 2019/20, there will be a continued focus by the library on providing a high level of support to Queensland's busy judges. We will continue to support adoption by judges of the 'go anywhere' electronic versions of popular legal loose-leaf publications designed to be downloaded to tablets and other mobile devices, as well as providing training and support in identifying, locating and making more effective and efficient use of the range of print, electronic and online resources available to the judiciary via the JVL. The former will be greatly assisted by provision of new iPad tablet devices to all judges during the latter part of 2019. We look forward to increased use of the Virtual Legal Library service by eligible Queensland legal practitioners, and to redeveloped SCLQ CaseLaw services and websites. Together these initiatives will contribute to improved legal information services for the Queensland judiciary, legal profession and public.

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SUPREME COURT JUDGES' ASSOCIATES 2019

SUPREME COURT JUDGES' ASSOCIATES 2019

	Judge	Associate
Chief Justice	The Honourable Justice Catherine Holmes	Michelle Gunawan
	Court of Appeal	
President	The Honourable Justice Walter Sofronoff	Elizaveta Belonogoff
	The Honourable Justice Fraser	Bradley McNamara
	The Honourable Justice Gotterson AO	Katherine Cincotta
	The Honourable Justice Morrison	Douglas Finch
	The Honourable Justice Philippides	Benjamin Teng
	The Honourable Justice Philip McMurdo	Benjamin Gibbons
	Trial Division	
Senior Judge Administrator	The Honourable Justice Lyons	Julia Braddick
	The Honourable Justice Mullins AO	Eliza Sullivan
	The Honourable Justice Douglas	Sophie Dilda
	The Honourable Justice Daubney AM	Ashley Chandler
	The Honourable Justice Martin AM	Angus Fraser
	The Honourable Justice Applegarth	Hilary Baker
	The Honourable Justice Boddice	Georgia Athanasellis
	The Honourable Justice Dalton	Suzanne Howard
	The Honourable Justice Jackson	Nicholas Traves
	The Honourable Justice Flanagan	Dominic Fawcett
	The Honourable Justice Carmody	
	The Honourable Justice Burns	Alexandra Martin (to 19 July 2019)
		Christina Venslavovitch (from 24 July 2019)
	The Honourable Justice Bond	Hannah Williams
	The Honourable Justice Brown	Sophie Philip
	The Honourable Justice Bowskill	Madeleine Depace
	The Honourable Justice Davis	Ella Rooney
	The Honourable Justice Ryan	Tori Pearson
	The Honourable Justice Wilson	Gemma Phillips
	The Honourable Justice Bradley	Georgina Papworth
	Regional	
Central Judge	The Honourable Justice Crow	Andrew Simpson
Northern Judge	The Honourable Justice North	Madeleine Hodge
Far Northern Judge	The Honourable Justice Henry	Amelia Bell

