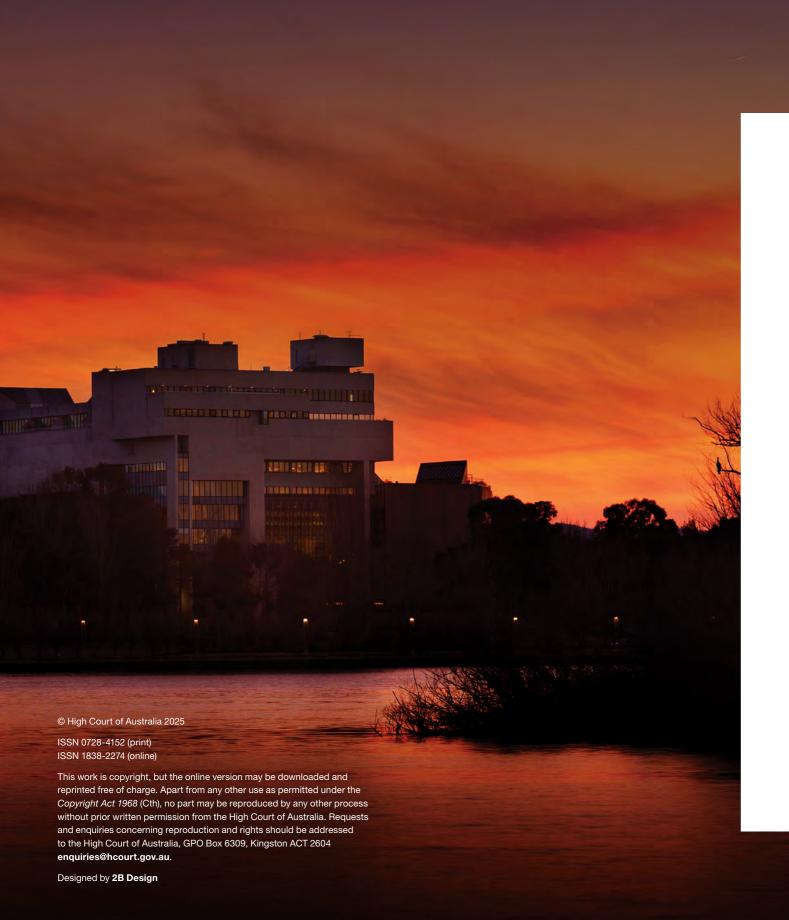


### HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA



Annual Report **2024–25** 





### HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA

12 September 2025

The Hon Michelle Rowland MP Attorney-General Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Attorney-General

In accordance with section 47 of the *High Court of Australia Act 1979* (Cth), I submit on behalf of the High Court and with its approval a report relating to the administration of the affairs of the Court under section 17 of the Act for the year ended 30 June 2025, together with the financial statements in respect of the year in the form approved by the Minister for Finance.

Section 47(3) of the Act requires you to cause a copy of this report to be laid before each House of Parliament within 15 sitting days of that House after its receipt by you.

Yours sincerely

Richard Glenn

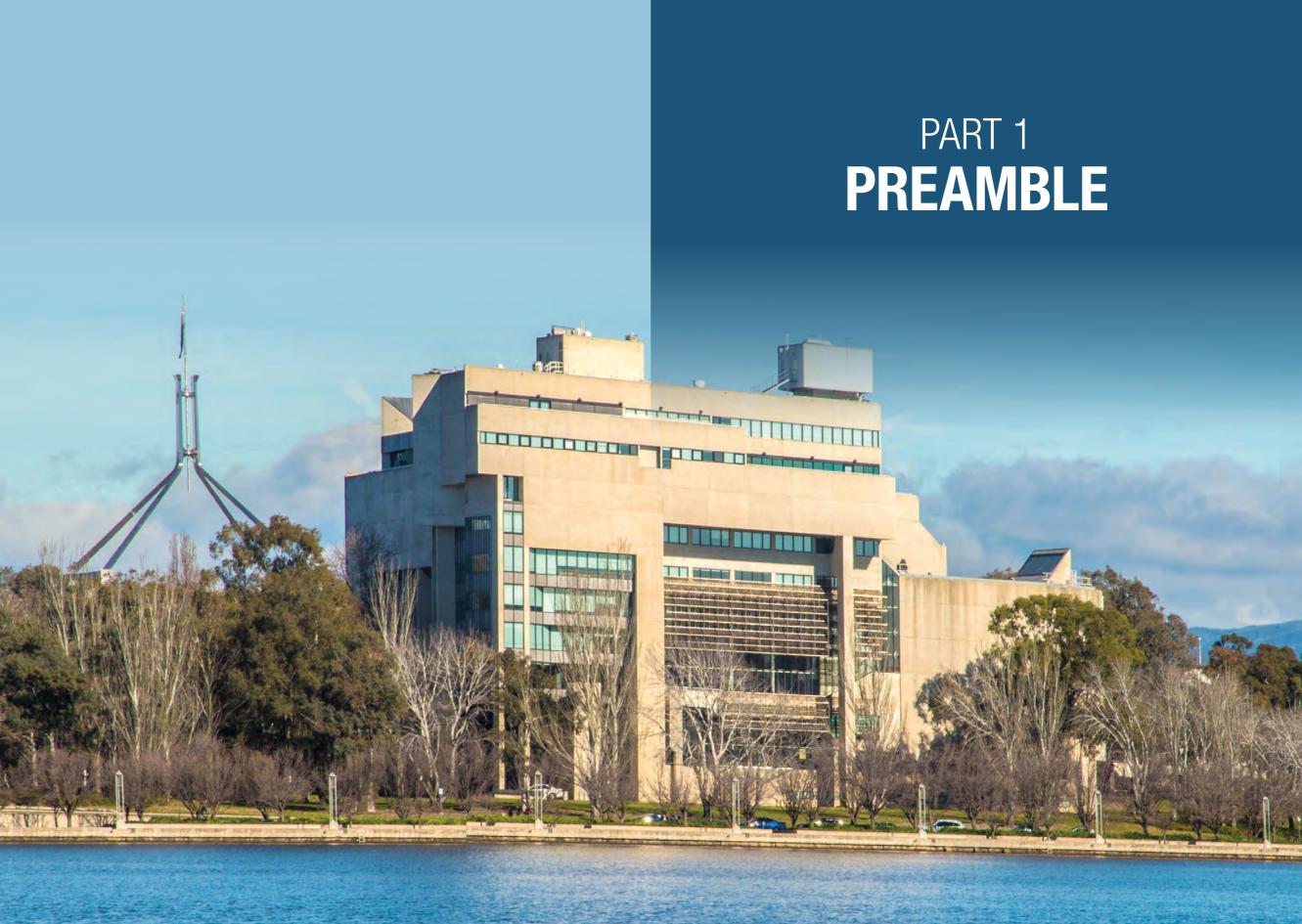
Chief Executive and Principal Registrar High Court of Australia



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART 1	
PREAMBLE	1
PART 2	
CHIEF JUSTICE'S OVERVIEW	3 Adn
Case study: Major works 2024–25	
and beyond	6
PART 3	PAR
	BAC
JUSTICES OF THE COURT AND	ON
JUDICIAL LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES	g ON
Judicial Leadership Activities	14 Esta
Council of Chief Justices of Australia	Fun
and New Zealand	14 Sea
Asia-Pacific Judicial Colloquium	15 Sitti
Extrajudicial Activities of Justices	App
of the Court	16 Chie
PART 4	
THE WORK OF THE COURT IN 2024–25.	19
Number of cases decided by the Full Court	20
Judicial workloads	
Special leave applications	DAD
Appeals Original jurisdiction	A N II
Single Justice hearings	20
Onigic dustice ricarnigs	<sup>∠/</sup> Ann
PART 5	
THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COURT	
High Court of Australia organisational chart	Ann
as at 30 June 2025	31
Resource management	32
Library	32
Public information and visitor programs	33
Corporate services	34
Human resources management	36
Financial management	37

Risk management	38
Fraud prevention and control	38
Corporate governance	39
Administrative outcomes and activities	40
Fees	40
Register of Practitioners	41
PART 6	
BACKGROUND INFORMATION	
ON THE COURT	43
Establishment	44
Functions and powers	44
Seat of the Court	44
Sittings of the Court	44
Appointment of Justices of the Court	45
Chief Justices and Justices of the Court	45
Chief Justices	45
Justices	46
DART 7	
	4-
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	4/
PART 8	
ANNEXURES	89
Annexure A	90
Freedom of information	90
FOI procedures and initial contact points	91
Annexure B	92
Staffing 2024–2025	92
	BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE COURT  Establishment Functions and powers Seat of the Court Sittings of the Court Appointment of Justices of the Court Chief Justices and Justices of the Court  Chief Justices  Justices  PART 7 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



# PART 1 PREAMBLE

This is the 46th report prepared as required by the *High Court of Australia Act 1979* (Cth).

### Enquiries or comments concerning this report may be directed to:

High Court of Australia Telephone: 1800 570 566

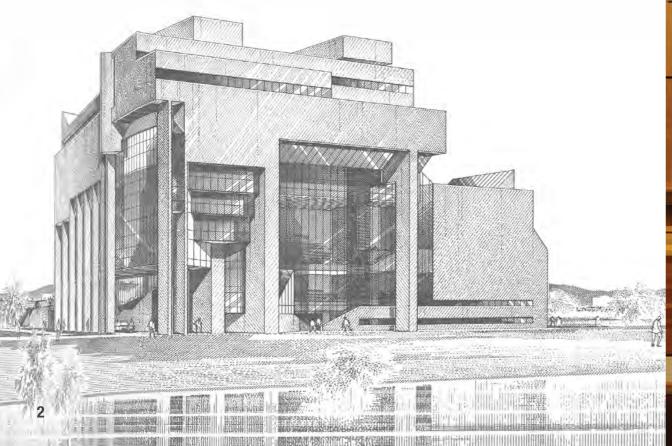
PO Box 6309 Email: enquiries@hcourt.gov.au

Kingston ACT 2604

### **Electronic publication**

This report is published on the High Court's website.

It may be downloaded from the site free of charge.



# PART 2 CHIEF JUSTICE'S **OVERVIEW**

# PART 2 CHIEF JUSTICE'S OVERVIEW

The Australian Constitution establishes an integrated system of Australian courts. The High Court is located at the apex of that system as the nation's ultimate court of appeal. The High Court also has original jurisdiction in categories of matters of national significance, including those arising under the Australian Constitution or involving its interpretation and those in which specified remedies are sought against an officer of the Commonwealth.

The High Court consists of the Chief Justice and six Justices who administer the affairs of the Court pursuant to section 17 of the *High Court of Australia Act 1979* (Cth). They are assisted in that task by the Chief Executive and Principal Registrar and by staff of the Court. In November 2024, Mr Richard Glenn was appointed to the position of Chief Executive and Principal Registrar and commenced in January 2025, following the retirement of Ms Philippa Lynch PSM in December 2024. On behalf of the Justices, I thank Ms Lynch for her service to the Court.

The seat of the High Court is at the seat of government in the Australian Capital Territory. There it is housed in a nationally significant building on the shore of Lake Burley Griffin within the National Triangle. In addition to being a working court and workplace for staff, the building is accessible to members of the public who wish to experience its architecture and learn about the role of the Court and its place within Australia's constitutional arrangements. Many thousands of members of the public, including many thousands of school students, visit the building each year.

The High Court takes its stewardship responsibilities for the building seriously. In 2024–25, the Court completed a number of major capital projects: the replacement of the Court's ageing audio-visual equipment in the three courtrooms; the replacement of five lifts; the replacement of the Court's original main switchboard; and the replacement of one of the heating, cooling and ventilation systems. These form part of a series of capital projects that will be required over the coming years to ensure the continued safety and amenity of the building. The projects will address issues related to the age of the building as well as looking to improve its sustainability.

The capital works projects completed in 2024–25 required the temporary closure of the Court building in Canberra for four months between June and October 2024. During that period, the Court sat on circuit in Darwin, Adelaide, Melbourne and Hobart. This marked the resumption of circuits following the disruption of the Covid period.

In the exercise of its appellate and original jurisdiction in 2024–25, the High Court sitting as a Full Court decided 310 special leave applications, 47 appeals, two cases involving applications for constitutional writs, and 13 other cases being causes removed or writs of summons. Forty two per cent of the applications for leave or special leave to appeal were determined within three months of filing and 99 per cent were determined within six months of filing. Fifty seven per cent of appeals were completed within nine months of filing. Seventy four per cent were decided within six months of the hearing of argument, with 36 per cent decided within three months of hearing. Forty per cent of original jurisdiction matters were decided within three months of the hearing of argument, with 93 per cent being decided within six months of hearing.

In addition to performing judicial duties, the Justices and I hosted the Asia-Pacific Judicial Colloquium in March 2025, delivered numerous extra-curial speeches and lectures, and authored various publications. An overview of that extra-curial activity for the 2024–25 year is also included in this report.

I take this opportunity to thank the dedicated staff of the High Court for their professionalism, skill and diligence in providing assistance to the Justices in the year ended 30 June 2025.





### Major works 2024-25 and beyond

In 2024–25, the Court completed a number of major capital projects. These include the replacement of the Court's ageing audio-visual equipment in the three courtrooms in the Canberra building, the replacement of the Canberra building's five lifts, the replacement of the Court's original main switchboard and the replacement of the HVAC (heating, ventilation and air-conditioning) system on level 4 of the Canberra building.



With both the lift replacement project and the replacement of the Court's audio-visual equipment, the Court worked closely with a heritage architect to ensure that any works were sympathetic to the original design language of the building. In particular, the upgrade of audio-visual equipment incorporates the latest technology within the original fabric of the courtrooms, seamlessly blending modern technology and original heritage features.

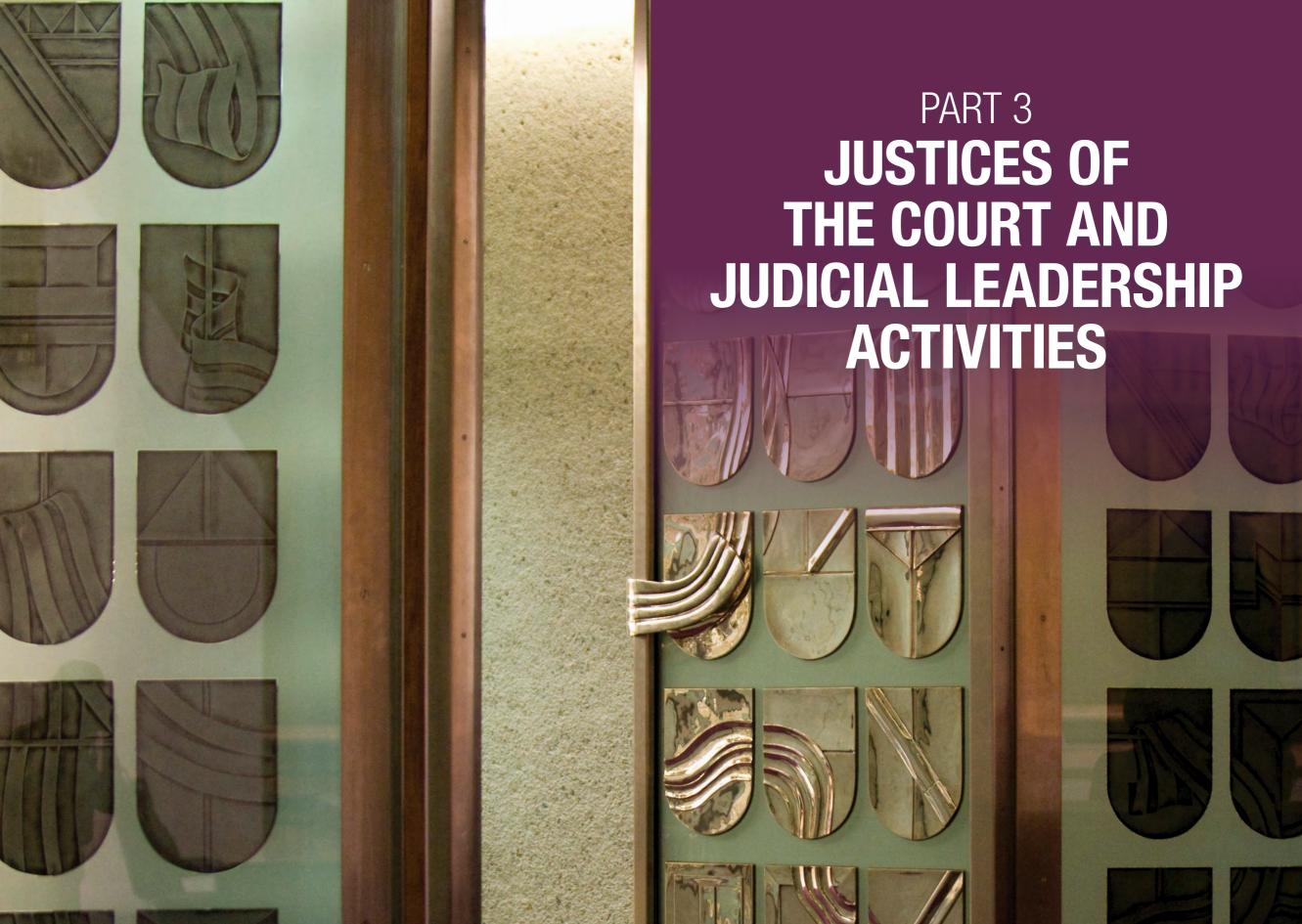
As a result of the construction works, the Canberra building was closed for four months from 17 June to 8 October 2024 to ensure the safety of staff and visitors.

Canberra-based staff were relocated to premises at the Brindabella Business Park and the Court went on circuit to Darwin, Adelaide, Melbourne and Hobart.

During the reporting period, the Court began the development of a comprehensive strategic asset management plan for the Canberra building, its ICT assets and facilities in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney. The plan will guide future capital investment in the Court's infrastructure and provide the foundation for ongoing capital management.

In addition, the Court continued to work closely with Comcover to finalise plans for repair work to the High Court roof after hail damage suffered in the early 2020 hailstorm in Canberra. The Court also continued to investigate problems with leaks from the forecourt and adjoining stairs resulting from deterioration in the original waterproof membrane.

 $\mathbf{6}$ 



### PART 3

# JUSTICES OF THE COURT AND JUDICIAL LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

As at 30 June 2025, the seven Justices of the Court were:

# Chief Justice Stephen Gageler AC



Stephen John Gageler was appointed Chief Justice of Australia in November 2023, following appointment as a Justice of the High Court in October 2012. Immediately before his appointment to the High Court, he had been the Solicitor-General of Australia. Chief Justice Gageler is a graduate of the Australian National University and has postgraduate qualifications from Harvard University. He was admitted as a barrister of the Supreme Court of New South Wales in 1989 and was appointed Senior Counsel in 2000. Before his appointment as Solicitor-General in 2008, he practised extensively as a barrister throughout Australia. Chief Justice Gageler is a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration and the Council of the American Law Institute. By virtue of his office, Chief Justice Gageler is also the Chair of the Council of Chief Justices of Australia and New Zealand. Chief Justice Gageler was appointed a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2017.

### **Justice Michelle Gordon AC**



Michelle Marjorie Gordon was appointed to the Court in June 2015. At the time of her appointment, she was a judge of the Federal Court of Australia, to which she was appointed in April 2007. She graduated in law from the University of Western Australia. She was admitted to practise in Western Australia in 1987 and joined the Victorian Bar in 1992. She was appointed Senior Counsel in 2003. She practised in state and federal courts principally in commercial, equity, taxation and general civil matters. She was appointed a Professorial Fellow of the Melbourne Law School in July 2015. Justice Gordon was appointed a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2019.

### **Justice James Edelman AC**



James Joshua Edelman was appointed to the Court in January 2017. From 2015 until the time of his appointment he was a judge of the Federal Court of Australia. From 2011 until 2015 he was a judge of the Supreme Court of Western Australia. He previously practised as a barrister in Western Australia from 2001 to 2011 in the areas of criminal law and commercial law and at One Essex Court Chambers from 2008 to 2011 in commercial law. He was a Fellow of Keble College, Oxford, from 2005 and Professor of the Law of Obligations at the University of Oxford from 2008 until 2011. Justice Edelman was appointed a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2025.

### **Justice Simon Steward AC**



Simon Harry Peter Steward was appointed to the Court in December 2020. At the time of his appointment, he was a judge of the Federal Court of Australia to which he was appointed in February 2018. He was made a Deputy President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal in June 2018. He holds first class Honours and Masters degrees in Law from the University of Melbourne. He was admitted to practise as a solicitor in 1991 and was called to the Victorian Bar in 1999 where he practised in revenue law. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2009. He is a former President of the Tax Bar Association of the Victorian Bar and is a Professorial Fellow at the University of Melbourne School of Law. Justice Steward was appointed a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2025.

### **Justice Jacqueline Gleeson**



Jacqueline Sarah Gleeson was appointed to the Court in March 2021. At the time of her appointment, she was a judge of the Federal Court of Australia, having been appointed to that position in April 2014. She has Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Laws and Master of Laws degrees from the University of Sydney. She was admitted as a solicitor in 1989 and practised as an employed solicitor at Bush Burke & Company in Sydney from 1990 to mid-1991. She then practised as a barrister from mid-1991, leaving the Bar at the end of 2000. From 2001 to 2003, she was General Counsel at the Australian Broadcasting Authority. From 2004 to 2006, she was a Senior Executive Lawyer with the Australian Government Solicitor. She returned to the Bar in 2007 and was made Senior Counsel in 2012. Her Honour is an Honorary Bencher of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple and is the Patron of Australian Women Lawyers (AWL).

### **Justice Jayne Jagot**



Jayne Margaret Jagot was appointed to the Court in October 2022. She was a judge of the Federal Court of Australia from 2008 until her appointment. Between 2006 and 2008, she was a judge of the Land and Environment Court of New South Wales. Before her appointment as a judge, she practised as a solicitor between 1991 and 2002 and as a barrister between 2002 and 2006.

### **Justice Robert Beech-Jones**



Robert Thomas Beech-Jones was appointed to the Court on 6 November 2023. At the time of his appointment, he was the Chief Judge at Common Law and a Judge of Appeal of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, having been appointed to that Court in 2012. Justice Beech-Jones was educated in Tasmania before obtaining a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Laws with Honours from the Australian National University. He was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales in 1988 and as a barrister in 1992. He was appointed Senior Counsel in 2006.



### **Judicial Leadership Activities**

### Council of Chief Justices of Australia and New Zealand

The Council of Chief Justices of Australia and New Zealand comprises the Chief Justices of the High Court, the Federal Court, the Federal Circuit and Family Court, and the Supreme Courts of each of the states and territories, together with the Chief Justice of New Zealand.

The objects of the Council are to:

- provide a forum within which its members may discuss matters of common concern and exchange information and advice
- advance and maintain the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary in Australia and New Zealand
- advance and maintain the principle that Australian courts together constitute a national judicial system operating within a federal framework

 ensure that its members are aware of proposals by and developments within governments and the legal profession relevant to the preceding objects.

Through reports the Council receives on the work of the National Judicial College, the Judicial Council on Diversity and Inclusion, the Law Admissions Consultative Committee and the Legal Services Commission, it has an oversight function in relation to judicial education, cultural diversity awareness relevant to access to justice and legal education, practical legal training and admission standards. It also promotes the harmonisation of court rules around Australia through its Harmonisation Committee.

The Council met in October 2024 and March 2025. It considered, amongst other things: judicial education, practical legal training and a review of the Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration's *Guide to Judicial Conduct*.



### **Asia-Pacific Judicial Colloquium**

In March 2025, the High Court hosted the biennial Asia-Pacific Colloquium in Canberra. The Colloquium is a gathering of Chief Justices and senior members of the final appellate courts of Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Singapore. This was the seventh meeting of the Colloquium and the first to be held in Australia since 2012. Officials from each court also attended. Participants exchanged information on legal issues of common interest and discussed approaches to shared challenges. Themes discussed included artificial intelligence, access to justice and issues relating to litigation and precedent.





### **Extrajudicial Activities of Justices of the Court**

In addition to the judicial work of the Court, the Justices are active in delivering speeches and publishing scholarly articles, both nationally and internationally.

### **Chief Justice Gageler**

Chief Justice Gageler attended various events in 2024-25 including: the swearing-in of Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia; the Global Constitutional Seminar 2024 at Yale Law School; the visit to Australia by their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla; an alumni event for the Australian National University Faculty of Law; the Third Symposium to honour Professor Leslie Zines: 'Issues in Australian Constitutional Law' (ANU); the Pacific Judicial Conference 2025; and a 2025 American Law Institute Council meeting. He spoke at the Northern Territory Bar Association 50th anniversary of the Independent Bar, the Law Society of South Australia Annual Legal Profession Gala Dinner, the 37th LawAsia Conference and the 2025 Victorian Bar Dinner. He delivered the keynote addresses to the 2024 Australian Judicial Officers Association Conference and the National Judicial College of Australia Heads of Jurisdiction Conference, delivered the 2025 Bannerman Competition Lecture, and gave the 2025 Annual Hon Barry O'Keefe Memorial Lecture (Australian Catholic University). In addition, he hosted the Asia-Pacific Judicial Colloquium 2025 as well as a visit by Justices of the Supreme Court of Japan.

### **Justice Gordon**

Justice Gordon was appointed the Yong Pung How Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law at Singapore Management University in July 2024. During that tenure, she delivered the Yong Pung How Visiting Professorship Lecture and met with faculty and students. She also addressed the Victorian Bar Readers Course and co-hosted "Building Connections" between judicial officers in Victoria. Justice Gordon is a Professorial Fellow at the University of Melbourne and the patron of the Victorian Bar Foundation.

### Justice Edelman

Justice Edelman published several academic works, including a new edition of McGregor on Damages (Sweet & Maxwell). He provided forewords, chapters or contributions to the Blackstone Careers Handbook (Blackstone Society), The Commonwealth Lawyer (Commonwealth Lawyers Association), "Celebrating 225 Years of Sweet & Maxwell" (Thomson Reuters), Private Law and the State (Robertson and Neyers (eds), Hart Publishing), and Commercial Contract Clauses (Thomson, Warnick and Martin (eds), Thomson Reuters). He chaired the Current Legal Issues Seminar Series 1 (Queensland Bar Association, University of Queensland and Queensland Supreme Court Library), and gave speeches as follows: (i) the Sir Harry Gibbs Memorial Oration at the Samuel Griffith Society Conference; (ii) the Selden Society Lecture (Queensland Supreme Court Library); (iii) an address at the Issue Launch and 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Monash University Law Review; (iv) the Peter Nygh Memorial Lecture at the National Family Law Conference (FLS, Law Council of Australia); and (v) the opening address at the Queensland Law Society Symposium.

### **Justice Steward**

Justice Steward delivered a keynote address at the London International Commercial Law Conference at Oxford, in July 2024, gave a speech to students and faculty staff at the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Saint Thomas More Law School at the Melbourne Campus of the Australian Catholic University, and delivered a speech at the inaugural meeting of the Old Xavierians' Lawyers Association in November 2024. In February 2025, Justice Steward made the toast to the new silks at the Silks' Bows Gala held at the National Gallery of Australia. In March 2025, Justice Steward conducted a session at the Asia-Pacific Colloquium held at the High Court of Australia.

### Justice Gleeson

Justice Gleeson delivered three keynote addresses: (i) the 2024 Minds Count Annual Lecture with a presentation entitled "When Minds Are Traitors"; (ii) the Whitlam Institute's Spotlight on Competition and Consumer Law on the "The profound impact of the Trade Practices Act 1974 for Australian consumers" which will be published in the Australian Journal of Competition and Consumer Law in its December 2025 issue; and (iii) the Monash University Law Review's Annual Dinner asking "Who Do I Think You Are?". Justice Gleeson also delivered a speech and participated in a panel discussion at the 2024 Antitrust Law Section Global Seminar Series on the "Theoretical Underpinnings of Penalties for Cartel Conduct"; spoke to law students at the University of Technology Sydney on "Aspects of Judicial Impartiality"; presided over the 2025 Philip C Jessup Grand Final; and delivered after-dinner remarks as well as speaking at the book launch for the second edition of Professor David Rolph's Rolph on Defamation (Thomson Reuters). Her Honour also participated in the Women Lawyers' Association 2025 Launch Event (NSW) and the UNSW Gender Equality Hub launch.

### **Justice Jagot**

Justice Jagot was guest speaker at Macquarie University where she delivered the Blackshield lecture honouring one of Australia's most eminent legal scholars, Tony Blackshield: "Continuity in the Common Law: History and Myth". Justice Jagot also delivered the foreword for the Australian Law Students' Association's 2024 mental health and wellbeing publication.

### Justice Beech-Jones

Justice Beech-Jones gave the keynote address at the Conference of the Australian Association of Crown Prosecutors in Darwin entitled, "The Prosecutor's Duty and the Prosecutor's Conscience"; delivered the John William Perry AO QC oration to the Hellenic Lawyers Association in Adelaide entitled "Lawvers and Dictators: Ten Lawyers, and Counting"; delivered an address entitled "Judgment Writing: Get Smart" to the Judicial College of Victoria's judgment writing program; and spoke to the Conference of the Judges of the Victorian County Court. His Honour was also the guest speaker at events held by the South Australian Bar Association, Burgmann College, ANU and the Australian Law Students' Association. Justice Beech-Jones is the co-chair of the Programs Advisory Committee for the National Judicial College of Australia.



# PART 4 THE WORK OF THE COURT IN 2024–25



### PART 4 THE WORK OF THE COURT IN 2024–25

### Number of cases decided by the Full Court









310 special leave applications

appeals

constitutional writs

causes removed or writs of summons















32% of special leave represented applicants were unrepresented litigants (down from 34% in 2023-24)



### **Timeliness**

of special leave applications decided within 6 months of filing

57% of appeals decided within 9 months of filing



of appeals decided within 6 months of hearing arguments

of appeals decided within 3 months of 36% or appoint hearing arguments



20

40% of original jurisdiction matters decided within 3 months of hearing arguments

of original jurisdiction matters decided within 6 months of hearing

### **General number** of cases decided

In 2024-25, the Full Court decided 310 special leave applications, 47 appeals, two constitutional writs and 13 other cases being causes removed or writs of summons.

Most cases were determined promptly: 99 per cent of special leave applications were resolved within six months, while 57 per cent of appeals were finalised within nine months.

For appeals, 74 per cent were decided within six months of hearing arguments, including 36 per cent within three months. In the Court's original jurisdiction, 40 per cent of matters were decided within three months and 93 per cent within six months.

### **Judicial workloads**

### **Special leave applications**

A comparison of the number of special leave applications filed and determined for the last five years is provided in the tables that follow. Applications filed are not always determined in the same reporting period. In this reporting period a total of 310 special leave applications were determined. The proportion of special leave applications which were filed by unrepresented litigants during 2024-25 was 32 per cent, compared to 34 per cent of applications received in 2023-24 from unrepresented litigants.

The High Court Rules 2004 (Cth) provide that the Court may determine leave and special leave applications on the papers. In 2024-25, there were nine hearings held to consider 11 applications for special leave. Apart from these 11 applications, which amount to three per cent of all special leave applications for the reporting period, the remaining 97 per cent were determined on the papers. This was an increase of 88 per cent from the previous reporting period of 2023-24 and 67 per cent in the 2022-23 year.

All special leave applications determined in this reporting period were completed within nine months of the application being filed. Forty two per cent of the applications for leave or special leave to appeal decided by the Court during the reporting period were completed within three months of filing, which is double the figure of 21 per cent in 2023-24.

Number of special leave applications filed in the reporting period, over the past five years

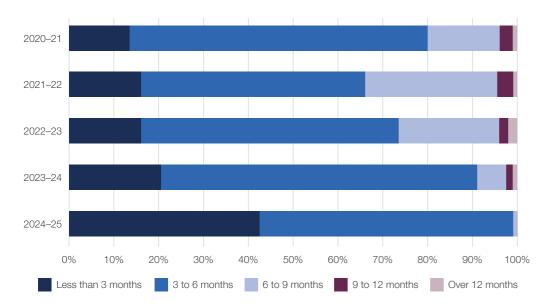
Year of filing	Number of SLAs filed
2020–21	407
2021–22	382
2022–23	311
2023–24	314
2024–25	318

Number of special leave applications determined in the reporting period, over the past five years

Year of determination	Granted	Refused	Other
2020-21	48	329	7
2021–22	53	334	12
2022–23	37	283	14
2023–24	46	277	12
2024–25	51¹	258	<b>1</b> <sup>2</sup>

- [1] One of the granted matters relates to an application consolidated to be heard as if on appeal, combined with a standing grant which is not yet finalised. Another granted matter was referred to the Full Court, with the case disposed of, and consolidated into an ongoing appeal
- [2] The 'Other' category relates to a matter in which the Court held a hearing and, upon consideration of consent orders filed by the parties, the matter was discontinued.

All figures are from the 2024-25 reporting period 21 PART 4: THE WORK OF THE COURT IN 2024–25



**Figure 1:** Year-on-year comparison of time taken from filing of a special leave application until the determination is delivered by the Court

On average, the Court takes between three to six months to finalise these matters. However, following the change in the way special leave applications are processed in November 2023, the Court has observed an increase in the proportion of applications determined in under three months, with this percentage being double the 2023–24 figure.

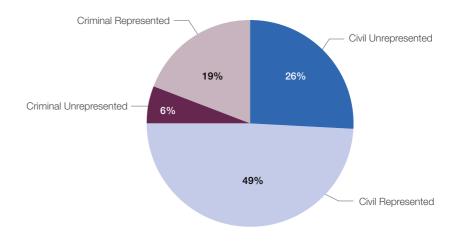
Special leave applications filed in the reporting period: by originating court, matter type and representation status

	CIVIL		CRIN	/INAL
	Represented	Unrepresented	Represented	Unrepresented
High Court	12	3	1	
Federal Court	11	65		1
Federal Circuit and Family Court	15	5		
Supreme Court ACT	3	5		3
Supreme Court NSW	15	39	2	22
Supreme Court NT		8		1
Supreme Court Qld	4	15	6	7
Supreme Court SA	3	4	1	5
Supreme Court Tas	1	-		2
Supreme Court Vic	12	10	2	13
Supreme Court WA	6	4	9	3
TOTALS	82	158	21	57
	240		7	78

The above table represents the 318 special leave applications filed in the reporting period, by the originating matter type, originating court, and by representation status of the applicant.

Special leave applications determined in the reporting period: by originating court, matter type and representation status

	CIVIL		CRIM	/INAL
	Represented	Unrepresented	Represented	Unrepresented
High Court	3	12	0	1
Federal Court	59	11	0	1
Federal Circuit and Family Court	5	12	0	0
Supreme Court ACT	5	4	2	0
Supreme Court NSW	40	15	25	3
Supreme Court NT	3	0	1	0
Supreme Court Qld	13	5	9	6
Supreme Court SA	4	3	9	1
Supreme Court Tas	1	0	2	0
Supreme Court Vic	11	14	8	3
Supreme Court WA	7	5	2	5
TOTALS	151	81	58	20
	232		-	78



**Figure 2:** The percentage of special leave applications determined in the reporting period, by matter type and applicant representation status. Of all the applications for special leave, 75 per cent originated from the civil jurisdiction.

PART 4: THE WORK OF THE COURT IN 2024–25
HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA 2024–25 ANNUAL REPORT

### **Appeals**

Fifty nine per cent of the 47 appeals decided by the Court during the reporting period were completed within nine months of filing; the figure for 2023–24 was 53 per cent. In 13 per cent of cases decided by the Court within the reporting period, a judgment was delivered within six months of the hearing. In one appeal heard by the Court the applicant was unrepresented; in all other matters the moving party had legal representation.

Number of appeals filed in the reporting period: over the past five years

Year of filing	Number of appeals filed
2020–21	46
2021–22	37
2022–23	40
2023–24	43
2024–25	47

Appeal outcomes in the reporting period: over the past five years

Year of determination	Allowed	Dismissed	Other
2020–21	23	20	0
2021–22	23	24	0
2022–23	25	12	0
2023–24	20	23	0
2024–25	20	25	2 <sup>3</sup>

<sup>[3]</sup> One appeal had the special leave grant revoked during the hearing and was subsequently dismissed. Another matter was disposed of by consent upon consideration and publication of reasons by the Court.

Elapsed time for appeals dealt with by the Full Court during the reporting period: from time of filing

Year of determination	Less than 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	Over 12 months
2020–21	0	9	21	12	1
2021–22	0	2	26	11	7
2022–23	0	11	16	8	1
2023–24	1	2	18	14	5
2024–25	0	6	21	13	7

Of the 47 appeals filed in the reporting period, the following table presents these matters by originating matter type and originating court. Only one appeal involved an unrepresented party.

Appeals filed in the reporting period: by origin and matter type

	Civil	Criminal
High Court	1	0
Federal Court	20	0
Federal Circuit and Family Court	1	0
Supreme Court ACT	0	0
Supreme Court NSW	9	6
Supreme Court NT	1	1
Supreme Court Qld	1	0
Supreme Court SA	0	2
Supreme Court Tas	0	0
Supreme Court Vic	2	2
Supreme Court WA	1	0
TOTALS	36	11

Appeals determined in the reporting period: by origin and matter type

	Civil	Criminal
High Court	2	0
Federal Court	17	0
Supreme Court ACT	0	0
Supreme Court NSW	7	4
Supreme Court NT	0	1
Supreme Court Qld	3	1
Supreme Court SA	2	1
Supreme Court Tas	1	0
Supreme Court Vic	4	3
Supreme Court WA	1	0
TOTALS	37	10

PART 4: THE WORK OF THE COURT IN 2024–25
HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA 2024–25 ANNUAL REPORT

### **Original jurisdiction**

Cases filed in the original jurisdiction by type

Year of filing	Writs of summons	Constitutional writs	Electoral	Removals	Cause removed	Other
2020–21	10	36	0	5	3	17
2021–22	12	19	0	17	4	28
2022–23	6	22	0	7	1	25
2023–24	10	23	0	10	5	31
2024–25	10	12	0	13	7	25

Cases commenced in the original jurisdiction are generally listed for case management before a single Justice of the Court in the first instance. Not all cases filed in the original jurisdiction proceed to be considered by the Full Court. Some cases are remitted to another court for trial pursuant to section 44 of the *Judiciary Act 1903* (Cth). Of the 67 applications filed in the original jurisdiction in 2024–25, 23 cases were considered by the Full Court and 13 cases proceeded to a hearing.

In addition to the 13 original jurisdiction cases heard and determined by the Full Court, eight removal applications were determined by the Full Court on the papers, one cause removed application was determined on the papers alone, and orders were made in a cause removed application prior to hearing by the Full Court.

The Court sits as the Court of Disputed Returns to try petitions disputing the validity of elections or returns of persons to the House of Representatives or the Senate. No election petitions were filed during the reporting period.

Elapsed time from time of filing for original jurisdiction matters dealt with by the Full Court following a hearing, for matters determined during the reporting period

Year of determination	Less than 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	Over 12 months
2020–21	1	4	3	2	1
2021–22	0	1	1	1	3
2022–23	0	1	4	2	3
2023–24	2	0	1	1	3
2024–25	4	1	2	5	3

### Single Justice hearings

Substantial single Justice matters by type during the reporting period

	Hearings	Papers
Directions	13	7
Stay	1	1
Final orders for constitutional writs	3	8
Final orders on leave to issue	0	25
Suppression orders	1	0
Removal application	2	3
Remittals	3	2
Costs	0	1
TOTALS <sup>4</sup>	23	47

[4] These totals do not account for all single Justice activities during the reporting period. The matters are reported by the most significant activity. The totals exclude references to directions or other interlocutory activities before a single Justice where a substantive outcome was later determined by a single Justice or the Court.

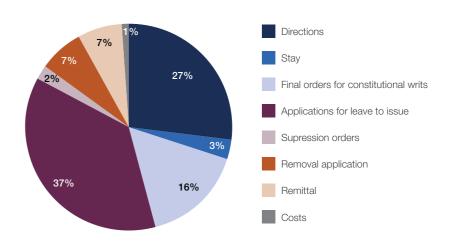


Figure 3: The percentage breakdown of substantial single Justice work completed by type of activity



# THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COURT

The *High Court of Australia Act 1979* (Cth) section 17 provides that the Court is responsible for its own administration.

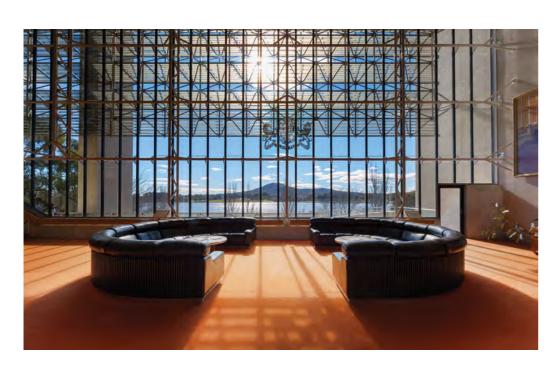
The Court's administrative arm is led by the Chief Executive and Principal Registrar (CE&PR) who has the function of acting on behalf of, and assisting, the Justices in the administration of the affairs of the Court.

In 2024–25, the High Court's senior team comprised the CE&PR, the Senior Registrar, the Executive Registrar and Head of Public Affairs, the Manager Corporate Services, and the High Court Librarian.

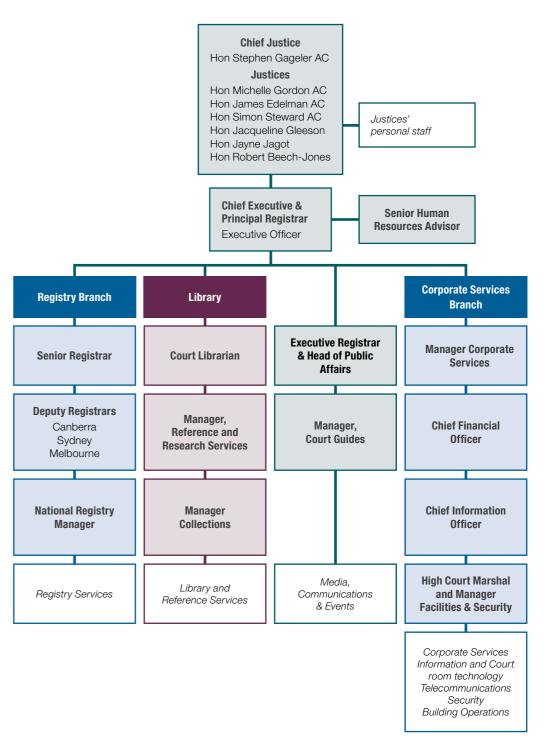
Ms Philippa Lynch PSM retired as the CE&PR in December 2024. Mr Richard Glenn took up the role of CE&PR in January 2025. Mr Ben Wickham, Executive Registrar and Head of Public Affairs, left the Court in December 2024.

As at 30 June 2025, the position of Executive Registrar and Head of Public Affairs was vacant.

Employees are located primarily in Canberra but also in chambers and offices of the Registry in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney. Employees and officers of the Court are engaged by the CE&PR under the *High Court of Australia Act*. They are subject to the terms and conditions of employment provided for in the High Court of Australia Enterprise Agreement 2024–2027 and by Determinations made under section 26(4) of the *High Court of Australia Act*.



# High Court of Australia organisational chart as at 30 June 2025



PART 5: THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COURT HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA 2024–25 ANNUAL REPORT

### Resource management

### Library

### Staff

The High Court Library has a team of seven staff, who support the work of the Justices and Court through the provision of library services such as reference and research assistance, inter-library loans, current awareness, and collection development and management.

The Library is also responsible for the publication of judgments and reviewing legislation submitted in Joint Books of Authority. Team members also work with other areas of the Court on specific projects.

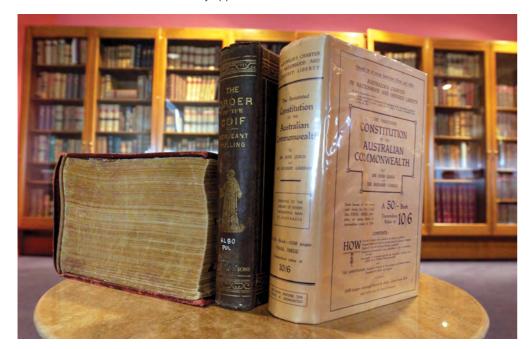
### Collections

The High Court Library's print and electronic holdings total over 210,000 items, including approximately 140,000 print volumes in the Canberra Library collections. These collections include the Library's main collections of books, journals, law reports and legislation, chambers collections and the Bar Library collection, which is available to counsel while they appear

before the Court. The Library also has a rare book collection and High Court collection. The High Court collection comprises books by and about the High Court and its Justices. There are also small library collections in the Sydney and Melbourne High Court Registries and in the Brisbane chambers. The Library acquires material for the collections in accordance with its Collection Development Policy. During 2024–25, the Library added approximately 900 items to the collections, including almost 300 new books.

### Research

Library research staff assist with reference and research queries from the Justices and their staff. These queries range from the provision of a case citation or piece of legislation to in-depth research assistance. Reference assistance is also provided to counsel while they appear before the Court. The Library conducts regular legal research training sessions for associates and other court staff.



### **Publications**

The Library publishes a monthly "New Books list" on the High Court website.

The Library makes the following publications available on the Library intranet for use within the Court:

- High Court reported judgments (updated as each judgment is published in the ALJR, ALR or CLR)
- new weekly journals
- daily press clippings and library updates.

The Library maintains and updates the High Court Digital Archive and the Justices' Publications, Speeches and Biographies database. These are for use within the Court but may be made available to researchers on request.

### Library support to the Court during the building closure and circuit

Between June and October 2024, while the Court was on circuit and the building was closed for renovations, the Library had no access to its print collections. Access to material was provided by purchasing online publications such as e-books, and working collaboratively with other court libraries around Australia, particularly those in the jurisdictions where the Court was on circuit. Thus, research support continued to the Court uninterrupted.

### High Court of Australia Seminal Cases Project

The Seminal Cases Project was launched by the Chief Justice in 2024 and was completed during the reporting period. The Justices of the Court selected 37 High Court cases they consider seminal and the entire case files were scanned and made available on AustLII on open access. Internally, this project was a collaboration between the Library and Registry, with many files having to be retrieved from the National Archives. All files, some very large, were examined, sorted, scanned and uploaded

through an external collaboration between the Court and AustLII, which funded the project. This project has not only made the files of these important cases available to the Australian legal community on open access, but their availability online will greatly reduce requests to access and handle the print files, and thus protect and preserve the fragile paper files. The seminal case files are available at https://www.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdb/au/cases/cth/HCASCF/

# Public information and visitor programs

The Court's public education and visitor programs seek to enhance awareness of the Court's constitutional role and the rule of law. The Court provides extensive information on its website, publishes judgment summaries and offers specialised educational programs and activities in the High Court building in Canberra. It also hosts the Australian Constitution Centre Exhibition which traces the history and evolution of the *Australian Constitution*, illuminates some of its fundamental principles, and explores the role and history of the Court. It also welcomes visitors to appreciate the unique architectural, design and artistic aspects of the Court building.

In 2024–25, the High Court of Australia welcomed approximately 22,600 visitors. 12,770 of whom were school students who participated in the education programs offered by the Court. Some of these programs comprise part of the PACER (Parliamentary and Civics Education Rebate) program for Australian Year 5 and 6 students, designed to support the content of the Civics and Citizenship criteria of the Australian Curriculum, while others target students studying Legal Studies in the senior years of high school. School, home school and School of the Air groups visited from every state and territory in Australia. However, both numbers of general visitor and visiting school students were affected by the closure of the building from mid-June to the beginning of October in 2024.

PART 5: THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COURT HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA 2024–25 ANNUAL REPORT

As well as general visitors and school groups, the Court was visited by graduate groups from the Attorney-General's Department, dignitaries from the Pacific Islands and Asia, participants in the Indo-Pacific Centre for Military Law program, and various adult learning groups, university student groups and social groups for those with disabilities. The Court also hosted two performances in the building's public hall, as part of the Canberra International Music Festival, in May.

The Guide team, which consists of casual employees from a range of professional and educational backgrounds, welcomed eight new members over the reporting period.

To develop the team's training methods, the Court participated in two education and presentation workshops facilitated by the National Capital Education Tourism Project.

The content presented at these workshops was used to update the training process for Court Guides, which was implemented successfully and resulted in Guides quickly becoming proficient in their role.

The primary source of information available to the public is via the Court's website. It provides a wide range of information related to the core business of the Court, its history, structure and administration. The Court has also published an Information Publication Plan as required under section 8 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) which is available on the website.

The website provides access to documents related to legal matters filed at the High Court Registry, such as parties' initiating documents and submissions in Full Court matters, short particulars of appeals and original jurisdiction matters, the results of applications for special leave and judgment summaries. Transcripts of all Court hearings are also accessible on the website, as are audio-visual recordings of Full Bench hearings in Canberra. The website provides links to relevant legislation, the *High Court Rules* and forms, the Library catalogue, and the Library's current year's new books notification service. An email-based subscription service is available to the public, media and

legal profession which allows for notification of upcoming judgments, judgment summaries and case summaries.

The website also provides information about the Court building in Canberra—the competition for its design, the materials used in its construction, its heritage listing and the features of each courtroom. It also provides information about visiting the Court and the art collection.

The Court commenced a project to redevelop the public website during 2024–25 which will be completed in the next reporting period.

The Court did not conduct any advertising campaigns during the reporting period.

### **Corporate services**

The Court's Corporate Services Branch supports the Court through the delivery of asset management, finance and risk, building operations and information and communication technology (ICT) services.

### Asset management

The High Court Building is individually listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List and the High Court National Gallery Precinct is listed on both the National Heritage List and the Commonwealth Heritage List.

The maintenance of such a significant asset is a major undertaking and must be conducted with a view to preserving the heritage values of the building while also recognising its role as a working court and a destination for visitors.

As described in the case study on page 6, in 2024–25, the Court completed a number of major capital projects. These include the replacement of the Court's ageing audio-visual equipment in the three courtrooms in the Canberra building, the replacement of the Canberra building's five lifts, the replacement of the Court's original main switchboard and the replacement of the HVAC (heating, ventilation and air-conditioning) system on level 4 of the Canberra building.

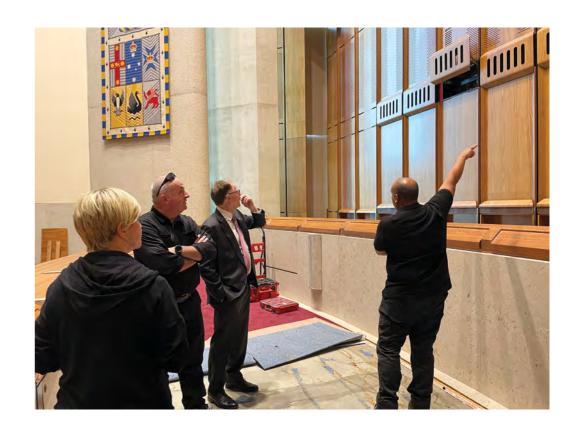
In the coming financial year, the Court will remove and replace the waterproof membrane and paving on one of the Court's external staircases to address water leaks into the generator room. Undertaking this project will provide a guide to the approach that will need to be taken to address the same problems with the waterproof membrane and paving in the Court's extensive forecourt area. The Court will also commence capital works projects to replace a chiller and a diesel generator and to progress works on additional perimeter security for the Parkes Place East approach to the Court.

### **Conservation Management Plan**

The Court has a Conservation Management Plan for the High Court Building in Canberra which has been developed to operate in a manner that is consistent with the National Capital Plan and the Management Plan for the High Court National Gallery Precinct which in turn are consistent with the National Heritage Principles.

In addition to maintaining such an architecturally significant building the Court is also responsible for the maintenance and preservation of original art works, ceramics, other heritage artefacts and heritage furniture which all form part of the rich history of the High Court and the Canberra building.

Any restoration works undertaken in the High Court building must be done in a manner that preserves the design intent of the building, and any maintenance works to replace ageing infrastructure must also be undertaken in a manner that will minimise the impact on the building. All works undertaken in the Canberra building are undertaken in consultation with an expert heritage architect.



PART 5: THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COURT
HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA 2024–25 ANNUAL REPORT

### Information management

During 2024–25, the Court completed the upgrade of information technology in its three Canberra-based courtrooms, enhancing audio-visual capabilities and improving the overall experience for Justices, legal practitioners and the public. The upgrade represents a significant capital investment in the Court's ICT infrastructure to ensure it remains contemporary and well adapted to support the current and emerging needs of the Court.

As the technology upgrade was conducted while the Court building was closed for other capital works the ICT Team also supported staff operating from the Court's temporary office location in Brindabella Office Park in Canberra, ensuring continuity of operations and minimal disruption to services. The Court building closure also meant that the Court held remote and circuit sittings. The ICT Team supported Justices and Court personnel to enable hearings to be held efficiently and without disruption.

In addition to delivering the major technology upgrade, the ICT Team continued enhancements to the Court's Digital Lodgment System, improving usability, performance and accessibility. A project to redevelop the Court's public website was commenced to deliver a more user friendly, accessible and informative online presence. The project will be completed in the next reporting period.

The ICT Team also continued its focus on cyber security and vulnerability management initiatives, strengthening the Court's digital resilience and safeguarding sensitive information.

# Human resources management

### Staffing profile

The Court's 104 staff members consist of 69 females and 35 males. This workforce includes:

- 46 ongoing employees
- 25 non-ongoing employees
- 33 casual employees.

More information about the profile of the Court's administration staff is available at Annexure B.

### Work health and safety

During 2024–25, the Workplace Health and Safety Committee (WHSC) met three times. The WHSC provides an opportunity for employees to raise any issues about personal and workplace safety. Nominated WHSC representatives are encouraged to consult within their business areas prior to and after WHSC meetings. Information about the Court's health and safety arrangements and minutes from the WHSC meetings can be accessed by employees from the Court's intranet.

The Court continued its review of all Work Health and Safety (WHS) policies to ensure that they are compliant with applicable legislative requirements. In addition, the Court has continued work to enhance the configuration of the electronic platform it uses to record hazards, incidents and near misses to support the Court's management of WHS risks and to ensure that it is able to provide timely and accurate reporting.

In 2024–25, the Court continued its commitment to promoting and sustaining a safe and healthy workplace through the application of policies, procedures and practices to protect workers from, and respond to, potential hazards.

Initiatives undertaken to support the Court's commitment to work health and safety included:

- conducting the annual building hazard inspections across the Court's premises
- delivering ergonomic workstation assessments by suitably qualified persons and providing recommended ergonomic equipment
- providing employees access to a free annual influenza vaccination
- promoting and encouraging employees to access the free and confidential counselling services of the employee assistance program
- wherever practical, supporting employees with the transition back to the workplace through flexible work options
- consulting with employees about changes in the workplace that may impact health and safety such as construction works within the building.

### **Training**

Over 2024–25, staff undertook training in the following areas:

- moving and manual handling body stressing
- WHS due diligence for senior executives
- WHS awareness
- · vicarious trauma
- first aid and CPR
- cyber security
- dealing with difficult litigants
- · fraud and corruption awareness
- privacy awareness.

### Financial management

The Court's budget estimates for 2024–25 were reported in the Attorney-General's Portfolio Budget Statements.

The audited financial results for 2024–25 are shown in Part 5. In 2024–25, income including revenue from appropriations amounted to \$22.696m and operating expenses were \$32.186m, resulting in a deficit of \$9.490m. The Court's underlying operating result (excluding unfunded depreciation and other gains) was a surplus of \$0.034m. In 2024–25, the Court received an equity injection of \$3.328m including departmental capital budget.

Section 43 of the *High Court of Australia Act* 1979 (Cth) provides for the Auditor-General to inspect and audit the accounts and records of the financial transactions of the Court annually and to draw the attention of the Attorney-General to any irregularity disclosed by that inspection and audit. The report was unqualified and there were no significant issues arising from the audit.

The Court's internal audits are performed by a contracted auditor. During 2024–25, the internal auditor completed reviews of:

- IT penetration testing to consider cyber security threat vulnerabilities
- value for money in procurement.

During 2024–25, the Court entered or made payments under 19 consultancy contracts with a total value of \$855,039 (including GST). The following table reflects consultancies over \$10,000.

PART 5: THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COURT
HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA 2024–25 ANNUAL REPORT

Name	Description	Contract price \$
Australian Government Solicitor	General legal advice	60,280.08
Australis Facilities Management	Development of a strategic asset management plan	184,163.10
BellchambersBarrett	Internal audit services	65,129.23
CBRCyber	Design of audio-visual technologies	19,525.00
Cre8ive	Public website re-development	194,640.36
Echelon Consultancy	Procurement advice	10,137.60
Faction	Procurement advice	34,531.20
For the Record (FTR)	Design of speech to text systems	79,210.00
GHD	Roof damage assessment, advice and documentation	123,425.50
lonize	Review of IT security policies	15,840.00
JLL Public Sector Valuation Services	Valuation services (land and buildings and infrastructure plant and equipment)	27,500.00

### Risk management

The High Court's Risk Management Policy and Framework aligns with the Commonwealth Risk Management Policy and is designed in keeping with the principles and guidelines in the Australian Standard on risk management, AS ISO 31000:2018 (Risk Management Guidelines).

The Court's risk management policy and framework recognises the value of risk management as an essential component of good governance in managing risks in the administration function of the Court.

The CE&PR and Senior Management Group of the Court have overarching responsibility for managing risk and report regularly to the Audit Committee and Court Business Meeting on the management of strategic and enterprise risks, as well as the identification of emerging risks.

In 2025–26, our aim is to continue to embed good risk management into workplace practices and culture with a specific focus on control effectiveness and a risk oversight model for monitoring and compliance.

### Fraud prevention and control

While the Court is not bound by the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*, it has adopted the Commonwealth Fraud and Corruption Control Framework (CFCCF) as representative of leading practice in Australian Government fraud control.

The High Court of Australia's Fraud and Corruption Control Plan aligns with the Commonwealth Fraud Control Framework. The plan sets out our arrangements for fraud and corruption prevention, detection, investigation and reporting.

The Court's fraud control framework includes policies and processes that minimise fraud risks by preventing, detecting, investigating, recording and reporting instances of fraud and corruption.

The Court is committed to a culture of professional integrity where our people are required to act with honesty, transparency and accountability at all times and at all levels. We take all reasonable measures to prevent, detect and respond to fraud and corruption.

The Court provides all employees, contractors and service providers (where relevant) with information, training and support in ethics, probity, privacy, and fraud and corruption awareness. Mandatory online risk management training is provided for all new staff as well as current staff every two years.

The fraud control framework is regularly reviewed and amended when appropriate to ensure that the Court has fraud prevention, detection, investigation and reporting mechanisms that meet our needs.

There have been no significant instances of fraud identified during the period.

# Business continuity management

The Court's Business Continuity Plan supports responses to potential business continuity risks throughout the year. The Court's comprehensive plans and procedures are intended to enable the continuation, or timely resumption, of critical functions and the restoration of normal business operations following a business interruption event. The Business Continuity Command Team was not required to meet during the reporting period.

### Corporate governance

### **Court Business Meetings**

The Justices and the CE&PR meet monthly as the Court's highest internal governance group, the Court Business Meeting:

- setting the strategic direction and priorities of the Court's administration
- maintaining a strategic view of the environment in which the Court operates and monitoring the Court's strategic risks

- ensuring the effective delivery of the Court's functions, responsibilities and priorities, including by:
  - overseeing the availability and management of resources and people
  - promoting financial sustainability
  - overseeing the Court's risk management framework and maintaining an appropriate system of internal controls
  - overseeing the Court's security controls
  - shaping the Court administration's culture
- determining the Court's approach to public information, education and engagement
- developing and maintaining the Court's legislative framework.

The Court Business Committee is supported by the following committees.

### Assurance committees

### **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee provides advice to the Justices and CE&PR about the appropriateness of the Court's financial reporting, system of risk oversight and management, and internal controls. During the reporting period, the Audit Committee was led by an independent chair, Mr Robert Cornall AO (until August 2024) and Mr Ian Govey AM (from 1 October 2024).

### Advisory committees

### Rules Committee

The Rules Committee consists of two Justices and the Senior Registrar and meets as required to consider amendments to the *High Court Rules 2004*.

### Workplace Conduct Committee

The Workplace Conduct Committee consists of two Justices and the Senior Human Resources Advisor and meets as required to provide oversight of the continued implementation of the Justices' Policy on Workplace Conduct.

PART 5: THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COURT

HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA 2024–25 ANNUAL REPORT

### Consultative committees

Workplace Health and Safety Committee

The Workplace Health and Safety Committee (WHSC) provides an opportunity for employees to raise issues about personal and workplace safety. Nominated WHSC representatives are encouraged to consult within their business areas prior to and after WHSC meetings. Information about the Court's health and safety arrangements and minutes from the WHSC meetings can be accessed by employees from the Court's intranet. The WHSC met three times in 2024–25.

### Employee Consultative Forum

The Court is committed to communication and consultation with employees and recognises the important role consultation has in supporting a collaborative and engaged workplace. The Employee Consultative Forum (ECF) provides an opportunity for employees to share information and discuss terms and conditions of employment. There are six employee representatives on the ECF across all employment levels to provide a balanced representation. The ECF generally meets quarterly, or more regularly if required.

### Administrative outcomes and activities

### **Fees**

Regulation 11 of the High Court of Australia (Fees) Regulation 2012 provides that persons in receipt of legal aid, persons who hold a concession card issued by Centrelink or the Department of Veterans' Affairs, persons detained in a public institution or in immigration detention, persons under the age of 18, persons in receipt of Youth Allowance, an Austudy payment or in receipt of benefits under the ABSTUDY scheme, and persons granted assistance under Part 11 of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) are eligible for a full exemption from paying filing and hearing fees associated with proceedings in the High Court. A person need only satisfy one ground under Regulation 11 (which is then recorded) though they may be eligible under multiple grounds.

Further, Regulation 12 sets out that where, in the opinion of a Registrar, the payment of the fee would cause financial hardship to the individual, the Registrar may determine that the person may instead pay a reduced fee (specified in Sch 1 as the "financial hardship fee"). A refusal by a Registrar to make such a determination may be reviewed by the Administrative Review Tribunal. There were no such refusals during the reporting period.

During the reporting period, 400 cases attracting a filing fee and/or hearing fees were filed in the Court. In 149 of these, or 37 per cent of cases, the person liable to pay the fee was exempted from paying the fee. In addition, financial hardship determinations were made in a further 29, or seven per cent, of cases. In the reporting period, the filing and hearing fees foregone in these 178 cases amounted to \$562,210. The composition of this total is shown in the following table.

### Record of fees foregone 2024–25

Reason for exemption or waiver	Regulation	No.	Amount (\$)
Legal aid (exemption)	11(1)(a)	22	45,885
Holder of a concession card (exemption)	11(1)(b)	74	290,665
Person in public detention (exemption)	11(1)(c)	50	123,805
Person under the age of 18 years (exemption)	11(1)(d)	0	0
Youth allowance, Austudy payment recipient or ABSTUDY recipient (exemption)	11(1)(e)	0	0
Recipient of assistance under Native Title Act (exemption)	11(1)(f)	3	17,175
Financial hardship (waiver of two-thirds of fee)	12	29	84,680
TOTAL		178	562,210

### **Register of Practitioners**

All legal practitioners in Australia who wish to practise in federal courts, or state or territory courts exercising federal jurisdiction, are required to have their names entered in the Register of Practitioners maintained by the CE&PR in Canberra. The Registry provides an information service to practitioners advising them of their entitlement to practise in federal courts, the procedure for having their name entered on the Register and, if required, providing them

with certificates of good standing to enable them to seek admission in other jurisdictions. The names of 4,209 new practitioners were added to the Register in 2024–25, which reflects an increase of 10.6 per cent from 2023–24. In addition to processing these applications, the Registry also produced 1,164 certificates in the 2024–25 reporting period.





# PART 6 BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE COURT

### **Establishment**

The High Court of Australia is the apex court in the Australian judicial system. It has its origins in section 71 of the *Constitution*. The *Judiciary Act 1903* (Cth) regulates the exercise of the Court's appellate and original jurisdiction. The Court was given the power to administer its own affairs in the *High Court of Australia Act 1979* (Cth).

### **Functions and powers**

The functions of the High Court are to:

- interpret and apply the law of Australia
- decide cases of special federal significance, including challenges to the constitutional validity of laws
- hear appeals, by special leave, from federal, state and territory courts.

In addition to its appellate and original jurisdiction, the High Court also has jurisdiction to hear electoral disputes as the Court of Disputed Returns under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Cth).

### **Seat of the Court**

Section 14 of the *High Court of Australia Act* provides that the seat of the High Court shall be at the seat of government in the Australian Capital Territory.

The Court also maintains offices in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney.

### **Sittings of the Court**

Sittings of a Full Court (two or more Justices) are held at the places and on the days fixed by a rule of Court. Most Full Court sittings are held in the seat of the Court in Canberra. The Court may also travel on circuit. In 2024–25, the Court sat in Darwin, Adelaide, Melbourne and Hobart while the High Court building in Canberra was closed for renovations.

A Justice may sit to hear and determine applications to a single Justice at the places and on the days that the Justice thinks fit.

During the 2024–25 year, single Justice sittings were generally held in Canberra or by video.

Constitutional cases are usually heard by all seven Justices. Appeals are usually heard by five or seven Justices. Before an appeal is heard, the Court must have granted leave or special leave to appeal. Applications for leave or special leave to appeal where an applicant is represented are considered by all seven Justices on the basis of written submissions. Following that consideration, a disposition will be published either granting or refusing leave, and in some instances an application may be listed for oral argument.

# **Appointment of Justices of the Court**

Under section 72 of the *Constitution*, Justices of the High Court:

- are appointed by the Governor-General in Council
- cannot be removed except by the Governor-General in Council on an address from both Houses of Parliament in the same session, praying for such removal on the grounds of proved misbehaviour or incapacity
- receive such remuneration as the Parliament may fix but the remuneration shall not be diminished during their continuance in office
- must retire on attaining the age of 70 years.

Part II of the *High Court of Australia Act* contains further provisions concerning the Court and the Justices, including:

- the Attorney-General shall, before an appointment is made to a vacant office of Justice of the Court, consult with the Attorneys-General of the states in relation to the appointment
- a person shall not be appointed as a Justice unless:
  - he or she has been a judge of a court created by the Parliament or of a court of a state or territory, or
- he or she has been enrolled as a barrister or solicitor or as a legal practitioner of the High Court or of a Supreme Court of a state or territory for not less than five years
- a Justice is not capable of accepting or holding any office of profit within Australia
- the Chief Justices and the other Justices shall receive a salary and other allowances at such rates as are fixed from time to time by Parliament.

# Chief Justices and Justices of the Court

There have been 14 Chief Justices and 51 Justices since the High Court was established in 1903, including the current members of the Court.

Three members of the Court—Sir Isaac Isaacs, Sir Ninian Stephen and Sir William Deane—resigned to be appointed to the office of Governor-General.

The name and years of service of each Chief Justice and High Court Justice are:

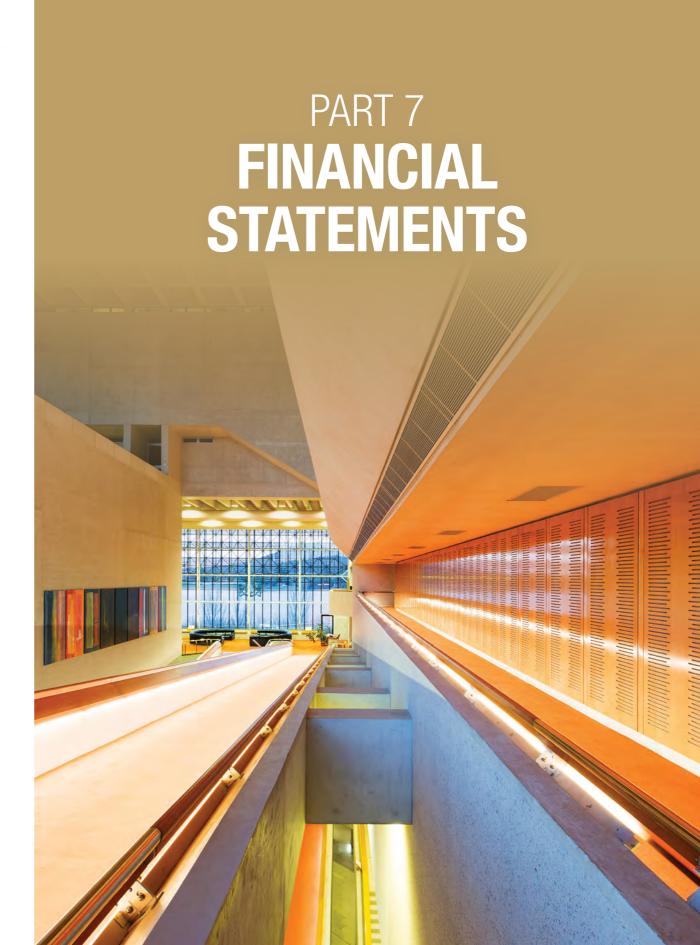
### **Chief Justices**

- Sir Samuel Walker Griffith 1903–1919
- Sir Adrian Knox 1919–1930
- Sir Isaac Alfred Isaacs 1930–1931
- Sir Frank Gavan Duffy 1931–1935
- Sir John Greig Latham 1935–1952
- Sir Owen Dixon 1952–1964
- Sir Garfield Edward John Barwick 1964–1981
- Sir Harry Talbot Gibbs 1981–1987
- Sir Anthony Frank Mason 1987–1995
- Sir (Francis) Gerard Brennan 1995–1998
- (Anthony) Murray Gleeson 1998–2008
- Robert Shenton French 2008–2017
- Susan Mary Kiefel 2017–2023
- Stephen John Gageler 2023–

### **Justices**

- Sir Edmund Barton 1903–1920
- Richard Edward O'Connor 1903–1912
- Sir Isaac Alfred Isaacs 1906–1930
- Henry Bournes Higgins 1906–1929
- Sir Frank Gavan Duffy 1913–1931
- Sir Charles Powers 1913–1929
- Albert Bathurst Piddington 1913-1913
- Sir George Edward Rich 1913–1950
- Sir Hayden Erskine Starke 1920–1950
- Sir Owen Dixon 1929–1952
- Herbert Vere Evatt 1930–1940
- Sir Edward Aloysius McTiernan 1930–1976
- Sir Dudley Williams 1940-1958
- Sir William Flood Webb 1946–1958
- Sir Wilfred Kelsham Fullagar 1950–1961
- Sir Frank Walters Kitto 1950–1970
- Sir Alan Russell Taylor 1952–1969
- Sir Douglas Ian Menzies 1958–1974
- Sir Victor Windeyer 1958–1972
- Sir William Francis Langer Owen 1961-1972
- Sir Cyril Ambrose Walsh 1969-1973
- Sir Harry Talbot Gibbs 1970–1981
- Sir Ninian Martin Stephen 1972–1982
- Sir Anthony Frank Mason 1972–1987
- Sir Kenneth Sydney Jacobs 1974–1979
- Lionel Keith Murphy 1975–1986

- Sir Keith Arthur Aickin 1976–1982
- Sir Ronald Darling Wilson 1979–1989
- Sir (Francis) Gerard Brennan 1981–1995
- Sir William Patrick Deane 1982–1995
- Sir Daryl Michael Dawson 1982–1997
- John Leslie Toohey 1987–1998
- Mary Genevieve Gaudron 1987–2003
- Michael Hudson McHugh 1989–2005
- William Montague Charles Gummow 1995–2012
- Michael Donald Kirby 1996–2009
- Kenneth Madison Hayne 1997–2015
- Ian David Francis Callinan 1998–2007
- (John) Dyson Heydon 2003–2013
- Susan Maree Crennan 2005–2015
- Susan Mary Kiefel 2007–2017
- Virginia Margaret Bell 2009–2021
- Stephen John Gageler 2012–2023
- Patrick Anthony Keane 2013–2022
- Geoffrey Arthur Akeroyd Nettle 2015–2020
- Michelle Marjorie Gordon 2015–
- James Joshua Edelman 2017–
- Simon Harry Peter Steward 2020–
- Jacqueline Sarah Gleeson 2021–
- Jayne Margaret Jagot 2022–
- Robert Thomas Beech-Jones 2023-







### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Attorney-General

### Report on the annual financial statements

### Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the High Court of Australia (the Entity) for the year ended 30 June 2025:

- (a) are based on and are in agreement with proper accounts and records; and
- (b) are in the form approved by the Finance Minister under the High Court of Australia Act 1979, including:
  - (i) complying with Australian Accounting Standards Simplified Disclosures and the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015; and
- (ii) presenting fairly the financial position of the Entity as at 30 June 2025 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

The financial statements of the Entity, which I have audited, comprise the following as at 30 June 2025 and for the year then ended:

- Statement by the Chief Executive Officer & Principal Registrar and the Chief Financial Officer;
- Statement of Comprehensive Income:
- Statement of Financial Position;
- Statement of Changes in Equity;
- Cash Flow Statement;
- Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income;
- Administered Schedule of Assets and Liabilities;
- · Administered Reconciliation Schedule;
- · Administered Cash Flow Statement; and
- Notes to and forming part of the financial statements, comprising material accounting policy information and other explanatory information.

### Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I am independent of the Entity in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements for financial statement audits conducted by the Auditor-General and their delegates. These include the relevant independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) (the Code) to the extent that they are not in conflict with the Auditor-General Act 1997. I have also fulfilled my other responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

### Accountable Authority's responsibility for the financial statements

As the Accountable Authority of the Entity, the Chief Executive and Principal Registrar is responsible under the High Court of Australia Act 1979 for the preparation and fair presentation of annual financial statements that comply with the form approved by the Finance Minister, being the Public Governance, Performance and

> GPO Box 707, Canberra ACT 2601 38 Sydney Avenue, Forrest ACT 2603 Phone (02) 6203 7300

Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015 which incorporates Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures. The Accountable Authority is also responsible for such internal control as the Accountable Authority determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Accountable Authority is responsible for assessing the ability of the Entity to continue as a going concern, taking into account whether the Entity's operations will cease as a result of an administrative restructure or for any other reason. The Accountable Authority is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless the assessment indicates that it is not appropriate.

### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or
  error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is
  sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material
  misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion,
  forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are
  appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of
  the Entity's internal control;
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Accountable Authority;
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Accountable Authority's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern; and
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Accountable Authority regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit. In accordance with subsection 47(2)(d) of the *High Court of Australia Act 1979*, I also include in this report any other matters arising out of my audit of the financial statements that I consider should be reported to the Attorney-General. I have nothing to report in this regard.

### Report on receipts, expenditure and investment of moneys, and the acquisition and disposal of assets

### Opinion

In my opinion, the receipt, expenditure and investment of moneys, and the acquisition and disposal of assets by the Entity, in all material respects, are in accordance with section 17 of the *High Court of Australia Act 1979*.

I have audited the receipt, expenditure and investment of moneys, and the acquisition and disposal of assets by the Entity during the year ended 30 June 2025.

### Responsibilities

The Accountable Authority is responsible for administering the Entity in accordance with the *High Court of Australia Act 1979*. This includes doing all things necessary to ensure that all payments out of the moneys held by the Entity are correctly made and properly authorised and that adequate control is maintained over the assets held by, or in the custody of, the Entity and over the incurring of liabilities by the Entity.

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the receipt, expenditure and investment of moneys, and the acquisition and disposal of assets by the Entity during the year ended 30 June 2025, based on my audit conducted in accordance with section 43 of the *High Court of Australia Act 1979* and the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards.

Australian National Audit Office

An

Shane Svoboda Audit Principal

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra 27 August 2025 **High Court of Australia** 

**Financial Statements** 

For the period ended 30 June 2025

### **High Court of Australia** STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & PRINCIPAL REGISTRAR AND THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2025 are based on properly maintained financial records and are in the form approved by the Finance Minister under section 47(1) of the High Court of Australia Act 1979. The statements comply with the Australian Accounting Standards—Simplified Disclosures and the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015.

In our opinion, at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the High Court of Australia (HCA) will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Richard Glenn

Chief Executive & Principal Registrar

High Court of Australia 27 August 2025

John Kearns Chief Financial Officer

High Court of Australia 27 August 2025

### **High Court of Australia** STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the period ended 30 June 2025

				Original
		2025	2024	Budget 2025
	Notes	\$	\$	\$
NET COST OF SERVICES				
Expenses				
Employee benefits	1.1A	11,355,162	10,641,276	10,472,000
Suppliers	1.1B	11,287,002	10,929,976	11,364,000
Depreciation and amortisation	3.2A	9,524,068	8,195,134	7,715,000
Impairment loss on financial instruments		-	3,520	-
Write-down and impairment of other assets	1.1C	14,349	424,335	-
Finance costs	1.1D	5,219	5,622	2,000
Losses from asset sales		-	14,420	-
Total expenses		32,185,800	30,214,283	29,553,000
Own-source income				
Own-source revenue				
Revenue from contracts with customers	1.2A	464,666	440,531	250,000
Interest		667,837	769,781	255,000
Resources received free of charge	1.2B	3,319,446	3,202,110	3,100,000
Other revenue	1.2C	28,817	212,273	120,000
Total own-source revenue		4,480,766	4,624,695	3,725,000
Gains				
Other gains	1.2D		90,200	
Total gains			90,200	
Total own-source income		4,480,766	4,714,895	3,725,000
Net cost of services		(27,705,034)	(25,499,388)	(25,828,000)
Revenue from Government	1.2E	18,215,000	17,479,000	18,173,000
Deficit		(9,490,034)	(8,020,388)	(7,655,000)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME				
Changes in asset revaluation reserve		10,483,626	12,592,999	
Total other comprehensive income		10,483,626	12,592,999	
Total comprehensive income/(loss)		993,592	4,572,611	(7,655,000)
Total comprehensive surplus/(loss)		993,592	4,572,611	(7,655,000)

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

For budget variances commentary refer to pages 6-7 of the financial statements.

### High Court of Australia STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 30 June 2025

				Original Budget
		2025	2024	2025
	Notes	\$	\$	\$
ASSETS	- 10-00	•	*	•
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	3.1A	1,358,486	1,340,291	2,510,000
Trade and other receivables	3.1B	437,565	1,007,806	638,000
Other investments		11,500,000	12,000,000	3,815,000
Total financial assets		13,296,051	14,348,097	6,963,000
Non-financial assets <sup>1</sup>				
Land and buildings	3.2A	236,546,129	231,077,530	222,181,000
Property, plant and equipment	3.2A	14,853,843	15,187,807	16,016,000
Heritage and cultural	3.2A	6,104,140	6,064,140	5,154,000
Intangibles	3.2A	560,671	456,293	500,000
Other non-financial assets	3.2B	435,048	301,885	297,000
Total non-financial assets		258,499,831	253,087,655	244,148,000
Assets held for sale		-	40,000	
Total assets		271,795,882	267,475,752	251,111,000
LIABILITIES				
Payables				
Suppliers	3.3A	564,408	352,649	427,000
Other payables	3.3B	428,821	406,430	332,000
Total payables		993,229	759,079	759,000
Interest bearing liabilities				
Leases	3.4A	100,854	170,696	219,000
Total interest bearing liabilities		100,854	170,696	219,000
Provisions				
Employee provisions	6.1	3,133,800	3,299,570	3,466,000
Total provisions		3,133,800	3,299,570	3,466,000
Total liabilities		4,227,883	4,229,345	4,444,000
Net assets		267,567,999	263,246,407	246,667,000
EQUITY				
Contributed equity		125,565,598	122,237,598	125,566,000
Asset revaluation reserve		246,461,393	235,977,767	223,383,000
Accumulated deficit		(104,458,992)	(94,968,958)	(102,282,000)
Total equity		267,567,999	263,246,407	246,667,000

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

For budget variances commentary refer to pages 6-7 of the financial statements.

3

### High Court of Australia STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the period ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024	Original Budget
CONTRIBUTED EQUITY	\$	\$	\$
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	122,237,598	118,674,598	122,237,598
Transactions with owners	122,207,630	110,071,090	122,237,370
Contributions by owners			
Equity injection - appropriation	550,000	850,000	550,000
Departmental capital budget	2,778,000	2,713,000	2,778,000
Total transactions with owners	3,328,000	3,563,000	3,328,000
Closing balances as at 30 June	125,565,598	122,237,598	125,565,598
ACCUMULATED DEFICIT			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	(94,968,958)	(86,948,570)	(94,627,000)
Comprehensive income			
Surplus / (Deficit) for the period	(9,490,034)	(8,020,388)	(7,655,000)
Total comprehensive income/(loss)	(9,490,034)	(8,020,388)	(7,655,000)
Closing balance as at 30 June	(104,458,992)	(94,968,958)	(102,282,000)
ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	235,977,767	223,384,768	223,383,000
Comprehensive income			
Other comprehensive income	10,483,626	12,592,999	
Total comprehensive income	10,483,626	12,592,999	-
Closing balance as at 30 June	246,461,393	235,977,767	223,383,000
TOTAL EQUITY			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	263,246,407	255,110,796	250,994,000
Comprehensive income		, ,	,
Other comprehensive income	10,483,626	12,592,999	(7,655,000)
Surplus / (Deficit) for the period	(9,490,034)	(8,020,388)	-
Total comprehensive income	993,592	4,572,611	(7,655,000)
Transactions with owners			
Contributions by owners			
Equity injection - appropriation	550,000	850,000	550,000
Departmental capital budget	2,778,000	2,713,000	2,778,000
Total transactions with owners	3,328,000	3,563,000	3,328,000
Closing balances as at 30 June	267,567,999	263,246,407	246,666,598

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

For budget variances commentary refer to pages 6-7 of the financial statements.

### Accounting policy

Equity injections

Amounts appropriated which are designated as 'equity injections' for a year (less any formal reductions) and Departmental Capital Budgets (DCBs) are recognised directly in contributed equity in that year.

4

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Property plant and equipment includes the library and significant furniture collections. Right-of-use assets are also included in the property, plant and equipment category of non-financial assets. Intangibles include computer software and other intangibles.

### High Court of Australia CASH FLOW STATEMENT

For the period ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025 \$	2024 \$	Original Budget 2025 \$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Appropriations		18,215,000	17,479,000	18,173,000
Sale of goods and rendering of services		500,967	340,561	250,000
Interest		691,696	744,990	255,000
Net GST received		1,252,819	954,717	785,000
Other		421,043	213,486	120,000
Total cash received	-	21,081,525	19,732,754	19,583,000
Cash used				
Employees		11,479,443	10,425,799	10,282,000
Suppliers		9,043,023	8,988,856	9,049,000
Interest payments on lease liabilities		5,219	5,622	2,000
Total cash used		20,527,685	19,420,277	19,333,000
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities	5.3	553,840	312,477	250,000
INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		1,407	5,266	-
Investments		500,000	39,380	3,554,000
Total cash received	-	501,407	44,646	3,554,000
Cash used				
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		4,257,351	4,683,385	6,847,000
Total cash used		4,257,351	4,683,385	6,847,000
Net cash from/(used by) investing activities	-	(3,755,944)	(4,638,739)	(3,293,000)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Capital injection	-	3,328,000	3,563,000	3,328,000
Total cash received	-	3,328,000	3,563,000	3,328,000
Cash used				
Principal payments of lease liabilities	-	107,701	96,330	60,000
Net cash used	·	107,701	96,330	60,000
Net cash from/(used by) financing activities	-	3,220,299	3,466,670	3,268,000
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	-	18,195	(859,592)	225,000
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the			• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
reporting period	-	1,340,291	2,199,883	2,285,000
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting		4.250.405	1 240 201	2.510.000
period	5.3	1,358,486	1,340,291	2,510,000

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

### High Court of Australia BUDGET VARIANCE COMMENTARY

For the period ended 30 June 2025

### **Budget Variation Commentary**

A variation is considered major when the variance between budget and actual is greater than 10% and greater than 5% of the relevant category (expenses, revenue, assets, liabilities, receipts, or payments). An item below this threshold will be included if considered important for the readers understanding.

Explanation of Major Variances	
Statement of Comprehensive Income	Affected Line Item
Employee expenses are \$0.883m higher than budget due to increases in cost of LSL and annual leave expenses on transfers, increases in ASL as the Court builds inhouse capability and enterprise agreement (EA) pay rises.	Employee benefits
Depreciation expenses are higher than budget by \$1.809m due to the increase in the value of buildings on revaluation not being included in the budget.	Depreciation
Increases in interest income from investments of \$0.413m are due to higher interest rates and a higher level of cash reserves.	Interest
Resources free of charge are \$0.219m are higher than budget. The Court has registry and judicial offices located in state capital cities which it does not pay for the use of but recognises resources free of charge for. The basis of the value is determined by an independent valuer.	Resources received free of charge
Changes in the asset revaluation reserves of \$10.484m are due to the revaluation increment from an independent valuation of the Court's assets with the majority of the movement an increase to land and buildings.	Changes in asset revaluation reserves
Statement of Financial Position	Affected Line Item
The increase in cash and investments of \$6.533m is primarily due to capital funds being held for longer than originally anticipated and invested.	Cash and cash equivalents and other investments
Trade receivables are lower than budget by \$0.200m due to a reduction in other receivables (insurance recoveries and leave transfers) and lower than forecast GST receivables.	Trade and other receivables
The increase in land and buildings of \$14.365m is primarily due to the \$10.484m revaluation increment of the Court's land and buildings as at 30 June 2025. Major capital projects completed during the year include replacing the lifts and main switch board totalling \$2.778m.	Land and buildings
Other payables including supplier accruals have increase by \$0.234m due to unanticipated security expenses accrued at year end and accrued salaries being higher than anticipated.	Total payables - suppliers and other payables
The decrease in leases of \$0.118m is due to principal repayments in 2024-25. The Court budgets for leases to increase over time in line with indexation, however, actual lease liabilities decline with principal payments until new lease agreements are entered.	Leases
Decreases in leave provisions are a result of staff retirements during 2024-25 with large LSL and annual leave payouts and higher than anticipated levels of leave being taken.	Employee provisions

### High Court of Australia BUDGET VARIANCE COMMENTARY

For the period ended 30 June 2025

Asset revaluation reserves have increased by \$10.484m as a result of the revaluation of the Court's land and building by an independent valuer at 30 June 2025 which was not budgeted.	Reserves
Explanation of Major Variances (continued)	
Cash Flow	Affected Line Item
Sale of goods and rendering of services revenue of \$0.251m is higher than budget due to receipts from facilities and practitioner's certificates being higher than originally anticipated.	Sale of goods and rendering of services
Increases in interest income from investments of \$0.436m are due to higher interest rates and a higher level of cash reserves.	Interest
The increase in other revenue of \$0.301m is primarily due to the settlement of an insurance claim	Other
Employee expenses are \$1.197m higher than budget due to pay rises, higher ALS and the payout of entitlements	Employees
Purchase of property plant and equipment is \$2.589m lower than budget due to spend on the building being less than originally planned in the capital management plan	Purchase of property plant and equipment

### High Court of Australia ADMINISTERED SCHEDULE OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the period ended 30 June 2025

				Original Budget
		2025	2024	2025
	Notes	\$	\$	\$
Net cost of services				
Income				
Revenue				
Non-taxation revenue				
Fees and Charges	2.1	2,594,449	2,235,015	2,450,000
Total non-taxation revenue		2,594,449	2,235,015	2,450,000
Total income		2,594,449	2,235,015	2,450,000
Total comprehensive income		2,594,449	2,235,015	2,450,000
The above statement should be read in conjunction with	the accompanying no	tes		

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

For budget variances commentary refer to page 10 of the financial statements.

### ADMINISTERED SCHEDULE OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

As at 30 June 2025

		2025	2024	Original Budget 2025
A CONTING	Notes	\$	\$	\$
ASSETS				
Financial assets				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4.1	186,181	178,581	214,000
Other receivables	_	9,775	<u> </u>	-
Total financial assets	-	195,956	178,581	214,000
LIABILITIES				
Payables				
Other payables		-	-	-
Total payables	- -	<u> </u>	-	-
Net assets/(liabilities)	<del>-</del>	195,956	178,581	214,000
The above statement should be read in conjunction with t	he accompanying note	es.		
For budget variances commentary refer to page 10 of the	financial statements.			

7

### High Court of Australia ADMINISTERED RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

For the period ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025 \$	2024 \$	Original Budget 2025 \$
Opening assets less liabilities as at 1 July Adjusted opening assets less liabilities		178,581 178,581	191,624 191,624	201,000
Net (cost of)/contribution by services Income		2,594,449	2,235,015	2,450,000
Transfers (to)/from the Australian Government Appropriation transfers to OPA				
Transfers to OPA		(2,577,074)	(2,248,058)	(2,437,000)
Closing assets less liabilities as at 30 June		195,956	178,581	214,000

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

For budget variances commentary refer to page 10 of the financial statements.

### **Accounting Policy**

Administered Cash Transfers to and from the Official Public Account

Revenue collected by the Court for use by the Government rather than the Court is administered revenue. Collections are transferred to the Official Public Account (OPA) maintained by the Department of Finance. These transfers to the OPA are adjustments to the administered cash held by the Court on behalf of the Government and reported as such in the schedule of administered cash flows and in the administered reconciliation schedule.

### ADMINISTERED CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the period ended 30 June 2025

		2025	2024	Original Budget
	Notes	\$	\$	\$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Fees and charges		2,584,674	2,235,015	2,450,000
Total cash received		2,584,674	2,235,015	2,450,000
Net cash used by operating activities		2,584,674	2,235,015	2,450,000
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held  Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting		2,584,674	2,235,015	2,450,000
period  Cash to Official Public Account		178,581	191,624	201,000
Cash to OPA		(2,577,074)	(2,248,058)	(2,437,000)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	4.1	186,181	178,581	214,000

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

For budget variances commentary refer to page 10 of the financial statements.

High Court of Australia
ADMINISTERED BUDGET VARIANCE COMMENTARY

For the period ended 30 June 2025

### **Budget Variation Commentary**

A variation is considered major when the variance between budget and actual is greater than 10% and greater than 5% of the relevant category (expenses, revenue, assets, liabilities, receipts, or payments). An item below this threshold will be included if considered important for the readers understanding.

Explanation of Major Variances	Affected line items
Filling and hearing fees are determined under the High Court of	Non-taxation revenue
Australia (Fees) Regulation 2012. Hearing fees are paid once a	
date has been set. The budget is set based on an average of the	
prior year filling rates.	

60

### High Court of Australia Table of Contents

Overview	12
1. Financial performance	14
1.1: Expenses	
1.2: Own-source revenue and gains	16
2. Income Administered on behalf of Government	18
2.1: Administered – Income	18
3. Financial position	19
3.1: Financial assets	19
3.2: Non-financial assets	20
3.3: Payables	24
3.4: Interest bearing liabilities	25
4. Assets and liabilities administered on behalf of the Government	26
4.1: Administered – Financial Assets	26
5. Funding	27
5.1: Appropriations	27
5.2: Net cash appropriation arrangements	28
5.3: Cash Flow Reconciliation	28
6. People and Relationships	29
6.1: Employee Provisions	29
6.2: Key Management Personnel Remuneration	30
6.3: Related party disclosures	30
7. Managing Uncertainty	31
7.1: Contingent Assets and Liabilities	31
7.2: Financial Instruments	31
7.3: Administered Financial Instruments	32
7.4: Fair Value Measurements	34
8. Other information	35
8.1: Current/Non-current distinction for assets and liabilities	35
8.2: Public Money in the Custody of the Court	37

### High Court of Australia NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Overview

### The Basis of Preparation

The financial statements and notes are required by section 47 (1) of the *High Court of Australia Act 1979* (Cth) and are general purpose financial statements. Under section 47 (1) the financial statements are required to be in such a form as the Minister of Finance approves.

On the above basis, the financial statements and notes have been prepared in accordance with:

- Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015 (FRR); and
- Australian Accounting Standards Simplified Disclosures issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that
  apply for the reporting period.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are in accordance with the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities at fair value. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and values are rounded to the nearest dollar unless otherwise specified. Unless alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard or the FRR's, assets and liabilities are recognised in the statement of financial position when and only when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the Court, or a future sacrifice of economic benefit will be required, and the amounts of the assets or liabilities can be reliably measured. However, assets and liabilities arising under executor contracts are not recognised unless required by an accounting standard.

Unless alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard, income and expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when and only when the flow, consumption or loss of economic benefits has occurred and can be reliably measured.

### **New Accounting Standards**

All new/revised/amending standards and/or interpretations that were issued prior to the sign-off date and are applicable to the current reporting period did not have a material effect on the Court's financial statements. Specific reference is made to the following amendment only as it impacts the Court's material asset land and buildings. It had no material impact on the valuation.

AASB 2022-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-For-Profit Public Sector Entities.

This standard amends AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement for fair value measurements of non-financial assets of not-for-profit public sector entities not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash inflows. This standard also adds implementation advice and relevant illustrative examples for fair value measurements of non-financial assets of not-for-profit public sector entities not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash inflows. AASB 2022-10 applies to annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024.

### Material Accounting Judgement and Estimates

In the process of applying the accounting policies listed in this note, the Court has made the following judgements that have the most material impact on the amounts recorded in the financial statements:

- Land and buildings are revalued on a yearly basis. Valuations of all other asset classes (property plant and equipment, heritage, significant furniture and library assets) are conducted at least every three years. The first year a full valuation is undertaken with the fair value subject to a materiality review in years two and three. Revaluations are usually on a three-year cycle, but the regularity may also depend on the volatility of movements in the market of relevant assets.
- An independent valuer has used the market approach to determine the fair value of the Court's land asset. The Court's land asset is zoned as designated land under the National Capital Plan and may in fact realise more or less in the market.
- The fair value of the Court's buildings has been taken to be the written down replacement cost as determined by an independent valuer. The Court's building is purpose-built and may in fact realise more or less in the market.

### High Court of Australia NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- The valuation method adopted to determine the fair value of property, plant and equipment (including the library and significant furniture collections) was by market-based evidence in instances where there were sufficient observable transactions of similar assets. Market evidence has primarily been sourced from national physical and online auction markets. International and Australian dealers' catalogues and price lists are also used as market evidence for the library collection and significant furniture collection. The depreciated replacement cost approach has been used to determine fair value for the remaining assets in the property, plant and equipment class. These assets include audio visual, security related and IT networking equipment. The current replacement cost is sourced from suppliers and manufacturers. Allowances for physical depreciation and obsolescence had been deducted from the current replacement cost to establish the fair value measurement. Independent valuations of property, plant and equipment and the library collection are undertaken every three years.
- The heritage and cultural asset class comprises artwork, antique furniture, and rare book collections. The fair value of these collections is based upon observations of the selling prices in the art and collectable markets. For rare and unique items and where there is a paucity of market data or past sales evidence is not available the Valuer looks at current market activity and used their professional judgement and interpretation of comparable items and the prevailing market conditions. An independent valuation of heritage and cultural asset class is undertaken every three years.

No accounting assumptions or estimates have been identified that have a risk of causing a material adjustment to carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next accounting period.

### Accounting Policy

Sale of Assets

Gains and or losses from disposal of assets are recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

<u>Interest</u>

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method.

### Taxation

13

64

The Court is exempt from all forms of taxation. The Court has elected to pay notional Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) and the Goods and Services Tax (GST) payments. Revenues, expenses, and assets are recognised net of GST except:

- where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office; and
- for receivables and payables.

### Reporting of Administered activities

Administered revenues, assets and cash flows are disclosed in the schedule of administered items and related notes.

Except where otherwise stated, administered items are accounted for on the same basis and using the same policies as for departmental items, including the application of Australian Accounting Standards.

### **Events After the Reporting Period**

No events have occurred after the reporting period that affect the Financial Statements.

### High Court of Australia NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 1. Financial performance

This section analyses the financial performance of the High Court of Australia for the year ended 2025.

1.1: Expenses		
	2025	2024
	\$	\$
1.1A: Employee benefits		
Wages and salaries	8,436,873	7,866,952
Allowances and other entitlements	64,369	53,912
Superannuation:		
Defined benefit plans	514,349	604,820
Defined contribution plans	962,776	793,880
Leave and other entitlements	1,125,628	881,763
Fringe Benefits Tax	251,167	439,949
Total employee benefits	11,355,162	10,641,276

### Accounting Policy

Accounting policies for employee related expenses is contained in section 6. People and Relationships.

The salaries and allowances paid to the Chief Justice and other Justices of the Court are administered by the Attorney-General's Department through a special appropriation held by the Australian Public Service Commission. The Justices' salary and allowances are set by the Remuneration Tribunal and are not paid by the Court.

### 1.1B: Suppliers

### Goods and services supplied or rendered

Property	4,446,299	4,487,992
Security	1,123,255	1,377,027
Travel	1,148,696	1,006,871
Information technology and communications	1,369,136	1,205,223
Contractors and other consultants	712,608	452,884
Electronic library subscriptions	841,921	800,366
Legal expenses	59,920	99,962
Courier and freight charges	63,039	36,145
General insurance	535,628	525,194
Printing	93,326	106,845
External audit fees	80,000	75,000
Other	621,666	540,546
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	11,095,494	10,714,055
Goods supplied in connection with		
Goods supplied	535,628	456,806
Services rendered	10,559,866	10,257,249
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	11,095,494	10,714,055
Other suppliers' expenses		
Short-term leases	4,060	21,115
Vehicle running costs	30,314	53,433
Workers' compensation expenses	157,134	141,373
Total other suppliers	191,508	215,921
Total suppliers	11,287,002	10,929,976

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 1.1D, 3.2A and 3.4A.

14

# High Court of Australia NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### Accounting policy

Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

The Court has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases of assets that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets (less than \$10,000). The entity recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
1.1C: Write-Down and Impairment of Other Assets		
Impairment of property, plant and equipment	14,349	424,335
Total write-down and impairment of assets	14,349	424,335
1.1D: Finance costs		
Interest on lease liabilities	5,219	5,622
Total finance costs	5,219	5,622

#### Accounting Policy

The accounting policy for leases is contained under Note 3.4A. Interest Bearing Liabilities.

# High Court of Australia NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2025	
	2025	2024
Own-Source Revenue	\$	\$
1.2A: Revenue from Contracts with Customers		
Sale of goods	227,917	203,014
Rendering of services	236,749	237,517
Total revenue from contracts with customers	464,666	440,531
Time of transfer of goods and services		
Over time	62,706	58,659
Point in time	401,960	381,872
	464,666	440,531

#### Accounting policy

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when control has been transferred to the buyer.

The following is a description of principal activities from which the Court generates revenue:

Over time – subscription service for the provision of published High Court Judgements and/or submissions. Subscribers to these services pay annually in advance. One twelfth of the annual subscription fee income is recognised monthly as the service is rendered.

Point in time – hire of office facilities, levy on staff and visitors who use carpark facilities and fees for the provision of practitioner certificates. Revenue is recognised at the time the performance obligation has been satisfied when the service has been rendered.

The transaction price is the total amount of consideration to which the Court expects to be entitled in exchange for transferring promised goods or services to a customer. The consideration promised in a contract with a customer may include fixed amounts, variable amounts, or both.

Receivables for goods and services, which have 30-day terms, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any impairment allowance account. Collectability of debts is reviewed at the end of the reporting period. Allowances are made when collectability of the debt is no longer probable.

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
1.2B: Resources Received Free of Charge		
Resources received free of charge		
Remuneration of auditors	80,000	75,000
Property operating cost	3,239,446	3,127,110
Total resources received free of charge	3,319,446	3,202,110

#### Accounting Policy

#### Resources received free of charge

Resources received free of charge are recognised as revenue when, and only when a fair value can be reliably determined, and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. Use of those resources is recognised as an expense. Resources received free of charge are recorded as either revenue or gains depending on their nature.

#### Property operating cost

The Court has registry offices and judicial offices located within Law Court Buildings in most capital cities. The Court is not charged for the use of these spaces. These resources are reflected gross of rental incentives. The Law Court Buildings are owned by the Commonwealth other than the Sydney Law Court Building, which is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and NSW Governments.

15

#### **High Court of Australia**

#### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
	-	•
1.2C: Other revenue		
Insurance recoveries	-	167,976
Other	28,817	44,297
Total other revenue	28,817	212,273
Gains		
1.2D: Other Gains		
Assets recognised of the first time <sup>1</sup>	-	80,200
Donation <sup>2</sup>	<u></u>	10,000
Total other gains	<u>-</u>	90,200

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>These were existing assets identified as not being reported in the financial statements for the preceding reporting periods and were valued by an independent valuer.

#### Accounting Policy

#### Resources received free of charge

Contributions of assets at no cost of acquisition or for nominal consideration are recognised as gains at their fair value when the asset qualifies for recognition, unless received from another Government entity as a consequence of a restructuring of administrative arrangements.

#### Revenue from Government

#### 1.2E: Revenue from Government

#### Appropriations

Departmental appropriations	18,215,000	17,479,000
Total revenue from government	18,215,000	17,479,000

#### Accounting Policy

#### Revenue from Government

Amounts appropriated for departmental appropriations for the year (adjusted for any formal additions and reductions) are recognised as Revenue from Government when the Court gains control of the appropriation, except for certain amounts that relate to activities that are reciprocal in nature, in which case revenue is recognised only when it has been earned.

# High Court of Australia NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### 2. Income Administered on behalf of Government

This section analyses the activities that the High Court of Australia does not control but administers on behalf of the Government. Unless otherwise noted, the accounting policies adopted are consistent with those applied for departmental reporting.

2.1: Administered – Income		
	2025	2024
Non-Taxation Revenue	\$	\$
2.1: Fees and Charges		
Hearing fees	610,120	628,465
Filing and other fees	2,630,035	2,450,538
Refunds <sup>1</sup>	(645,706)	(843,988)
Total fees and charges	2,594,449	2,235,015

#### Accounting policy

Administered revenues relate to revenue collected, pursuant to Section 8 of the *High Court of Australia (Fees) Regulations 2012*. These Regulations applies to fees for filing of a document, obtaining a document, and or a hearing in relation to a proceeding and the provision of a service. Administered fee revenue is recognised when the service occurs. Under Section 15 of the *High Court of Australia (Fees) Regulations 2012* refunds are permitted.

<sup>1</sup>Fees paid under the *High Court of Australia (Fees) Regulations 2012* (Fee Regulations) form part of the Consolidated Revenue Fund on receipt. Refunds of fees, in circumstances prescribed by Section 15 of the Fee Regulations, are paid from the Consolidated Revenue Fund. The Court has received authorisation from the delegate in the Attorney General's Department to use the special appropriation under Section 77 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* for repayments under the Fee Regulations.

17

68

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>This asset was valued by an independent valuer.

# High Court of Australia NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### 3. Financial Position

This section analyses the High Court of Australia's assets used to generate financial performance and the operating liabilities incurred as a result.

Employee related information is disclosed in the People and Relationships Section.

3.1: Financial assets		
	2025	2024
	\$	\$
3.1A: Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash on bank or on deposit	1,358,486	1,340,291
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,358,486	1,340,291

#### Accounting policy

Cash is recognised at its nominal amount. Cash and cash equivalents includes:

) cash on hand

b) demand deposits in bank accounts with an original maturity of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

#### 3.1B: Trade and other receivables

# Goods and services receivables 120,840 97,033 Total goods and services receivables 120,840 97,033

The contract assets are associated with point in time contracts.

Other receivables		
Statutory receivables - goods and services tax ATO	81,353	259,485
Interest	114,138	137,997
Other Receivables	125,864	517,921
Total other receivables	321,355	915,403
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	442,195	1,012,436
Less impairment loss allowance	(4,630)	(4,630)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	437,565	1,007,806

#### Accounting policy

Financial assets

Trade and other receivables that are held for the purpose of collecting the contractual cash flows where the cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest, that are not provided at below-market interest rates and are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method adjusted for any loss allowance.

Other investments include term deposits held with financial institutions as authorised by the Chief Executive and Principal Registrar (CE&PR) under Section 41 of the *High Court of Australia Act 1979*.

# High Court of Australia NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

			Lihrary		Heritage and	Committee	Other	
	Land	Buildings	holdings	Other PP&E <sup>1</sup>	cultural <sup>2</sup>	software	Intangibles	Total
	9	s,	, se	9	99	9	<b>9</b>	9
Gross book value	10,200,000	220,894,449	11,094,505	6,093,204	6,064,140	1,934,537	106,688	256,387,523
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	•	(16,919)	(1,182,910)	(816,992)	•	(1,568,350)	(16,582)	(3,601,753)
Total as at 1 July 2024	10,200,000	220,877,530	9,911,595	5,276,212	6,064,140	366,187	90,106	252,785,770
Adjusted total as at 1 July 2024	10,200,000	220,877,530	9,911,595	5,276,212	6,064,140	366,188	90,106	252,785,771
Additions								
By Purchase	•	1,818,869	612,168	1,596,539	•	229,774	•	4,257,350
Right-of-use assets	•		•	37,859	•	•	•	37,859
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive								
income	1,250,000	9,330,775	1	(97,148)	,	•	•	10,483,627
Impairments recognised in the operating result	•		(9,894)	(4,455)	•	•	•	(14,349)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	•	(6,931,045)	(1,038,910)	(1,321,016)	•	(125,397)	•	(9,416,368)
Depreciation on right-of-use assets	•			(107,700)	•		•	(107,700)
Disposals:								
Other disposals	•	•	•	(1,407)	•	•	•	(1,407)
Movements:								
Assets held for sale	•	•	•	•	40,000	•	•	40,000
Total as at 30 June 2025	11,450,000	225,096,129	9,474,959	5,378,884	6,104,140	470,565	90,106	258,064,783
Total as at 30 June 2025 represented by:								
Gross book value <sup>1</sup>	11,450,000	225,096,129	11,691,254	5,259,761	6,104,140	1,975,581	106,688	261,683,553
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	•	•	(2,216,295)	119,123	•	(1,505,016)	(16,582)	(3,618,770)
Total as at 30 June 2025	11,450,000	225,096,129	9,474,959	5,378,884	6,104,140	470,565	90,106	258,064,783
Carrying amount of right-of-use assets	-	-	-	100,854	-	-	-	100,854

# High Court of Australia NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

<sup>1</sup>Property, plant and equipment category include the significant furniture class of assets valued at \$1,902,000.

<sup>2</sup> Property, plant and equipment that met the definition of a heritage and cultural item are disclosed in the heritage and cultural asset class

No other indicators of impairment were found apart from those disclosed above.

No property plant and equipment or intangibles are expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

#### Revaluations of non-financial assets

All revaluations were conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy stated at Note 7.4. On 30 June 2025, independent valuers conducted valuations on land and buildings, property, plant and equipment.

#### Contractual commitments for the acquisition of property, plant, equipment, and intangible assets

The Court has contracts for capital projects in progress for lift replacements, switchboard replacement works, plant upgrades, Court room audio visual upgrades and associated works, office furniture and other minor building works.

	2025	2024
	s	\$
Commitments are payable as follows:		
Within 1 year	683,657	3,488,090
Total Commitments <sup>1</sup>	683,657	3,488,090

<sup>1</sup>Including GST.

# High Court of Australia NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **Accounting Policy**

Assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below. The cost of acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken. Financial assets are initially measured at their fair value plus transaction costs where appropriate.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and income at their fair value at the date of acquisition, unless acquired as a consequence of restructuring of administrative arrangements. In the latter case, assets are initially recognised as contributions by owners at the amounts at which they were recognised in the transferor's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

#### Asset Recognition Threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the statement of financial position, except for purchases costing less than \$3,000 (or building improvements less than \$10,000), which are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

#### Lease Right of Use (ROU) Assets

Leased ROU assets are capitalised at the commencement date of the lease and comprise of the initial lease liability amount, initial direct costs incurred when entering into the lease less any lease incentives received. These assets are accounted for as separate asset classes to corresponding assets owned outright but included in the same column as where the corresponding underlying assets would be presented if they were owned.

On initial adoption of AASB 16 the Court adjusted the ROU assets at the date of initial application by the amount of any provision for onerous leases recognised immediately before the date of initial application. Following initial application, an impairment review is undertaken for any right of use lease asset that shows indicators of impairment, and an impairment loss is recognised against any right of use lease asset that is impaired. Lease ROU assets continue to be measured at cost after initial recognition in the financial statements.

#### Revaluations

22

Following initial recognition at cost, property, plant and equipment (including library and significant furniture collections but excluding ROU assets) are carried at fair value (or an amount not materially different from fair value) less subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Valuations are conducted with sufficient

frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets do not differ materially from the assets' fair values as at the reporting date. The regularity of independent valuations depends upon the volatility of movements in market values for the relevant

Revaluation adjustments are made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment is credited to equity under the heading of asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that it reverses a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised in the surplus/deficit. Revaluation decrements for a class of assets are recognised directly in the surplus/deficit except to the extent that they reverse a previous revaluation increment for that class.

Any accumulated depreciation as at the revaluation date is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the asset restated to the revalued amount.

#### Depreciation

Depreciable property, plant and equipment assets are written off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives to the Court using, in all cases, the straight-line method of depreciation.

Depreciation rates (useful lives), residual values and methods are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate.

Depreciation rates applying to each class of depreciable asset are based on the following useful lives:

	2025	2024
Building assets	1 to 200 years	5 to 156 years
Property, plant, and equipment	3 to 50 years	1 to 43 years
Significant furniture	10 to 50 years	10 to 50 years
Library holdings	7 to 25 years	7 to 25 years

All heritage and cultural assets have indefinite useful lives and are not depreciated.

The depreciation rates for ROU assets are based on the commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the ROU asset or the end of the lease term.

21

Unearned revenue

Total other payables

# High Court of Australia NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### *Impairmen*

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2025. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated, and an impairment adjustment made if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs of disposal and its value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Where the future economic benefit of an asset is not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate future cash flows, and the asset would be replaced if the Court were deprived of the asset, its value in use is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost.

#### Derecognition

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no further future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal.

#### Heritage and Cultural Assets

The Court has a small collection of heritage assets which includes rare books, works of art and antique furniture. The Court has classified them as heritage and cultural assets as they are primarily used for purposes that relate to their cultural significance. The aims of the Court's preservation activities are to preserve collection items and to maintain access to them, consistent with their significance to the collection, usage requirements and current condition. The Court's preservation activities include documenting the collection, providing appropriate storage arrangements, adopting adequate security measures, and undertaking conservation treatments when material is at risk or damaged.

#### **Intangibles**

The Court's intangibles comprise externally acquired software for internal use, electronic library materials and artwork licence agreements. These assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

All intangibles are amortised on a straight-line basis over their anticipated useful life. The useful lives of the Court's software are 3 to 6 years (2023-24: 3 to 6 years), other intangibles are 10 years. (2023-24: 10 years)

All intangible assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2025.

# High Court of Australia NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
3.2B: Other Non-Financial Assets		
Prepayments	435,048	301,885
Total prepayments	435,048	301,885
No indicators of impairment were found for other non-financial assets.		
3.3: Payables		
3.3A: Suppliers		
Trade creditors	92,180	10,222
Accruals	472,228	342,427
Total suppliers	564,408	352,649
Settlement is usually made within 30 days.		
3.3B: Other payables		
Wages and salaries	369,836	333,401
Superannuation	49,235	43,855

9,750

428,821

29,174

406,430

23

# High Court of Australia NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
3.4A: Leases		
Finance leases	100,854	170,696
Total leases	100,854	170,696

Total cash outflow for leases for the year ended 30 June 2025 was \$112,920 (2023-24: \$101,952)

Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows		
Within 1 year	70,319	98,642
Between 1 to 5 years	27,868	72,607
More than 5 years	<u> </u>	
Total leases	98,187	171,249

The High Court in its capacity as lessee has a total of 7 motor vehicle leases (2023-24: 7). All the motor vehicles are carried at cost with most leases expiring between 1 to 5 years. All the leases have the option to extend the terms.

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 1.1D and 3.2A.

#### Accounting policy

For all new contracts entered into, the Court considers whether the contract is or contains a lease. A lease is defined as 'a contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration.'

Once it has been determined that a contract is, or contains a lease, the lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments unpaid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease, if that rate is readily determinable, or the department's incremental borrowing rate.

Subsequent to initial measurement, the liability will be reduced for payments made and increased for interest. It is remeasured to reflect any reassessment or modification to the lease. When the lease liability is remeasured, the corresponding adjustment is reflected in the right-of-use asset or profit and loss depending on the nature of the reassessment or modification.

# High Court of Australia NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### 4. Assets and liabilities administered on behalf of the Government

This section analyses assets used to generate financial performance and the operating liabilities incurred as a result the High Court of Australia does not control but administers on behalf of the Government. Unless otherwise noted, the accounting policies adopted are consistent with those applied for departmental reporting.

4.1: Administered – Financial Assets		
	2025	2024
	\$	\$
4.1A: Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash on hand or on deposit	186,181	178,581
Total cash and cash equivalents	186,181	178,581
4.1B: Other receivables		
Other receivables	9,775	
Total cash and cash equivalents	9,775	-

25

#### **High Court of Australia** NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**5. Funding**This section identifies the High Court of Australia's funding structure.

#### 5.1: Appropriations

#### 5.1: Annual appropriations ('Recoverable GST exclusive')

Annual Appropriations for 2025

Annual Appropriations for 2025			
	Appropriation Act	Appropriation	
		applied in 2024-25	
	Annual	(current and prior	
	Appropriation	years)	Variance
	\$	\$	\$
Departmental			
Ordinary annual services	18,215,000	18,215,000	-
Capital Budget (DCB) <sup>1</sup>	2,778,000	2,778,000	-
Other services			
Equity Injections	550,000	550,000	
Total departmental	21,543,000	21,543,000	-

**Annual Appropriations for 2024** 

Annual Appropriations for 2024			
	Appropriation Act	Appropriation	
		applied in 2023-24	
	Annual	(current and prior	
	Appropriation	years)	Variance
	\$	\$	\$
Departmental			
Ordinary annual services	17,479,000	17,479,000	-
Capital Budget (DCB)	2,713,000	2,713,000	-
Other services			
Equity Injections	850,000	850,000	-
Total departmental	21,042,000	21,042,000	-

These amounts are appropriated directly to the High Court of Australia in the Appropriations Acts. The appropriations are applied when amounts are paid to the High Court of Australia.

<sup>1</sup>Departmental Capital Budgets are appropriated through Appropriation Acts (No.1,3,5). They form part of ordinary annual services and are not separately identified in the Appropriation Acts.

#### **High Court of Australia** NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

5.2: Net cash appropriation arrangements		
	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Total comprehensive income/(loss) as per the Statement of Comprehensive Income	993,592	4,572,611
Plus: depreciation/amortisation of assets funded through appropriations (departmental capital		
budget funding and/or equity injections)1	9,416,368	8,095,595
Plus: depreciation of right-of-use assets	107,700	99,539
Less: lease principal repayments	(107,701)	(96,330)
Net Cash Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)	10,409,959	12,671,415

From 2010-11, the Government introduced net cash appropriation arrangements where revenue appropriations for depreciation/amortisation expenses ceased. Entities now receive a separate capital budget provided through equity appropriations. Capital budgets are to be appropriated in the period when cash payment for capital expenditure is required.

The inclusion of depreciation/amortisation expenses related to ROU leased assets and the lease liability principal repayment amount reflects the cash impact on implementation of AASB 16 Leases, it does not directly reflect a change in appropriation arrangements.

5.3: Cash Flow Reconciliation	2025	2024
	2023 \$	202-
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents as per Statement of Financial	ū.	4
Position to cash flow statement		
Cash and cash equivalents as per		
Cash flow statement	1,358,486	1,340,291
Statement of financial position	1,358,486	1,340,291
Discrepancy		
Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash from/(used by) operating		
activities		
Net (cost)/contribution by services	(27,705,034)	(25,499,388)
Revenue from Government	18,215,000	17,479,000
Adjustments for non-cash items		
Depreciation / amortisation	9,524,068	8,195,134
Gain - assets recognised for the first time	-	(90,200)
Gain - other	-	-
Net write down of non-financial assets	14,349	424,335
Losses from sale of assets	-	14,420
Movements in assets and liabilities		
Assets		
(Increase) / decrease in net receivables	570,241	(370,025)
(Increase) / decrease in prepayments	(133,164)	(4,891)
Liabilities		
Increase / (decrease) in employee provisions	(165,770)	164,967
Increase / (decrease) in supplier payables	211,759	(74,856)
Increase / (decrease) in other payable	22,391	73,981
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities	553,840	312,477

27 28

# High Court of Australia NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### 6. People and Relationships

This section describes a range of employment and post-employment benefits provided to our people and our relationships with other key people.

6.1: Employee Provisions		
	2025	2024
	\$	\$
6.1: Employee Provisions		
Annual leave	1,075,406	1,154,198
Long service leave	2,058,394	2,145,372
Total employee provisions	3,133,800	3,299,570

#### Accounting Policy

Liabilities for 'short-term employee benefits' (as defined in AASB 119 Employee Benefits) and termination benefits expected within twelve months of the end of the reporting period are measured at their nominal amounts.

The nominal amount is calculated with regard to the rates expected to be paid on settlement of the liability.

Other long term employee benefit liabilities are measured as the net total of the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting period minus the fair value at the end of the reporting period of plan assets (if any) out of which the obligations are to be settled directly.

#### Leave

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave and long service leave. No provision has been made for personal leave as all personal leave is non-vesting and the average personal leave taken in future years by employees of the Court is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for personal leave.

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration at the estimated salary rates that will be applied at the time the leave is taken, including the Court's employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

The liability for long service leave has been determined by reference to the shorthand method standard factors as at 30 June 2025. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

#### Superannuation

Staff of the Court are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS), the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap) or other complying accumulation superannuation funds.

The CSS and PSS are defined benefit schemes for the Australian Government. The PSSap is a defined contribution scheme.

The liability for defined benefits is recognised in the financial statements of the Australian Government and is settled by the Australian Government in due course. This liability is reported in the Department of Finance's administered schedules and notes.

The Court makes employer contributions to the employees' superannuation scheme at rates determined by an actuary to be sufficient to meet the current cost to the Government. The Court accounts for the contributions as if they were contributions to defined contribution plans.

The liability for superannuation recognised as at 30 June 2025 represents outstanding contributions.

# High Court of Australia NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### 6.2: Key Management Personnel Remuneration

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing, and controlling the activities of the Court, directly or indirectly. The Court has determined the key management personnel to be the Chief Justice, the Justices, the Chief Executive and Principal Registrar, the Senior Registrar, the Manager Corporate Services, and Senior Executive Deputy Registrar.

Key management personnel remuneration is reported in the table below:

	2023	2024
	\$	\$
Note 6.2: Key Management Personnel Remuneration		
Short-term employee benefits	1,252,348	1,336,111
Post-employment benefits	186,851	199,848
Other long-term employee benefits	104,888	53,678
Total key management personnel remuneration expenses <sup>1</sup>	1,544,087	1,589,637

2025

2024

The total number of key management personnel that are included in the above table are 4 (2023-24: 4).

<sup>1</sup> The above key management personnel remuneration excludes the remuneration and other benefits of the Chief Justice and the Justices. The salaries and allowances paid to the Chief Justice and other Justices of the Court are paid from a special appropriation held by the Australian Public Service Commission. The Justices' salary and allowances are set by the Remuneration Tribunal and are not paid by the Court.

On leaving the Court the Chief Justice and the other Justices of the Court receive payments in accordance with the *High Court Justices* (Long Leave Payments) Act 1979 and the Judges' Pensions Act 1968. These payments are made from special appropriations held by the Attorney General's Department and the Department of Finance, respectively.

In 2024-25 the Court spent \$413,088 (2023-24: \$614,339) in the provision of benefits to the Chief Justice and the other Justices. These benefits include the provision of a private plated vehicle, spouse/partner travel, security and the fringe benefits tax paid on the benefits provided.

#### 6.3: Related party disclosures

#### Related party relationships:

The High Court is a Commonwealth entity within the General Government Sector for the consolidated financial statements of the Australian government. Related parties to the High Court are other Government entities and the Court's Key Management Personnel.

#### Transactions with related parties:

Giving consideration to relationships with related parties, and transactions entered into during the reporting period by the Court, it has been determined that there are no related party transactions to be separately disclosed.

29

#### **High Court of Australia** NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

7. Managing Uncertainty
This section analyses how the HCA manages financial risks within its operating environment.

#### 7.1: Contingent Assets and Liabilities

#### Unquantifiable contingent asset

At 30 June 2025, the Court continues to hold an unquantifiable contingent asset in relation to an insurance claim for hail damage to the roof of the High Court building in Canberra. The Court's claim is still being assessed by the Court's insurer. The same claim and contingent asset existed and was unquantified at 30 June 2024.

#### Accounting Policy

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the statement of financial position but are reported in the relevant schedules and notes. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a liability or asset or represent an asset or liability in respect of which the amount cannot be reliably measured. Contingent assets are disclosed when settlement is probable but not virtually certain and contingent liabilities are disclosed when settlement is greater than remote.

7.2: Financial Instruments		
•	2025	2024
	\$	\$
7.2A: Categories of Financial Instruments		
Financial assets at amortised cost		
Term deposits	11,500,000	12,000,000
Cash at bank	1,358,486	1,340,291
Receivables for goods and services	120,840	97,033
Total financial assets at amortised cost	12,979,326	13,437,324
Total financial assets	12,979,326	13,437,324
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Supplier payables	92,180	10,222
Accrued expenses	472,228	342,427
Total financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	564,408	352,649
Total financial liabilities	564,408	352,649
7.2B: Net Gains or Losses on Financial Assets		
Financial assets at amortised cost		
Interest revenue (other investments)	543,288	617,625
Interest Revenue (bank accounts)	124,549	151,681
Net gains/(losses) from financial assets at amortised cost	667,837	769,306
Net gains/(losses) from financial assets	667,837	769,306

#### **High Court of Australia** NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

7.3: Administered Financial Instruments		
	2025	2024
	\$	\$
7.3A: Categories of Financial Instruments		
Financial Assets		
Financial assets at amortised cost		
Cash and cash equivalents	186,181	178,581
Total financial assets at amortised cost	186,181	178,581
Total financial assets	186,181	178,581
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Other payables	<u></u>	-
Total financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	<del>_</del>	-
	<u></u> ,	
Total financial liabilities	<u>=</u>	-

31 32

# High Court of Australia NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **Accounting Policy**

#### **Financial Assets**

The entity classifies its financial assets in the following categories:

- a) financial assets at fair value through profit or loss.
- b) financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income: and
- c) financial assets measured at amortised cost.

The classification depends on both the Court's business model for managing the financial assets and contractual cash flow characteristics at the time of initial recognition. Financial assets are recognised when the Court becomes a party to the contract and, as a consequence, has a legal right to receive or a legal obligation to pay cash and derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are transferred upon trade date.

Comparatives have not been restated on initial application.

Presently, the Court has classified its financial assets only as Financial Assets at Amortised Cost.

#### Financial Assets at Amortised Cost

Financial assets included in this category need to meet two criteria:

- 1. the financial asset is held in order to collect the contractual cash flows; and
- 2. the cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest (SPPI) on the principal outstanding amount.

Amortised cost is determined using the effective interest method.

#### Effective Interest Method

Income is recognised on an effective interest rate basis for financial assets that are recognised at amortised cost.

#### Impairment of Financial Assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period based on Expected Credit Losses, using the general approach which measures the loss allowance based on an amount equal to *lifetime expected credit losses* where risk has significantly increased, or an amount equal to *12-month expected credit losses if risk has not increased*.

The simplified approach for trade, contract, and lease receivables is used. This approach always measures the loss allowance as the amount equal to the lifetime expected credit losses.

A write-off constitutes a de-recognition event where the writeoff directly reduces the gross carrying amount of the financial

#### Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are classified as either financial liabilities 'at fair value through profit or loss' or other financial liabilities. Financial liabilities are recognised and derecognised upon 'trade date'.

Financial Liabilities at Fair Value Through Profit or Loss
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are
initially measured at fair value. Subsequent fair value
adjustments are recognised in profit or loss. The net gain or
loss recognised in profit or loss incorporates any interest paid
on the financial liability.

#### Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost

Financial liabilities, including borrowings, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. These liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective interest basis.

Supplier and other payables are recognised at amortised cost. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced)

# High Court of Australia NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### 7.4: Fair Value Measurements

The following tables provide an analysis of assets that are measured at fair value. The remaining assets and liabilities disclosed in the statement of financial position do not apply the fair value measurements.

#### Accounting Policy

The Court's policy is to revalue the land and buildings asset classes annually. All other asset classes are revalued on a rolling cycle every three years. The Court tests the procedures of the valuation model of all other asset classes as an internal management review at least once every 12 months (with a formal revaluation undertaken once every three years). If a particular asset class experiences significant and volatile changes in fair value (i.e. where indicators suggest that the value of the class has changed materially since the previous reporting period), that class is subject to specific valuation in the reporting period, where practicable, regardless of the timing of the last specific valuation.

#### 7.4: Fair Value Measurements

	Fair Value measurements at the end of the reporting period	
	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Non-financial assets		
Land	11,450,000	10,200,000
Buildings on freehold land	225,096,129	220,877,530
Heritage and cultural	6,104,140	6,104,139
Property, plant and equipment	5,278,030	5,105,517
Library holdings	9,474,959	9,911,596
Total non-financial assets	257,403,258	252,198,782
Total fair value measurements of assets in the statement of financial position	257,403,258	252,198,782

#### Fair value measurements - highest and best use differs from current use for non-financial assets

The Court's assets are held to meet the operational requirements of the Court and not held for the purposes of deriving a profit. The current use of all non-financial assets is considered their highest and best use.

#### Accounting Policy

34

Assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below. The cost of acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken. Financial assets are initially measured at their fair value plus transaction costs where appropriate.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and income at their fair value at the date of acquisition, unless acquired as a consequence of restructuring of administrative arrangements. In the latter case, assets are initially recognised as contributions by owners at the amounts at which they were recognised in the transferor accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

33

# High Court of Australia NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### 8. Other information

This section provides other disclosures relevant to the High Court of Australia financial information environment for the year.

8.1: Current/Non-current distinction for assets and liabilities		
or content to content distinction for dissets and hashines	2025	2024
	S	\$
8.1A: Departmental - current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities		
Assets expected to be recovered in:		
No more than 12 months		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,358,486	1,340,291
Trade and other receivables	437,565	1,007,806
Other investments	11,500,000	12,000,000
Other non-financial assets	435,048	341,885
Total no more than 12 months	13,731,099	14,689,982
More than 12 months		
Land	11,450,000	10,200,000
Buildings	225,096,129	220,877,530
Heritage and cultural	6,104,140	6,064,140
Plant and equipment	5,378,884	5,276,212
Library Holdings	9,474,959	9,911,595
Computer software	470,565	366,187
Other intangibles	90,106	90,106
Total more than 12 months	258,064,783	252,785,770
Total assets	271,795,882	267,475,752
Liabilities expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months		
Suppliers	564,408	352,649
Other payables	428,821	406,430
Leases	70,319	98,642
Employee provisions	2,825,009	3,022,699
Total no more than 12 months	3,888,557	3,880,420
More than 12 months		
Leases	30,535	72,054
Employee provisions	308,791	276,871
Total more than 12 months	339,326	348,925
Total liabilities	4,227,883	4,229,345

# High Court of Australia NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
8.1B: Administered - Current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities		
Assets expected to be recovered in:		
No more than 12 months		
Cash and cash equivalents	186,181	178,581
Trade and other receivables	9,775	
Total no more than 12 months	195,956	178,581
Total assets	195,956	178,581
Liabilities expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months		
Other payables		
Total no more than 12 months		
Total liabilities	-	_

35

# High Court of Australia NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

8.2: Public Money in the Custody of the Court		
	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Suitor's Fund		
Balance as 1 July 2024	83,803	35,053
Amounts received	2,500	51,250
Amounts deductable/paid out	(50,000)	(2,500)
Balance as at 30 June 2025	36,303	83,803

These are funds paid to the Court under an order of the Court or a Justice of the Court. The Suitors Fund holds trust funds on behalf of third parties. These funds are managed separately and are not reflected in the financial assets of the Court.

# PART 8 ANNEXURES AUSTRALIA

# PART 8 ANNEXURES

### **Annexure A**

#### Freedom of information

The High Court administration routinely includes information in its annual and financial reports consistent with the reporting requirements of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (FOI Act). The FOI Act applies only to administrative documents held by the Court, and does not apply to the holder of a judicial office or other office pertaining to the Court.

As noted above, the Act does not apply to documents that are not of an administrative nature. However, the case files of the Court are accessible to members of the public under the procedures in rule 4.07.4 of the *High Court Rules 2004* (Cth).

The primary source of information available to the public is via the Court's website. It provides a wide range of information related to the core business of the Court, its history, structure and administration. The Court has also published an Information Publication Plan as required under section 8 of the FOI Act.

The website provides access to documents related to legal matters filed at the High Court Registry, such as parties' initiating documents and submissions in Full Court matters, short particulars of appeals and original jurisdiction matters, the results of applications for special leave and judgment summaries. Some of these documents are published on the Court, AustLII, and BarNet websites and are also distributed through subscription email lists. Transcripts of all Court hearings are also accessible on the website, as are audio-visual recordings of hearings in Canberra.

The website provides links to relevant legislation, the *High Court Rules* and forms, the Library catalogue, and the Library's current year's new books notification service.

The website provides information about fees for filing, issuing a document or obtaining a service, pursuant to Sch 1 of the *High Court of Australia (Fees) Regulations 2022*, and the Scale of Professional Costs, pursuant to Sch 2 of the *High Court Rules*.

The website provides access to many of the speeches delivered by the Justices of the Court, and to speeches of former Chief Justices and Justices while in office.

The website provides information about the Court building in Canberra—the competition for its design, the materials used in its construction, its heritage listing and the features of each courtroom. It also provides information about visiting the Court and the art collection.

The website contains a site map and search function to assist individuals to access information from the site, and includes a "contact us" webpage and dedicated email address for enquiries, including a link for making FOI enquiries and lodging requests for information.

An email-based subscription service is available to the public, media and legal profession which allows for notification of upcoming judgments, judgment summaries and case summaries.

Other information that the Court makes available includes:

- the High Court Bulletin provides a record of recent High Court cases: decided, reserved for judgment, awaiting hearing in the Court's original jurisdiction, granted special leave to appeal, and refused special leave to appeal.
- the Conservation Management Plan for the Court consistent with the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)
- the Court sitting calendar, business lists and daily court lists
- venue and safety information for school excursions
- information given by Court Guides stationed in the Public Hall and courtrooms to pre-booked school groups, other groups and visitors at large
- case summaries handed out for hearings in sitting courts
- tailored guided tours for official visitors.

The Court works with other nearby institutions to facilitate public access to information about the Court.

The Court maintains appropriate channels of communication with the media, relevant agencies and the public about the operations of the Court.

# FOI procedures and initial contact points

Enquiries concerning access to documents or other matters relating to FOI should be directed to:

High Court of Australia PO Box 6309 Kingston ACT 2604

Telephone: 1800 570 566 Email: foi@hcourt.gov.au

#### Facilities for access

Documents can be searched and accessed via the Court's Digital Lodgment System Portal known as the DLS.

The Principal Registry of the High Court of Australia is located at the seat of the Court in Canberra. There are offices of the Registry at the capital city of each state and in Darwin.

The Registry services in Adelaide, Brisbane, Darwin and Perth are provided by staff of the Federal Court of Australia. Registry services in Hobart are provided by the Supreme Court of Tasmania.

#### Canberra

Parkes Place, Parkes ACT 2600 Postal Address: PO Box 6309 Kingston ACT 2604

# **Annexure B**

# **Staffing 2024–25**

#### Staffing Overview

	Ong	oing	Non-o	ngoing	Casual	Total
Branch	Full time	Part time	Full time	Part time		FY 2024–25
CE&PR	1		3		1	5
Chambers	8		15		1	24
Corporate Services	14	1	4		1	20
Library	7				3	10
Public Information		1			18	19
Registry	11	3	2	1	9	26
TOTAL STAFF	41	5	24	1	33	104

#### Staffing Distribution

	Ongoing		Non-ongoing		Casual		Total		Total				
	Full	time	Part	time	Full	time	Part	time			FY 20	24–25	FY 2024–25
Classification	M	F	M	F	М	F	М	F	M	F	M		(as at 30 June 2025)
HCE 1													0
HCE 2				1		1			8	11	8	13	21
HCE 3	1	1									1	1	2
HCE 4	3	4	1					1	1	8	5	13	18
HCE 5	1	3								1	1	4	5
HCE 6	1	2		1	6	1				1	7	5	12
HCE 6R		5			1	9				1	1	15	16
EL 1	3	8		2	1	1				2	4	13	17
EL 2	6	3			1						7	3	10
SES						2						2	2
Office Holder					1						1		1
TOTAL STAFF	15	26	1	4	10	14		1	9	24	35	69	104





#### HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA

hcourt.gov.au

