

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

Accessibility statement

At MCV, we strive to be a court that is accessible to all Victorians. To access this document in a different version or format to allow you to engage with it more effectively, please refer to our website for instructions www.mcv.gov.au/accessibility-statement.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Magistrates' Court of Victoria (MCV) acknowledges Aboriginal peoples as the First Peoples and Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land and waterways.

MCV acknowledges and pays respect to Elders, knowledge holders and leaders – past and present – and we extend this respect to all Aboriginal peoples.

In this report, the term 'Aboriginal' is used to encompass both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. MCV recognises the diversity and distinct cultures of First Peoples across Australia.

CONTENTS

Message from the Chief Magistrate	4
Message from the CEO	5
About the Magistrates' Court	6
Organisational structure	9
The year at a glance	12
Strategic Pillars: MCV serves	14
Strategic Pillars: MCV empowers	16
Strategic Pillars: MCV innovates	18
Strategic Pillars: MCV connects	19
Criminal division	21
Civil division	22
Family Violence division	23
Specialist Courts division	25
Operational data and financials	30
Court locations	38



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE JUSTICE LISA HANNAN

As I reflect on the last 12 months, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the incredible dedication and resilience of our people. Their commitment, especially during times of change, is deeply valued and never taken for granted.

Every day, the court relies on its people to support the pursuit of excellence, embrace operational changes that help us deliver justice more effectively and be open to new ways of delivering service to the community. Behind every achievement outlined in this report is a passionate and committed team.

The health and wellbeing of our people remains our top priority. Supporting one another, both professionally and personally, is essential to sustaining a thriving workplace. Whether through formal initiatives – such as the launch of our new Health, Wellbeing and Safety Plan in July 2024 – or everyday acts of care, MCV remains committed to fostering an environment where everyone feels safe, supported, and empowered.

We strive to continue evolving as a modern, innovative court. Our introduction of the Intensive Case Management List is just one example of how our commitment to data-driven decisions is helping us deliver justice more effectively and equitably. The advancements we have seen in this reporting period are not just about changing the way we work at MCV – they are about improving outcomes for the people and communities we serve.

Importantly, the Court remains responsive to the demands of the world around us: law reform, rising demand, and shifting expectations require agility and foresight. I am proud of how MCV continues to meet these challenges with integrity, creativity, and a deep sense of purpose.

I extend particular appreciation to all of my judicial colleagues, including the Deputy Chief Magistrates, Heads of Division, Regional Coordinating Magistrates and Supervising Magistrates who have led with determination and vision. I also thank our many stakeholders who played essential roles in our success.

I would like to thank Melissa Martino for her leadership and unwavering support of me and the Court in her capacity as Acting CEO until May 2025. Melissa led with care and clarity through an important period of change and her steady guidance has been appreciated across the Court. After an extensive market search, we appointed Alison Currie as the new CEO of MCV in May 2025. Alison commenced at an important time for the Court as we entered the new financial year with a commitment to continue our high performance, focusing on the innovative and efficient administration of justice.

Finally, I thank all our people for their contribution over this reporting period. Thank you for everything you do. Your work matters, and together, we continue to shape a Court that is not only fit for today but ready for tomorrow.

JUSTICE LISA HANNAN
CHIEF MAGISTRATE



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO ALISON CURRIE

I am honoured to accept the responsibility of leading one of Victoria's most important institutions. In my short time at the Magistrates' Court of Victoria, I have seen and learnt so much from our people, who work tirelessly to deliver efficient and accessible justice to all Victorians.

Since starting at MCV, I have visited a number of our courts and service centres and have observed proceedings in all of the Court's jurisdictions. Across these visits I have witnessed our people's remarkable commitment, agility and drive in serving the people of Victoria. They are the heartbeat of our organisation.

Working at MCV can be demanding on our people's health and wellbeing, both in the nature of the work and the volume of the matters. Despite these demands, everywhere I go people tell me how much they value the opportunity to 'make a difference' each day, and I find this truly inspiring.

Having come to MCV at a point of significant change, I am immensely proud of the ways in which we have continued to grow, innovate, connect and serve. Whilst organisational change comes with challenges, we have built on our culture of consistency, collaboration and service excellence across our organisation, underpinning our people's commitment to achieving our OneMCV plan.

I want to acknowledge the contribution of every person during the transition to our new structure, helping us to deliver a more agile and responsive organisation, whilst maintaining our fundamental commitment to efficient and accessible justice.

This reporting period was marked by many significant achievements and milestones for our organisation and people. We worked to expand our specialist courts and programs across the state and introduced a grants program for the delivery of counselling order programs, generating sector innovation and expanding reach to a broader cohort of court users. We introduced innovations to improve court user experiences and responded with efficiency and flexibility to the legislative environment in which we operate.

I would like to thank the Chief Magistrate, Justice Lisa Hannan for her dedicated leadership of the Court and drive to achieve excellence. I would also like to thank Deputy Chief Magistrate Susan Wakeling, Deputy Chief Magistrate Tim Bourke, the Magistrates and Judicial Registrars, and the executive leadership team for their unwavering support since my commencement at MCV.

Lastly, I wish to acknowledge the significant period of stewardship by Acting CEO Melissa Martino and thank her for the leadership and guidance that she has given to the Court. Her navigation of the period of immense change, and her commitment and care were key to achieving success across all areas.

ALISON CURRIE

Chief Executive Officer

ABOUT THE MAGISTRATES' COURT OF VICTORIA

The Magistrates' Court of Victoria (MCV) provides an essential service to the community as the first tier in the Victorian court hierarchy. More than 93 per cent of criminal and civil cases begin and end in the Magistrates' Court. We provide a range of services to ensure the delivery of fair, transparent and efficient justice to all Victorians, no matter how they access the court, including:

- hearing and determining matters at courts across metropolitan and regional areas of Victoria and offering remote hearing options where it is appropriate and consistent with the interests of justice;
- providing specialist courts and tailored support programs to facilitate access to justice; and
- offering alternative ways to resolve matters before a final hearing including pre-hearing conferences and mediation.

MCV has four divisions: Criminal, Civil, Family Violence and Specialist Courts.

The Criminal Division hears and determines summary offences and some indictable matters, as well as conducting committal hearings in relation to serious indictable offences that are determined in the County Court or Supreme Court.

The Civil Division hears disputes arising from debts, claims for damages and other monetary or property disputes up to \$100,000. It also deals with claims for compensation for workplace injuries and hears claims by employees and employers under the *Fair Work Act 2009*.

The Family Violence Division was established as a separate division in September 2024, acknowledging both the significant and sustained effects of family violence on Victorians, and the high level of importance the Court places on this work. The Division is responsible for the implementation and development of court practice, policy and procedure in relation to family violence in both the criminal and civil jurisdictions.

The Specialist Courts Division delivers solution-focused courts and programs, using the opportunity of an individual's participation in the justice system to prevent reoffending, improve wellbeing and increase community safety.

The MCV suite of specialist courts and programs include:

ASSESSMENT AND REFERRAL COURT (ARC)

ARC is a therapeutic and solution-focused court designed to ensure access to justice and improved outcomes for court users who have a mental illness or cognitive impairment.

COURT INTEGRATED SERVICES PROGRAM (CISP)

CISP is a court-based program that supports eligible court users to address their health and social needs aiming to reduce the likelihood of reoffending. CISP works with court users during the bail (or pre-trial) stage of their criminal proceedings.

CISP REMAND OUTREACH PROGRAM (CROP)

CROP is a joint initiative with Corrections Victoria. Program staff work in prisons to identify remand prisoners who would be eligible for bail if appropriate community supports were in place. The work of CROP practitioners is concerned with identifying and addressing barriers to

receiving such supports for persons on remand.

DRUG COURT

The Drug Court provides offenders with a drug or alcohol dependency the option to serve a sentence of imprisonment in the community under a drug and alcohol treatment order. The intensive treatment program is judicially supervised and provides a therapeutic response to address the underlying causes of offending.

KOORI COURT

Koori Court is a culturally appropriate sentencing court for Aboriginal people who plead guilty. The Koori Court facilitates conversations between a magistrate, the participant (accused), their lawyer, Koori Elders and Respected Persons, the prosecutor, and Corrections Victoria to directly address underlying issues leading to offending. Participation by Elders and Respected Persons and Koori Court Officers aims to reduce cultural alienation, strengthen accountability and promote a culturally safe experience.



Kiilalaana Dancers mark the 20th anniversary of the Mildura Koori Court

NEIGHBOURHOOD JUSTICE CENTRE (NJC)

The NJC is a multijurisdictional community justice centre located in Collingwood that hears cases involving residents of the City of Yarra. It resolves disputes by addressing the underlying causes of harmful behaviour and tackling social disadvantage through targeted community-based programs.

SPECIALIST FAMILY VIOLENCE COURTS (SFVCs)

SFVCs deliver an integrated family violence response with magistrates, registry and court-based support practitioners all trained and specialising in family violence. SFVCs are designed to improve the safety and wellbeing of people affected by family violence with features including separate entrances and safe waiting areas, remote witness technology and private interview rooms.

VICTIMS OF CRIME ASSISTANCE TRIBUNAL (VOCAT)

VOCAT was established to provide financial assistance to victims of violent crime to aid their recovery and to cover expenses that resulted from the crime.

The new Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) commenced during this reporting period, replacing the Tribunal. The VOCAT team has been working with the Victorian Government on transitional arrangements and finalising pending applications.



Reflections Day at the NJC

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

The Magistrates' Court of Victoria is led by the Chief Magistrate, Justice Lisa Hannan.

Her Honour is supported by Deputy Chief Magistrates, Heads of Division, Supervising Magistrates and Regional Coordinating Magistrates. The magistrates are supported by an administrative team, which is led by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), to deliver an innovative and responsive court.

THE JUDICIARY

CHIEF MAGISTRATE

Justice Lisa Hannan

DEPUTY CHIEF MAGISTRATES

Susan Wakeling
Tim Bourke

HEADS OF DIVISION

Crime	Donna Bakos
Civil	Meghan Hoare
Specialist Courts	Pauline Spencer
Family Violence	Michelle Hodgson

SUPERVISING MAGISTRATES

ARC	Ros Porter
Drug Court	Mary-Anne MacCallum
Industrial	Kathryn Fawcett
Koori Justice	Rose Falla
Sexual Offences	Stephen Ballek
VOCAT	Fiona Hayes
WorkCover	Meghan Hoare

REGIONAL COORDINATING

MAGISTRATES

Barwon South West	Ann McGarvie
Broadmeadows	Stella Stuthridge
Dandenong	Fran Medina
Frankston	Charles Tan
Gippsland	Mia Stylianou
Grampians	Mark Stratmann
Heidelberg	Tim Hoare
Hume	Simon Zebrowski
Loddon Mallee	Megan Aumair
Moorabbin	Luisa Bazzani
Melbourne	Tara Hartnett
NJC	Noreen Toohey
Ringwood	Hayley Bate
Sunshine	Michael McNamara

MAGISTRATES

Marita Altman
 Julian Ayres
 Guillaume Bailin
 Julia Barling
 John Bentley
 Amina Bhai
 Jacqueline Billings (CHC)
 Angela Bolger
 Jade Bott
 Caroline Boulton
 Felicity Broughton
 Gerard Bryant
 Abigail Burchill
 Tony Burns
 Carolyn Burnside
 Darrin Cain (CHC)
 Vincenzo Caltabiano
 Suzie Cameron
 Victoria Campbell
 Megan Casey
 Michael Coghlan
 Erica Contini (CHC)
 Helen Dale (CHC)
 Suzette Dootjes
 Peter Dotchin (CHC)
 Alanna Duffy
 Bernard FitzGerald
 James FitzGerald
 Lesley Fleming (CHC)
 Leon Fluxman
 Justin Foster
 Majella Foster-Jones (CHC)
 Tim Gattuso
 Jane Gibson (CHC)
 Kieran Gilligan
 Julie Grainger
 Timothy Greenway
 Kirstie Grigor
 Jennifer Grubissa
 Michael Gurvich
 Simon Guthrie
 Andrew Halse
 Robyn Hamilton (CHC)

Annabel Hawkins (CHC)
 James Henderson
 Natalie Heynes
 Cecily Hollingworth
 Franz Holzer
 Rachael Hopkins
 Carolyn Howe
 Gail Hubble (CHC)
 Trieu Huynh
 Graeme Keil
 Russell Kelly
 Meagan Keogh
 Costas Kilias
 Michael King
 Nunzio La Rosa
 Heather Lambrick
 David Langton
 Rohan Lawrence
 Stephen Lee
 Dominic Lennon
 Gerard Lethbridge
 Denise Livingstone
 Cynthia Lynch
 Jan Maclean
 Kay MacPherson (CHC)
 Urfa Masood
 Ross Maxted
 Therese McCarthy
 Sharon McRae
 Peter Mellas
 Johanna Metcalf
 Helen Murphy
 Michelle Mykytowycz
 John O'Callaghan
 Julie O'Donnell (CHC)
 Carrie O'Shea
 Jason Ong
 Matthew Page
 William Parker
 Shiva Pillai (CHC)
 Samantha Poulter
 Vicky Prapas
 Jillian Prior
 Hugh Radford
 Lucy Raponi (CHC)

Michael Richards
 Kay Robertson
 Gregory Robinson
 Mark Sabljak
 Tim Schocker
 Adrian Serratore
 Andrew Sim
 Sharon Smith (CHC)
 Brett Sonnet
 Patrick Southey
 Paresa Spanos (CCOV)
 Nicole Spicer
 Helen Spowart
 David Starvaggi
 Melissa Stead (CHC)
 Fiona Stewart
 Jacinta Studham
 Kimberley Swadesir
 Greg Thomas
 Malcolm Thomas
 Letizia Torres
 Jennifer Tregent
 Olivia Trumble
 Allison Vaughan
 Belinda Wallington
 Tim Walsh
 Nahrain Warda
 Mike Wardell
 Andrew Waters
 Ian Watkins
 Matthew White
 Siobhan Whittle (CHC)
 Michael Wighton
 Louise Wildberger
 Jarrod Williams
 Christina Windisch
 Francis Zemljak (CHC)

**RESERVE
MAGISTRATES**

Ross Betts
 Jennifer Bowles
 Andrew Capell
 Ann Collins
 Gregory Connellan

John Doherty
 Peter Dunn
 Michelle Ehrlich
 David Faram
 Phillip Goldberg
 Anne Goldsbrough
 Margaret Harding
 John Hardy
 Jonathan Klestadt
 Cathy Lamble
 John Lesser
 Lance Martin
 Andrew McKenna
 Gregory McNamara
 Peter Mithen
 Jelena Popovic
 Steven Raleigh
 Peter Reardon
 Charlie Rozencwajg
 Ronald Saines
 Marc Sargent
 Michael Smith
 Brian Wright

**JUDICIAL
REGISTRARS**

Julian Bartlett
 Michael Bolte
 Shannon Dellamarta
 Samantha Dixon
 Kristie Eales
 Gavin Green
 Anthony Gwynne
 Leah Hickey
 Kimberley Ison
 Barry Johnstone
 Sivaratnam
 Kandasamy
 Stephanie Keogh-Barnes
 Alison Paton
 Angela Rankin
 Lisa Rees
 Katherine Rynne
 Jarrod Van Arkadie
 John Wieladek
 Sally Wilson

CHC indicates magistrates sitting at the Children's Court, CCOV indicates magistrates sitting at the Coroners Court

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Chief Executive Officer

Melissa Martino
(Acting until 9 May 2025)
Alison Currie (from 12 May 2025)

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP GROUP

Executive Director People and Innovation

Melissa Martino
Kate Clark (Acting)

Executive Director Court Operations
Jane Craig

Executive Director Digital Innovation
Simone Shields

Executive Director Family Violence
Melinda Stuart-Adams

Executive Director Specialist Courts and Programs
Beth Halls (Acting)

Executive Director Strategy and Corporate Services
Jake Hawley

Principal Registrar
Tanya Turner

Director Legal Policy Unit
Kate Clark
Lisa Lee (Acting)

Director Finance and Business Services
George Triantos

Director Koori Strategy and Engagement
Mason Atkinson

Director Innovation and Service Experience
Richard Hodge

Director Family Violence Practice and Operations
Leanne Sinclair



Acting Executive Director People and Innovation Kate Clark and Executive Director Strategy and Corporate Services Jake Hawley

2024-25 AT A GLANCE



146,322

criminal cases
initiated

135,035

criminal cases
finalised

40,522

family violence
intervention order
matters finalised

11,909

personal safety
intervention order
matters finalised

36,039

civil claims
finalised

300

active drug and
alcohol **treatment**
orders

26

Drug Court
graduates

1776

individuals
supported by
remote hearings

35,420

applications where
bail was granted,
refused or revoked

69,963

Warrants to
arrest issued
by MCV

10

year anniversary
of Melbourne
Koori Court

3

new **Assessment**
and **Referral**
Court sites



Ganga Ciri performs at the 10th anniversary of the Koori Court at Melbourne

TOWARDS EXCELLENCE: ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

MCV SERVES

A COURT OF EXCELLENCE

We deliver high-quality, accessible and inclusive statewide court services that reinforce public trust and confidence in the justice system.

Our commitment to delivering accessible, fair, and efficient justice underpins everything we do. To ensure we continue to be effective in our service to the people of Victoria, deliver on our strategic goals and meet the changing needs of a modern community we must continuously refine how we work.

In early 2025, we developed a revised organisational structure designed to improve the agility and flexibility of our organisation, while maintaining our commitment to the needs of court users.

The changes include:

- streamlining in-court therapeutic and program-based support service management;
- realignment of reporting lines for court-based therapeutic staff at a local level; and
- unification of corporate functions across divisions.

The new structure will be implemented in the 2025-26 financial year.

Striving for excellence drives continuous improvement

MCV is a modern court with a long and proud history of providing justice for Victorians. In 2020, MCV adopted the International Framework for Court Excellence (IFCE).

IFCE provides the values, concepts and tools to ensure that courts serve the public effectively and drives continuous improvement for excellent service delivery and equitable justice outcomes for our community. In July 2024, we invited our people to take part in our second IFCE self-assessment survey. This survey aimed to determine how we were performing against seven areas of court excellence described by IFCE, and

measure how we have improved since the first survey in 2021.

The outcomes were very positive, showing improvement across all seven areas of court excellence, with better results reflected in 74 of the 75 survey questions.

These positive results brought the Court to the top of Band 3, reflecting our well-defined approaches to excellence and continuous improvement.

Collaborating to improve Aboriginal justice outcomes

Supervising Magistrate for Koori Justice Rose Falla attended the Aboriginal Justice Forum (AJF) on behalf of the Court during this reporting period. The forum brings together leaders in the Aboriginal community from across the state as well as senior representatives from across government to promote discussion and awareness of Aboriginal justice issues and the identification and development of solutions to address improved outcomes for the Aboriginal community.

The forum creates opportunities for the development of cross-departmental approaches to improving the experiences of Aboriginal people within the justice system. It also enables important knowledge sharing, helping to inform the Court's approach to increasing engagement and broader interaction with Aboriginal people.

New videos offer support for families affected by violence

In early 2025, MCV released a series of informative videos aimed at helping court users better understand family violence intervention orders (FVIOs) and enabling them to participate in court processes with greater confidence.

Developed by the Family Violence Division, in consultation with key internal and external stakeholders, the videos set out FVIO court processes in an easy-to-understand way. They help address some common questions court users have about FVIOs and how they can take part in a hearing. The videos also introduce some of our specialist family violence staff and support services, explaining what they do, and how they can assist people during the court process.

Creating a safer environment in our Specialist Family Violence Courts

MCV's Specialist Family Violence Courts (SFVCs) are designed to support the safety and wellbeing of people affected by family violence and increase the accountability of people who have used violence against family members.

As a part of MCV's continued commitment to delivering safer court environments for people affected by family violence, capital works to include additional safety features have continued across our SFVCs.

In early 2025, Latrobe Valley, Sunshine and Ringwood Magistrates' Courts have opened separate entrances for affected family members (AFMs), alongside other enhancements including separate waiting spaces and remote witness facilities.

Works continue on other SFVCs including at Melbourne Magistrates' Court, set for completion in late 2025, and at Geelong and Broadmeadows Magistrates' Courts, set for completion in 2026.

New Ringwood family violence meeting room



Fast-tracking justice: Intensive Case Management List pilot

MCV's caseload is growing in both size and complexity. The Intensive Case Management List (ICML) commenced in May 2025 as a pilot program at Melbourne Magistrates' Court (MMC).

The purpose of the ICML is to progress matters that are fragmented across MMC in order to facilitate timely resolution, identification of issues in dispute, and reduce adjournments and delay.

Early data arising from the pilot program demonstrates increased finalisations consistent with the aims of the list.

MCV EMPOWERS

A WORKPLACE WHERE EVERYONE THRIVES

We empower and equip our people to realise their potential and perform at their best. Our culture is safe and inclusive. We are outcome and people focused.

Launching MCV's Health, Wellbeing and Safety Plan

The safety and security of the judiciary, court staff and court users are critical to a well-functioning court.

The MCV Health, Wellbeing and Safety Plan was launched in July 2024. It recognises our commitment to promoting a culture of care; prioritising and ensuring the health, wellbeing and safety of our people. It aims to reduce stigma associated with mental ill health, and create a culture of speaking out, speaking up and looking after each other; empowering our people to thrive.

Corporate staff at 181 William Street





Senior Registrar, Carolyn Paterson at Ringwood Magistrates' Court

Since launching the Plan:

- 120 judicial officers participated in a judicial wellbeing education day in July 2024.
- 214 staff and judicial officers attended an R U OK? Day presentation in September 2024 with Dr Luke Smith, Clinical Neuropsychologist from Monash University.
- 78 teams, comprised of 333 staff and judicial officers, participated in the annual 10,000 Steps Tournament in December 2024.
- 68 managers completed Occupational Health and Safety refresher training.
- 10 judicial officers completed Mental Health First Aid refresher training.
- Eight Health and Safety Representatives and 25 Peer Supporters were appointed.

Supporting the psychosocial safety of our people

Our people — no matter where they work, or what their role is — have the right to go to work knowing they are in a safe and healthy environment.

MCV has been working with CSV to develop implementation models ahead of the commencement of newly established obligations for employers, the *OHS Amendment (Psychological*

Health) Regulations 2022 to support the wellbeing of our people.

Strengthening Koori justice outcomes through community connections

Across the reporting period, Aboriginal staff attended Dhumba Murmuk Djerring Unit (DMDU) Koori Staff Networking (KSN) events, where attendees were invited to participate in cultural activities and professional development sessions.

The KSN hosted its largest event in November 2024 in which attendees were given the opportunity to network and develop state-wide linkages and partnerships across all areas of the Courts Group. Sessions involved sharing court program information and developing strategies to use in workplaces to further the goals of Koori Justice and our Aboriginal workforce.

Importantly, the KSN event gave attendees a chance to share perspectives on best practice and develop solutions to approaching challenges in their workplaces. It also provided an opportunity to highlight and celebrate the achievements of our Aboriginal staff in the work they do.

The KSN also ran smaller events in April and June of 2025, focused on learning from Traditional Owners, connection to Country and culture, and on cultural and emotional wellbeing.



Knowledge Management System team awarded the 'Knowledge Management Results Award'

MCV INNOVATES

A FUTURE-READY COURT

We are committed to improvement and sustainable court operations. We look to the future with confidence and a readiness for change.

New court grants program introduced to deliver targeted, innovative response to family violence

In July 2024, MCV announced changes to its program offering for the Court Mandated Counselling Order Program (CMCOP). The new range of programs increases access to targeted family violence programs to better meet the diverse needs of respondents coming before the Court.

As part of MCV's CMCOP grants initiative, service providers were invited to lead the design of new programs to help address the underlying factors contributing to family violence in Victoria and to encourage behaviour change.

The innovative programs, delivered by Anglicare Victoria, Child & Family Services Ballarat and Family Life, aim to increase participation and completion rates for respondents ordered to attend counselling, by adopting a more tailored, sustainable and inclusive approach.

The programs form part of MCV's suite of responses to help address family violence.

Knowledge management innovation awarded

MCV's Knowledge Management System (KMS), first introduced in 2023, is an online information bank containing hundreds of best practice public enquiry and registry process procedures across all of MCV's jurisdictions. The KMS supports staff at all court venues to provide consistent service and information to court users.

In October 2024, the KMS team was awarded the 'Knowledge Management Results Award' at Livepro's Knowledge Management Excellence awards. MCV is the first government organisation to take the top prize since the inception of the Livepro awards in 2015.

The KMS team pride themselves on continuing to strengthen consistency and quality in court service delivery across Victoria, by standardisation of processes, and the embedding of KMS as the single source of truth for court practices and procedures at MCV.

MCV Service Centre receives accessibility and inclusivity accreditation

In October 2024 the MCV Service Centre received its 'Communication Access' accreditation in partnership with disability support service provider Scope Australia, recognising its strong commitment to inclusivity and accessibility for all Victorians.

The accreditation initiative aims to improve the experience of court users with communication difficulties when engaging with the Service Centre, ensuring fair and equitable access to justice. Further, it aims to increase the knowledge, skills and confidence of Service Centre staff in providing accessible communication services to court users.

In awarding MCV the accreditation, Scope Australia noted that 'the MCV Service Centre demonstrates a strong commitment to inclusivity, ensuring that every interaction is respectful and supportive for individuals with diverse communication needs. Scope commends the MCV Service Centre for their ongoing commitment to enhancing communication practices'.

MCV CONNECTS

A PEOPLE-CENTRED APPROACH

We are the people's court. We work across Victoria to connect with the community we serve and the broader justice system.

Celebrating 10 years of Melbourne Koori Court

In September of 2024, the Melbourne Koori Court celebrated a decade of providing culturally safe justice to the local Aboriginal community. The anniversary was celebrated with a special event involving a Welcome to Country and yidaki performance.

Local Elders and Respected Persons (ERPs) and Koori Court stakeholders joined us to mark the occasion. The event acknowledged the vital role that ERPs play in Koori Court which has been central to the success of the court since its inception. Supervising Magistrate for Koori Justice, Magistrate Rose Falla reflected that the ERPs "are the knowledge holders, the cultural educators and connectors. They guide with wisdom and passion."

Adding the finishing touches on the new Wyndham Law Courts

The Wyndham Law Courts building reached practical construction completion in early 2025. The state-of-the-art facility incorporates features



Ground floor counter at the new Wyndham Law Courts

aimed to improve user experience, create a sense of cultural safety for Aboriginal court users, and enable safe access for people affected by family violence. The design incorporates learnings from extensive consultation and research of court facilities both domestically and abroad.

As the largest Victorian court complex outside of Melbourne's CBD, the Wyndham Law Courts will enable access to essential justice services in the state's growing western suburbs, housing the Magistrates' Court, Children's Court, and the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Located next to Werribee Police station, the building contains 13 courtrooms, four hearing rooms and three mediation suites. The Wyndham Law Courts facility is due to commence operations at the end of 2025.

Providing therapeutic justice to more Victorians

Over the financial year, we have delivered specialised support to more court users living with complex mental health issues or disabilities with the expansion of the Assessment and Referral Court (ARC) to Dandenong, Shepparton and Sunshine Magistrates' Courts.

The ARC expansion project was a recommendation of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System and aims to reduce reoffending by assisting participants to engage with treatment and support services to address the underlying factors contributing to their behaviour.

ARC was first launched at MCV in 2010 and currently provides services at ten headquarter courts. The final phase of the project is due for completion in 2026 with the commencement of ARC operations at Ringwood, Geelong and Broadmeadows.

Supporting community organisations through the Court Fund

MCV continues to help support community organisations across the state as part of our improved Court Fund payments program.

The Court may order money to be paid to the Court Fund as part of an adjourned undertaking or diversion plan.

Organisations who provide a charitable or community service may be eligible to apply for the Court Fund.

In October 2024, changes were implemented to strengthen the Court Fund program. These changes will ensure MCV's Court Fund continues to best support the work of hundreds of community organisations for the benefit of Victorians.

In 2024–25 the Court Fund provided more than \$2.4m to community organisations across Victoria, assisting a wide range of initiatives including emergency relief for people in crisis, community pantries and youth education programs.

Guidelines for the Court Fund Program can be found on our website.



Regional Co-ordinating Magistrate Hayley Bate addresses the ARC stakeholders' session

Releasing the Deadly Discussions video series

In early July 2024, the Koori Family Violence Unit (KFVU) began releasing their Deadly Discussions video series, a resource for court staff to learn more about the experiences of Aboriginal Australians and challenge common misconceptions.

Modelled on the ABC docuseries, 'You Can't Ask That', the first video in the series featured Elders and Respected Persons and Aboriginal people from the Ballarat and Grampians region being interviewed about their personal experiences. Auntie Leah Keegan, Auntie Belinda Hayden, Uncle Tony Lovett, Shu Brown and Nikki Foy shared their perspectives on culture, identity and hopes for the future, providing invaluable insights.

The Deadly Discussions series is part of the KFVU's Cultural Safety Professional Development Program. The initiative aims to increase the reach of cultural safety training while reducing the cultural load on our Aboriginal staff and community.

Deadly Discussions videos are planned to be recorded at all six regions where the Koori Family Violence Program 'Umalek Balit' operates to support the delivery of culturally, physically and psychologically safe court-based initiatives to support Aboriginal families experiencing family violence.

CRIMINAL DIVISION

HEAD OF DIVISION – MAGISTRATE DONNA BAKOS

Magistrate Stephen Ballek – Supervising Magistrate, Sexual Offences

The Criminal Division of the Magistrates' Court maintains the highest caseload of the jurisdiction. Across the reporting period, 717,585 listings were scheduled in the Division, representing 79.43 per cent of MCV's overall listings for the financial year.

General Criminal Division updates

In early September 2024, the *Youth Justice Act 2024* received Royal Assent. The Act provided for amendments to the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* and the *Bail Act 1977*. The relevant amendments to the *Bail Act 1977* commenced on 2 December 2024.

In March 2025, the *Bail Amendment Act 2025* introduced further reforms to the *Bail Act 1977*. The first tranche of amendments in the Act commenced 26 March 2025. Key changes relevant to MCV included:

- the introduction of community safety as an overarching consideration in bail decisions;
- a new offence of committing an indictable offence while on bail;
- expanded police powers to bring arrested persons directly to court in certain circumstances; and
- a new offence for contravening a bail condition.

MCV has been closely monitoring its caseload and trends in bail and remand data to track the impact of these bail reforms on court operations. A second tranche of amendments related to prescribed Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 offences are expected to come into effect in the 2025-26 financial year.

Maintaining working relationships with key stakeholders

The Head of Division and Supervising Magistrate continue to chair and lead various committees with internal and external stakeholders to ensure best practice in the criminal jurisdiction.

Magistrate Bakos chairs the Court's Criminal Law Committee and the Criminal Court User Group for key criminal law stakeholders to discuss and resolve operational issues relevant to the jurisdiction. Her Honour also represents the Criminal Division at regular meetings with Forensicare, Youth Justice, Disability Services and Corrections Victoria.

Her Honour represents the Court in law reform consultations with the Department of Justice and Community Safety, State and Commonwealth Law Reform Commissions and the Sentencing Advisory Council.

Magistrate Ballek chairs the Sexual Offences Management Committee and represents the Criminal Division on the Child and Youth Witness Service Advisory Committee and the Intermediary Program Advisory Committee.

Over the reporting period, Magistrate Bakos consulted and presented on behalf of MCV at a range of external forums and professional development sessions including:

- Law Institute of Victoria, Annual Legal Forum;
- Mental Health Advice and Response Service (MHARS) – The Criminal Court – Refresher for practitioners;
- WorkSafe Victoria – Investigations Development Day;
- Court Assessment & Prosecution Services (CAPS) – Monash University corrections moots; and
- ongoing consultations with the Judicial College of Victoria (JCV).

Introducing changes to the process for committals

The *Justice Legislation Amendment (Committals) Act 2025* was assented on 25 February 2025. The main purposes of this Act are to amend the *Criminal Procedure Act 2009* to reform the process for committal proceedings, including by removing the test for committal, extending the prohibition on cross-examination to other proceedings, strengthening the test for granting leave to cross-examine and providing for early committal for trial in the Supreme Court.

These amendments, once commenced in late 2025, will have a significant impact on the work of the court. The Criminal Division will continue its preparations for implementation of these changes.

The key changes include:

- The unification of directions from all divisions of the civil jurisdiction creating a more user-friendly resource for court users.
- The introduction of a new call over process in the civil jurisdiction.
- Clearer guidance on Appropriate Dispute Resolution (ADR) and monetary limits set for the relevant ADR process (i.e., pre-hearing conference, mediation, early neutral evaluation and judicial resolution).
- Minor amendments to processes for filing of documents.

Engaging stakeholders for court excellence

The Civil Division has continued to engage with key internal and external stakeholders, utilising these engagement opportunities to gather critical feedback. This information informs the development of programs to support the improvement of court operations and court user experience.

The Civil Practice Committee comprises nominees from the Law Institute of Victoria, the Victorian Bar, and Parliamentary Counsel, together with judicial representatives and the Principal Registrar from MCV. It has continued to be an important forum for communication about matters impacting court users and the profession.

Similarly, the WorkCover Users Group has continued to provide a valuable opportunity for engagement between the Court and practitioners in respect of operational issues.

During 2024-2025 the Division engaged with the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal regarding the launch of Rental Dispute Resolution Victoria, an early intervention process for resolving residential tenancy disputes.

Additionally, a state-wide forum for all civil registry staff was facilitated to continue our focus on standardisation of common civil registry functions.

CIVIL DIVISION

HEAD OF DIVISION – MAGISTRATE MEGHAN HOARE

Magistrate Kathryn Fawcett – Supervising Magistrate Industrial Division

Magistrate Meghan Hoare – Supervising Magistrate WorkCover Division

General Civil Division updates

In February 2025, the Chief Magistrate published Practice Direction No. 2 of 2025, the first standalone civil practice direction. The Practice Direction governs all aspects of civil proceedings in MCV, providing comprehensive guidance to practitioners and parties on case initiation, practice and procedure and the conduct of hearings.

Practice Direction No. 2 of 2025 consolidates more than 50 superseded practice directions, supporting a streamlined and consistent approach to the work of the Civil Division and facilitating the efficient progress of these matters.

FAMILY VIOLENCE DIVISION

HEAD OF DIVISION – MAGISTRATE MICHELLE HODGSON

The Family Violence Division was established as a separate Division in September 2024, acknowledging both the significant and sustained effects of family violence on Victorians, and the high level of importance the Court places on this work.

Working together in family violence practice

Since the establishment of the Family Violence Division, Magistrate Hodgson has chaired Family Violence Practice sessions and led regular meetings with Lead Family Violence Magistrates, the Legislative and Operational Support Team and the Legal Policy Unit to support and strengthen the work of the Division. Additional sessions were held with key external stakeholders including Victoria Police, Victoria Legal Aid and Women's Legal Service Victoria (WLS).

Magistrate Tim Gattuso and Magistrate Thérèse McCarthy presided in moot practice courts held by the WLS. This program is designed to upskill family violence duty lawyers in providing high quality, trauma informed advice and representation to clients.

Magistrates participated in the Judicial College of Victoria's (JCV's) targeted 'Understanding Family Violence' program, which featured a presentation from Magistrate Hodgson on the use of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) tool in the courtroom. The program aimed to develop understanding and the application of MARAM to identify, assess and manage family violence risk.

Progressing capital works to support delivery of our Specialist Family Violence Courts model

As a result of the SFVC capital works program, approximately 79 per cent of family violence intervention order matters



Artists render of SFVC capital works at Geelong Magistrates' Court

were heard at a SFVC location during the reporting period.

The SFVC enhancements are a significant advancement for both staff and court users, reinforcing the Court's commitment to delivering improved services for people affected by family violence.

Working with Aboriginal communities

Magistrate Falla attended the Dhelk Dja Forum in Wodonga in August 2024. The forum provided an opportunity to discuss family violence issues affecting Aboriginal communities in the local area, with presentations by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, the Victorian Aboriginal and Child Community Agency and Orange Door. At the forum, MCV showcased the benefits of Umalek Balit, a service providing culturally safe support, information and referrals to Aboriginal people in family violence proceedings.

In September, Magistrate Falla chaired a discussion on legislative changes to the *Bail Act 1977*, as part of the JCV's popular 'Koori Twilight Sessions' presented in partnership with the Judicial

Officers' Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Committee, Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service and Victoria Legal Aid. The session aimed to provide practitioners with deeper knowledge and confidence when managing bail applications involving Aboriginal people.

Implementing legislative reforms

The *Crimes Amendment (Non-fatal strangulation) Act 2023* took effect from 13 October 2024. The Act introduced two new standalone non-fatal strangulation offences and amended the definition of family violence in the *Family Violence Protection Act 2008*. In response to these changes, the Court updated information provided to court users, including on the MCV website. This aimed to create awareness and support court user safety.

Family violence counselling services to reach more respondents across Victoria

In November 2024, MCV announced a new range of programs to encourage behaviour change as part of the court's CMCOOP grants initiative.

The new programs, delivered by Anglicare Victoria, Child & Family Services Ballarat and Family Life, aim to increase participation and completion rates for respondents ordered to attend counselling.

The programs provide:

- a variety of different counselling programs across SFVCs to better engage the diverse range of respondents who come before the Court,
- a more flexible delivery model, including individual, group, online and in-person programs to improve access to counselling,
- targeted programs for Aboriginal people, people who identify as LGBTQIA+, people with disabilities and people with limited or no English.
- structured pathways for participants who want to access further support and counselling services, including Men's Behaviour Change programs.

Improving court users' experience of pre-court engagement

The Court has introduced new pre-court engagement forms for family violence matters. These forms are the result of a comprehensive review led by Deputy Chief Magistrate Susan Wakeling and Magistrate Thérèse McCarthy.

The updated forms are designed to reduce duplication, use clearer and more accessible language, and give court users a better understanding of their options and requirements.

By simplifying the process and improving communication, the Court aims to make it easier for people affected by family violence to participate in proceedings and feel supported when engaging with the justice system.



The new pre-court engagement forms will improve court users' experiences

SPECIALIST COURTS DIVISION

HEAD OF DIVISION – MAGISTRATE PAULINE SPENCER

Magistrate Fiona Hayes – Supervising Magistrate, VOCAT

Magistrate Rose Falla – Supervising Magistrate, Koori Justice

Magistrate Mary-Anne MacCallum – Supervising Magistrate, Drug Court

Magistrate Ros Porter – Supervising Magistrate, Assessment and Referral Court

Magistrate Nooreen Toohey – Supervising Magistrate, Neighbourhood Justice Centre

The overarching principle underpinning MCV's specialist courts and mainstream court support programs is to reduce reoffending and promote community safety by providing the right type and intensity of intervention at the right time. The type and intensity of intervention is guided by:

- the person's functionality and level of need;
- the seriousness and nature of allegations/offending (risk/proportionality); and
- the stage of the criminal justice process (for example remand/bail; pre-plea; pre-sentence; post-sentence).

With the full suite of MCV's specialist courts and programs now operating at Shepparton, Melbourne and Dandenong Magistrates' Courts, MCV is developing a better understanding of how the continuum of interventions can work together to match the right people with the right approach.

Striving to increase access to culturally appropriate justice

Supervising Magistrate Rose Falla and the Koori Strategy & Engagement team have continued to engage with key stakeholders, including the Aboriginal Justice Caucus and Regional Aboriginal

Justice Advisory Committees. This serves to strengthen MCV's commitment to self-determination and build stronger community ties for Aboriginal staff, practitioners and court users.

Koori Courts, where magistrates sit with Elders and Respected Persons, are now operating at 17 locations around the state, sitting on 265 occasions in this reporting period and hearing 3,789 listed matters, with 1,146 finalisations.

MCV piloted Koori Support Practitioners to work across the court as part of the Navigation and Triage team at Melbourne Magistrates' Court. These roles ensure Aboriginal people attending court are better supported at their court hearing and can be assisted with community referrals to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and other community supports.

In the Grampians region, MCV worked closely with the Yallum Yallum Elders and Respected Persons Council, an independent and self-determining justice model which aims to promote cultural healing and improve social and emotional wellbeing. The Court referred people completing diversion or deferred sentences to the Council.

In 2024-25, work continued on expanding the implementation of Recommendation 150 of the Royal Commission into Family Violence, which recommended the hearing of family violence intervention orders breaches in Koori Court.

Strengthening community and stakeholder connections

Throughout the reporting period the Head of Division and Supervising Magistrates, along with staff, continued to engage with a range of external stakeholders, harnessing expert knowledge and embracing educational opportunities to improve the court's solution-focused justice response.

MCV staff at the Neighbourhood Justice Centre engaged with a range of organisations in the African Australian community to develop greater awareness of issues facing the community, and to build a resource of community agencies



Drug Court team Education Days

for the referral of people coming before the Court.

Our Supervising Magistrates demonstrated their commitment to building the capability of the profession by delivering a series of informative and engaging seminars as part of the Law Institute of Victoria's Continuing Professional Development (CPD) series.

This included sessions on:

- Mental health in the criminal justice system, presented by Magistrate Porter in collaboration with Victoria Legal Aid.
- Drug Court eligibility, processes, and expected outcomes and benefits for participants, led by Magistrate MacCallum in conjunction with Victoria Police and Victoria Legal Aid.

Magistrates Falla, Porter and Spencer also contributed to the Judicial College of Victoria's popular 'Twilight Seminars', delivering education in partnership with organisations such as the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service, Victoria Legal Aid, the Law Institute of Victoria and Victoria Police. Sessions were held on:

- Aboriginality and bail;
- cognitive impairment; and
- court craft for offender change.

Supporting people on bail through the Court Integrated Services Program

The Court Integrated Services Program (CISP) continues to support people with complex needs on bail. Court-based case managers assess people's needs and link people with relevant community services to support behaviour change. Together with judicial monitoring for accountability, the program aims to mitigate risks to community safety while court users are on bail.

In this reporting period, 5103 people were referred to CISP for support and 1938 participants were accepted.



Pauline Smith, Thomas Marks and Magistrate Guillaume Bailin with the new ARC table and artwork. Picture by Lachlan Bence



Viet-My Bui standing in front of her artwork 'Đi Chợ Với Mẹ', 2025 on display at NJC as part of *Urban Campfire*, NJC's community art exhibition

Expanding the Assessment and Referral Court

The Assessment and Referral Court (ARC) continued to be rolled out at MCV's headquarter courts, improving the justice response for people with complex mental health, cognitive impairment, acquired brain injury and neurodiversity. Details on the rollout of ARC in 2024-25 to additional locations can be found on Page 20.

Engagement and education activities at the Neighbourhood Justice Centre

As a community justice court and centre of court innovation, the NJC implemented initiatives designed to further engagement, education and crime prevention across this reporting period. These initiatives included:

- Establishing a document signing station hosted by a Justice of the Peace, significantly reducing the work of registry in fulfilling this function.
- Engaging the NJC Community Adviser Panel (CAP) in the design process for various NJC projects. The CAP is made up of 36 community members, representing voices from

across the diverse range of people that the NJC delivers services to.

- Hosting a screening and panel discussion by the Aspiring Young Africans Foundation as part of Victorian Law Week.
- Hosting the latest exhibition of the Urban Campfire art show, featuring works celebrating Vietnamese culture in Australia and providing an engaging opportunity for the community to connect with the NJC.

Enhancing our Drug Court response

Following a successful evaluation of Drug Court undertaken by KPMG and Court Services Victoria, MCV turned its focus in 2025 to strengthening our Drug Court response. Education and training was delivered to our multi-disciplinary workforce on principles and practices for effective teamwork and addiction recovery best practice.

Preparing to bring the Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal to its conclusion

Over the past financial year, the Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal (VOCAT) worked towards the opening of the new Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS), which commenced operations on 18 November 2024.

Since the commencement of FAS, the Tribunal supported victims of crime, finalising pending matters at a rate of approximately 1000 claims per month. By the end of June 2025, there were 161 pending applications which the Tribunal will continue to progress to finalisation.

For detailed information regarding the conclusion of the Tribunal's work and the transition to FAS, refer to the VOCAT 2024-25 Annual Report.



Judicial Wellbeing Lead, VOCAT Supervising Magistrate Fiona Hayes



OPERATIONAL DATA AND FINANCIALS

CIVIL DIVISION

SUMMARY

	Notes	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	%Diff
Complaints issued		17,877	21,921	33,377	31,211	29,708	-5%
Claims finalised		34,084	21,197	24,327	33,871	36,039	6%
#of cases where a defence notice filed		6803	6765	7712	8458	7369	-13%
Civil listings		n/a	n/a	31,726	27,918	26,400	-%5

The complaint figures have been adjusted to reflect updated calculations on the 2023-24 figures.

COMPLAINTS

	Notes	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	%Diff
Complaints issued or filed							
Up to \$10,000 claimed		8808	10,753	17,327	13,327	11,195	-16%
More than \$10,000 claimed		9069	11,168	16,050	17,884	18,513	4%
Total complaints issued		17,877	21,921	33,377	31,211	29,708	-5%

As of October 2022, Civil Division data is generated from the court's new case management system. Data prior to October 2022 was extracted from the previous Case Management System. Further refinements in reporting methodologies may result in updates to data previously published. Data in relation to listings has become available as a result of the new CMS.

Complaints can be filed in the Magistrates' Court of Victoria for a monetary value up to \$100,000.

CLAIMS FINALISED

	Notes	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	%Diff
Defended claims finalised at a hearing ¹							
Pre-hearing conference or mediation		1262	807	806	738	672	-9%
Any other hearing type		6964	6374	5960	7857	6269	-20%
Total defended claims finalised at a hearing		8226	7181	6766	8595	6941	-19%
Default orders made ²		7098	6269	7938	8947	7992	-11%
Complaints dismissed (under Regulation 21.11 of Magistrates' Court Civil Procedure Rules 2010) ³		18,760	7,747	9,623	16,329	21,106	29%
Total claims finalised		34,084	21,197	24,327	33,871	36,039	6%

Note 1: Cases where defences have been lodged and have been finalised

Note 2: Plaintiff applies to the court for an order in default of a defence being filed by the defendant.

Note 3: Regulation 21.11 of the Magistrates' Court Civil Procedure Rules 2020 states that a complaint will be dismissed against any defendant three months after the expiration of the validity of service period of the complaint.

CIVIL CASES FINALISED PER COURT REGION

	Notes	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	%Diff
Barwon South West		870	595	832	1188	1188	0%
Broadmeadows		1945	1471	1669	2678	2951	10%
Dandenong		2090	1383	1817	3651	3372	-8%
Frankston		3012	1928	1047	1659	1851	12%
Gippsland		548	280	584	780	863	11%
Grampians		438	282	535	648	597	-8%
Heidelberg		1742	1404	1395	2033	2412	19%
Hume		654	391	664	868	720	-17%
Loddon-Mallee		748	419	683	950	1077	13%
Melbourne		16,340	9944	8789	9769	10,334	6%
Moorabbin				1584	2229	2968	33%
Ringwood		2860	1486	2706	4000	4029	1%
Sunshine		2837	1614	2022	3418	3677	8%
Total		34,084	21,197	24,327	33,871	36,039	6%

The above totals breakdown the civil cases finalised at either defended hearing stage, default order or the complaint was dismissed, broken down by region. Across the state, court locations are divided into 13 regions, with Moorabbin separating from Frankston and becoming its own region in 2022. Each region consists of a headquarter court and some regions are made up of satellite courts.

DEFENCE NOTICES

	Notes	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	%Diff
Defence notices filed							
Against complaints of up to \$10,000 claimed		2310	1926	1965	1882	1533	-19%
Against complaints more than \$10,000 claimed		3644	4171	5099	5871	5174	-12%
WorkCover defences filed		849	668	648	705	662	-6%
Total number of cases where a defence notice was filed		6803	6765	7712	8458	7369	-13%

A defendant to a claim can file a defence within specified timeframes depending on the complaint type. Defences can be filed outside specified timeframes as long as a default order has not been made.

TIMELINESS

	Notes	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	%Diff
Defended claims finalised within six months		49.6%	66.1%	70.0%	72.4%	71.9%	-1%
Defended claims pending as at 30 June		2008	1806	3171	3063	3147	3%
The number of cases that have been pending for more than 12 months		380	296	183	213	201	-6%

The Magistrates' Court aims to finalise 80 per cent of civil cases within six months or less.

FEDERAL JURISDICTION

	Notes	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	%Diff
Total Federal Jurisdiction cases		n/a	368	762	783	800	2%

CRIMINAL DIVISION

SUMMARY

	Notes	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	%Diff
Cases initiated		133,487	122,470	145,054	135,282	146,322	8%
Cases finalised		105,784	132,543	160,959	147,917	135,035	-9%
Bail application orders made (inc. granted, refused, revoked, varied)		31,624	34,045	42,643	37,692	41,670	11%
Applications finalised		40,388	43,461	43,303	42,096	38,732	-8%
Contravention of sentencing order cases		6882	4980	5767	6318	5706	-10%
Criminal listings		607,167	703,571	715,710	660,315	717,585	9%

CASELOAD

	Notes	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	%Diff
Cases initiated	1	133,487	134,948	145,054	135,282	146,322	8%
Cases finalised	1	105,784	132,758	160,959	147,917	135,035	-9%
Barwon South West		6720	9094	12,015	10,408	10,081	-3%
Broadmeadows		8495	10,092	11,287	10,367	9874	-5%
Dandenong		7719	8877	13,280	11,450	9959	-13%
Frankston		10,000	15,324	12,012	9901	9050	-9%
Gippsland		7749	8273	9293	8376	7522	-10%
Grampians		4673	5567	6850	6115	5670	-7%
Heidelberg		6594	9638	12,334	10,276	10,061	-2%
Hume		5299	7535	7,982	7983	7401	-7%
Loddon-Mallee		8447	8360	8712	8356	7977	-5%
Melbourne		21,927	26,500	31,281	29,375	25,673	-13%
Moorabbin	2	-	-	5729	5481	6675	22%
NJC		748	1000	1215	1230	1123	-9%
Ringwood		9636	10,058	11,826	13,515	10,847	-20%
Sunshine		7777	12,440	17,143	15,084	13,122	-13%
Total		105,784	132,758	160,959	147,917	135,035	-9%

Note 1: Cases initiated and finalised refer to criminal cases commenced or finalised in the Magistrates' Court of Victoria for the financial year specified.

Note 2: In early 2024, MCV implemented boundary changes that have resulted in an increased caseload for Moorabbin.

INITIATIONS

	Notes	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	%Diff
Charge and summons		88,622	88,549	94,779	87,426	92,336	6%
Charge and information		41,438	42,651	45,988	43,808	49,549	13%
Charge and warrant		3142	3216	3516	3284	3682	12%
Notice to appear		284	532	771	764	755	-1%
Infringement revocation		1	0	0	0	0	n/a
Total		133,487	134,948	145,054	135,282	146,322	8%

Cases in the Magistrates' Court can be commenced by different processes. Cases coming before the court where the accused is either in custody or on bail will be subject to a charge and information or charge and warrant.

BAIL ORDERS

	Notes	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	%Diff
Bail granted by MCV		14,333	16,889	20,987	17,760	17,557	-1%
Bail refused by MCV		8076	7429	9107	8471	11,251	33%
Applications where bail was revoked by MCV		3644	3427	3992	3568	6612	85%
Listings where there was no application for bail		49,157	51,387	59,152	53,047	70,749	33%
		75,210	79,132	93,238	82,846	106,169	28%
Applications where bail was varied by MCV		5571	6300	8557	7893	6250	-21%
Listings where bail was extended by MCV		98,825	123,479	120,232	110,918	135,608	22%

The above table records the number of individual applications or events heard and determined by the court.

TIMELINESS

	Notes	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	%Diff
Criminal cases finalised within six months		76%	41%	55%	67%	71.3%	6%
Number of cases pending as at 30 June		101,787	83,194	64,553	52,720	60,032	14%
The number of cases that have been pending for more than 12 months		28,802	25,226	11,732	7011	7135	2%

MCV aims to finalise 85 per cent of criminal cases within six months.

INTERVENTION ORDERS

INTERVENTION ORDERS SUMMARY - FAMILY VIOLENCE

	Notes	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	%Diff
Initiations		38,107	37,557	37,828	39,223	40,640	4%
Finalisations		35,598	43,040	39,347	38,086	40,522	6%
Matters with a post hearing application		3569	3971	4205	4067	3766	-7%
Interim orders made		38,119	39,003	40,897	43,263	46,275	7%
Listings		132,713	145,865	144,757	146,315	159,397	9%

MCV's intervention order initiation data was previously overstated due to interface operations between Victoria Police and MCV. The interface automatically counted additional initiations that did not progress to a court hearing. To address this, the counting rule has been revised to include only those initiated cases that result in a court hearing, ensuring a more accurate representation of MCV's caseload.

CASELOAD - FAMILY VIOLENCE

	Notes	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	%Diff
Barwon South West		3090	3326	3036	3175	3478	10%
Broadmeadows		2589	3219	3178	2811	3051	9%
Dandenong		2948	3942	3682	3345	3249	-3%
Frankston		3620	5175	2739	2867	3457	21%
Gippsland		3168	3237	3063	3131	3519	12%
Grampians		1886	1961	1914	1984	2210	11%
Heidelberg		2745	2800	2842	2717	2886	6%
Hume		2529	2450	2360	2528	2565	1%
Loddon-Mallee		3126	3209	3070	3094	3028	-2%
Melbourne		2724	3725	3489	3165	3508	11%
Moorabbin		-	-	1341	1289	1554	21%
NJC		350	376	279	264	290	10%
Ringwood		2704	4173	3310	3065	3357	10%
Sunshine		4119	5447	5044	4651	4370	-6%
Total		35,598	43,040	39,347	38,086	40,522	6%

The above totals break down the cases finalised by Region. Across the state, court locations are divided into 13 regions, with Moorabbin separating from Frankston and becoming its own region in 2022. Each region consists of a headquarter court and some regions are made up of satellite courts.

INTERVENTION ORDERS SUMMARY - PERSONAL SAFETY

	Notes	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	%Diff
Initiations		11,895	11,272	11,726	12,298	12,421	1%
Finalisations		11,027	12,620	11,765	11,705	11,909	2%
Matters with a post hearing application		231	268	338	208	206	-1%
Interim orders made		10,530	10,053	11,112	11,569	11,747	2%
Listings		36,531	38,685	37,613	38,501	40,181	4%

MCV's intervention order initiation data was previously overstated due to interface operations between Victoria Police and MCV. The interface automatically counted additional initiations that did not progress to a court hearing. To address this, the counting rule has been revised to include only those initiated cases that result in a court hearing, ensuring a more accurate representation of MCV's caseload.

INTERVENTION ORDERS SUMMARY - PERSONAL SAFETY (CONT)

	Notes	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	%Diff
Barwon South West		1115	1033	889	1004	1094	9%
Broadmeadows		761	965	919	726	754	4%
Dandenong		759	945	762	693	626	-10%
Frankston		953	1231	824	741	735	-1%
Gippsland		1032	965	932	1152	1230	7%
Grampians		697	667	680	694	716	3%
Heidelberg		799	853	902	863	915	6%
Hume		947	870	825	941	811	-14%
Loddon-Mallee		1335	1131	1153	1098	1005	-8%
Melbourne		848	1359	1312	1256	1382	10%
Moorabbin		-	-	421	455	533	17%
NJC		217	291	233	169	182	8%
Ringwood		726	1174	812	967	945	-2%
Sunshine		838	1136	1101	946	981	4%
Total		11,027	12,620	11,765	11,705	11,909	2%

The above totals break down the cases finalised by Region. Across the state, court locations are divided into 13 regions, with Moorabbin separating from Frankston and becoming its own region in 2022. Each region consists of a headquarter court and some regions are made up of satellite courts.

PENDING

	Notes	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	%Diff
Family violence intervention orders pending		-	-	8559	10,265	11,012	7%
Personal safety intervention orders pending		-	-	2650	2883	2874	0%
Total		-	-	11,209	13,148	13,886	6%

LISTINGS

	Notes	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	%Diff
Family violence listings		132,713	145,865	144,757	146,315	159,397	9%
Personal safety intervention order listings		36,531	38,685	37,613	38,501	40,181	4%
Total		169,244	184,550	182,370	184,816	199,578	8%

The above total represents the overall number of listings in the specified financial years. A case may come before the court on multiple occasions.

FAMILY LAW

	Notes	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	%Diff
Total family law finalisations		913	700	870	828	772	-7%

FINANCIALS

MCV CONTROLLED INCOME AND EXPENSES: FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-24

	\$'000	24/25
Income from transactions		
Output appropriations	204,180	
Special appropriations	81,930	
Grants	4,592	
Total income from transactions	290,703	
Expenses from transactions		
Employee expenses and Judicial Officer remuneration	215,544	
Depreciation and amortisation	0	
Interest expense	1364	
Grants and other transfers	14,158	
Supplies and services	60,727	
Total expenses from transactions	291,792	
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)	-1,089	
Other economic flows included in net result		
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation of building	0	
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets	0	
Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments	0	
Other gains/(losses) from other economic flows	105	
Total other economic flows included in net result	105	
Net result from continuing operations	-984	
Other economic flows — other comprehensive income		
Items that will not be reclassified to net result		
Changes in physical asset revaluation reserve	0	
Total other economic flows — other comprehensive income	0	
Comprehensive result	-984	

MCV CONTROLLED ASSETS AND LIABILITIES: FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-24

Notes	24/25
Financial assets	22,412
Non-financial assets	104
Total assets	22,516
Liabilities	130,208
Total liabilities	130,208
Net assets	107,693

COURT LOCATIONS

ARARAT

63-75 Barkly Street
PO Box 604
Ararat 3377

BACCHUS MARSH

Main Street
PO Box 277
Bacchus Marsh 3340

BAIRNSDALE

Nicholson Street
PO Box 367
Bairnsdale 3875

BALLARAT

100 Grenville Street
South
PO Box 604
Ballarat 3350

BENALLA

17 Bridge Street West
PO Box 258
Benalla 3672

BENDIGO

188 Hargreaves Street
PO Box 930
Bendigo 3550

BROADMEADOWS

Cnr Pearcedale Parade
& Dimboola Road
PO Box 3235
Broadmeadows 3047

CASTLEMAINE

Lyttleton Street
Castlemaine 3450
C/- PO Box 930
Bendigo 3550

COBRAM

Cnr Punt Road & High
Street
Cobram 3644
C/- PO Box 607
Shepparton 3630

COLAC

Queen Street
Colac 3250
C/- PO Box 428
Geelong 3220

CORRYONG

11 Jardine Street
Corryong 3707
C/- PO Box 50
Wodonga 3690

DANDENONG

35 Pultney Street
PO Box 392
Dandenong 3175

DROMANA

Codrington Street
PO Box 105
Dromana 3936

ECHUCA

Heygarth Street
PO Box 76
Echuca 3564

EDENHOPE

49 Elizabeth Street
Edenhope 3318
C/- PO Box 111
Horsham 3400

FRANKSTON

Fletcher Road
PO Box 316
Frankston 3199

GEELONG

Railway Terrace
PO Box 428
Geelong 3220

HAMILTON

HAMILTON
Martin Street
Hamilton 3300
C/- PO Box 422
Warrnambool 3280

HEIDELBERG

Jika Street
PO Box 105
Heidelberg 3084

HOPETOUN

75 Lascelles Street
Hopetoun 3396
PO Box 111
Horsham 3400

HORSHAM

22 Roberts Avenue
PO Box 111
Horsham 3400

KERANG

Victoria Street
Kerang 3579
C/- PO Box 512
Swan Hill 3585

KORUMBURRA

Bridge Street
PO Box 211
Korumburra 3950

KYNETON

Hutton Street
PO Box 20
Kyneton 3444

LATROBE VALLEY

134 Commercial Road
PO Box 687
Morwell 3840

MANSFIELD

88 High Street
Mansfield 3722
C/- PO Box 258
Benalla 3672



Figure 1: Map of MCV court locations

MARYBOROUGH

Clarendon Street
Maryborough 3465
C/- PO BOX 930
Bendigo 3550

MELBOURNE

233 William Street
Melbourne 3000
GPO Box 882
Melbourne 3001

MILDURA

56 Deakin Avenue
PO Box 5014
Mildura 3500

MOORABBIN

1140 Nepean Highway
Highett 3190
PO Box 2042
Moorabbin 3189

MYRTLEFORD

Myrtle Street
Myrtleford 3737
C/- PO Box 504
Wangaratta 3677

NEIGHBOURHOOD JUSTICE CENTRE

241 Wellington Street
Collingwood 3066

NHILL

110 Macpherson Street
Nhill 3418
PO Box 111
Horsham 3400

OMEО

Main Street
Omeo 3898
C/- PO Box 367
Bairnsdale 3875

ORBOST

8 Wolsley Street
Orbost 3888
C/- PO Box 367
Bairnsdale 3875

OUYEN

Oke Street
Ouyen 3490
C/- PO Box 5014
Mildura 3500

PORTLAND

67 Cliff Street
Portland 3305
C/- PO Box 244
Warrnambool 3281

RINGWOOD

39 Ringwood Street
PO Box 333
Ringwood 3134

ROBINVALE

George Street
Robinvale 3549
C/- PO Box 5014
Mildura 3500

SALE

79-87 Foster Street
PO Box 351
Sale 3850

SEYMOUR

56 Tallarook Street
PO Box 235
Seymour 3660

SHEPPARTON

18 High Street
PO Box 607
Shepparton 3630

ST ARNAUD

Napier Street
St Arnaud 3478
C/- PO Box 604
Ballarat 3350

STAWELL

Patrick Street
Stawell 3380
C/- PO Box 604
Ballarat 3350

SUNSHINE

10 Foundry Road
PO Box 435
Sunshine 3020

SWAN HILL

121 Curlewis Street
PO Box 512
Swan Hill 3585

WANGARATTA

24 Faithfull Street
PO Box 504
Wangaratta 3677

WARRNAMBOOL

218 Koroit Street
PO Box 244
Warrnambool 3280

WERRIBEE

Cnr Duncans Road
& Salisbury Street
PO Box 196
Werribee 3030

WODONGA

5 Elgin Boulevard
PO Box 50
Wodonga 3690

WONTHAGGI

Watt Street
PO Box 104
Wonthaggi 3995



Magistrates' Court of Victoria
233 William Street
GPO Box 882
Melbourne 3001
mcv.vic.gov.au