

DISTRICT COURT CRIMINAL CASELOAD

As at July 2016, the District Court Criminal caseload was 2,042 criminal trials and 1,195 sentencing matters outstanding. In May 2017, BOCSAR released its *NSW Criminal Courts Statistics 2016* report. The key findings are as follows:

- a. between 2012 and 2016, the median delay in the NSW District Court between committal for trial and finalisation rose by 56 per cent from 243 days to 378 days; and
- b. the median time between arrest and trial finalisation is now 714 days (up from 512 days in 2012).

BOCSAR released a report in April 2017 titled, 'Forecasting trial delay in the NSW District Court: An update'. The key findings are as follows:

- a. a pattern was observed for trial cases dealt with in the Sydney District Criminal Court. 10% increase in the Sydney trial case backlog results in an immediate 2.38 per cent increase in the average time taken to finalise criminal trials in the Sydney District Court; and
- b. at present, it takes about 260 days to finalise 50 per cent of trial cases in the NSW District Court. To reduce the median time to finalise trial cases to 130 days, the backlog of pending trial cases would have to be reduced by about 80 per cent.