

# CRIMINOLOGY RESEARCH UNIT

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UNIVERSITY  
OF TASMANIA

## **CRIME DATA COLLECTION IN TASMANIA: A REGISTER**

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## Introduction

This project stems from a roundtable discussion hosted by the Criminology Research Unit and the Australian Institute of Criminology at the University of Tasmania on the 22nd of April, 2002. The topic was 'Toward an Integrated Crime Data System for Tasmania'. At the conclusion of the session participants agreed that a register of crime data collection agencies, including non-government organisations, would be useful. The Crime Research Unit volunteered to co-ordinate the collection of information toward this end, and to circulate the draft and final register among interested parties. This booklet is the first of its kind and it is hoped that future publications of this nature can build upon the information supplied herein. The content of the paper depends upon an agency's capacity to respond, and this will determine what information is included and the level of detail provided. Potential contributors are encouraged to contact the Criminology Research Unit if they wish to be considered for inclusion in a future edition or if they wish to up-date current entries.

## About the Criminology Research Unit

The Criminology Research Unit (CRU) of the University of Tasmania was established in mid-2000. It has a membership drawn from disciplines such as Law, Sociology, Geography & Environmental Studies, Government, and Aboriginal Studies. A key role of the CRU is to foster criminology in Tasmania as a field of study, research, evaluation and policy development. The activities of the CRU include organising conferences and seminars, preparation of discussion papers, undertaking research and evaluation, and delivery of short-course training and education.

## Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders Commission

Crime data specific to Tasmania which ATSIC can access is through the Tasmanian ATSIL, the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC) Inc (03-6234 8311).

Annual Reports:

Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre's Annual Report (AR) 2000/01  
ATSIC's Annual Report 2001-02

## Australian Bureau of Statistics

Note: This information has been taken directly from the ABS Website.

### **Cat No 1234.0 Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC)**

ASOC development for use within Australia for the production and analysis of crime and justice statistics, and replaces the ANOC. Aim: to provide uniform national statistical framework for classifying offences for use by justice agencies and other persons and agencies with an interest in crime and justice issues.

#### *National Crime and Justice Statistic Centre*

Consists of three Statistical Units

1. Criminal Statistics Unit
2. National Criminal Courts Statistics Unit
3. Corrective Services Statistical Unit

Each unit has a Board and an Advisory group, with Tasmanian representatives on the Advisory group. The unit publications guide our justice system.

See: National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics Introduction; The National Criminal Justice Statistical Framework – Chapter 4

See ABS website for full reports: [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

#### *The National Criminal Justice Statistical Framework August 2001*

##### *1.1 Definition and Scope*

The National Criminal Justice Statistical Framework (NCJSF) provides a structure for organising, collecting and reporting data about crime and the criminal justice system (CJS). The Framework builds connections across the main sectors of the CJS by modelling it in a way that transcends the data requirements and usages of individual sectors. The Framework therefore models how criminal justice data *should* be structured rather than how these data currently *are* structured within the various administrative data systems used by agencies involved in criminal justice.

The scope of this version of the Framework has been restricted to data relating to the criminal justice system. It does not include the civil justice system, though at a general level, the Framework does encompass the processes of the civil justice system, in that civil matters also require a process of adjudication and some outcome of that adjudication. This version includes key data variables currently collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Version 1.0 of the Framework also excludes data such as policing activity not concerned with the prevention, detection, investigation or control of crime (for example, traffic management, crowd control or rescue activities); revenue or expenditure associated with the provision of criminal justice services; and specific crime prevention strategies, programs and activities.

The primary function of the NCJSF is to facilitate compatibility and integration of *aggregated* data on populations (for example, data about a group of persons or cases), not individual unit record data (that is, information about a particular person or case). Thus the use of common unique identifiers to track *individuals* throughout the criminal justice system is neither a feature nor a prerequisite for implementing the statistical framework.

### *1.2 Strategic Objectives*

The primary purpose of the NCJSF is to identify the key counting units and data variables in the criminal justice system that would allow stakeholders to characterise the main aspects of that system. The strategic objectives that follow from this purpose include:

Objective 1: Integrating criminal justice data between the different, interconnecting sectors of the criminal justice system.

Objective 2: Integrating criminal justice data across the States and Territories of Australia and other geographical regions.

Objective 3: Facilitating discussions between the ABS and its clients on the relative priorities for future development of criminal justice data collections.

Objective 4: Promoting the adoption of standardised methods of collecting, compiling and disseminating statistics.

### **Cat. No 4509.0 Crime and Safety Australia Aug 1999**

Data from ABS Crime and Safety Survey 1998

Tasmania specific data includes:

- Where is the Safest Place to Live – Victimization Prevalence Rates by State and Territories
- Victimization – Prevalence Rates by State by Offence
- Perceptions of Crime and other Public Nuisance Problems in the Neighbourhood

### **Cat. No 4510.0 Recorded Crime, Australia May 2002**

National crime statistics relating to victims recorded by police and compiled according to national standards.

Tasmanian specific data includes:

- Victims by offence category – Tasmania
- Trends over time, 1993-2001 – by State

### **Cat No 4512.0 Corrective Services, Australia March 2002**

ABS collects form records held by Corrective Services agencies in each state and from Attorney General Department for Federal Prisons. Details include:

- numbers and imprisonment rates by types of custody (ie open, secure custody or periodic detention);
- prisoners numbers by legal status (sentenced or unsentenced);
- by sentence type, for all prisoners and for indigenous

prisoners and number of Federal prisoners.

Tasmania specific data includes:

- Persons in prison custody by state over time 1999-2001
- Persons in prison custody by state by sex type and type of prison custody
- Persons in prison custody by state by sex type and type of prison custody over time
- Persons in prison custody by state by legal status and sentence type over time
- Indigenous persons in prison custody by sex over time by state, including ratio of indigenous to non-indigenous rates of imprisonment.
- Indigenous persons in prison custody by legal status and sentence type by state over time.
- Federal sentenced persons in prison custody by sex by state over time.
- Persons in community-based corrections by state over time
- Persons in community based corrections by type of order

### **Cat No 4513.0 Higher Criminal Courts, Australia June 2002**

Sourced from Supreme and Intermediate courts from national Higher Criminal Courts collection conducted by ABS  
Tasmania specific data includes:

- Percentage of defendants finalised by state change between year 2000-2001
- Percentage of defendants pending by state change between year 2000-2001
- Percentage of adjudicated defendants by state by plea
- Percentage of defendants finalised by state by change in median duration 1996-1997-2000-2001
- Adjudicated defendants by state by median duration

### **Cat No 4515.6 Community Safety, Tasmania October 1998**

1998 Tasmanian Community Safety Survey Residents in private dwellings – data on:

- Level and nature of fear of crime in the community;
- Factors with influence levels of fear of crime like victimisation, home security and perception of neighbourhood problems ;

- Perceived level of crime in the community and awareness and perceived effectiveness of community crime prevention programs
- How members of the community find out about crime in their neighbourhood

### **Cat No 4517.0 Prisoners in Australia March 2002**

Data from National Corrective Services Statistics units and various agencies that also provide statistics

- Imprisonment rates by state
- Indigenous prisoners, imprisonment rates by state
- Prisoners by state by number, proportion and rates per 1000, 000 adult population

### **Cat No. 1362.6 Regional Statistics, Tasmania August 2001**

Chapter Six Crime Justice

- Perception of crime
- Perception of risk of becoming a victim of selected crimes
- Victims of selected offences – robbery, armed robbery, assault, sexual assault, motor vehicle theft
- Victims by sex and age group of victim
- Supreme and magistrates courts by finalisations 1999-2000
- Prisoners by sex
- Correctives services

### **Cat No 1301.6 Tasmanian Year Book**

Tasmanian specific data from:

- Department of Police and Police Safety, Annual Report;
- ABS catalogues;
- Department of Justice, Annual Reports

See also ABS Tasmanian Publications

Court Statistics, Tasmania (ABS Cat. No. 4502.6) (first and final issue 1986)

Court Statistics, Tasmania (ABS Cat. No. 4508.6), Annual (first issue 1988 - final issue 1993)

Children's Court Statistics, Tasmania (ABS Cat. No. 4505.6) Annual (first issue 1982 - final issue 1986)

Lower Court Statistics, Tasmania (ABS Cat. No. 4506.6), Annual (first issue 1982 - final issue 1986)

Higher Court Statistics, Tasmania (ABS Cat. No. 4507.6), Annual (first issue 1982 - final issue 1986)  
Correctional Services, Tasmania (ABS Cat. No. 4503.6), Annual (first issue 1978-79 - final issue 1989-90)  
Police Statistics, Tasmania (ABS Cat. No. 4504.6) Annual (first issue 1978-79 - final issue 1983-84)  
Reported Crimes; Murder and Manslaughter; Victims of Assault; Violence against Women; Prisoners.  
Emergency Services Awareness and Attitudes to Crime, Tasmania, Oct 1989 (ABS Cat. No. 4511.6), Irregular  
Australian Social Trends (ABS Cat. No. 4102.0) articles of The Criminal Justice System;  
Information paper, National Crime Statistics (ABS Cat. No. 4511.0) irregular  
Yearbook Australia (2001 Edition) (ABS Cat. No. 1301.0) with feature article Crime in Twentieth Century Australia  
Victims of Crime, Australia (ABS Cat. No. 4506.0) 1983

## Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

Annual Reports – on a national basis  
Lists proceedings only for public records

Periodical Published Bulletin (subscription only)

[www.accc.gov.au](http://www.accc.gov.au)

Includes: Public register area, Notifications, Media releases which can be searched by date for institutional proceedings or success in court

## Australian Federal Police

National level data only is published in AFP Annual Report  
See website: <http://www.afp.gov.au/page.asp?ref=/Publications/AnnualReports/>

## Department of Health and Human Services

*What data is collected?*

Complete information on young offenders including but not limited to: personal, cultural, offending history, social history,

current offending patterns and orders.  
Most Serious Offence - as for COAG requirements

*How is the data collected?*

Recorded on computer

*How often is it collected?*

Collection cycle - data is updated as a result of interview and/or request for supervision from courts etc

*How is data input undertaken?*

Direct to computer (generally)

*What programs are used to process the data? Are the programs compatible with other packages?*

System names - Youth Justice Information System - Community and Custodial.

Compatibility - reports are created in crystal reports, data can be extracted and analysed with word, excel etc. Fully integrated between Custodial and Community program areas.

*Who typically uses the data?*

Youth justice workers, national collection bodies, policy unit.

[Department of Justice and Industrial Relations Corporate Office](#)

*Data Collection*

The data is collected for operational purposes not a statistical collection

*Data input*

From paper to computer, and also directly to computer

*Problems with releasing Unit Record Data*

Due to issues like privacy, timing points and so on and so suggests an application/proposal be submitted in the first instance, and then the appropriateness of releasing data will be assessed on case basis.

Published Data that is available:

1. ABS Website (National) for Law and Order
2. Report on Government Sources 2002 <http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/index.html>
3. Department Annual Reports [http://www.justice.tas.gov.au/legpol/annual\\_report\\_9697/index.htm](http://www.justice.tas.gov.au/legpol/annual_report_9697/index.htm)
4. Record some performance data – Government Budgets Papers. <http://www.treasury.gov.au>

*Protocol for external researchers*

The department is establishing a new protocol for access to information other than that published in the above reports. This is dependent on the research request being within a government priority area, and the project holds government support. The department would set up a reference group to determine if the unpublished data may be released, and to establish which is the appropriate source of data.

*Government Committees involved with crime statistics*

- 1 National Crime and Justice Statistic Centre (see ABS section)
- 2 Review of Government Service Provision  
Steering Committee for the review of State and Commonwealth Service Provision 2001 Contains chapters on: Justice Preface (included); Police Services; Court Administration; and Corrective Services.  
Full report at: [www.pc.gov.au/gsp/2001](http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/2001)
- 3 Tasmanian Statistical Advisory Council (TSAC)  
TSAC consists of representatives from state government agencies and the ABS. They coordinate statistical needs of the state. See members lists

## Community Corrections

*Who is the main 'data collection/statistics' person(s) in the agency for contact purposes?*

Jonathon Rees

*What data is collected?*

Offender information including offending history, name, birth date, cultural group, gender, social history, number of orders previous / current,

*Which fields of data [specifics in terms of, for example, 'age in years'(by year), sex (male and female), most serious offence (according to which categories), etc.]?*

As for COAG requirements

*How is the data collected?*

Manually and entered on computer

*How often is it collected?*

Whenever there is an event

*How is data input undertaken? [e.g., paper than computer, direct to computer]*

Both

*What programs are used to process the data?*

Offender Information System

*Are the programs compatible with other packages?*

Some data can be accessed between Youth Justice, prisons, Courts, Community Corrections, Victims Assistance Unit

*Who typically uses the data?*

Courts, field Officers, Parole Board, Managers, national collection bodies, charts tables, files etc.

*Are their purposes known?*

Yes

*What are the limitations of the data?*

Some is subjective reporting

Relies on accurate input

*What are the limitations of the programs?*

Not really limited at all, very wide scope to collect and disseminate

*What are the untapped possibilities of the data?*

Research statistics

*How reliable is the data?*

Very if entered correctly

*How can the data be verified?*

Documents used to compile the data

*What committees or working groups are you aware of that are looking at questions of data collection, inter-agency exchanges and data analysis?*

CIDG; CIS

*What is the membership or composition of these bodies?*

Youth Justice; Prisons; Police; Community Corrections; Corporate reps; dept transport; Councils

*What is the main purpose or its aims and objectives?*

To develop and share a common data base

*What kind of tasks do the bodies undertake?*

Strategic development

## Department of Police and Public Safety

*Main 'data collection/statistics' person(s) in the agency for contact purposes?*

Sue Steinbauer

Research Officer, Executive Support

Phone: 6230 2293

Email: sue.steinbauer@police.tas.gov.au

### 1. Offences Recorded/Cleared

*What data is collected?*

Offences 'recorded' refers to both offences which have been reported by the public and accepted by police as being genuine, and offences which have been detected by police in the course of their duties and/or criminal investigations.

The term 'cleared' used by police, refers to the solution of a crime, not to the trial by court and final disposition.

The basic counting unit is the victim and a victim can be a person, organisation, premise or motor vehicle.

Major offence categories:  
Offences Against the Person;  
Offences Against Property;  
Fraud and Similar Offences;  
Other (Miscellaneous) Offences.

Data collected in relation to:

All offences: Date offence reported; date and time offence committed; suburb offence committed; police division and district offence committed; attempt (Yes/No); type of offence (state/national); major offence category; type of clearance/outcome of offence; type of premise; location

Offences Against the Person: victim age(individual years and age groups), victim sex, victim relationship to offender; weapon type

Offences Against Property: entry method (burglary); stolen property information (stealing offences); stolen/recovered motor vehicle information.

*How is the data collected?*

Offences are recorded via a Call Centre directly to the Offence Reporting System. A subset of this data is downloaded into the Crime Analysis System twice daily where various standards and counting rules are applied.

*How often is the data collected?*

Offence Reporting System: continually

*How is data input undertaken? [e.g. paper than computer, direct to computer].*

Directly to the Offence Reporting System, via a Call Centre (one centralised area for the state). Police Officers telephone the Call Centre.

*What programs are used to process the data?*

Various programs are used including Crystal Seagate, SAS, Access, Lotus Notes and Excel.

*Are the programs compatible with other packages? If so, which?*

Not applicable.

*Who typically uses the data? Are their purposes known?*

Operational police on a daily basis.

Management (Department of Police and Public Safety).

Minister's Office.

National organisations:

Australian Bureau of Statistics-Hobart, Regional Statistics Tasmania, Catalogue No. 1362.6;

Australian Bureau of Statistics-Melbourne, Recorded Crime Australia, Catalogue No. 4510.0;

Institute of Criminology;

National Homicide Monitoring Program;

National Armed Robbery Monitoring Program;

Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision, Productivity Commission (Council of Australian Governments);

National Alcohol Indicators Project, Curtin University (assault data);

South Australian Office of Crime Statistics: Comprehensive Auto Theft Research System (CARS).

State Government agencies.

Crime Stoppers.

Research organisations/individual researchers.

*What are the possible data outputs? [charts, tables]*

Various.

*What are the limitations of the data?*

Currently there is no address validation (where offence

committed). It is expected that addresses will be validated against The LIST (Land Information System Tasmania-Department of Primary Industries Water and Environment) within the next one to two years. The LIST will provide consistent addressing and location details for comparison and integration of data.

Privacy issues.

*What are the limitations of the programs?*

Not applicable.

*What are the untapped possibilities of the data?*

Depends on available resources.

*How reliable is the data?*

This Agency is working with the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Melbourne in conjunction with their National Crime Statistics Quality Assurance Strategy.

Quality assurance procedures are built in at a number of levels. Various error reports are run to identify any potential errors.

*How can the data be verified?*

Various.

*What committees or working groups are you aware of that are looking at questions of data collection, inter-agency exchanges and data analysis?*

Police Statistician's Group:

National Crime Statistics Unit (NCSU),

National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics (NCCJS),

Australian Bureau of Statistics. An Advisory Group provides strategic advice to the NCCJS and the Board of the NCSU.

*What is the membership or composition of these bodies?*

Representatives from all jurisdictions.

*What is the main purpose or what are its aims and objectives?*

Focus on data delivery and quality issues. Involved in the development of new collections.

*What kind of tasks to the bodies undertake?*

Various tasks associated with data delivery, quality assurance and development of new fields/collections.

The Australian Institute of Criminology (various working groups) is another major organisation looking at questions of data collection, inter-agency exchanges and data analysis.

*Do you publish information based upon the data collected by this agency? If so, how? [e.g. annual reports etc]*

Summary information: Annual Report, Department of Police and Public Safety

## DPPS: Other Collections

### 2. Proposed Offender Based Statistics Collection (National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics (NCCJS), ABS, Melbourne.

The scope of the collection to include all offenders proceeded against by police, for both court and non-court proceedings, all ages and all offence types. Each jurisdiction is required to provide test data to the NCCJS by September 2002 for analysis and finalisation of the scope and counting rules.

The aim of this collection is to improve general knowledge about crime and the characteristics of the people who commit crime, and the level of contact police have with offenders. Information on offenders proceeded against by police will also assist in bridging the gap that exists nationally between information that is known about victims of crime and the subset of persons who are proceeded against in the higher courts. Offender information recorded by police provides valuable measure of the volume and characteristics of offenders at entry into the criminal justice system. In addition, offender information assists with evaluating the effect of crime and justice policy at the national level.

Offender information will possibly be collected from the following systems:

The Prosecution System.

The Drug Offence Reporting System.  
On-Line Charging System.  
Youth Justice Systems (one in each police district).  
Traffic Infringement Notices System

### 3. Traffic Infringement System (TINs).

The database stores infringement and other details for Traffic Infringement Notices (TINs), and Speed Camera Infringement Notices (SCINs). Traffic Infringement Notices are issued for violation of the Tasmanian road rules. (Refer to DPPS, Annual Report)

### 4. Traffic Management System (TMS)

TMS allows operational managers to accurately monitor the output and location of activities in relation to Random Breath Testing (RBT), Speed Camera activities, Breath Analysis tests and Accidents.

### 5. Drug Offence Reporting System (DORS)

The DORS is a statewide information management and referral system designed specifically to support the Tasmanian Early Drug Intervention and Diversion Framework. This system records all drug offence and diversion details.

### Miscellaneous

Tasmanian Road Safety Metadata Inventory Project:  
The project was undertaken by an Outposted Statistical Consultant from the Australian Bureau of Statistics in conjunction with the Department of Police and Public Safety and Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources.

## Department of Primary Industries Environment Division

*Who is the main 'data collection/statistics' person(s) in the Agency for contact purposes?*

Christopher R.M.Eden (JP), Executive Officer & Prosecutor for the Environment Division

*What data is collected?*

Where prosecutions are concerned, after decisions have been handed down by Magistrate or Judge, the following

information is recorded, filed at the top of the prosecution file and a copy sent to Officer-in-Charge Records/Bureau of Information Tasmania Police at Hobart HQ for entry on the defendants' record of prior convictions: Court Location, Date of Court (conviction date), Magistrate (name), Prosecutor (name), Name of Defendant (where a corporate body - as most are in our case - the full details, ACN etc), Address/Registered Office of Defendant, Date of Birth (where an individual), Sex (where an individual), Date(s) of offence(s), Brief Description of Offence(s), Contrary to what Sub-Section, Section of what Act or Regulation, Appearance (or not), Plea Entered (By Endorsement, in Person or Through Counsel) or whether heard under Section 72(D) of the Justices Act 1959, Defence Counsel & Firm (if any), Penalty/ Penalties/ Costs, Time Given ! To Pay Monetary Penalties, In Default (where individuals) Number of Days Imprisonment.

*How is the data collected?*

It is the responsibility of the prosecutor at the Court where a decision is handed down (if not the undersigned) to supply the above details to the undersigned so that the format entitled 'Proforma for advice of persons/corporate bodies convicted in a Court in Tasmania' can be completed, placed at the head of the completed Department Prosecution file and forwarded to the Information Bureau of Tasmania Police.

*How often is it collected?*

At the completion of every prosecution undertaken in the name of the Director of Environmental Management.

*How is data input undertaken?*

There is no DPIWE database into which this data is fed at present, however, all Tasmania Police's records would be in databases and this information is available to Agencies requiring it.

*What programs are used to process the data?*

None at present. The current volume of prosecutions in this Division (approx. 2 per annum) would not make such a program worthwhile.

*Are the programs compatible with other packages, if so, which?*

Not applicable - see above.

*Who typically uses the data? Are their purposes known?*

Mostly prosecution authorities viz: this Division, other Divisions in DPIWE who conduct prosecutions for likeminded offences, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions Officers, Solicitor-General's Office for legislation interpretation purposes, Tasmania Police for prosecutions carried out by them for environmental offences, Defendants themselves, usually through their lawyers when preparing defence briefs, etc.

*What are the possible data outputs?*

Records of Convictions for information and submission to Courts, obtainable from Tasmania Police Records

*What are the limitations of the data?*

Where international or national corporate bodies are concerned, the unavailability of information on penalties and convictions sustained against them for environmental offences committed and adjudged in overseas Courts of law and Courts in other States of Australia.

*What are the limitation of the programs?*

Not applicable - see above.

*What are the untapped possibilities of the data?*

As suggested above - the ability to 'tap into' conviction data interstate and overseas. This information could be very useful to Prosecutors, Magistrates and Judges.

*How reliable is the data?*

Provided the prosecutors communicate the correct information after prosecutions have been completed and files closed, very reliable.

*How can the data be verified?*

From Court Records.

*What committees or working groups are you aware of that are looking at data collection, etc?*

Aware only of ongoing negotiation between the Finance Branch of this Agency and Service Tasmania (both DPIWE)

and Fines Enforcement, Department of Justice and Industrial Relations concerning the recording of monetary penalties for Infringement Notices (only) issued by this Agency and electronic communication between these bodies on that issue (which is not in place at present). It will follow from this that a program will be set up to advise Tasmania Police Information Bureau of convictions resulting from the acceptance and payment of Infringement Notices - which communication does not exist at present - not where Environmental Infringement Notices are concerned, anyway.

*Who else do you think we should contact in compiling this register?*

Director of Public Prosecutions, Solicitor-General, Commissioner of Police, Manager, Fines Enforcement (Dept. of Justice), Director of Service Tasmania (through whom all State monetary penalties are collected), General Managers of All Councils in Tasmania ('Council Officers' under the Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994 have full powers to prosecute and issue & collect for Environmental Infringement Notices relating to environmental offences in Tasmania in the Level 1 Activity and below range of offenders).

*Do you publish information based upon the data collected by the Agency? If so, how?*

DPIWE Annual Reports and the occasional paper on a particular Level 2 Activity under EMPCA would be about the information that could be obtained at present. Although for the past five years or so DPIWE has not seen fit to publish the results of Environment Division's prosecutions in the Annual Report. However, it is understood that this situation is to be remedied in the current Report of the financial year ending 30 June 2002, which report will appear towards the end of this calendar year.

Please note that monetary penalties for Environmental Infringement Notices have not been included in this response as they have yet to be officially translated into 'convictions' for the purpose and use of Prosecutors under environmental legislation requiring them to be cited as 'prior convictions' before sentencing in Court.

## Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania

*Who is the main 'data collection/statistics' person(s) in the agency for contact purposes?*

Michael Dwyer

*What data is collected?*

Sex,

Age,

Location (home address of person charged)

Generic charge (based on the ABS National Crime and Justice Centre – Australian standard offence classification – therefore not the specific charge)

Result of case

*How often is the data collected?*

Collected case by case.

*How is data input undertaken?*

Directly to computer

*What programs are used to process the data?*

Legal Aid Office

*Are the programs compatible with other packages?*

Access, SQL, Crystal, Bi-Analyze

*Who typically uses the data?*

LACT, Commonwealth Government

*What are the possible data outputs?*

National Legal Aid Stats Website

Department Annual Reports <http://www.legalaid.tas.gov.au/annualreport/Statistical/default.htm>

*What are the limitations of the data?*

It is specific to Legal Aid activities

*How reliable is the data?*

Reasonably reliable

*How can the data be verified?*

Only by looking at every individual file

*What committees or working groups are you aware of that are looking at questions of data collection, inter-agency exchanges and data analysis?*

National Statistics Working Party, or subcommittees of National Legal Aid

*Do you publish information based upon the data collected by this agency?*

Limited annual reports.

[www.legalaid.tas.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.tas.gov.au)

## Magistrates Court of Tasmania

*Who is the main 'data collection/statistics' person(s) in the agency for contact purposes?*

Jonathon Rees (Department of Justice & Industrial Relations)

*What data is collected?*

Defendant's personal details (name, address, date of birth, gender)

details of offence(s) charged (statutory provision breached; particulars of offence committed)

details of Court appearance listings

details of Court outcome (guilty/not guilty; convicted/not convicted; sentence imposed)

*How is the data collected?*

Electronic lodgment of some details by some Prosecutorial Agencies (eg Tas Police); other details (eg. outcomes) recorded manually in Court rooms on hard copy files, and later entered into CRIMES database by Court staff.

*How often is it collected?*

Daily

*How is data input undertaken? [e.g., paper than computer, direct to computer]*

See answer above.

*What programs are used to process the data?*

CRIMES is a Lotus Notes application. It is intended to eventually transfer the front end of the CRIMES system onto an Oracle platform which we understand to be better at handling large databases).

*Are the programs compatible with other packages? If so, which?*

A technical IT person in the Department of Justice & Industrial Relations would be able to answer this question.

*Who typically uses the data? Are their purposes known?*

Magistrates and Court staff for daily operations. Court managers for administration purposes. Government and private research organisations for policy purposes.

*What are the possible data outputs? [e.g., charts, tables]*

The data could be manipulated into charts or tables.

*What are the limitations of the data?*

The CRIMES database is not yet in operation in all registries of the Magistrates Court around the State. It is being piloted in Hobart at present, so that it is limited to the southern geographical area to capture data at present. Plans to expand it to the northern part of the State later in 2002.

*How reliable is the data?*

We are planning to implement data quality random auditing as part of the CRIMES project.

*How can the data be verified?*

By comparison with hard copy Court files (Complaints)

*What committees or working groups are you aware of that are looking at questions of data collection, inter-agency exchanges and data analysis?*

The Department of Justice & Industrial Relations has an IT Strategic Management Group which co-ordinates information systems development. Membership is made up of senior Managers from various Divisions of the Department.

There is also an Inter-Agency Steering Committee across the State Government which oversees information systems development. Membership is made up of the Deputy Secretaries of State Government Agencies.

*Do you publish information based upon the data collected by this agency? If so, how?*

We use the data in our Annual Report and for the COAG Report of Government Services each year.

## Supreme Court of Tasmania

*Responsible Officer:*

Kerry Worsley, Manager

*Data Collected:*

Each Case

File No.

File Year

Court Location

Date Case Finalised

Each Defendant Within Case

Surname

First Name

Date of Birth

Gender

Custody Status at Initiation

Status - Adult/Child

Date of Committal

Date Received

Method of Initiation

Date of Sentence

Type of Sentence

Each Charge For Each Defendant Within Case

Indictment/Complaint Number

Count No.

Name of Crime

Statute - Act & Section

ASOC

Plea on Initiation

Final Plea

Date of Verdict

Date Finalised

Method of Finalisation

Each Document  
Document Filed  
Date & Time Filed  
File Location  
Defendant to Whom It Relates

Each Hearing  
Date  
Time  
Judge  
Court Location  
Court No.  
Crown Counsel  
Type of Hearing  
Defendants Involved  
Each Defendant's Solicitor  
Outcome For Each Defendant  
Summary of Orders

Data is collected daily and is derived from hard copy documents or in court activities.  
Most data input is from paper.

Microsoft Access 95 is presently used but this will change to Lotus Notes on the introduction of the CRIMES Database in the course of 2003.

The data is primarily used by court staff to track file location, hearing details, and outcomes. Some information is used by the judiciary to determine trends and manage case loads.

Most often the data is out-putted in tables via Microsoft Access queries. Microsoft Graph can be used to create charts.

Data quality remains an issue with a variety of high turnover staff tasked with entering and updating data. The database dates from November 2000 but an acceptable level of data quality was achieved from the commencement of 2001 - 2002 financial year.

The Court is involved in a number of national data collections

- the Australian Bureau of Statistics Higher Criminal Courts Collection and the Report on Government Services. Both of these collections are supported by a Court Practitioner Group that deals with issues of relating to data items, data collection, data reliability and data comparability. The Supreme Court publishes the Chief Justice's Annual Report. This report contains statistics based on the data collected by the Court.

#### Additional Data Records

In addition to the Microsoft Access Database the Court has written registers of criminal cases that date back many years. The limitations of the registers relate primarily to data retrieval. The only indexing relates to surnames. Therefore, crime types cannot be searched, or court location or sentence type.

Another Access Database was developed some years ago to hold sentencing data. This database is accessible to the judges of the Court and other users at the discretion of the Chief Justice. The database holds about 15 years of sentencing data.

#### Requests For Information

Any person wishing to access any data held by the Court should contact the Court Manager to discuss their proposal. In most instances a request for access will need to be made to the Chief Justice after discussion with the Court Manager.

### Tasmanian Environmental Defenders Office

*Who is the main 'data collections/statistics' person(s) in the agency for contact purposes?*

Jane Brown

*What data is collected?*

The data collected by the EDO is focused on the types of complaints which come to us such as the type of environmental offence alleged. Other information such as name, address and phone number are used for integrating client records, linking multiple enquiries, recontacting clients

or keeping our Management Committee informed. Other core data, as required by the National Information Scheme includes postcode, year of birth, client type, gender, country of birth, ATSI status, income source and scale.

*How is the data collected?*

Manually and entered on computer

*How often is it collected?*

Whenever we are contacted for information, advice or request for community legal education

*How is data input undertaken? [e.g., paper then computer, direct to computer]*

Paper then computer

*What programs are used to process the data?*

Microsoft FoxPro

*Who typically uses the data?*

Our office to check our performance indicators and Commonwealth Attorney-General's office to assess compliance with funding agreements.

*Are their purposes known?*

As above

*What are the possible data outputs? [e.g., charts, tables]*

Tables

*What are the limitations of the data?*

Relies on accurate input and privacy issues

*What are the limitations of the programs?*

As above

*What are the untapped possibilities of the data?*

As a measure of the use and effectiveness of the legislation with which the EDO deals with.

*How reliable is the data?*

Very, if entered correctly

*How can data be verified?*

Documents used to compile data

## Appendix – Data Collection Schedule

Questions to relevant agencies:

Name of agency

Who is the main 'data collection/statistics' person(s) in the agency for contact purposes?

What data is collected?

Which fields of data [specifics in terms of, for example, 'age in years'(by year), sex (male and female), most serious offence (according to which categories), etc.]?

How is the data collected?

How often is it collected?

How is data input undertaken? [e.g., paper than computer, direct to computer]

What programs are used to process the data?

Are the programs compatible with other packages?

If so, which?

Who typically uses the data?

Are their purposes known?

What are the possible data outputs? [e.g., charts, tables]

What are the limitations of the data?

What are the limitations of the programs?

What are the untapped possibilities of the data?

How reliable is the data?

How can the data be verified?

What committees or working groups are you aware of that are looking at questions of data collection, inter-agency exchanges and data analysis?

What is the membership or composition of these bodies?

What is the main purpose or are its aims and objectives?

What kind of tasks do the bodies undertake?

Who else do you think we should contact in compiling this

register?

Do you publish information based upon the data collected by this agency?

If so, how? [e.g., annual reports, occasional papers, regular catalogues]

If possible, please provide copies of the types of publications your agency produces.

Would you like to see a draft copy of the register for possible comment?

Would you like to receive a copy of the final document?

## Notes

