



Release of statistics, data & information

Purpose

This policy sets out the limitations on the type of research requests with which the Court may be able to assist. It also explains the nature of the data and information the Court maintains, and which may be released to assist with approved research projects.

Application

This policy applies to any person or organisation that is seeking collated information about the Court's cases.

Assistance provided by the Court

Depending on the impact on its resources, the Court tries to assist with the following types of requests, providing it has reliable statistical data that is suitable for the purpose:

- requests from government agencies associated with law reform and policy development and
- genuine academic research projects that are directly sponsored and supervised by recognised tertiary institutions.

Requests from private individuals or organisations

The Court usually does not assist with information requests from private individuals or organisations. The public must be confident of the Court's independence from private or commercial concerns. Exceptions may be made if data is needed to meet government requirements or the release of data is in the public interest.

What collated information does the Court hold?

The Court only collates information that is necessary to manage its cases, for example, numeric analysis of the Court's caseload by case type.

It does not collate information that is not directly related to the management of its cases. For example, while parties to proceedings give their contact details to the Court, this information is not collated. Therefore the Court does not have information about how many litigants live in a particular suburb.

Publicly available information

Each year the Supreme Court publishes its annual review, which contains detailed statistics on the operations of the Court for the last five calendar years. The annual review can be accessed from the web for free, at:

http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/supreme_court/ll_sc.nsf/pages/SCO_annrev

Privacy

The Court respects the privacy of people connected to court proceedings. It will generally not release private information about litigants or third parties unless that information is given in evidence in court proceedings.

Permission for publication or further release of data

If the Court provides statistical data, then it must not be published or further released without first obtaining the Court's express permission.

Making a request

All requests, other than media requests, should be made in writing and marked to the attention of the Chief Executive Officer and Principal Registrar. You can email your request to supreme_court@courts.nsw.gov.au, or post it to:

Supreme Court of NSW
GPO Box 3
Sydney NSW 2001

To help the Court determine your request as quickly as possible, your request should:

- clearly convey the aims of your research project and how you expect data or information from the Court will help you achieve your research goals
- specify the data or information you are seeking from the Court
- be accompanied by a letter from the tertiary institution supervising your research (not applicable for requests from government agencies)
- be accompanied by a copy of your agency's or tertiary institution's privacy statement and/or information security policy, and/or ethical research guidelines. These documents provide the Court with reassurance that, should the Court release any data or information to you, you will handle it an ethical manner without compromising the privacy of litigants or third parties.

Media requests are to be made directly to the Court's Public Information Officer, phone (02) 9230 8190.

Other sources of court statistics

Productivity Commission Report on Government Services
<http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/rogs>

Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
<http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/bocsar>

Australian Bureau of Statistics
<http://www.abs.gov.au/>

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