



HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA

Annual Report **2025–26**

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HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA

29 September 2026

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 2026, 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Glenn'.

Richard Glenn
Chief Executive and Principal Registrar
High Court of Australia

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PART 1
PREAMBLE

PART 1

Preamble

This is the 47th report prepared as required by the *High Court of Australia Act 1979* (Cth).

Enquiries or comments concerning this report may be directed to:

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Kingston ACT 2604

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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 matters of national significance, including those arising under the Australian Constitution or involving its interpretation, and those in which specified remedies are sought against officers of the Commonwealth.

The High Court consists of the Chief Justice and six Justices who administer the affairs of the Court pursuant to the *High Court of Australia Act 1979* (Cth). They are assisted in that task by the Chief Executive & Principal Registrar and by staff of the Court.

In 2025–26, in the exercise of its appellate and original jurisdiction, the High Court sitting as a Full Court decided 337 special leave applications, 50 appeals, eight cases involving applications for constitutional writs, four causes removed and five writs of summons. Ninety per cent of the applications for special leave to appeal were determined within four months of filing. Eighty-four per cent of appeals were completed within ten months of filing. Eighty-eight per cent of appeals were decided within six months of the hearing of argument. Ninety-two per cent of original jurisdiction matters, determined following a hearing, were decided within six months of hearing the argument.

Significantly, in November 2025, the Court hosted the Australian Legal Convention at the High Court building in Canberra. The Convention was organised under the auspices of the Council of Chief Justices of Australia and New Zealand. It brought together participants from across Australia representing courts and tribunals, the legal profession, academia, legal

education providers and the many other entities that contribute to the functioning of our legal system. The choice of the High Court as the venue reflected the national character of the event and the central place of the Court within Australia's constitutional and judicial structure. The Convention was structured around themes of national importance, including access to justice, artificial intelligence, family and sexual violence, First Nations justice, institutional wellbeing, legal education and training, and public confidence in the judiciary. It provided an opportunity for thoughtful dialogue about the current and emerging challenges facing the Australian legal system and to explore opportunities for coordinated responses. Further information about the Convention is included in this report.

On 15 June 2026, the Court held a ceremonial sitting in memory of the late Sir Anthony Mason AC KBE GBM KC. Sir Anthony served as a Justice of the Court from 1972 to 1987 and as Chief Justice of Australia from 1987 to 1995. The sitting provided an occasion for the Court to honour his profound and enduring contribution to the jurisprudence of the Court and to the legal system and profession more broadly. As Chief Justice, Sir Anthony led the High Court at a time when it came to function as Australia's court of final jurisdiction and when the law as declared and administered

by Australian courts became modernised and distinctively Australian. His legacy is found not only in his judicial output, but also in the institutions he helped to shape and in the legal culture of openness and excellence which he did much to foster.

During the year, members of the High Court delivered a range of extra-curial speeches and lectures, authored various publications, participated in judicial and professional

conferences, and engaged with courts, law schools and legal institutions across Australia and overseas. An overview of those activities is included in this report.

The Court greatly values the professionalism, skill and dedication of its staff. I thank them for their assistance and for their continuing commitment to the effective administration of the Court during 2025–26.

The Australian Legal Convention

In November 2025, the Court hosted the Australian Legal Convention at the High Court building in Canberra, reinstating the practice of biennial Conventions held between 1935 and 2009. The Convention was organised under the auspices of the Council of Chief Justices of Australia and New Zealand (CCJ) and supported by staff of the High Court and the National Judicial College of Australia.

The Convention was held over three days from 20–23 November, commencing with a reception where attendees were welcomed by the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC. Mr William Barton, proud Kalkadunga man and world-renowned multi-instrumentalist and vocalist, also performed at the reception.

On 21 November, approximately 270 participants and attendees were welcomed to the Convention by the Honourable Stephen Gageler AC, Chief Justice of Australia. A Welcome to Country was delivered by Auntie Violet Sheridan, senior Ngunnawal elder.

The Convention opened with the [State of the Judicature Address](#) delivered by the Chief Justice, followed by plenary sessions supported by concurrent workshops on each of the following themes:

- Access to Justice
- Artificial Intelligence
- Family and Sexual Violence
- First Nations Justice
- Institutional Wellbeing
- Legal Education and Training
- Legitimacy.

Plenary sessions and most workshops were livestreamed during the Convention. During the course of Friday's sessions alone, the livestream had over 1,000 views with an average watch time of almost 30 minutes. Recordings of the Convention are available on a dedicated page on the [High Court's website](#).

The CCJ continues to progress work on outcomes arising from the Convention in conjunction with relevant stakeholders. It is hoped that in 2027 and beyond, future Conventions will continue to provide a forum in which a diverse range of participants and attendees can reflect on and discuss the many challenges facing the Australian legal system, with a view to working collaboratively to address those challenges.

PART 3

**JUSTICES OF THE
COURT AND JUDICIAL
LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES**

PART 3

Justices of the Court and Judicial Leadership Activities

As at 30 June 2026, 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 Master's 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.

Extrajudicial activities of Justices of the Court

Chief Justice Stephen Gageler AC

Chief Justice Gageler delivered the keynote addresses at the Global Summit of Hellenic Lawyers 2025 in Athens, Greece; the Delhi Arbitration Weekend 2025 in New Delhi, India; with Chief Justice Winkelmann of the Supreme Court of New Zealand at the Banking & Financial Services Law Association's 2025 Annual Conference in Queenstown, New Zealand; and the 12th Appellate Judges' Conference 2026 in Perth. He delivered the "State of the Judicature in 2025" address and made closing remarks at the Australian Legal Convention hosted by the High Court in Canberra in November 2025.

In addition, he spoke at the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration's 40th anniversary event, AustLII's 30th anniversary celebration, the Law Council of Australia Family Law Section's Professional Dinner, a Current

Legal Issues seminar hosted by the Supreme Court of Queensland, the Law Council of Australia's Gala Dinner, the National Judicial College of Australia's Australian Roundtable, the Supreme Court of Victoria's 2025 Judicial Conference, and the Sydney Public Law Group's "The Future of Public Law" event.

His international engagements included a visit to Germany hosted by the Bundesverfassungsgericht (the German Federal Constitutional Court); a visit to Papua New Guinea for the opening of the Waigani National Law Courts Complex; a visit to Japan hosted by the Supreme Court of Japan, which included delivering a lecture to the Japanese judiciary; attending the Global Constitutional Seminar 2025 at Yale Law School; and attending a Council meeting and the Annual Meeting of the American Law Institute.

Justice Michelle Gordon AC

Justice Gordon delivered the keynote addresses, “Justice in a Changing World: The Responsive Bench” at the Australian Judicial Officers’ Association Colloquium in Perth in October 2025 and “Justice, Justice ... A Shared Ethic” at the Annual Honourable Barry O’Keefe Memorial Lecture, Thomas More Law School, Australian Catholic University in April 2026. In Singapore, Justice Gordon presented the speech, “Judge as Adjudicator: Case Management” at the Judicial Executive Programme hosted by the Singapore Judicial College in November 2025. Justice Gordon also delivered speeches to the Australian National University Women in Law Breakfast, the Victorian Bar Foundation Student Achievement Awards ceremony and the Victorian Bar Readers’ Course. Justice Gordon supported the Victorian Bar Indigenous Law Students Mentoring Program and co-taught “Statutes and Legal Reasoning” with the Hon Kenneth Hayne AC at Melbourne Law School. Justice Gordon is a Professorial Fellow at the University of Melbourne and a patron of the Victorian Bar Foundation.

Justice James Edelman AC

Justice Edelman published several academic works, including the 1st and 2nd Supplements to the 22nd edition of *McGregor on Damages* (Sweet & Maxwell). He provided forewords, chapters, and contributions to *Civil Penalties in Australia* (Peckham, Truong KC, Latham and Storey (eds), LexisNexis), *Constitutional Interpretation* (Choudhry, O’Regan and Bernal-Pulido (eds), Edward Elgar), *The Making of the Australian Constitution* (La Nauze, The Federation Press), “Pre and Post Nuptial Agreements, Vitiating Factors, and the Role of a Trial Judge” in the *Australian Journal of Family Law* and “Compensation and Reasonableness in the Law of Torts” in the *Torts Law Journal* (LexisNexis, forthcoming).

Justice Edelman gave lectures, speeches, and delivered orations as follows: (i) a conversazione with author Bryan Horrigan on Corporate Social Responsibility (Monash University Publishing) at the Australian National University; (ii) the Quayside Chambers oration entitled “Statutory Interpretation: The Big Debates” at Dexus Place Perth; (iii) the Sir Walter Murdoch lecture entitled “The Arc of Law and Justice: The Next 50 Years from the Perspective of Two Millennia” at Murdoch University; (iv) a lecture co-hosted by the UWA Classics and Ancient History Society, the University of Western Australia and the Anglo-Australasian Lawyers Society (WA) entitled “Three Roman Law Insights Today” at the University of Western Australia; (v) introductory remarks for Justice Steward (who delivered the 15th Sir Harry Gibbs Memorial Oration) at the 35th Conference of The Samuel Griffith Society in Perth; (vi) a conversazione with Rabbi Gary Robuck on “Justice, Justice You Shall Pursue (Deut. 16:20)” at the ACT Jewish Community National Memorial Centre in Canberra, attended by law students from the Australian National University and University of Canberra, and members of the ACT Jewish Community; (vii) various lectures and seminars on torts, compensation and restitution at the University of Oxford, Keble College, and Magdalen College in Oxford; (viii) the opening address entitled “Compensation and Reasonableness in the Law of Torts” at the 3rd Annual Australian and New Zealand Tort and Compensation Researchers and Teachers Network Symposium at Bond University; (ix) a lecture entitled “The Role of a Judge and the Process of Adjudication” at the University of Canberra; (x) a lecture on unjust enrichment at the University of Western Australia; (xi) the Sir Francis Burt Chambers oration entitled “How Judges Decide Cases” at the Supreme Court of Western Australia; and (xii) co-leading various seminars as part of the Unjust Enrichment law course at the University of Queensland.

Justice Edelman is also the honorary patron of the Australian South East Asian Network (ASEAN Ltd), vice-patron of the Anglo-Australian Lawyers Society (WA), and patron of the *University of Western Australia Law Review* and *Oxford University Commonwealth Law Journal*.

Justice Simon Steward AC

In August 2025, Justice Steward delivered the Sir Harry Gibbs Oration at The Samuel Griffith Society Conference in Perth and the Harold Ford Memorial Lecture at Melbourne University. He gave a presentation to the Administrative Review Tribunal in September and a speech to farewell the Hon Justice Logan in Brisbane in November 2025. In April 2026, he delivered a presentation to students at The Samuel Griffith Society and in May gave the keynote address followed by a Q&A for the Australian Catholic Students Association at the Australian National University in Canberra.

Justice Jacqueline Gleeson

Justice Gleeson delivered four speeches: (i) “Written Advocacy”, the Hon Malcolm Blue Memorial Address at the South Australian Bar Association Conference in February 2026; (ii) “Women at the Commercial Bar and on the Bench” at the William Roberts Lawyers International Women’s Day luncheon in March 2026; (iii) a speech at the Black & White Committee 41st Women of Achievement Lunch in June 2026; and (iv) a speech in acknowledgement of receipt of the 2025 Catherine McAuley Alumna Mercy Award in September 2025. Justice Gleeson also spoke to law students at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) on “Aspects of Judicial Impartiality” in January 2026; made the toast to the new silks at the Silks’ Bows Gala held at the National Gallery of Australia in February 2026; was a guest Q&A speaker for the UTS

National Justice Project + Brennan Justice & Leadership Program’s “Brennan Justice Talks” series in March 2026; participated in a written Q&A for the *Communication Law Bulletin’s* Special International Women’s Day edition in March 2026; and participated in the National Judicial College of Australia’s Indigenous Justice Program in Alice Springs in April 2026.

Justice Jayne Jagot

Justice Jagot attended various events in 2025–26 including the J20 Summit of Heads of Constitutional Courts and Supreme Courts of the Group of 20 Members in South Africa in September 2025 as a Panellist representing Australia. The panel topic was “Climate Change Justice through Judicial Collaboration”. Justice Jagot presided over two moots: (i) the ANU Law Students’ Society Grand Final of the Sir Harry Gibbs Constitutional Law Moot in October 2025; and (ii) the 2026 Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition and delivered remarks at the Awards Dinner in February 2026. Justice Jagot attended a UNSW Law Society Event in June 2026, “An Evening with the High Court Justices—Questions and Answers”, together with retired Chief Justice Robert French and retired Justice Michael Kirby as well as the Australian Legal Convention in November 2025 at the High Court in Canberra. Justice Jagot also presented at the National Judicial College of Australia in October 2025: “Writing Better Judgments: Session 1—Eating the Elephant One Bit at a Time” and was interviewed by Fiona Phillips, “In Conversation”, for the *Intellectual Property Forum* in April 2026.

Justice Robert Beech-Jones

Justice Beech-Jones delivered the Sir Frank Kitto Lecture at the University of New England at Armidale on 21 August 2025.

Justice Beech-Jones delivered the keynote addresses to the Queensland Bar Association's Conference in Brisbane on 6 March 2026, the North Queensland Law Association Conference in Townsville on 16 May 2026 and the Queensland Magistrates Conference in Brisbane on 1 June 2026. Justice Beech-Jones gave speeches to the Law Society of Tasmania Litigation Conference in St Helen's Tasmania on 7 November 2025, the Conference of the Fair Work Commission in Manly, New South Wales on 17 November 2025, a meeting of the Anglo-Australasian Lawyers Society in Sydney on 17 December 2025 and the

Conference of the Tasmanian Justices of the Peace Association in Hobart on 28 March 2026. Justice Beech-Jones launched Volume 1 of the "Law Reports of the Australian War Crimes Trials 1945–1951" at the Australian War Memorial on 11 September 2025, spoke on a panel to the "Evening with Justices" at the University of New South Wales on 30 October 2025 and also spoke on a panel at the Federal Court Conference at Healesville, Victoria on 30 March 2026. Justice Beech-Jones spoke on Judicial Reasoning with law students at the Australian National University on 11 May 2026. Until the end of April 2026, Justice Beech-Jones was co-chair of the Programs Advisory Committee for the National Judicial College of Australia. He is a member of a program subcommittee of that organisation.

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 Canberra, Australian Capital Territory on 20 November 2025 and in Uluru, Northern Territory on 21 April 2026. It considered, amongst other things, judicial education and practical legal training and oversaw the development and delivery of the Australian Legal Convention.

Australian Legal Convention

The Convention was an initiative of the Council of Chief Justices of Australia and New Zealand which brought together many individuals, organisations and institutions that comprise the Australian legal system, to facilitate dialogue on, and formulate practical solutions to current and emerging issues of national concern. The Convention was structured by reference to seven broad themes:

- Access to justice
- Artificial intelligence
- Family and sexual violence
- First Nations justice
- Institutional wellbeing
- Legal education and training
- Legitimacy

Questions explored were:

- What are the challenges?
- What are the impediments to meeting those challenges?
- What are the solutions?
- What can be achieved within a realistic timeframe?

Swearing in of Parliament

In May 2025, Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, acting under section 126 of the Constitution and Clause IV of the Letters Patent dated 21 August 2008 relating to the office of Governor-General, appointed Chief Justice Gageler as her deputy to declare open the 48th Parliament. Her Excellency, acting under section 42 of the Constitution, authorised Chief Justice Gageler to administer the oath or affirmation of allegiance to Senators. Under the same provision, Her Excellency appointed Justice Gordon to administer the oath or affirmation of allegiance to Members of the House of Representatives. On 22 July 2025, Chief Justice Gageler and Justice Gordon attended the opening of the 48th Parliament to administer the oath or affirmation of allegiance.

PART 4

THE WORK OF THE COURT IN 2025–26

PART 4

The Work of the Court in 2025–26

Number of cases decided by the Full Court



337

special leave applications



50

appeals



8

constitutional writs



9

causes removed or writs of summons

3 in 10

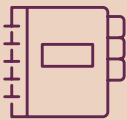


unrepresented litigants



represented

34% of special leave applicants were unrepresented litigants (up from 32% in 2024–25)



Timeliness

90% of special leave applications were determined within 4 months of filing



88% of appeals decided within 6 months of hearing



92% of original jurisdiction matters determined within 6 months of hearing

Total number of cases decided

In 2025–26, the Full Court decided a total of 411 cases. This comprised:

- 337 applications for special leave to appeal
- 3 applications for leave to issue or file
- 4 applications for removal under s 40 of the *Judiciary Act 1903*
- 4 causes removed
- 50 appeals
- 8 constitutional writs and
- 5 writs of summons.

Most cases were determined promptly: 90 per cent of special leave applications were determined within four months, while 84 per cent of appeals were finalised within ten months of filing.

For appeals, 88 per cent were decided within six months of hearing arguments, including 26 per cent within three months. For original jurisdiction matters, 59 per cent of matters were decided within twelve months of the matter being filed; where the matter was decided following a hearing, 92 per cent of matters were determined under six months from the date of hearing.

Judicial workloads

Leave, special leave and removal 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 in a particular reporting period are not always determined or finalised in the same reporting period. In the reporting period of 2025–26, a total of 344 applications for special leave, leave to issue or file and applications for removal were determined by the Full Court. There were an additional 35 applications for leave to issue or file and two applications for removal determined by a single Justice.

Unrepresented litigants are a significant part of the Court's work. The proportion of applications for special leave to appeal filed by self-represented litigants during 2025–26 was 34 per cent, a slight increase on the 32 per cent of applications filed in 2024–25.

The *High Court Rules 2004* provide that the Court may determine leave and special leave applications on the papers. In 2025–26, there were six applications for special leave and two applications for removal considered with a hearing. The remaining 98 per cent of special leave applications for the reporting period were determined on the papers.

Tables 1 to 13 below set out key information about special leave applications, applications for removal and applications for leave to issue or file.

Table 1: Number of special leave applications, applications for removal and applications for leave to issue or file filed in the reporting period and over the past four years

Year of filing	Special leave applications	Applications for removal	Applications for leave to issue or file
2021–22	382	17	27
2022–23	311	7	25
2023–24	314	10	33
2024–25	318	13	25
2025–26	355	6	38

Table 2: Number of special leave applications determined in the reporting period and over the past four years

Year of determination	Granted	Refused	Other
2021–22	53	334	12
2022–23	37	283	14
2023–24	46	277	12
2024–25	51	258	1
2025–26	49	288	0

Table 3: Elapsed time for special leave applications determined by the Court in 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
2021–22	62	194	114	14	3
2022–23	52	185	73	6	5
2023–24	67	228	21	5	2
2024–25	131	173	4	0	0
2025–26	181	150	5	1*	0

* One special leave application that took 10 months for determination was heard as if on appeal alongside a matter that had already received a grant.

On average, the Court took 94 days to finalise an application for special leave. In 2024–25, 43 per cent of applications were determined in less than three months from the date of filing. As shown in Figure 1 below, in the 2025–26 reporting period, this figure increased by 11 per cent to 54 per cent of applications being determined within three months.

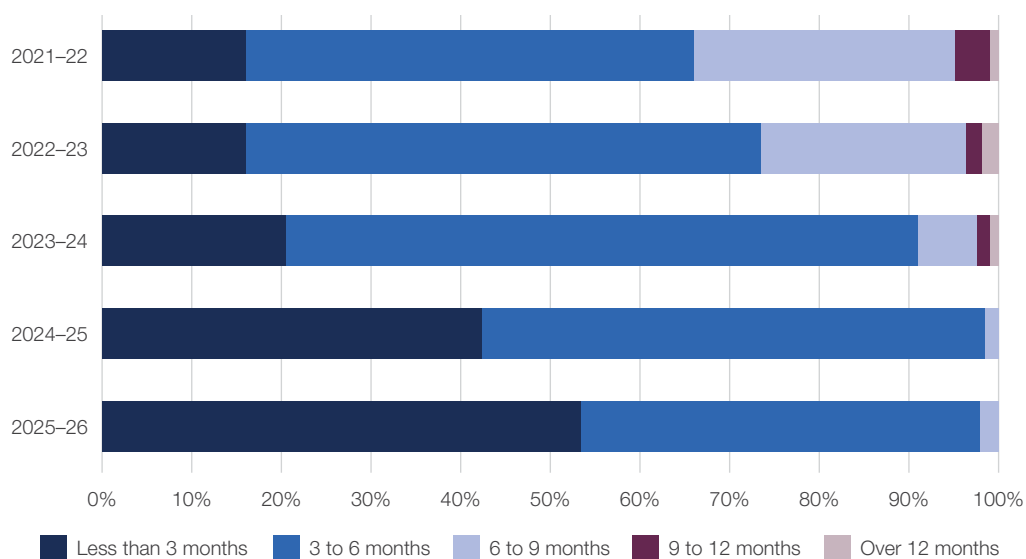


Figure 1: Year-on-year comparison of time taken from filing of a special leave application until the determination is delivered by the Court

Table 4: Special leave applications filed in the reporting period by originating court, matter type and representation status

	Civil		Criminal	
	Represented	Self-Represented	Represented	Self-Represented
High Court	1	9	0	1
Federal Court	77	19	0	0
Federal Circuit and Family Court	6	11	0	0
Supreme Court ACT	0	0	2	0
Supreme Court NSW	28	17	10	3
Supreme Court NT	1	0	1	0
Supreme Court Qld	12	6	21	5
Supreme Court SA	7	5	14	1
Supreme Court Tas	3	0	2	0
Supreme Court Vic	19	26	15	3
Supreme Court WA	6	8	6	7
TOTAL	163	101	71	20
	264		91	

Table 5: Special leave applications determined in the reporting period by originating court, matter type and representation status

	Civil		Criminal	
	Represented	Self-Represented	Represented	Self-Represented
High Court	1	8	0	1
Federal Court	76	12	0	0
Federal Circuit and Family Court	6	12	0	0
Supreme Court ACT	1	0	3	0
Supreme Court NSW	32	14	11	2
Supreme Court NT	7	0	0	0
Supreme Court Qld	10	5	16	3
Supreme Court SA	4	6	11	1
Supreme Court Tas	1	1	2	0
Supreme Court Vic	14	23	20	2
Supreme Court WA	6	10	3	13
TOTAL	158	91	66	22
	249		88	

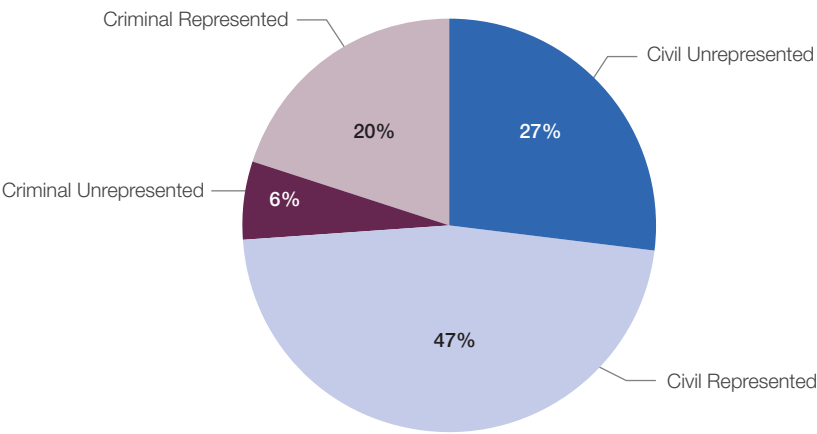


Figure 2: The percentage of special leave applications determined in the reporting period by matter type and applicant representation status

Appeals

Eighty-four per cent of the 50 appeals decided by the Court during the reporting period were completed within ten months of filing; the figure for 2024–25 was 59 per cent. In 88 per cent of appeals decided by the Court during the reporting period, a judgment was delivered within six months of the hearing.

Table 6: *Appeal outcomes in the reporting period and over the past four years*

Year of determination	Allowed	Dismissed	Other
2021–22	23	24	0
2022–23	25	12	0
2023–24	20	23	0
2024–25	20	25	2 ¹
2025–26	25	24	1 ²

- 1 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.
- 2 Heard as if on appeal alongside writ of summons, determined in one judgment, questions answered on writ then application for special leave to appeal revoked.

Table 7: *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
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
2025–26	2	3	29	14	2

Of the two matters in which the elapsed time was greater than 12 months, one had a significant delay due to the illness of counsel on the first listing date while the other saw extended submission timelines due to the respondent being self-represented and the appointment of an *amicus curiae*.

Table 8: Appeals determined in the reporting period by origin and matter type

	Civil	Criminal
Federal Court	24	0
Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia	1	0
Supreme Court ACT	0	0
Supreme Court NSW	9	6
Supreme Court NT	5	0
Supreme Court Qld	1	0
Supreme Court SA	0	1
Supreme Court Tas	0	0
Supreme Court Vic	0	2
Supreme Court WA	1	0
TOTAL	41	9

Of the 49 appeals filed in the reporting period, Tables 9 and 10 following present the matters filed and determined classified by originating court and matter type.

Table 9: Number of appeals filed in the reporting period and over the past four years

Year of filing	Number of appeals filed
2021–22	37
2022–23	40
2023–24	43
2024–25	47
2025–26	49

Table 10: Appeals filed in the reporting period by origin and matter type

	Civil	Criminal
Federal Court	15	0
Federal Circuit and Family Court	0	0
Supreme Court ACT	0	2
Supreme Court NSW	6	3
Supreme Court NT	5	0
Supreme Court Qld	0	4
Supreme Court SA	0	4
Supreme Court Tas	1	0
Supreme Court Vic	4	5
Supreme Court WA	0	0
TOTAL	31	18

Original jurisdiction

As shown in Table 11 following, there were 41 applications filed in the original jurisdiction in 2025–26. Of these, 17 cases were determined by the Full Court, with 14 of them proceeding to a hearing while the remaining three were determined on the papers. 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 s 44 of the *Judiciary Act 1903*.

In addition to the original jurisdiction cases heard and determined by the Full Court, 15 additional constitutional writs were determined by a single Justice of the Court.

Table 11: Cases filed in the original jurisdiction by type in the reporting period and over the last four years

Year of filing	Writs of summons	Constitutional writs	Cause removed
2021–22	12	19	4
2022–23	6	22	1
2023–24	10	23	5
2024–25	10	12	7
2025–26	7	32	2

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. One election petition was filed during the reporting period. This was considered at a directions hearing by a single Justice and was remitted to the Federal Court.

Table 12: 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 and over the past four years

Year of determination	Less than 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	Over 12 months
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
2025–26	0	3	4	3	7

Single Justice activity

Each Justice of the Court undertakes a range of judicial work to support the case management and progress of matters before they are ready for referral to the Full Court. For example, cases commenced in the original jurisdiction of the Court are generally listed for directions before a single Justice of the Court in the first instance to agree on steps and set timetables.

Table 13 and Figure 3 following show the type of work undertaken as single Justice matters in 2025–26.

Table 13: Indication of substantive single Justice activity by type

Single Justice workload	Hearing	On the papers
Directions	6	2
Stay application	0	5
Final orders for constitutional writ	0	30
Final orders on leave to issue	0	35
Suppression application	3	1
Removal applications	2	1
Remitted	2	4
Applications	1	6

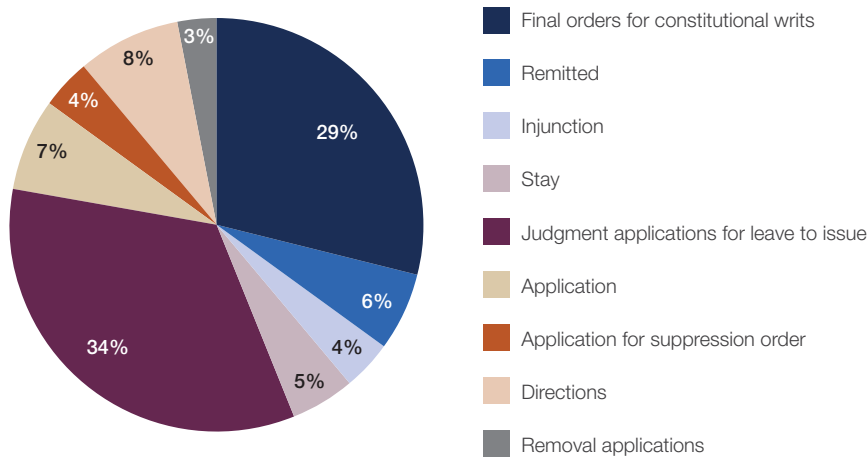


Figure 3: Single Justice matters by type of activity in the reporting period

PART 5

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COURT

PART 5

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 & 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.

The Court administration contributes to the community's access to justice and participation in the justice system by:

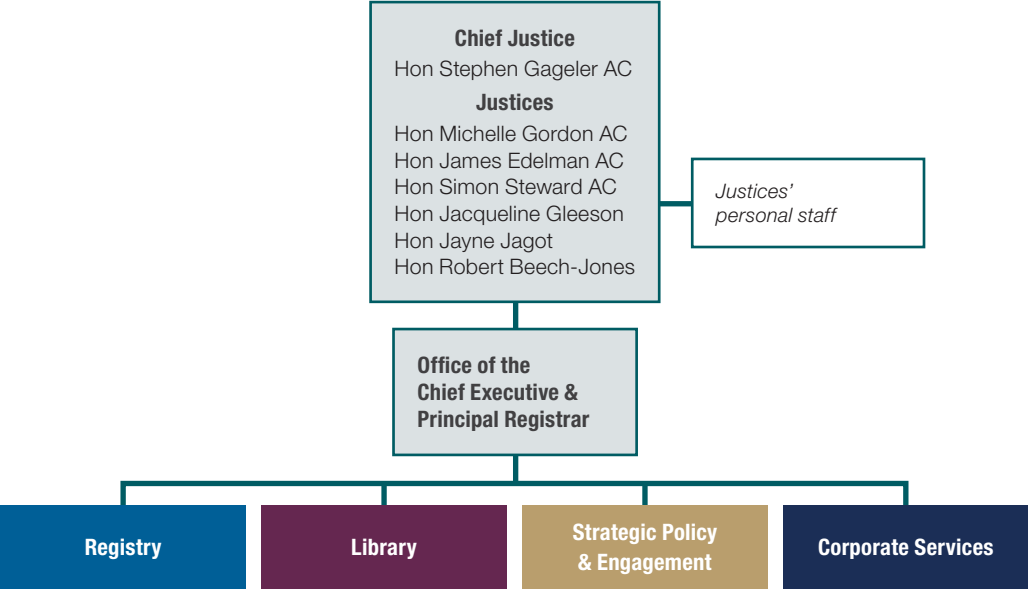
- engaging with both represented and unrepresented litigants to support their ability to place matters before the Court
- providing information about the Court's processes through its public website
- ensuring the availability of decisions of the Court online
- providing information services to litigants through the Court's library
- ensuring access to and providing public information about hearings of the Court; and
- providing tours and educational programs to visitors to the Court.

In 2025–26, the High Court's senior team comprised the CE&PR, the Senior Registrar, the Manager Strategic Policy & Engagement, the Manager Corporate Services, and the High Court Librarian.

Following the retirement of Ms Carolyn Rogers as Senior Registrar in July 2025, Ms Louise Rafferty was appointed to the role of Senior Registrar. Ms Leonie Young took up the role of Manager Strategic Policy & Engagement on a non-ongoing basis in November 2025.

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.

High Court of Australia organisational chart as at 30 June 2026



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, loans and document delivery, current awareness, and collection development and management.

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

The Library is also involved in supporting practitioners and other members of the profession to facilitate access to collections and other resources for cases and related work.

Collections

The Library's print and electronic holdings total over 211,000 items, including approximately 172,000 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 the 2025–26 year, approximately 2,600 print and electronic items were added to the collections, including over 400 new books.

Research

The Library subscribes to many core legal research databases, and also creates customised online research guides. Library research staff assist with reference and research queries from the Justices and their staff. These queries range from the provision of a case 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 progressively published in the Australian Law Journal Reports, Australian Law Reports and Commonwealth Law Reports.
- 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.

Collaboration

The Library participates in extensive formal and informal Australian and international networks of law libraries. The libraries in these networks provide valuable expertise and assistance to each other in the form of, for example, inter-library loans and document delivery, assistance with research resources, and advice on cataloguing and collection development

and management. Library staff are members of Australian and international law library associations, and regularly attend conferences and meetings. In 2025–26, Library staff attended a meeting of Australian court librarians in Adelaide and conducted a cataloguing workshop for ACT librarians. The Library also hosted a meeting of Commonwealth and ACT government librarians. The Library supplied 249 inter-library loans and documents through formal and informal arrangements, and received 108 loans and documents from other libraries. This collaboration, support and sharing of professional knowledge builds and develops external relationships, and enhances the services the Library provides to the Justices and staff of the High Court.

In 2025–26, the Library began work with AustLII and the High Court Registry on a project to digitise all High Court unreported decisions and transcripts that still only exist in hard copy. These documents will be uploaded to the AustLII platform and the High Court website. This project will benefit the entire Australian legal community.

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 programs are designed to provide information about the work of the Court as well as the unique building the Court occupies in Canberra. 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 2025–26, the High Court of Australia welcomed approximately 37,265 visitors, 21,522 of whom were school students who participated in the educational 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.

Visitors are welcomed and tours conducted by the Court's Guide team, consisting of casual employees from a range of professional and educational backgrounds.

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 audiovisual 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 provides notification of upcoming judgments, judgment summaries and case summaries. All of these services are aimed at facilitating access to justice for litigants, the legal profession and the public in general.

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.

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 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 on 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 in the Canberra building are undertaken in consultation with an expert heritage architect.

One of the major projects for the Court this year which underpins the Court's commitment to the preservation of the Canberra building has been the development of a detailed Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP). The SAMP provides a comprehensive building life cycle assessment and review to determine the extent and overall cost of required remediation and restoration works as well as the cost of works to improve such things as energy efficiency, sustainability and accessibility. It details the life cycle and criticality of capital works and provides cost estimates for capital projects. The SAMP provides the detailed evidence base to support a 40-year asset management plan for the Canberra building.

Preliminary works have also commenced on a range of other projects including the replacement of the waterproof membrane and paving on one of the Court's external staircases to address water leaks into the generator room, replacement of a chiller and a diesel generator and initial engineering works for additional perimeter security for the Parkes Place east approach to the Court.

In addition, the Court continues to work collaboratively with Comcover and its loss adjusters to progress the complex issues in relation to the repairs required for the High Court roof following damage from a severe hailstorm in early 2020.

Information management

During 2025–26, the Court completed redevelopment of the Court's public website, delivering a more user-friendly, accessible, and informative online presence. Work also commenced on a new ICT Disaster Recovery platform, enabling faster, more cost-effective, and reliable system restoration in the event of a disruption. An online payment portal and associated data migration project was also commenced including the establishment of an online register of practitioners' portal to support more efficient and modern data capture and management.

The refresh of desktop printing devices and mobile devices was finalised, including iPhones and iPads, ensuring staff have access to modern, efficient, and secure tools to support their work. Work continued on cybersecurity and vulnerability management initiatives, strengthening the Court's digital resilience and safeguarding sensitive information. Further enhancements to the Digital Lodgment System, improving usability, performance, and accessibility were delivered.

The information technology team ensured Justices and court personnel received consistent support for on-premises, remote and circuit sittings, enabling efficient and uninterrupted proceedings.

Human resources management

Staffing profile

The Court's 93 staff members consist of 59 females, 33 males and 1 person identifying as non-binary. This workforce includes:

- 48 ongoing employees
- 24 non-ongoing employees
- 21 casual employees.

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

Work health and safety

During 2025–26, the Work Health and Safety Committee (WHSC) met four 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 following WHSC meetings. Information about the Court's health and safety arrangements and minutes from the WHSC meetings can be accessed by employees via the Court's intranet.

The Court continued its review of all WHS policies to ensure compliance with applicable legislative requirements. In addition, the Court has continued work to enhance the configuration of the electronic platform (Done Safe) 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 2025–26, 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:

- introducing Elker as a secure, encrypted reporting pathway, offering anonymity and two-way communication to support staff in raising concerns about matters they feel are not right
- delivering WHS refresher training to all staff aligned with Comcare guidelines and the uniform WHS legislative framework
- incorporating WHS training as a key component of new staff induction and orientation programs
- providing resilience training that incorporates vicarious trauma content to new associates at induction and Registry staff
- 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 our 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.

Financial management

The Court's budget estimates for 2025–26 were reported in the Attorney-General's Portfolio Budget Statements.

The audited financial results for 2025–26 are in Part 7. In 2025–26, income including revenue from appropriations amounted to \$23.478m, and operating expenses were \$31.117m, resulting in a deficit of \$7.639m. The Court's underlying operating result (excluding unfunded depreciation and other gains) was a surplus of \$0.005m. In 2025–26, the Court received an equity injection of \$3.366m including departmental capital budget.

Section 43 of the *High Court of Australia Act* 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 2025–26, the internal auditor commenced reviews of:

- the completeness of the implementation of previous internal audit recommendations and
- a mix of high risk and randomly selected payments to detect errors and possible fraud.

During 2025–26 the Court made payments under 30 consultancy contracts with a total value of \$636,778 (including GST). The following table reflects consultancies over \$10,000.

Name	Description	Amount paid \$ (including GST)
Aerosafe Risk Management Pty Ltd	Risk management framework review	29,700
Australian Government Solicitor	General legal advice	137,230
Ashurst Perkins Coie Australia	Workplace conduct policy review	36,048
Atturra Advisory (Noetic Solutions Pty Limited)	Public Interest Disclosure (PID) policy review	19,140
Australis Facilities Management Pty Ltd	Development of the Strategic Asset Management Plan	126,802
Centium Pty Ltd	Fraud and corruption controls review	34,121
Centium Pty Ltd	Procurement policy review	14,956
GHD Pty Ltd	Roof damage assessment, advice and documentation	38,005
JLL (Jones Lang LaSalle Advisory Services Pty Limited)	Valuation services – land and buildings	38,500
Mesh Cyber Pty Ltd	Cybersecurity policy review and Azure landing zone design	19,767
Peter Tinslay	Valuation services – library holdings	15,400
Resolve Advisors Pty Ltd	Evaluation of employee policies	15,354
The Retail Doctor Group Pty Limited	Retail options assessment	15,400

Risk management and fraud prevention and control

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 recognise the value of risk management as an essential component of good governance in managing the risks in the administrative functions 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.

During this year, the Court has undertaken a review of its approach to strategic risk management. The review confirmed that the Court has a strong formal policy foundation, with clearly articulated governance roles, a defined risk appetite, risk criteria, escalation requirements, and an endorsed risk management framework.

To achieve a mature and fully embedded risk management environment, the Court will undertake further work to standardise risk practices, uplift capability, integrate cross-functional risks, and implement improved reporting via the establishment of an annual Risk Management Program.

The Court is not subject to the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*. However, the Court recognises the Commonwealth Fraud and Corruption Control Framework (CFCCF) as representative of best practice in Australian Government fraud control and acts in a manner consistent with the CFCCF. The High Court of Australia's Fraud and Corruption Control Plan (the Plan) aligns with the Commonwealth Fraud Control Framework. The Plan sets out the Court's arrangements for the prevention, detection, investigation, recording and reporting of instances of fraud and corruption.

The Court is committed to a culture of professional integrity in which our people at all levels are required to act with honesty, transparency and accountability at all times. 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. This training is intended to support staff in applying the procedures in a pragmatic and proportionate way.

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. The Court Business Meeting is responsible for:

- 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 culture of the Court's administration
- 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 Ian Govey AM, with other members including a Justice and two independent members (Ms Sue-Ellen Bickford and Mr Ben Parkinson). Secretariat support was provided by the Chief Financial Officer.

Advisory committees

Rules Committee

The Rules Committee consists of three Justices and the CE&PR. Secretariat support is provided by the Senior Registrar. The Committee meets as required to consider amendments to the *High Court Rules 2004*.

Workplace Conduct Committee

The Workplace Conduct Committee consists of two Justices, the CE&PR and the Senior Human Resources Advisor (who also provides secretariat support). The Committee meets as required to provide oversight of the continued implementation of the Justices' Policy on Workplace Conduct.

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 following WHSC meetings. Information about the Court's health and safety arrangements and minutes from the WHSC meetings can be accessed by employees via the Court's intranet.

Employee Consultative Committee

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 Committee (ECC) provides an opportunity for employees to share information and discuss terms and conditions of employment. The ECC generally meets quarterly, or more regularly if required.

Administrative outcomes and activities

Fees

Regulation 11 of the *High Court of Australia (Fees) Regulations 2022* sets out the grounds upon which a person is eligible for a full exemption from paying filing and hearing fees associated with proceedings in the High Court. The exemptions apply to 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).

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, 514 fees were payable for either filing of a document or a hearing before the Full Court or a single Justice of the Court. In 206 of these (or 40 per cent of the fees payable), the person liable to pay the fee was exempted from paying the fee. In addition, financial hardship determinations

were made in a further 27 matters (being five per cent of the total number of fees payable). In the reporting period, the filing and hearing fees foregone related to these 233 filing fees amounted to \$670,065. The composition of this total is shown in the following table.

Record of fees foregone 2025–26

Reasons for exemption or reduction	Regulation	No.	Amount (\$)
Legal Aid (exemption)	11(1)(a)	48	120,880
Holder of a concession card (exemption)	11(1)(b)	105	395,925
Person in public detention (exemption)	11(1)(c)	46	54,530
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)	1	4,145
Recipient of assistance under Native Title Act (exemption)	11(1)(f)	6	30,530
Financial hardship fee	12	27	64,055
TOTAL		233	670,065

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 4,466 new practitioners were added to the register in 2025–26, which reflects an increase of 6.1 per cent from 2024–25. In addition to processing these applications, the Registry also produced 1,188 certificates in the 2025–26 reporting period.

PART 6

**BACKGROUND
INFORMATION ON
THE COURT**

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).

Seat of the Court

Section 14 of the *High Court of Australia Act 1979* (Cth) 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.

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).

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 travelled on circuit during 2025–26, sitting in Perth, Brisbane and Adelaide.

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 2025–26 year, single Justice sittings were generally held in Canberra or by video-conference.

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 ground 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 1979* (Cth) 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–

PART 7
FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS



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 2026:

- (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 2026 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 2026 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 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.

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

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 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.

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 2026.

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 2026, 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



Michelle Page

Senior Executive Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra

21 August 2026



High Court of Australia

Financial Statements

For the period ended 30 June 2026

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 2026 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 (the Court) will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Signed.....
Richard Glenn
Chief Executive & Principal Registrar
High Court of Australia
21 August 2026

Signed.....
John Kearns
Chief Financial Officer
High Court of Australia
21 August 2026

High Court of Australia
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
For the period ended 30 June 2026

		2026	2025	Original Budget 2026
	Notes	\$	\$	\$
NET COST OF SERVICES				
Expenses				
Employee benefits	1.1A	11,854,792	11,355,162	10,648,000
Suppliers	1.1B	11,553,854	11,287,002	11,319,000
Depreciation and amortisation	3.2A	7,643,753	9,524,068	8,215,000
Write-down and impairment of other assets	1.1C	58,726	14,349	-
Finance costs	1.1D	5,544	5,219	2,000
Total expenses		31,116,669	32,185,800	30,184,000
Own-source income				
Own-source revenue				
Revenue from contracts with customers	1.2A	455,171	464,666	250,000
Interest		652,679	667,837	190,000
Resources received free of charge	1.2B	3,359,645	3,319,446	3,100,000
Other revenue	1.2C	641,167	28,817	120,000
Total own-source revenue		5,108,662	4,480,766	3,660,000
Net cost of services		(26,008,007)	(27,705,034)	(26,524,000)
Revenue from Government	1.2D	18,369,000	18,215,000	18,369,000
Deficit		(7,639,007)	(9,490,034)	(8,155,000)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME				
Changes in asset revaluation reserve		10,738,948	10,483,626	-
Total other comprehensive income		10,738,948	10,483,626	-
Total comprehensive income/(loss)		3,099,941	993,592	(8,155,000)

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

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

High Court of Australia
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As at 30 June 2026

		2026	2025	Original Budget 2026
	Notes	\$	\$	\$
ASSETS				
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	3.1A	3,346,406	1,358,486	1,828,000
Trade and other receivables	3.1B	724,965	437,565	1,007,000
Other investments		11,500,000	11,500,000	8,005,000
Total financial assets		15,571,371	13,296,051	10,840,000
Non-financial assets¹				
Land and buildings	3.2A	241,731,947	236,546,129	225,840,000
Property, plant and equipment	3.2A	14,540,186	14,853,843	15,307,000
Heritage and cultural	3.2A	6,104,140	6,104,140	6,103,000
Intangibles	3.2A	654,529	560,671	426,000
Other non-financial assets	3.2B	397,660	435,048	302,000
Total non-financial assets		263,428,462	258,499,831	247,978,000
Total assets		278,999,833	271,795,882	258,818,000
LIABILITIES				
Payables				
Suppliers	3.3A	807,026	564,408	350,000
Other payables	3.3B	430,875	428,821	30,000
Total payables		1,237,901	993,229	380,000
Interest bearing liabilities				
Leases	3.4A	178,844	100,854	180,000
Total interest bearing liabilities		178,844	100,854	180,000
Provisions				
Employee provisions	6.1	3,549,148	3,133,800	4,128,000
Total provisions		3,549,148	3,133,800	4,128,000
Total liabilities		4,965,893	4,227,883	4,688,000
Net assets		274,033,940	267,567,999	254,130,000
EQUITY				
Contributed equity		128,931,598	125,565,598	128,932,000
Asset revaluation reserve		257,200,341	246,461,393	235,976,000
Accumulated deficit		(112,097,999)	(104,458,992)	(110,778,000)
Total equity		274,033,940	267,567,999	254,130,000

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

¹ Property plant and equipment include the library holdings 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.

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

High Court of Australia
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
For the period ended 30 June 2026

	2026 \$	2025 \$	Original Budget \$
CONTRIBUTED EQUITY			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	125,565,598	122,237,598	125,566,000
Transactions with owners			
Contributions by owners			
Equity injection - appropriation	550,000	550,000	550,000
Departmental capital budget	2,816,000	2,778,000	2,816,000
Total transactions with owners	3,366,000	3,328,000	3,366,000
Closing balances as at 30 June	128,931,598	125,565,598	128,932,000
ACCUMULATED DEFICIT			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	(104,458,992)	(94,968,958)	(102,623,000)
Comprehensive income			
Surplus / (deficit) for the period	(7,639,007)	(9,490,034)	(8,155,000)
Total comprehensive income/(loss)	(7,639,007)	(9,490,034)	(8,155,000)
Closing balance as at 30 June	(112,097,999)	(104,458,992)	(110,778,000)
ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	246,461,393	235,977,767	235,976,000
Comprehensive income			
Other comprehensive income	10,738,948	10,483,626	-
Total comprehensive income	10,738,948	10,483,626	-
Closing balance as at 30 June	257,200,341	246,461,393	235,976,000
TOTAL EQUITY			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	267,567,999	263,246,407	258,919,000
Comprehensive income			
Other comprehensive income	10,738,948	10,483,626	(8,155,000)
Surplus / (deficit) for the period	(7,639,007)	(9,490,034)	-
Total comprehensive income	3,099,941	993,592	(8,155,000)
Transactions with owners			
Contributions by owners			
Equity injection - appropriation	550,000	550,000	550,000
Departmental capital budget	2,816,000	2,778,000	2,816,000
Total transactions with owners	3,366,000	3,328,000	3,366,000
Closing balances as at 30 June	274,033,940	267,567,999	254,130,000

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

For original 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.

High Court of Australia
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
For the period ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 \$	2025 \$	Original Budget 2026 \$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Appropriations		18,369,000	18,215,000	18,369,000
Sale of goods and rendering of services		480,739	500,967	250,000
Interest		630,749	691,696	190,000
Net GST received		764,457	1,252,819	785,000
Other		371,599	421,043	120,000
Total cash received		20,616,544	21,081,525	19,714,000
Cash used				
Employees		11,427,636	11,479,443	10,409,000
Suppliers		8,709,882	9,043,023	9,004,000
Interest payments on lease liabilities		5,544	5,219	2,000
Total cash used		20,143,062	20,527,685	19,415,000
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities	5.3	473,482	553,840	299,000
INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		150	1,407	-
Other investments		-	500,000	441,000
Total cash received		150	501,407	441,000
Cash used				
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		1,748,639	4,257,351	3,805,000
Total cash used		1,748,639	4,257,351	3,805,000
Net cash from/(used by) investing activities		(1,748,489)	(3,755,944)	(3,364,000)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Capital injection		3,366,000	3,328,000	3,366,000
Total cash received		3,366,000	3,328,000	3,366,000
Cash used				
Principal payments of lease liabilities		103,073	107,701	60,000
Net cash used		103,073	107,701	60,000
Net cash from/(used by) financing activities		3,262,927	3,220,299	3,306,000
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		1,987,920	18,195	241,000
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		1,358,486	1,340,291	1,587,000
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	5.3	3,346,406	1,358,486	1,828,000

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 2026

Budget Variation Commentary

The following table provides explanations for major variances between the original budget estimates, as published in the 2025–26 Portfolio Budget Statements, and actual results for the year ended 30 June 2026. Variances are considered major where they are significant in dollar terms or are important for understanding the Court's financial performance, financial position or cash flows. 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 \$1.207m above original 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 were \$0.571m below original budget, reflecting changes to the assessed useful lives of building components following the independent valuation. These changes were not reflected in the original budget.	Depreciation
Interest income from investments was \$0.463m above original budget due to higher interest rates and a higher level of cash reserves.	Interest
Resources received free of charge (voluntary services) were \$0.260m above original budget. The Court occupies registry and judicial office accommodation in state capital cities for which no direct payment is made. The value of these resources is recognised as resources received free of charge and is determined by an independent valuer.	Resources received free of charge
Other revenue was \$0.641m above original budget, reflecting conference registration fees and insurance recoveries that were not originally budgeted.	Other revenue
The asset revaluation reserve was \$10.739m above original budget as a result of revaluation increments recognised following the independent valuation of the Court's land and buildings and library collection at 30 June 2026. The original budget did not include this movement because the valuation outcome was not known when the budget was prepared.	Changes in asset revaluation reserves
Statement of Financial Position	Affected Line Item
Cash and investments were \$5.013m above original budget, primarily because capital funds were held for longer than originally anticipated and invested.	Cash and cash equivalents and other investments
Trade receivables were below original budget by \$0.282m due to a reduction in other receivables (insurance recoveries and LSL transfers) and lower than forecast GST recoverable.	Trade and other receivables

High Court of Australia

BUDGET VARIANCE COMMENTARY

For the period ended 30 June 2026

Statement of Financial Position (continued)	Affected Line Item (continued)
Land and buildings were \$15.892m above original budget, primarily due to revaluation increments recognised following the independent valuation of the Court's land and buildings. The valuation outcome was not known when the original budget was prepared and was therefore not reflected in the budget estimate.	Land and buildings
Supplier and other payables were \$0.858m above original budget, mainly due to unanticipated electricity expenses accrued at year end and higher-than-budgeted accrued salaries.	Total payables - suppliers and other payables
Leave provisions were below original budget by \$0.579m as a result of staff retirements during the year with large long service leave and annual leave payouts and higher than anticipated levels of leave.	Employee Provisions
Cash Flow	Affected Line Item
Sale of goods and rendering of services receipts were \$0.231m above original budget due to higher-than-anticipated receipts from practitioner's certificates	Sale of goods and rendering of services
Interest receipts from investments were \$0.441m above original budget due to higher interest rates and a higher level of cash reserves.	Interest
Other receipts were \$0.252m above original budget, primarily due to receipts from conference registrations.	Other
Employee payments were \$1.019m above original budget, primarily due to enterprise agreement pay rises, ASL and the payout of entitlements.	Employees
Purchases of property, plant and equipment were \$2.056m below original budget, reflecting lower-than-planned expenditure on the building under the capital management plan and the Court's decision to preserve cash reserves for future projects.	Purchase of property plant and equipment

High Court of Australia

ADMINISTERED SCHEDULE OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the period ended 30 June 2026

		2026	2025	Original Budget 2026
	Notes	\$	\$	\$
Net cost of services				
Income				
Revenue				
Non-taxation revenue				
Fees and charges	2.1	2,366,259	2,594,449	2,450,000
Total non-taxation revenue		2,366,259	2,594,449	2,450,000
Total Income		2,366,259	2,594,449	2,450,000
Total comprehensive income		2,366,259	2,594,449	2,450,000

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

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

ADMINISTERED SCHEDULE OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

As at 30 June 2026

		2026	2025	Original Budget 2026
	Notes	\$	\$	\$
ASSETS				
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	4.1A	278,008	186,181	209,000
Other receivables	4.1B	35,665	9,775	-
Total financial assets		313,673	195,956	209,000
Net assets/(liabilities)		313,673	195,956	209,000

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 RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE
For the period ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 \$	2025 \$	Original Budget 2026 \$
Opening assets less liabilities as at 1 July		195,956	178,581	192,000
Adjusted opening assets less liabilities		195,956	178,581	192,000
Net (cost of)/contribution by services				
Income		2,366,259	2,594,449	2,500,000
Transfers (to)/from the Australian Government				
Appropriation transfers to OPA				
Transfers to OPA		(2,248,542)	(2,577,074)	(2,483,000)
Closing assets less liabilities as at 30 June		313,673	195,956	209,000

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 2026

	Notes	2026 \$	2025 \$	Original Budget 2026 \$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Fees and charges		2,340,369	2,584,674	2,500,000
Total cash received		2,340,369	2,584,674	2,500,000
Net cash used by operating activities		2,340,369	2,584,674	2,500,000
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		2,340,369	2,584,674	2,500,000
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		186,181	178,581	192,000
Cash to Official Public Account				
Cash to OPA		(2,248,542)	(2,577,074)	(2,483,000)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	4.1	278,008	186,181	209,000

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 2026

Budget Variation Commentary
The following table provides explanations for major variances between the original budget estimates, as published in the 2025–26 Portfolio Budget Statements, and actual results for the year ended 30 June 2026. Variances are considered major where they are significant in dollar terms or are important for understanding the Court’s financial performance, financial position or cash flows. 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 <i>High Court of Australia (Fees) Regulation 2012</i> . Hearing fees are paid once a date has been set. The budget is set based on an average of the prior year filling rates. Net fees and charges are \$0.083 below budget.	Non-taxation revenue

High Court of Australia

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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.

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 once 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.
- The valuation method adopted to determine the fair value of property, plant and equipment (including the library holding 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 holdings 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

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

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 holdings 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 independent 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.

Interest

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method.

Taxation

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 2026.

1.1: Expenses

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
1.1A: Employee benefits		
Wages and salaries	8,913,878	8,436,873
Allowances and other entitlements	81,259	64,369
Superannuation:		
Defined benefit plans	440,378	514,349
Defined contribution plans	1,106,598	962,776
Leave and other entitlements	1,078,064	1,125,628
Fringe Benefits Tax	234,615	251,167
Total employee benefits	11,854,792	11,355,162

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	4,310,779	4,446,299
Security	1,250,322	1,123,255
Travel	1,115,648	1,148,696
Information technology and communications	1,479,298	1,369,136
Contractors and other consultants	556,556	712,608
Electronic library subscriptions	871,382	841,921
Legal expenses	124,754	59,920
Courier and freight charges	35,140	63,039
General insurance	566,635	535,628
Printing	124,600	93,326
External audit fees	85,000	80,000
Other	810,241	621,666
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	11,330,355	11,095,494

Goods supplied in connection with

Goods supplied	566,635	535,628
Services rendered	10,763,720	10,559,866
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	11,330,355	11,095,494

Other suppliers' expenses

Short-term leases	-	4,060
Vehicle running costs	40,366	30,314
Workers compensation expenses	183,133	157,134
Total other suppliers	223,499	191,508
Total suppliers	11,553,854	11,287,002

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

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 Court recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
1.1C: Write-down and impairment of other assets		
Impairment of property, plant and equipment	58,726	14,349
Total write-down and impairment of assets	58,726	14,349
1.1D: Finance costs		
Interest on lease liabilities	5,544	5,219
Total finance costs	5,544	5,219

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

1.2: Own-source revenue and gains

	2026	2025
Own-Source Revenue	\$	\$
1.2A: Revenue from contracts with customers		
Sale of goods	234,279	227,917
Rendering of services	220,892	236,749
Total revenue from contracts with customers	455,171	464,666
Time of transfer of goods and services		
Over time	63,618	62,706
Point in time	391,553	401,960
	455,171	464,666

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.

1.2B: Resources received free of charge

Resources received free of charge

Remuneration of auditors	85,000	80,000
Property operating cost	3,274,645	3,239,446
Total resources received free of charge	3,359,645	3,319,446

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 Australian Government other than the Sydney Law Court Building, which is jointly funded by the Australian Government and NSW Government.

High Court of Australia

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
<u>1.2C: Other revenue</u>		
Insurance recoveries	264,285	-
Conference sponsorship and registration fees	356,359	-
Other	20,523	28,817
Total other revenue	641,167	28,817

Revenue from Government

1.2D: Revenue from Government**Appropriations**

Departmental appropriations	18,369,000	18,215,000
Total revenue from government	18,369,000	18,215,000

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 the Australian 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

	2026	2025
Non-Taxation Revenue	\$	\$
<u>2.1: Fees and charges</u>		
Hearing fees	456,770	610,120
Filing, other fees and revenue	2,559,784	2,630,035
Refunds ¹	(650,295)	(645,706)
Total fees and charges	2,366,259	2,594,449

Accounting policy

Administered revenues relate to revenue collected, pursuant to Section 8 of the *High Court of Australia (Fees) Regulations 2012*. These Regulations apply 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.

¹Fees 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.

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

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
3.1A: Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash on bank or on deposit	3,346,406	1,358,486
Total cash and cash equivalents	3,346,406	1,358,486

Accounting policy

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

- a) 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**

Goods and services ¹	149,070	120,840
Total goods and services receivables	149,070	120,840

¹The contract assets are associated with point in time contracts.

Other receivables

Statutory receivables - goods and services tax ATO	49,024	81,353
Interest	136,068	114,138
Other receivables	395,433	125,864
Total other receivables	580,525	321,355
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	729,595	442,195
Less impairment loss allowance	(4,630)	(4,630)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	724,965	437,565

Accounting policyFinancial 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 under Section 41 of the *High Court of Australia Act 1979*.

High Court of Australia

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3.2: Non-financial assets

3.2A: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Property, Plant and Equipment, and Intangibles (2026)

	Land ¹	Building ¹	Library holdings ²	Other PP&E	Heritage and cultural ²	Computer software	Other intangibles	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Gross book value ³	11,450,000	225,096,129	11,604,719	5,932,370	6,104,140	1,975,581	106,688	262,269,627
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment ⁵	-	-	(2,129,760)	(553,486)	-	(1,505,016)	(16,582)	(4,204,844)
Total as at 1 July 2025	11,450,000	225,096,129	9,474,959	5,378,884	6,104,140	470,565	90,106	258,064,783
Adjusted total as at 1 July 2025	11,450,000	225,096,129	9,474,959	5,378,884	6,104,140	470,565	90,106	258,064,783
Additions								
By Purchase	-	672,779	660,852	213,185	-	202,212	-	1,749,028
WIP movement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Right-of-use assets	-	-	-	181,063	-	-	-	181,063
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income ³	(850,000)	10,424,624	1,163,934	-	-	-	-	10,738,558
Impairments recognised in the operating result ⁴	-	-	(57,321)	(1,405)	-	-	-	(58,726)
Impairments on right-of-use assets recognised in net cost of services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assets held for sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation and amortisation expense	-	(5,061,584)	(1,073,265)	(1,297,477)	-	(108,354)	-	(7,540,680)
Depreciation on right-of-use assets	-	-	-	(103,073)	-	-	-	(103,073)
Disposals:								
Other disposals	-	-	-	(150)	-	-	-	(150)
Total as at 30 June 2026	10,600,000	231,131,947	10,169,159	4,371,027	6,104,140	564,423	90,106	263,030,802
Total as at 30 June 2026 represented by:								
Gross book value	10,600,000	231,131,947	10,169,159	6,059,961	6,104,140	2,177,793	106,688	266,349,688
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	-	-	-	(1,688,934)	-	(1,613,370)	(16,582)	(3,318,886)
Total as at 30 June 2026	10,600,000	231,131,947	10,169,159	4,371,027	6,104,140	564,423	90,106	263,030,802
Carrying amount of right-of-use assets	-	-	-	178,844	-	-	-	178,844

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

Non-financial assets

¹ For land and buildings, during 2025–26, the independent valuer applied professional judgement in reallocating AASB 2022-10 site preparation costs from land to buildings, reflecting the asset component most directly linked to service capacity. The change is treated prospectively as a change in accounting estimate and has no impact on total land and buildings.

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

³ All revaluations were conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy stated at Note 7.4. On 30 June 2026, independent valuers conducted valuations on land and buildings and library holdings.

⁴ 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.

⁵ As outlined below, a prior period comparative adjustment was identified in relation to library holdings and property, plant and equipment (PPE) gross value and accumulated depreciation. Comparative balances have been restated in accordance with AASB 108 and net impact to asset carrying values is nil.

AASB 108 prior period disclosure error (restatement note)

During 2025-26, the Court identified adjustments required to correct historical mapping misalignments between asset management classes and the general ledger trial balance. The corrections affect only gross cost and accumulated depreciation line items within the relevant asset classes and have no net impact on the historical net book value of non-financial assets.

The errors have been corrected by retrospectively restating the comparatives. For property, plant and equipment, the error arose from an incorrect disclosure of the split of the revaluation movement in 2023-24. For library holdings, the error was caused by a manual classification split error.

There is no impact to the total carrying value of the non-financial assets, the statement of comprehensive income or equity.

The table below summarises these changes to the opening balances

Comparative Financial Year	Affected Note Element	As previously Reported (\$)	Adjusted Amount (\$)	Restated Balance (\$)
2024-25	PPE – gross value	\$5,259,761	\$672,609	\$5,932,370
2024-25	PPE – accumulated depreciation	\$119,123	(\$672,609)	(\$553,486)
2024-25	Library holdings – gross value	\$11,691,254	(\$86,535)	\$11,604,719
2024-25	Library holdings - accumulated depreciation	(\$2,216,295)	\$86,535	(\$2,129,760)
2024-25	Net class impact (2024-25)	\$14,853,843	-	\$14,853,843

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

The Court does not have any contractual commitments for 2025-26

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Commitments are payable as follows:		
Within 1 year	-	683,657
Total Commitments ¹	-	683,657

¹Including GST.

High Court of Australia

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Accounting Policy

Non-financial assets

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

Following initial recognition at cost, property, plant and equipment (including library holdings 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 assets.

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.

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

	2026	2025
Building assets	1 to 200 years	1 to 200 years
Property, plant, and equipment	3 to 50 years	3 to 50 years
Significant furniture	10 to 50 years	10 to 50 years
Library holdings	7 to 25 years	7 to 25 years

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.

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

Impairment

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2026.
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 these 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 (2024-25: 3 to 6 years), other intangibles are 10 years. (2024-25: 10 years).

All intangible assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2026.

High Court of Australia

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
<u>3.2B: Other non-financial assets</u>		
Prepayments ¹	397,660	435,048
Total prepayments	397,660	435,048

¹No indicators of impairment were found for other non-financial assets.

3.3: Payables

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
<u>3.3A: Suppliers</u>		
Trade creditors ¹	72,779	92,180
Accruals ¹	734,247	472,228
Total suppliers	807,026	564,408

¹Settlement is usually made within 30 days.

3.3B: Other payables

Wages and salaries	378,283	369,836
Superannuation	52,592	49,235
Unearned revenue	-	9,750
Total other payables	430,875	428,821

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

3.4: Interest bearing liabilities		
	2026	2025
	\$	\$
3.4A: Leases		
Finance leases ¹	178,844	100,854
Total leases	178,844	100,854

¹Total cash outflow for leases for the year ended 30 June 2026 was \$108,617 (2024-25: \$112,920)

Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows		
Within 1 year	102,078	70,319
Between 1 to 5 years	78,759	27,868
Total leases	180,837	98,187

The Court in its capacity as lessee has a total of 8 motor vehicle leases (2024-2025: 8). 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 Court’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

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
4.1A: Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash on hand or on deposit	278,008	186,181
Total cash and cash equivalents	278,008	186,181
4.1B: Other receivables		
Other receivables		
Other receivables	35,665	9,775
Total other receivables	35,665	9,775

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

Annual Appropriations for 2026

	<i>Appropriation Act</i>	Appropriation applied in 2025-26 (current and prior years)	Variance
	Annual Appropriation \$	\$	\$
Departmental			
Ordinary annual services	18,369,000	18,369,000	-
Capital Budget (DCB) ¹	2,816,000	2,816,000	-
Other services			
Equity Injections	550,000	550,000	-
Total departmental	21,735,000	21,735,000	-

Annual Appropriations for 2025

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

All the above amounts are directly appropriated to the Court in the Appropriations Acts. The appropriations are applied when amounts are paid to the Court.

¹Departmental 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

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
5.2: Net cash appropriation arrangements		
Total comprehensive income/(loss) as per the Statement of Comprehensive Income	3,099,941	993,592
Plus: depreciation/amortisation of assets funded through appropriations (departmental capital budget funding and/or equity injections)	7,540,680	9,416,368
Plus: depreciation of right-of-use assets	103,073	107,700
Less: lease principal repayments	(103,073)	(107,701)
Net Cash Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)	10,640,621	10,409,959

From 2010-11, the Australian 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

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents as per statement of financial position to cash flow statement		
Cash and cash equivalents as per		
Cash flow statement	3,346,406	1,358,486
Statement of financial position	3,346,406	1,358,486
Discrepancy	-	-
Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash from/(used by) operating activities		
Net (cost)/contribution by services	(26,008,007)	(27,705,034)
Revenue from Government	18,369,000	18,215,000
Adjustments for non-cash items		
Depreciation / amortisation	7,643,753	9,524,068
Net write down of non-financial assets	58,726	14,349
Movements in assets and liabilities		
Assets		
(Increase) / decrease in net receivables	(287,399)	570,241
(Increase) / decrease in prepayments	37,389	(133,164)
Liabilities		
Increase / (decrease) in employee provisions	415,348	(165,770)
Increase / (decrease) in supplier payables	242,618	211,759
Increase / (decrease) in other payable	2,054	22,391
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities	473,482	553,840

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

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
6.1: Employee provisions		
Annual leave	1,230,097	1,075,406
Long service leave	2,319,051	2,058,394
Total employee provisions	3,549,148	3,133,800

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 2026. 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 Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS), the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap) or other complying accumulation superannuation funds.

The PSS is a defined benefit scheme 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 Australian 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 2026 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, the Manager, Strategic Policy and Engagement and the Court Librarian.

Key management personnel remuneration is reported in the table below:

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Note 6.2: Key Management Personnel Remuneration		
Short-term employee benefits	1,505,855	1,252,348
Post-employment benefits	215,337	186,851
Other long-term employee benefits	70,548	104,888
Total key management personnel remuneration expenses¹	1,791,740	1,544,087

¹ In addition to the above, in 2025-26 the Court spent \$545,211 (2024-25: \$413,088) 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.

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 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.

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.

The total number of key management personnel that are included in the above table are 6 (2024-25:5).

6.3: Related party disclosures

Related party relationships:

The Court is a Commonwealth entity within the General Government Sector for the consolidated financial statements of the Australian Government. Related parties to the Court are other Commonwealth 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.

High Court of Australia

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

7. Managing Uncertainty

This section analyses how the High Court of Australia manages financial risks within its operating environment.

7.1: Contingent Assets and Liabilities**Unquantifiable contingent asset**

At 30 June 2026, 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 2025.

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

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
7.2A: Categories of Financial Instruments		
Financial assets at amortised cost		
Term deposits	11,500,000	11,500,000
Cash at bank	3,346,406	1,358,486
Receivables for goods and services	149,070	120,840
Total financial assets at amortised cost	14,995,476	12,979,326
Total financial assets	14,995,476	12,979,326
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Supplier payables	72,779	92,180
Accrued expenses	734,247	472,228
Total financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	807,026	564,408
Total financial liabilities	807,026	564,408
7.2B: Net Gains or Losses on Financial Assets		
Financial assets at amortised cost		
Interest revenue (other investments)	602,425	543,288
Interest revenue (bank accounts)	50,254	124,549
Net gains/(losses) from financial assets at amortised cost	652,679	667,837
Net gains/(losses) from financial assets	652,679	667,837

High Court of Australia

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

7.3: Administered Financial Instruments

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
7.3A: Categories of Financial Instruments		
Financial Assets		
Financial assets at amortised cost		
Cash and cash equivalents	278,008	186,181
Total financial assets at amortised cost	278,008	186,181
Total financial assets	278,008	186,181

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

Accounting Policy

Financial Assets

The Court 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 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 write-off directly reduces the gross carrying amount of the financial asset.

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	
	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Non-financial assets		
Land	10,600,000	11,450,000
Buildings on freehold land	231,131,947	225,096,129
Heritage and cultural	6,104,140	6,104,140
Property, plant and equipment	4,192,183	5,278,030
Library holdings	10,169,159	9,474,959
Total non-financial assets	262,197,429	257,403,258
Total fair value measurements of assets in the statement of financial position	262,197,429	257,403,258

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

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.

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

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
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	3,346,406	1,358,486
Trade and other receivables	724,965	437,565
Other investments	11,500,000	11,500,000
Other non-financial assets	397,660	435,048
Total no more than 12 months	15,969,031	13,731,099
More than 12 months		
Land	10,600,000	11,450,000
Buildings	231,131,947	225,096,129
Heritage and cultural	6,104,140	6,104,140
Plant and equipment	4,371,027	5,378,884
Library holdings	10,169,159	9,474,959
Computer software	564,423	470,565
Other intangibles	90,106	90,106
Total more than 12 months	263,030,802	258,064,783
Total assets	278,999,833	271,795,882
Liabilities expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months		
Suppliers	807,026	564,408
Other payables	430,875	428,821
Leases	102,078	70,319
Employee provisions ¹	1,542,941	2,825,009
Total no more than 12 months	2,882,920	3,888,557
More than 12 months		
Leases	76,766	30,535
Employee provisions ¹	2,006,207	308,791
Total more than 12 months	2,082,973	339,326
Total liabilities	4,965,893	4,227,883

¹ During the current year, the methodology used to determine the split between current and non-current liabilities for employee provisions was revised. The comparative balances have not been restated above, however, they would have been \$1,346,378 for current employee provisions expected to be settle within 12 months and \$1,787,422 for non-current employee provisions expected to be settled after 12 months. Total employee provisions would have remained unchanged at \$3,133,800.

High Court of Australia

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
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	278,008	186,181
Trade and other receivables	35,665	9,775
Total no more than 12 months	313,673	195,956
Total assets	313,673	195,956
Liabilities expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months		
Other payables	-	-
Total no more than 12 months	-	-
Total liabilities	-	-

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

8.2: Public Money in the Custody of the Court		
	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Suitor's Fund		
Balance as 1 July 2025	36,303	83,803
Amounts received	219,250	2,500
Amounts deductible/paid out	(218,000)	(50,000)
Balance as at 30 June 2026	37,553	36,303

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

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 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 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.

Canberra

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

Annexure B

Staffing 2025–26 *(as at 30 June 2026)*

Staffing Overview

Branch	Ongoing		Non-ongoing		Casual	Total
	Full time	Part time	Full time	Part time		FY 2025–26
CE&PR	1		1*			2
Chambers	8		15			23
Corporate Services	20		4		13	37
Library	5	1			1	7
Registry	11	2	3		7	23
Strategic Policy & Engagement			1			1
TOTAL	45	3	23		21	93

* denotes statutory office-holder pursuant to s 18 of the *High Court of Australia Act 1979* (Cth)

Staffing Distribution

Classification	Ongoing						Non-ongoing						Casual			Total			Total
	Full time			Part time			Full time			Part time						FY 2025–26			
	M	F	Non-Binary	M	F	Non-Binary	M	F	Non-Binary	M	F	Non-Binary	M	F	Non-Binary	Non-Binary			
																Binary	Binary	Binary	
HCE 1																			
HCE 2	1	1											4	9		5	10		15
HCE 3	1															1	0		1
HCE 4	4	3					2						1	5	1	5	10	1	16
HCE 5	1	3					1							1		1	5		6
HCE 6	2	8					5	10								7	18		25
EL 1	4	8			3		1									5	11		16
EL 2	7	2					1									8	2		10
SES									3								3		3
Office Holder							1									1			1
TOTAL	20	25			3		8	16					5	15	1	33	59	1	93



HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA

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