

CRIME AND JUSTICE

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CRIME IS ONE OF THE OLDEST social problems. Two factors have made crime look like a creation of contemporary society: the development of a system of record keeping on crime and punishment, and publicity about crime. In spite of these, no society has yet been able to measure accurately and reliably the volume of crime and to identify trends in criminal activity. This chapter presents crime and justice statistics for Australia as developed by European settlers.

European settlement in Australia began as a means of administering and inflicting punishment, and at first the convict population far outnumbered the European non-convict population. The early years of colonisation were dominated by the convict status of the population and the military administration. Records on criminal incidents and punishment, especially a formal and regular statistical series, were understandably lacking. But, the gold rushes attracted free settlers to the Australian colonies, and many of the trappings of European civilisation came with them, including bureaucratic requirements to furnish returns on every branch of government activity, including criminal justice. It is difficult, however, to trace the exact date when a particular criminal justice statistical series began. A search through volumes of blue books, statistical registers, parliamentary papers, periodic returns to England, and other such papers reveals no continuous series on any aspect of crime and justice in the colonies until about the 1850s. Perhaps the availability of a continuous series since that time is coincidental with the introduction of major changes in the administration of the colonies in 1854. This does not apply to Queensland, the last colony carved out of New South Wales in 1859, at which time record keeping began. Most of the tables in this chapter, therefore, commence from 1860.

Some observations can nonetheless be made about crime and justice prior to 1860. Historical documents are full of information on the principles, philosophy and attitudes of the rulers of the colony, and the idiosyncracies of governors of the day. In a volume containing statistical tables from Tasmania for the period 1804 to 1823, along with accounts of population, agricultural operations, wages, prices of provisions and so on, there appear some details of arrivals of convict ships, the treatment of bushrangers, executions of convicts and examples of other types of punishment given. Statistical tables for 1804 note that, 'the rations of the convicts who did not attend divine service were stopped'. The same tables reflect on the 'problem' of Aborigines. On 3 May 1804, these tables note the 'first hostile collision between the settlers and the Aborigines: as many as 50 of the latter killed'. In the following year 'the Aborigines became troublesome and

attacked the camp near the present hospital; and also at Risdon, where 40 to 50 were killed'. This preoccupation with Aborigines continued and the statistical tables of 1807 notes the murder of the first white man by the natives. In 1815 the Aborigines were 'killed in great numbers, so much so as to call for proclamations against the cruelty'.

For the colony of New South Wales, patchy but valuable statistics on crimes and punishments are available from 1819. During the period 1819 to 1824, for example, trials for capital offences outnumbered larcenies and misdemeanors combined, by a factor of three to two. A majority of capital offences listed are so minor in nature according to today's laws that they would not warrant prison terms. Over 32 per cent of the prisoners were capitally convicted. And most importantly, almost 11 per cent of those found guilty were executed.

Compared to the following two years, the number of executions in 1823 and 1824 was far lower. In 1825 there were eleven executions, and in 1826 there were twenty-two. The administration of the colony of New South Wales was cognisant of this disparity. In 1826 the administration changed with the appointment of Governor Darling. In despatch 13, dated 2 February 1827 to Earl Bathurst, Governor Darling clarifies the disparity thus:

I will not omit the opportunity of acquainting your Lordship that the public tranquility continues undisturbed, and that the decrease of crime is very obvious.

The number of criminals sentenced to suffer death during the last year amounted to forty seven. Twenty two actually suffered. But no execution has taken place since the middle of October, a period of three months and a half. Considering the extent and composition of this community, these numbers are certainly not great; and I am most happy to find, the Criminal Court having just commenced its sittings, that the Calendar, as it is termed, contains very few cases of a serious nature.

Apparently that was not the view taken by the newspapers of the time; the *Monitor* in early 1827 referred to 'the consequent increase of crime since General Darling's arrival'. A note was written to prove the falsehood of this assertion, which stated the following:

Prisoners sentenced to suffer death in the years 1825 and 1826: For murder, 11,8; burglary, 15,8; rape, 2,0; felonies of various descriptions, 62,30; total, 90,46. Executed, 11,22.

The disproportion of the number, which suffered death in 1825 to the number sentenced is explained as follows. It appears to have been a principle during the last Administration to execute no man who had taken or attempted the life of another. Had this principle been acted on by me, *eight* only instead of twenty two would have been executed last year.

These accounts demonstrate how policy and statistics on crime and punishment are influenced by changes in administration. The higher execution rate continued; in 1827 and 1828 the number executed was 29 and 28 respectively. Between 1824 and 1828 there were on average thirty executions in Tasmania. As in New South Wales, a substantial number of executions were for crimes other than murder. What is notable is that during the period 1824 to 1830 between one-fourth and one-third of the individuals convicted in the supreme court were executed.

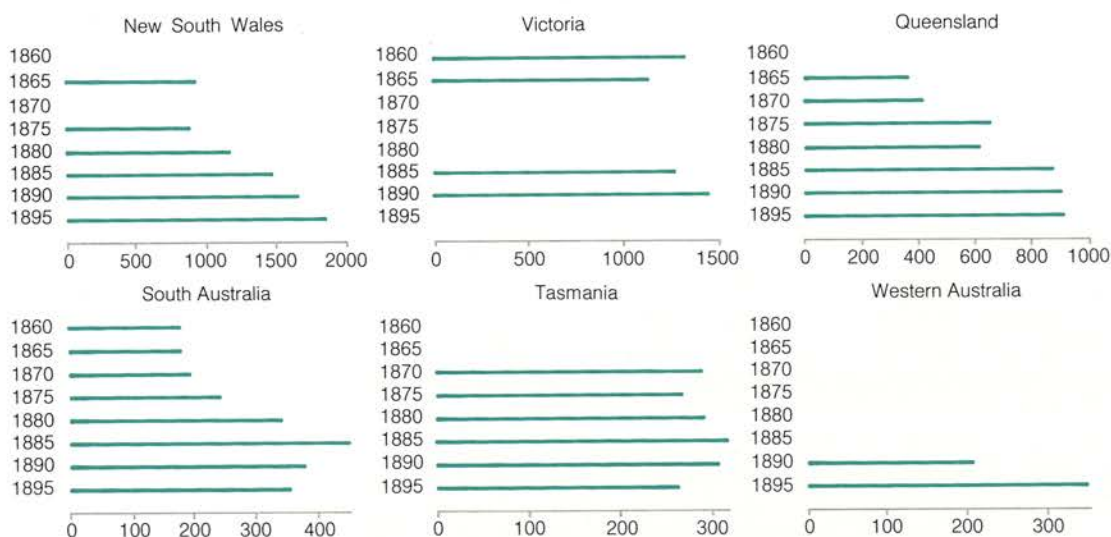
The number of convictions in the Supreme Court of New South Wales remained quite stable and in 1838 this was little over 200, but the number capitally convicted remained very high, six out of ten, and the level of executions declined. In Tasmania, convictions in the supreme court and the court of quarter sessions declined toward the late 1830s, as did the number of executions. But relative to the total population of the two colonies, supreme court convictions, imprisonment and execution rates were much higher in Tasmania than in New South Wales.

In the twentieth century attitudes to crime and punishment practices have changed dramatically and conditions in gaols have also improved, sometimes after spectacular protests by the prisoners themselves. The increase in the number of crimes reported in some categories, such as rape, reflects publicity about the importance of notifying police that a crime has been committed. The number of rapes reported in Australia increased from 416 in 1970 to 1297 in 1982. Dramatic increases in other categories such as breaking and entering (from 90 210 in 1970 to 211 664 in 1982) are often attributed to general social conditions, especially unemployment and drug abuse.

CJ 1-9 POLICE STRENGTH BY JURISDICTION, 1900-1985

Year 31 Dec	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	Tas	WA	NT	ACT	Aust
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1900	2 106	1480	880	363	250	519			5 588
1905	2 413	1495	839	370	229	507			5 853
1910	2 510	1605	944	423	234	481			6 197
1915	2 526	1737	1078	541	232	468			6 582
1920	2 663	1733	1107	566	239	487			6 795
1925	2 933	1875	1160	632	236	544			7 380
1930	3 723	2115	1236	762	251	562			8 649
1935	3 518	2247	1281	817	284	590			8 757
1940	3 782	2319	1446	928	297	614			9 386
1945	3 486	2106	1630	922	317	650			9 111
1950	4 320	2751	2083	978	392	828			11 352
1955	4 644	3109	2293	1173	483	971			12 673
1960	5 260	3923	2566	1431	556	1169	105	89	15 099
1965	6 120	4369	2862	1595	675	1319	157	186	17 283
1970	7 144	4770	3051	1971	771	1616	259	347	19 929
1975	8 411	6156	3582	2548	960	2285	418	551	24 911
1980	9 225	7814	4338	3250	975	2656	573	2614 ^a	31 445
1985	10 608	8698	4775	3263	979	2975	662	2838	34 798

(a) From Oct 1979 the ACT Police and the Commonwealth Police combined to form the Australian Federal Police. Figures before 1979 refer to the ACT Police Force.



POLICE STRENGTH BY JURISDICTION, 1860-1895

CJ 10-17 POLICE EXPENDITURE BY JURISDICTION AT CURRENT PRICES, 1900-1985

Year 31 Dec	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	Tas	WA	ACT	Aust
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
1900	802.7	544.9	342.9	150.1	80.1	237.0		2 157.6
1905	902.7	541.3	352.2	150.1	72.3	248.0		2 266.6
1910	985.1	641.3	445.6	183.2	80.7	230.5		2 566.4
1915	1 150.7	687.1	530.1	261.6	91.5	253.4		2 974.4
1920	2 124.2	1 067.8	879.7	390.9	158.7	349.7		4 971.0
1925	2 416.1	1 294.2	1 019.2	499.3	168.5	418.9		5 816.1
1930	3 622.9	1 351.2	1 004.9	640.7	187.5	476.0		7 283.3
1935	3 458.6	1 428.2	1 286.2	569.6	214.4	456.8		7 413.9
1940	4 120.8	1 664.4	1 509.1	707.7	248.4	540.8		8 791.3
1945	4 420.7	2 166.3	1 995.2	851.8	327.0	605.5		10 366.4
1950	8 598.7	5 071.6	4 288.3	1 688.9	736.8	1 500.9		21 885.1
1955	15 174.4	10 015.5	6 859.7	3 166.6	1 452.5	2 885.5		39 504.2
1960	22 282.5	15 455.4	10 138.8	5 129.6	2 027.3	3 959.4	394.6	59 387.6
1965	30 974.0	20 930.7	13 577.9	7 438.7	2 726.5	5 651.1	923.6	82 222.5
1970	54 584.0	33 007.1	20 958.9	12 380.4	4 869.0	11 051.6	2451.2	139 302.1
1975	131 354.6	98 605.2	61 081.8	39 852.5	16 052.7	27 257.0	8226.4	382 440.3
1980	261 556.7	215 129.6	132 399.0	84 186.2	28 656.0	80 755.0	80 679.4	883 379.9
1985	393 906.0	338 766.8	209 705.6	139 229.0	37 748.7	125 974.4	1 113 069.3	2 358 399.8

CJ 18-31 SELECTED CRIMES REPORTED AND CLEARED, AUSTRALIA 1964-1982

Year 31 Dec	Homicide		Serious assault		Rape		Robbery		Breaking & entering		Motor vehicle theft		Fraud, forgery	
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	r	c	r	c	r	c	r	c	r	c	r	c	r	c
1964	272	263	1924	1693	262	229	592	308	39 695	12 816	23 539	5 357	15 708	13 037
1965	271	260	1895	1609	257	210	729	356	46 616	13 427	24 281	5 567	17 172	14 478
1966	321	299	2227	1838	251	205	992	424	56 841	14 667	26 937	5 640	15 509	13 222
1967	300	279	2158	1748	311	228	960	425	58 720	11 934	26 791	6 039	15 823	12 744
1968	300	287	2508	1987	363	281	1280	459	68 379	14 072	29 298	6 218	18 955	15 719
1969	280	267	2483	1892	364	286	1599	648	76 601	16 052	32 492	6 772	20 415	17 244
1970	339	328	3282	2524	416	315	1999	755	90 210	17 300	38 926	7 820	22 865	19 121
1971	343	329	3862	2936	578	375	2818	827	117 025	18 328	45 795	10 395	25 966	19 205
30 June														
1972	380	356	4235	3237	577	400	3099	914	124 056	24 113	46 921	11 389	36 209	23 475
1973	425	387	3516	2632 ^a	591	422	2996	861	117 047	22 757	44 514	10 717	33 669	22 024
1974	653	620	3018	2029	753	418	3034	800	116 249	23 353	48 826	10 411	37 326	24 539
1975	701	665	2879	2046	825	458	3467	1018	127 178	25 059	51 540	10 939	35 296	25 966
1976	714	698	3473	2600	920	483	2973	911	123 323	24 199	50 105	10 668	43 904	30 731
1977	765	736	3538	2532	928	433	3070	845	128 290	22 074	53 708	10 866	51 771	31 427
1978	670	623	4154	3059	983	496	3577	973	147 156	22 600	62 295	10 962	57 629	35 780
1979	784	748	4923	3618	998	454	3683	1017	161 996	25 280	67 738	10 550	64 647	42 538
1980	825	768	6098	4465	1230	548	4255	1118	179 753	26 394	70 551	11 804	70 187	46 817
1981	826	..	5985	.. ^b	1096	..	4612	..	191 533	..	70 696	..	59 206	..
1982	483 ^c	..	6745	..	1297	..	4892	..	211 664	..	80 353	..	65 993	..

NOTE c=cleared r=reported or becoming known to police

- (a) Changes in collection procedures and interpretation occurred in 1973.
- (b) From 1981 defined as 'assaults causing grievous or actual bodily harm'.
- (c) Does not include manslaughter by driving.

CJ 32-35 OFFENCES HEARD AND DETERMINED AT MAGISTRATES' COURTS, AUSTRALIA 1860-1975

Year 31 Dec	Charges	Convic- tions	Dis- charges	Commis- sionals
	32	33	34	35
1860	3 788	2 868	677	243
1865	46 612	28 851	15 097	2 664
1870	52 051	35 381	14 311	2 359
1875	82 311	58 391	21 333	2 587
1880	97 866	73 165	21 503	3 198
1885 ^a	105 113	79 520	22 663	2 930
1890	114 258	84 172	26 722	3 364
1895 ^b	58 934	41 895	15 458	1 581
1900	134 966	105 001	27 202	2 763
1905	130 560	104 767	22 753	3 040
1910	178 583	144 969	30 936	2 678
1915	212 232	168 084	41 148	3 000
1920	187 952	146 598	37 699	3 655
1925	243 625	196 349	44 012	3 264
1930	252 479	205 157	42 597	4 725
1935	277 817	229 659	44 162	3 996
1940	315 868	274 183	37 201	4 484
1945	279 267	236 858	36 709	5 700
1950	431 200	372 701	52 011	6 488
1955	596 370	529 410	57 723	9 237
1960	817 934	731 542	69 852	16 540
1965 ^c	942 792	823 903	102 027	16 862
1970	1 065 860	900 145	144 795	20 920
1975	1 308 011	1 089 770	193 952	24 289

NOTE Includes SA (1860-), NSW (1865-), Vic (1865-), Qld (1870-), WA (1875-), Tas (1875-), NT (1960-), ACT (1960-). 1865-90 NSW data are for apprehensions only; 1895 onwards NSW data include summons cases; 1865-1905 Vic data are for apprehensions only; 1965 onwards Vic data exclude 'drunkenness' offences.

- (a) SA information not available.
- (b) NSW information not available.
- (c) Vic information not available.

CJ 36-51 OFFENCES HEARD AND DETERMINED AT MAGISTRATES' COURTS, AUSTRALIA 1860-1980

Year 31 Dec	OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON ^a				OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY ^b				FORGERY, UTTERING AND CURRENCY OFFENCES ^c				OFFENCES AGAINST GOOD ORDER ^d				
	Charges	Com- mit- tals	Dis- charges	Com- mit- tals	Charges	Com- mit- tals	Dis- charges	Com- mit- tals	Charges	Com- mit- tals	Dis- charges	Com- mit- tals	Charges	Com- mit- tals	Dis- charges	Com- mit- tals	
1860	480	279	132	69	336	36	148	152	16	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51
1865	9 904	6 449	2 970	485	9 395	3 884	3 498	2 013	128	128	4	4	100	20 639	13 583	7 035	21
1870	9 348	6 290	2 507	551	8 824	4 051	3 120	1 653	121	121	3	28	90	24 155	17 915	6 230	10
1875	10 568	6 979	2 954	635	11 894	6 550	3 610	1 734	158	158	0	33	125	40 537	30 217	10 317	3
1880	5 463 ^f	3 463 ^f	1 871 ^f	346 ^f	11 887	6 038	3 573	2 276	244	244	6	49	189	27 327 ^f	21 023 ^f	6 301 ^f	3 ^f
1885 ^g	8 126	4 979	2 503	644	11 172	5 887	3 368	1 917	231	231	7	31	206	69 911	57 218	12 669	24
1890	9 740	5 874	3 105	761	14 091	7 339	4 490	2 262	275	275	8	61	206	70 264	56 344	13 895	25
1895	4 627 ^f	2 552 ^f	1 648 ^f	427 ^f	7 563 ^f	4 223 ^f	2 356 ^f	984 ^f	76	76	4	16	56	29 190 ^f	22 007 ^f	7 175 ^f	8 ^f
1900	8 697	4 487	3 438	772	13 838	7 948	4 165	1 725	154	154	30	45	79	76 080	64 497	11 558	25
1905	6 977	3 390	2 842	745	13 461	7 883	3 628	1 950	190	190	22	34	134	77 882	67 301	10 561	20
1910	7 395	3 526	3 156	713	13 950	8 266	4 035	1 649	204	204	7	43	154	100 845	86 516	14 306	23
1915	7 321	3 508	3 135	678	16 124	9 909	4 274	1 941	189	189	14	53	122	102 257	84 195	18 011	51
1920	7 516	3 546	3 284	686	19 724	12 139	4 916	2 669	169	169	12	32	125	75 306	59 974	15 283	49
1925	7 045	3 293	2 946	806	20 256	12 052	6 057	2 147	312	312	50	146	116	96 924	77 860	19 026	38
1930	7 318	3 517	2 859	942	31 770	18 983	9 347	3 440	269	269	76	75	118	83 250	69 339	13 854	57
1935	6 550	3 124	2 580	846	37 311	20 221	14 260	2 830	220	220	28	56	136	83 484	72 947	10 507	30
1940	6 131	3 091	2 154	886	35 127	22 878	9 182	3 067	362	362	77	70	215	90 291	80 487	9 777	27
1945	9 368	4 324	3 599	1445	33 575	24 451	5 071	4 053	111	111	55	14	42	107 788	92 711	15 058	19
1950	11 250	5 086	4 519	1645	30 788	22 379	3 799	4 610	237	237	122	31	84	179 788	151 168	28 581	39
1955	13 346 ^h	5 816 ^h	5 354 ^h	2 176 ^h	33 860 ^h	26 685 ^h	2 592 ^h	4 583 ^h	410	410	230	19	161	182 443 ^f	158 223 ^f	24 060 ^f	160 ^f
1960	15 485	7 180	5 095	3 210	75 900	56 418	6 892	12 590	1417	1417	1037	19	361	192 212	170 998	21 014	200
1965	19 348 ^h	9 674 ^h	6 333 ^h	3 341 ^h	65 047 ^h	50 842 ^h	6 039 ^h	8 166 ^h	2480	2480	1623	234	623	172 235 ^h	150 283 ^h	21 731 ^h	221 ^h
1970	25 768	12 929	8 692	4 147	121 230	93 939	12 064	15 227	3071	3071	1671	797	603	163 408	138 384	24 742	282
1975	34 260	16 975	12 131	5 154					739	739	573	44	122	193 412	149 684	42 944	784
1980									728	728	344	153	231				

(a) Includes murder and attempt, manslaughter, manslaughter by driving, infanticide, abortion, kidnapping and abduction, rape and attempt, carnal knowledge, incest, bigamy, bestiality, indecent assault, aggravated or minor assault, inflicting grievous bodily harm, stabbing, shooting or wounding, common or minor assault, dangerous driving causing injury, administering poison. Includes SA (1860-), NSW (1865-), Vic (1865-), Qld (1870-), WA (1875-), Tas (1875-), NT (1960-); no data available for ACT.

(b) Includes break, enter and steal, larceny or illegal use of vehicle or boat, larceny other than vehicle or boat, stealing from the person, horse, cattle and sheep stealing, malicious or willful damage, embezzlement (including larceny by clerk or servant), false pretences, fraudulent misappropriation, receiving, unlawful possession of property, arson, robbery. Includes SA (1860-), NSW (1865-), Vic (1865-), Qld (1870-), WA (1875-), Tas (1875-), NT (1960-); no data available for ACT; 1900 onwards, Vic data includes 'forgery, uttering and currency offences'.

(c) Includes SA (1860-1975), NSW (1865-1975), Vic (1865-95), WA (1865-95), Tas (1865-95). No data available for ACT 1865-90. NSW data are for apprehensions only; 1895 onwards NSW data include summons cases; 1865-1905 Vic data are for apprehensions only.

(d) Includes drunkenness, drunk and disorderly, indecent, riotous or offensive behaviour, vagrancy, threatening or abusive language, evading fare on public vehicle, public mischief, escape from custody, conduct scandalous or lewd, hindering or resisting arrest. Includes SA (1860-), NSW (1865-), Vic (1865-), Qld (1870-), Tas (1875-), WA (1895-), NT (1960-); no data available for ACT; 1865-1890, NSW data are for apprehensions only, 1895 onwards NSW data include summons cases; 1865-1905, Vic data are for apprehensions only, 1965 onwards Vic data exclude 'drunkenness' offences.

(e) Drunkenness offences constituted a large proportion of good order offences in Qld. A large volume of drunkenness charges were classified as 'bail estreated', meaning that the alleged offenders who did not appear before the courts forfeited their bail money. All such cases were placed in 'discharges'.

(f) NSW information not available.

(g) SA information not available.

(h) VIC information not available.

CJ 52-67 OFFENCES HEARD AND DETERMINED AT MAGISTRATES' COURTS, AUSTRALIA 1860-1975

Year 31 Dec	HOMICIDE OFFENCES ^a				BURGLARY OFFENCES ^b				DRUNKENNESS OFFENCES ^c				TRAFFIC OFFENCES ^d			
	Charges	Convictions	Discharges	Commitments	Charges	Convictions	Discharges	Commitments	Charges	Convictions	Discharges	Commitments	Charges	Convictions	Discharges	Commitments
1860	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67
1865	18	0	11	7	14	2	3	9	903	866	37	0	0	268	23	0
1870	74	1	31	42	237	8	83	146	14 925	9 627	5 296	2	3 897	3 602	294	1
1875	68	3	21	44	188	4	46	138	20 777	15 365	5 412	0	7 349	6 931	418	0
1880	49	0	8	41	184	6	65	113	32 699	24 208	8 491	0	23 825	22 090	1 735	0
1885	123	1	38	84	339	77	53	209	37 601	30 444	7 157	0	47 375	44 593	2 782	0
1890	83	0	24	59	288	10 ^f	75 ^f	203 ^f	50 210	41 138	9 072	0	106 416	102 018	4 398	0
1895	129	0	33	96	508	33	125	350	47 020	37 073	9 947	0	57 553	55 281	2 272	0
1900	43	0	19	24	262	13 ^g	80 ^g	169 ^g	20 516 ^g	15 327 ^g	5 189 ^g	0 ^g	122 699	117 983	4 715	1
1905	75	15	35	25	320	44	89	187	35 991	29 381	6 610	0	180 231 ^h	171 842 ^h	8 385 ^h	4
1910	123	11	40	72	420	58	86	276	34 264	30 816	3 448	0	57 553	55 281	2 272	0
1915	102	6	40	56	491	160	159	172	48 942	43 470	5 472	0	106 416	102 018	4 398	0
1920	104	7	73	24	836	260	303	273	50 576	49 966	610	0	57 553	55 281	2 272	0
1925	109	11	53	45	2 169	435	1071	663	54 778	54 206	571	1	57 553	55 281	2 272	0
1930	126	6	33	87	4 540	936	2090	1514	41 261	35 550	5 711	0	57 553	55 281	2 272	0
1935	158	4	40	114	5 155	1 156	3 150	849	42 720	37 953	4 767	0	106 416	102 018	4 398	0
1940	141	8	30	103	4 740	1 621	2 073	1 046	50 101	44 576	5 525	0	106 416	102 018	4 398	0
1945	206	9	45	152	5 450	2 676	865	1 909	63 241	53 093	10 148	0	57 553	55 281	2 272	0
1950	234	6	51	177	3 595	1 254	507	1 834	118 712	95 627	23 085	0	57 553	55 281	2 272	0
1955	289	6	102	181	4 724	2 159	315	2 250	116 449	97 732	18 717	0	57 553	55 281	2 272	0
1960	266	14	55	197	9 841	5 606	305	3 930	108 682	92 734	15 948	0	57 553	55 281	2 272	0
1965	420	16	123	281	11 481	6 067	1 345	4 069	109 232	92 413	16 814	5	594 318	519 207	75 089	22
1970	374	19	60	295	16 834	9 601	1 829	5 404	114 059	95 767	18 292	0	594 318	519 207	75 089	22
1975	209	6	23	180	10 389	7 036	1 509	1 844	54 683	21 890	32 779	14	501 118	445 735	55 277	106

(a) Includes murder and attempt, accessory to murder, wounding or shooting at with intent to murder, infanticide, manslaughter, manslaughter by driving, unlawful killing, negligently causing death, negligent or dangerous driving causing death. Includes SA (1860-), Vic (1865-), Tas (1875-), NSW (1880-), NT (1965-), Qld (1900-), WA (1905-). No data available for ACT.

(b) Includes burglary, break and enter and steal, housebreaking, break and enter. Includes SA (1860-), Vic (1865-), Tas (1875-), NSW (1880-), NT (1965-), Qld (1900-), WA (1905-). No data available for NT (1965-); no data available for ACT; 1865-1890, NSW data are for apprehensions only; 1895 onwards NSW data include summons cases; 1865-1905 Vic data are for apprehensions only.

(c) Includes drunkenness, habitual drunkenness, drunk and disorderly. Includes SA (1860-), NSW (1865-1970), Vic (1865-1895), Qld (1870-), Tas (1875-), WA (1895-); no data available for NT or ACT; 1865-1890 NSW data are for apprehensions only; 1895 onwards NSW data include summons cases. 1865-1905 Vic data are for apprehensions only.

(d) Includes offences against traffic laws including drunken driving, unlicensed driving, driving without due care, exceeding speed limit, driving under the influence of liquor or drugs, driving with prescribed concentration of alcohol in blood, unregistered motor vehicle. Excludes negligent driving causing death or injury and traffic violations settled by on-the-spot-fines. Includes Qld (1910-), SA (1910-), NSW (1915-1975), WA (1925-), Vic (1935-1975), Tas (1955-), NT (1965-); no data available for ACT.

(e) Drunkenness offences constituted a large proportion of good order offences in Qld. A large volume of drunkenness charges were classified as 'bail estreated', meaning that the alleged offenders who did not appear before the courts forfeited their bail money. All such cases were placed in the 'discharges' category.

(f) SA data not available.

(g) NSW data not available.

(h) VIC data not available.

CJ 68-75 TOTAL OFFENCES HEARD AND DETERMINED AT MAGISTRATES' COURTS, NEW SOUTH WALES 1865-1975

Year 31 Dec	Charges		Convictions		Discharges		Committals	
	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75
	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f
1865	12 205	3 479	6 213	1 956	4 892	1400	1100	123
1870	12 823	3 624	8 612	2 733	3 285	780	926	111
1875	19 938	5 327	13 483	4 222	5 411	980	1044	125
1880	28 826	6 948	21 662	5 861	5 633	936	1531	151
1885	40 839	7 422	33 526	6 476	5 968	824	1345	122
1890	32 694	5 874	25 998	4 994	5 388	799	1308	81
1895	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1900	48 690	7 900	40 455	6 562	7 171	1259	1064	79
1905	50 621	10 506	42 801	8 837	6 509	1526	1311	143
1910	66 760	7 200	57 842	5 829	7 838	1275	1080	96
1915	77 406	9 170	65 675	7 573	10 254	1504	1477	93
1920	72 822	6 886	59 515	5 288	11 230	1436	2077	162
1925	94 009	8 368	79 153	6 817	13 141	1460	1715	91
1930	115 656	8 882	95 158	7 512	17 851	1292	2647	78
1935	126 429	8 471	103 681	6 454	21 050	1967	1698	50
1940	139 449	9 972	123 240	8 651	14 089	1230	2120	91
1945	127 610	13 469	114 599	11 383	10 082	1954	2929	132
1950	202 206	12 688	188 349	11 270	10 467	1295	3390	123
1955	237 816	16 671	218 824	14 953	14 325	1593	4667	125
1960	306 300	26 428	281 698	24 738	16 582	1498	8020	192
1965	302 420	38 751	267 912	36 141	26 828	2382	7680	228
1970	361 734	28 499	312 511	25 052	40 238	3259	8985	188
1975	634 457	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

NOTE f=female, m=male. 1865-90 figures refer to cases, from 1900 to persons; 1865-90 apprehension cases only, from 1895 includes summons cases.

CJ 76-83 TOTAL OFFENCES HEARD AND DETERMINED AT MAGISTRATES' COURTS, VICTORIA 1865-1975

Year 31 Dec	Charges		Convictions		Discharges		Committals	
	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83
	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f
1865	20 637	4861	13 362	3158	6 231	1582	1044	121
1870	19 525	4265	12 794	2884	5 889	1315	842	66
1875	19 967	5280	13 373	3456	5 936	1738	658	86
1880	18 857	5126	12 469	3402	5 763	1669	625	55
1885	23 155	5700	14 773	3640	7 717	1957	665	103
1890	31 736	6858	20 189	4305	10 547	2424	1000	129
1895	18 707	4432	12 325	2808	5 779	1552	603	72
1900	22 388	5180	14 797	3587	7 070	1539	521	54
1905	19 578	4201	12 996	2950	6 045	1189	537	62
1910	53 508	..	39 598	..	13 244	..	666	..
1915	64 560	..	45 948	..	17 852	..	760	..
1920	56 698	..	43 088	..	12 815	..	795	..
1925	73 346	..	58 879	..	13 723	..	744	..
1930	56 749	..	45 537	..	10 264	..	948	..
1935	65 973	..	54 666	..	9 720	..	1587	..
1940	86 287	..	75 712	..	9 032	..	1543	..
1945	60 744	..	53 101	..	6 048	..	1595	..
1950	97 201	..	87 873	..	7 690	..	1638	..
1955	173 016	..	155 825	..	14 567	..	2624	..
1960	268 104	..	245 807	..	17 023	..	5274	..
1965	299 300	..	271 804	..	21 822	..	5674	..
1970	313 686	..	269 500	..	37 766	..	6420	..
1975	355 367	..	308 832	..	40 774	..	5761	..

NOTE f=female, m=male. 1865-1905 apprehension cases only.

CJ 84-91 TOTAL OFFENCES HEARD AND DETERMINED AT MAGISTRATES' COURTS, QUEENSLAND 1870-1975

Year 31 Dec	Charges		Convictions		Discharges		Committals	
	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f
1870	5 414	577	3 375	353	1 816	206	223	18
1875	8 587	786	5 795	490	2 534	271	258	25
1880	8 004	1 129	5 294	757	2 419	347	291	25
1885	14 232	1 531	10 344	1107	3 377	397	511	27
1890	17 151	1 845	13 090	1480	3 592	340	469	25
1895	16 147	1 526	12 581	1126	3 126	374	440	26
1900	22 356	2 008	18 542	1570	3 284	413	530	25
1905	16 444	1 499	12 577	1130	3 391	350	476	19
1910	20 320	1 784	15 180	1312	4 706	451	434	21
1915	27 307	2 740	19 500	2101	7 410	625	397	14
1920	22 880	1 300	13 886	813	8 705	467	289	20
1925	27 051	1 633	15 368	964	11 372	654	311	15
1930	27 435	1 934	18 938	1210	8 151	712	346	12
1935	30 584	1 325	23 443	821	6 944	492	197	12
1940	27 298	1 355	18 375	858	8 711	481	212	16
1945	25 775	2 063	12 449	846	12 984	1190	342	27
1950	41 366	2 566	16 045	996	24 819	1551	502	19
1955	44 556	2 516	25 184	1488	18 822	1006	550	22
1960	73 107	6 341	50 713	4928	20 908	1372	1486	41
1965	102 516	9 227	73 700	7073	27 240	2116	1576	38
1970	97 933	12 950	66 471	9598	29 361	3281	2101	71
1975	116 779	13 825	74 755	8879	40 083	4850	1941	96

NOTE f=female, m=male.

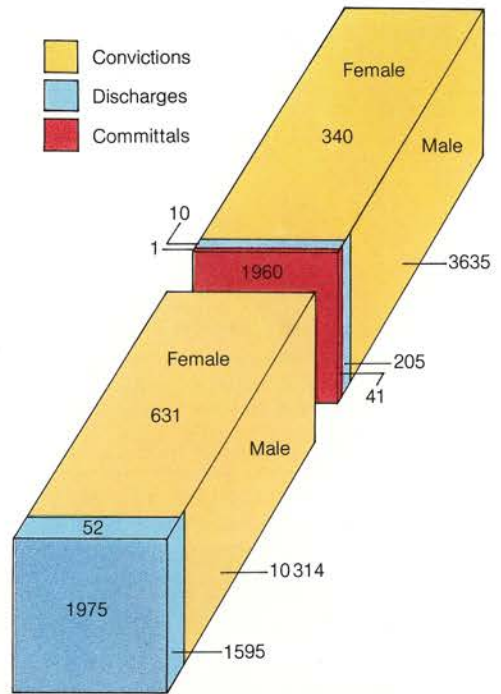
CJ 92-99 TOTAL OFFENCES HEARD AND DETERMINED AT MAGISTRATES' COURTS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1860-1975

Year 31 Dec	Charges		Convictions		Discharges		Committals	
	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f
1860	3 788	..	2 868	..	677	..	243	..
1865	5 430	..	4 162	..	992	..	276	..
1870	5 823	..	4 630	..	1020	..	173	..
1875	7 260	..	5 870	..	1202	..	188	..
1880	15 063	..	12 814	..	1896	..	353	..
1885	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1890	6 999	..	5 953	..	877	..	169	..
1895	4 979	..	4 101	..	664	..	214	..
1900	6 200	..	5 384	..	674	..	142	..
1905	5 514	..	4 936	..	426	..	152	..
1910	7 341	987	6 353	876	877	105	111	6
1915	8 737	850	7 503	719	1 135	125	99	6
1920	9 562	581	8 175	453	1 266	126	121	2
1925	19 883	768	17 911	645	1 797	117	175	6
1930	17 614	861	14 932	677	2 200	175	482	9
1935	16 383	916	14 140	698	1 984	208	259	10
1940	19 562	1 075	17 440	924	1 936	138	186	13
1945	21 499	1 338	19 404	1 181	1 761	139	334	18
1950	30 436	1 528	27 363	1 312	2 730	197	343	19
1955	30 306	1 493	26 978	1 243	2 918	228	410	22
1960	56 369	3 165	49 488	2 667	6 222	486	659	12
1965	78 183	5 207	67 456	4 548	10 010	639	717	20
1970	112 425	10 878	100 766	9 777	10 813	1074	846	27
1975	112 701	13 745	96 815	11 864	14 759	1817	1127	64

NOTE f=female, m=male.

CJ 100-107 TOTAL OFFENCES HEARD AND DETERMINED MAGISTRATES' COURTS, TASMANIA, 1875-1980

Year 31 Dec	Charges		Convictions		Discharges		Committals	
	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107
	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f
1875	7 636	1699	6 018	1364	1 541	317	77	18
1880	6 598	1738	5 199	1486	1 302	232	97	20
1885	6 070	1264	5 109	1109	895	150	66	5
1890	5 502	909	4 210	752	1 187	145	105	12
1895	4 142	624	3 151	494	921	122	70	8
1900	5 381		4 179		1124		78	
1905	7 090		5 932		1099		59	
1910	7 079		6 250		781		48	
1915	6 306		5 492		779		35	
1920	6 629		6 034		524		71	
1925	7 035		6 415		525		95	
1930	7 504		6 743		685		76	
1935	8 345		7 658		608		79	
1940	7 548		7 078		385		85	
1945	6 422		5 048		1261		113	
1950	12 403		10 961		1247		195	
1955	19 673		17 314		2011		348	
1960	24 047		20 196		3376		475	
1965	37 905	2039	29 727	1529	7 772	502	406	8
1970	34 470	2149	24 987	1584	8 503	533	980	32
1975	47 558	4803	32 178	2610	14 196	2129	1184	64
1980	40 629	5718	31 914	4085	7 343	1243	1372	390

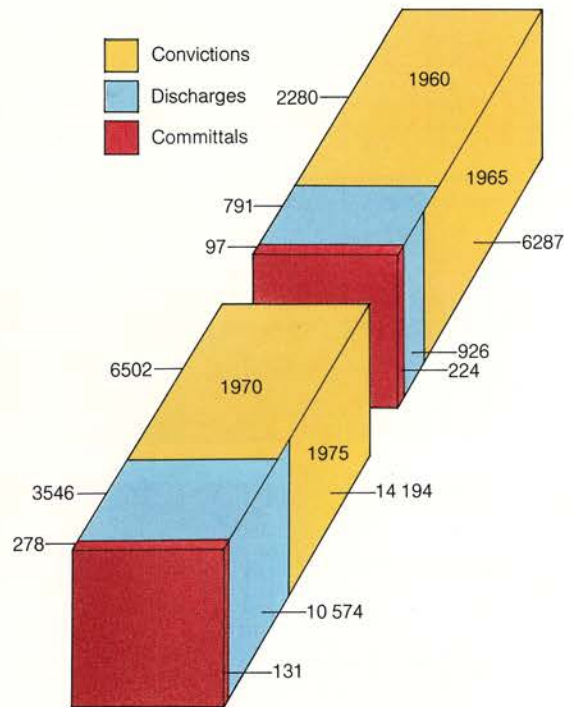


TOTAL OFFENCES HEARD AND DETERMINED AT MAGISTRATES' COURTS, NORTHERN TERRITORY 1960 AND 1975

CJ 108-115 TOTAL OFFENCES HEARD AND DETERMINED AT MAGISTRATES' COURTS, WESTERN AUSTRALIA 1875-1975

Year 31 Dec	Charges		Convictions		Discharges		Committals	
	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115
	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f
1875	5 831		4320		1403		108	
1880	5 577		4221		1306		50	
1885	4 900		3436		1378		86	
1890	4 690		3201		1423		66	
1895	8 377		5309		2920		148	
1900	14 863		9925		4668		270	
1905	13 666	1 441	11 403	1 205	1 995	223	268	13
1910	12 146	1 458	10 463	1 266	1 476	183	207	9
1915	12 654	2 502	11 365	2 208	1 173	291	116	3
1920	9 662	932	8 529	818	1 021	109	112	5
1925	10 666	866	9 470	727	1 089	134	107	5
1930	14 867	977	13 577	873	1 166	101	124	3
1935	18 158	1 233	16 954	1 144	1 102	87	102	2
1940	21 978	1 344	20 646	1 259	1 117	82	215	3
1945	18 707	1 640	17 337	1 510	1 176	114	194	16
1950	28 997	1 809	26 856	1 676	1 895	120	246	13
1955	66 095	4 228	63 526	4 075	2 113	140	456	13
1960	49 735	4 338	47 174	4 133	2 186	199	375	6
1965	60 125	7 119	57 300	6 713	2 348	368	477	38
1970	80 028	11 108	69 890	10 009	8 908	1059	1230	40
1975	113 108	14 705	98 578	12 900	13 516	1748	1014	57

NOTE f=female, m=male.



TOTAL OFFENCES HEARD AND DETERMINED AT MAGISTRATES' COURTS, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY, FOR SELECTED YEARS

CJ 116-129 DAILY AVERAGE OF PRISONERS BY JURISDICTION, 1860-1895

Year 31 Dec	NSW ^a		Vic ^a		Qld		SA ^a		Tas		WA		Aust		
	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	
	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	
1860	1292	225	1625	213	28	6	142	34						3087	478
1865	1526	247	1666	232	190	20	203	30						3585	529
1870	1326	204	1430	296	206	17	186	18	518 ^b	96 ^b				3666	631
1875	1150	240	1385	304	269	31	203	34	350	116		122		3479	725
1880	1759	362	1263	316	301	48	376	19	255	82	125	8		4079	835
1885	2222	337	1103	331	467	52	333	32	154	41	142	16		4421	809
1890	2138	281	1504	339	580	55	220	32	150	32	253	12		4845	751
1895	2257	240	1197	216	538	49	253	19	137	17		443		4825	541

NOTE f=female, m=male. All WA prisoners counted as male in Aust total 1875 and 1895.

(a) Figures for NSW, SA and Vic 1860-70 represent the number of prisoners as at 31 Dec.

(b) Incomplete.

CJ 130-144 DAILY AVERAGE OF PRISONERS BY JURISDICTION, 1900-1980

Year 31 Dec	NSW		Vic		Qld		SA		Tas		WA		NT		Aust	
	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143		144
	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f		
1900	1809	187	981	204	554	50	201	19	99		525				4 629	
1905	1673	189	922	121	493	46	230	29	101		643				4 447	
1910	1214	150	765	111	479	32	230	42	78		502				3 603	
1915	1554	171	792	104	453	28	258	48	60		310				3 777	
1920	1102	90	706	50	302	18	180	17	63		265				2 793	
1925	1423	74	850	45	312	10	229	9	80		263				3 295	
1930	1916	98	1245	56	380	13	385	12	99		414				4 620	
1935	1418	55	1220	44	327	6	286	7	112		292				3 767	
1940	1399	76	1128	53	311	6	204	4	93		304				3 578	
1945	1935	..	1067	44	532	34	212	13	..	..	344				4 271
1950	1962	..	1030	51	448	11	247	8	114	4	381	13	38	..	4 338	
1955	2651	..	1290	45	600	15	423	12	143	6	524	17	62	..	5 787	
1960	3023	97	1839	36	871	24	622	14	213	5	626	30	52	..	7 452	
1965	3292	77	1902	47	996	25	678	19	235	4	824	39	96	8	8 242	
1970	3866	87	2338	51	1220	23	881	41	377	9	1233	82	..	..	10 208
1975	3594	95	1580	24	1409	24	735	17	305	3	895	42	..	..	8 684
1980	3257	118	1734	54	1663	42	835	26	249	5	1384	63	256	13	9 752	

NOTE f=female, m=male.

CJ 145-158 PRISON EXPENDITURE BY JURISDICTION AT CURRENT PRICES, 1900-1980

Year 31 Dec	NSW		VIC		QLD		SA		TAS		WA		AUST	
	Total	Per prisoner	Total	Per prisoner	Total	Per prisoner	Total	Per prisoner	Total	Per prisoner	Total	Per prisoner	Total	Per prisoner
	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158
	\$000	\$	\$000	\$	\$000	\$	\$000	\$	\$000	\$	\$000	\$	\$000	\$
1900	273.5	137.0	104.3	88.0	54.0	89.4	29.7	85.80	9.6	97.0	55.6	105.9	526.7	110.8
1905	201.9	108.4	98.4	94.3	45.4	84.2	30.2	111.4	10.6	105.0	54.3	84.50	440.8	98.9
1910	209.2	153.4	97.4	111.2	50.1	98.0	33.6	123.5	10.2	130.8	46.7	93.0	447.2	124.1
1915	207.7	120.4	116.8	130.4	62.8	130.8	39.8	130.1	14.4	240.0	35.8	115.5	477.3	126.4
1920	240.9	202.1	152.0	201.1	80.4	251.3	58.7	298.0	18.7	296.8	48.0	181.1	598.7	214.4
1925	329.3	220.0	233.1	260.5	76.0	236.0	82.4	346.2	17.5	218.8	46.8	178.0	785.1	238.3
1930	383.8	190.6	224.9	172.9	73.7	186.6	96.1	242.1	24.5	247.5	63.7	153.9	866.7	187.6
1935	333.7	226.5	228.2	180.5	66.8	200.6	69.6	237.5	23.6	210.7	53.4	182.9	775.3	205.8
1940	379.8	257.5	272.2	230.5	78.9	248.9	72.4	348.1	30.6	329.0	66.1	217.4	900.0	251.5
1945	526.1	271.9	340.9	306.8	138.2	244.2	87.8	390.2	51.1	567.8	103.3	300.3	1 247.4	292.1
1950	1 475.1	751.8	658.2	591.9	224.3	488.7	159.8	626.7	87.0	737.3	202.4	513.7	2 806.8	652.7
1955	2 403.6	906.7	1 362.0	1020.2	440.3	715.9	501.9	1 153.8	179.3	1 203.4	368.9	683.2	5 256.0	918.1
1960	3 515.6	1 129.0	2 496.0	1331.2	864.2	965.6	990.9	1 158.0	389.7	1 787.6	531.6	810.4	8 788.0	1 188.5
1965	4 618.8	1 370.6	2 504.1	1284.8	1 348.9	1 321.2	1 601.1	2 291.1	587.0	2 456.1	918.8	1 064.7	11 578.7	1 422.6
1970	9 118.5	2 306.7	4 238.6	1774.2	2 530.6	2 035.9	2 625.5	2 847.6	985.9	2 554.2	3 353.0	2 549.8	22 852.1	2 238.7
1975	28 702.3	7 782.6	11 734.4	7315.7	10 908.5	7 612.4	7 391.2	10 366.3	2 325.6	7 550.7	9 996.7	10 668.8	71 058.7	8 183.7
1980	77 650.9	23 007.7	23 279.8	1302.0	27 950.0	16 394.0	13 396.0	16 255.5	4 639.5	18 265.8	28 219.8	19 502.3	175 736.0	18 020.5

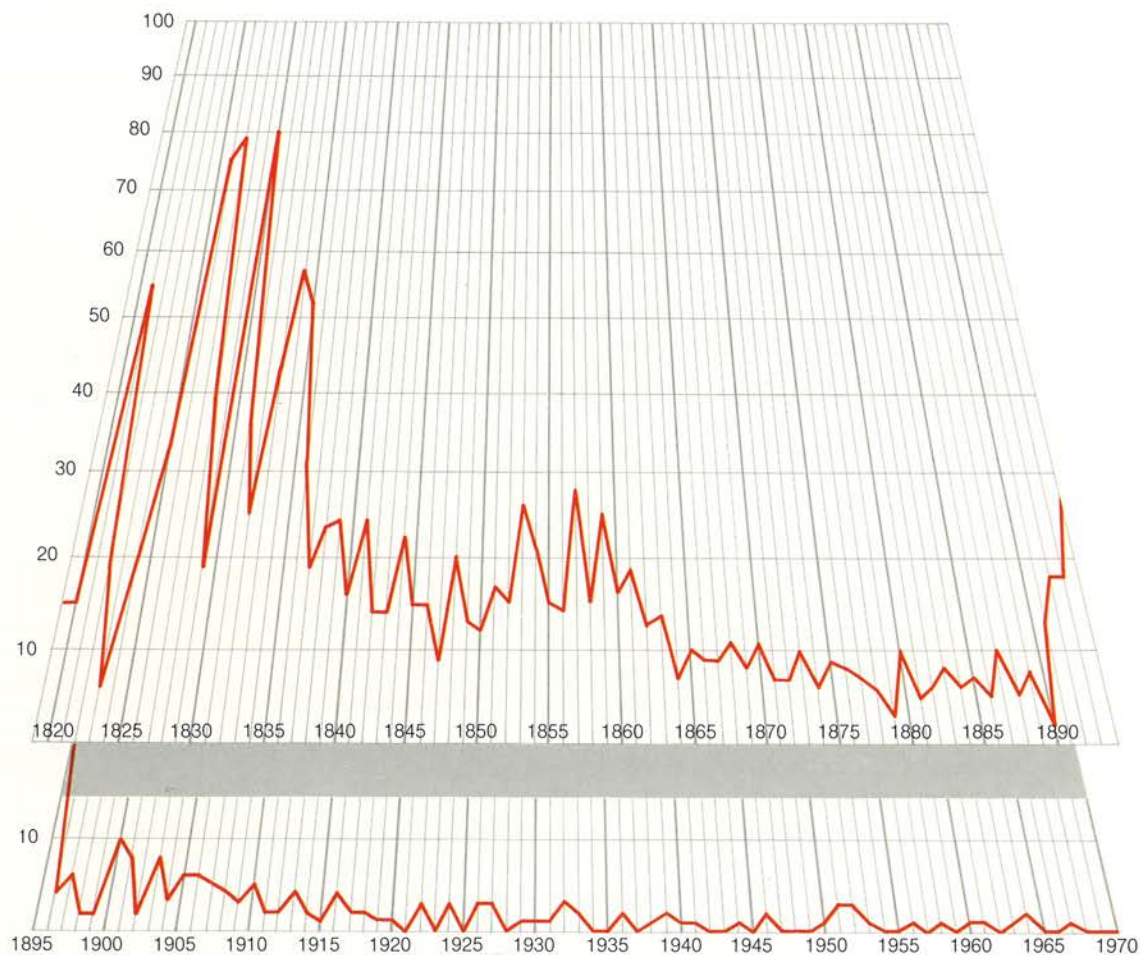
CJ 159-164 PERSONS TRIED AND CONVICTED AT HIGHER COURTS, AUSTRALIA 1855-1975

Year 31 Dec	OFFENCES					
	Against the person		Against property		Forgery, uttering and currency	
	159	160	161	162	163	164
	<i>t</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>c</i>
1855	..	21	..	39	..	3
1860	204	106	646	345	47	28
1865	418	239	1 931	1144	185	132
1870	452	289	1 461	916	141	104
1875	588	332	1 574	969	169	130
1880	704	401	2 081	1384	185	154
1885	692 ^a	386	1 801 ^a	1138	173 ^a	154
1890	841	456	2 235	1407	196	148
1895	781	390	1 886	1205	140	108
1900	825	465	1 565	1027	86	75
1905	716	350	1 814	1176	134	103
1910	807	376	1 581	938	129	94
1915	568	360	1 716	1180	105	91

Year 31 Dec	OFFENCES					
	Against the person		Against property		Forgery, uttering and currency	
	159	160	161	162	163	164
	<i>t</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>c</i>
1920	724	337	2 330	1494	96	79
1925	945	431	2 215	1500	100	81
1930	627 ^b	299 ^b	1 956 ^b	1461 ^b	83	64
1935	770	358	2 464	1416	55	45
1940	797	455	2 327	1345	68	54
1945	1150	720	2 674	1703	16	13
1950	1344	861	2 962	1911	34	30
1955	1311 ^b	905 ^b	2 298 ^b	2122 ^b	64	61
1960	2413	1718	7 711	4889	83	72
1965	1678 ^b	1335 ^b	4 106 ^b	3931 ^b	67	66
1970	3438	2085	10 110	6238	73	72
1975	3789	2098	8 271	5003	84	75

NOTE c=convicted, t=tried. Includes SA (1855-), NSW (1860-), Qld (1860-), Vic (1865-), WA (1875-), Tas (1875-). SA date for 1855 is for convictions only; Tas data for 1875 makes no distinction between CJ 163 and CJ 164; Vic data from 1900 likewise.

- (a) SA information not available.
- (b) Vic information not available.



PERSONS EXECUTED, AUSTRALIA 1819-1970