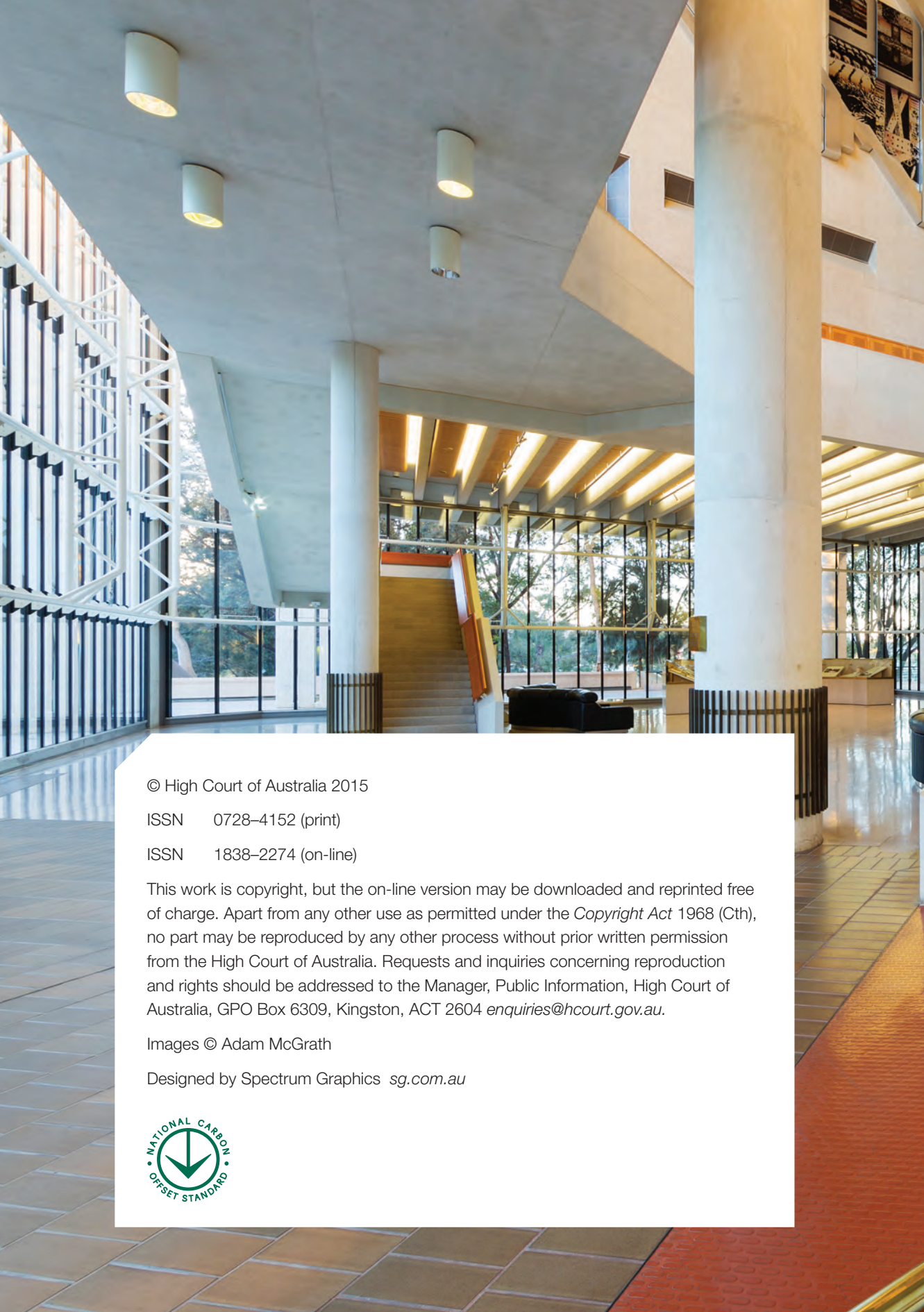




HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL REPORT 20¹⁴⁻¹⁵



© High Court of Australia 2015

ISSN 0728-4152 (print)

ISSN 1838-2274 (on-line)

This work is copyright, but the on-line version may be downloaded and reprinted free of charge. Apart from any other use as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968* (Cth), no part may be reproduced by any other process without prior written permission from the High Court of Australia. Requests and inquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be addressed to the Manager, Public Information, High Court of Australia, GPO Box 6309, Kingston, ACT 2604 enquiries@hcourt.gov.au.

Images © Adam McGrath

Designed by Spectrum Graphics sg.com.au



High Court of Australia

Canberra ACT 2600

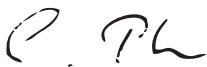
12 November 2015

Dear Attorney

In accordance with section 47 of the *High Court of Australia Act 1979* (Cth), I submit on behalf of the High Court and with its approval a report relating to the administration of the affairs of the Court under section 17 of the Act for the year ended 30 June 2015, together with financial statements in respect of the year in the form approved by the Minister for Finance.

Section 47(3) of the Act requires you to cause a copy of this report to be laid before each House of Parliament within 15 sitting days of that House after its receipt by you.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Phelan

Chief Executive and Principal Registrar
of the High Court of Australia

Senator the Honourable George Brandis QC
Attorney-General
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

COMMONWEALTH
LAW
REPORTS

VOL. 4-PT 1
—
1906-7

TABLE OF CONTENTS

■ PART 1 – PREAMBLE_____	5	PART 6 – ADMINISTRATION_____	28 ■
■ PART 2 – INTRODUCTION_____	7	Overview _____	29
Chief Justice Robert French AC_____	8	Chief Executive and Principal Registrar_____	29
Justice Susan Kiefel AC_____	8	Officers and employees_____	31
Justice Virginia Bell AC_____	9	External scrutiny_____	31
Justice Stephen Gageler _____	9	Registry_____	31
Justice Patrick Keane AC_____	10	Judicial workload_____	33
Justice Geoffrey Nettle_____	11	Rules of Court_____	37
Justice Michelle Gordon_____	11	Library_____	38
■ PART 3 – CHIEF JUSTICE'S OVERVIEW__	15	Corporate services_____	40
■ PART 4 – THE YEAR IN REVIEW_____	19	Human resource management_____	42
Judicial workload_____	19	Information technology_____	43
Court funding_____	20	Building operations_____	44
Administrative activities_____	20	Public information and visitor programs__	45
Public information_____	20	Visitor numbers_____	47
International_____	21	Links and visits_____	47
■ PART 5 – BACKGROUND INFORMATION_	24	PART 7 – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ____	48 ■
Establishment_____	25	Independent Auditor's Report_____	49
Functions and powers_____	25	Financial Statements_____	52
Sittings of the Court_____	25	PART 8 – ANNEXURES_____	106 ■
Seat of the Court_____	25	ANNEXURE A:	
Appointment of Justices of the Court__	26	Freedom of Information_____	107
Composition of the Court_____	26	Fol procedures and initial contact points_	109
Chief Justices and Justices of the Court_	27	Facilities for access_____	109
		Offices around Australia_____	110
		ANNEXURE B:	
		Staffing overview_____	112



Preamble



Part 1

Preamble

This is the 36th report prepared as required by the *High Court of Australia Act 1979 (Cth)*.

CONTACT OFFICER

Inquiries or comments concerning this report may be directed to:

High Court of Australia
PO Box 6309
Kingston ACT 2604

Telephone: (02) 6270 6819
Fax: (02) 6270 6868
Email: enquiries@hcourt.gov.au

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION

This report is published as a PDF and in HTML format on the High Court's website <<http://www.hcourt.gov.au>>. It may be downloaded from the site free-of-charge.



Introduction

Chief Justice Robert French AC	8	Justice Patrick Keane AC	10
Justice Susan Kiefel AC	8	Justice Geoffrey Nettle	11
Justice Virginia Bell AC	9	Justice Michelle Gordon	11
Justice Stephen Gageler	9		



Part 2

Introduction

The High Court of Australia is the highest court in the Australian judicial system. It has its origins in the Australian Constitution, section 71 of which provides that ‘The judicial power of the Commonwealth shall be vested in a federal Supreme Court, to be called the High Court of Australia, and in such other federal courts as the Parliament creates, and in such other courts as it invests with federal jurisdiction.’

The functions of the High Court are to:

- interpret and apply the law of Australia
- decide cases of special federal significance, including challenges to the constitutional validity of laws; and
- hear appeals, by special leave, from federal, state and territory courts.

The seat of the Court is in Canberra, where most hearings take place. The Full Court also sits regularly in Sydney and Melbourne to consider applications for special leave to appeal. When there is sufficient business, Full Courts may also sit in Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth or Hobart.

There are seven Justices of the Court. Ordinarily, constitutional cases are heard by all seven Justices. Appeals are usually heard by five or seven Justices. Before an appeal is heard the Court must have

granted leave or special leave to appeal. Special leave applications are first examined by a panel of Justices, usually two. If the panel decides that special leave should be refused without oral argument, a disposition to that effect, with reasons, is published by the members of the panel, sitting in open court. If the panel considers that the application should be heard in court, it is so listed and proceeds to an oral hearing. Such hearings usually take place before two or three Justices and are usually heard in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne, including sometimes by video-link between capital cities. Interlocutory applications are heard by a single Justice, usually in the capital city in which they reside, or by video-link from Canberra.

At 30 June 2015, the seven Justices of the High Court were:



CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERT FRENCH AC

Robert Shenton French was appointed Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia in September 2008. At the time of his appointment he was a judge of the Federal Court of Australia, having been appointed to that office in November 1986. He graduated from the University of Western Australia in science and law. He was admitted in 1972 and practised as a barrister and solicitor in Western Australia until 1983 when he went to the Western Australian Bar. From 1994–98 he was President of the National Native Title Tribunal. At the time of his appointment he was an additional member of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory and a member of the Supreme Court of Fiji. He was also a Deputy President of the Australian Competition Tribunal and a part-time member of the Australian Law Reform Commission. From 2001 until January 2005 he was president of the Australian Association of Constitutional Law. Chief Justice French was appointed a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2010.



JUSTICE SUSAN KIEFEL AC

Susan Mary Kiefel was appointed to the Court in September 2007. At the time of her appointment she was a judge of the Federal Court of Australia and the Supreme Court of Norfolk Island. She served as a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1993–94 before joining the Federal Court. She was admitted to the Queensland Bar in 1975 and was the first woman in Queensland to be appointed Queen's Counsel, in 1987. Justice Kiefel served as a part-time Commissioner of the Australian Law Reform Commission from 2003 to 2007. She has a Masters of Laws degree from Cambridge University. Justice Kiefel was appointed a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2011.



JUSTICE VIRGINIA BELL AC

Virginia Margaret Bell was appointed to the Court in February 2009. At the time of her appointment she was a judge of the New South Wales Court of Appeal. She graduated from the University of Sydney as a Bachelor of Laws in 1977. After seven years as a solicitor with the Redfern Legal Centre, she was admitted to the New South Wales Bar in 1984 and was appointed a Senior Counsel in 1997. Justice Bell practised as a public defender between 1986 and 1989 before returning to the private Bar. Between 1994 and 1997 she was a counsel assisting the Royal Commission into the New South Wales Police Service. Justice Bell was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales in March 1999. She served as president of the Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration from 2006 to 2008. Justice Bell was appointed a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2012.



JUSTICE STEPHEN GAGELER

Stephen John Gageler was appointed to the Court in October 2012. At the time of his appointment he was Solicitor-General of Australia. He is a graduate of the Australian National University and has post-graduate qualifications from Harvard University. He was admitted as a barrister of the Supreme Court of New South Wales in 1989 and was appointed Senior Counsel in 2000. Before his appointment as Solicitor-General in 2008, he practised as a barrister extensively throughout Australia principally in constitutional law, administrative law and commercial law.



JUSTICE PATRICK KEANE AC

Patrick Anthony Keane was appointed to the Court in March 2013. At the time of his appointment he was Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia. He served as a judge of the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court of Queensland from 2005-2010 before joining the Federal Court. He is a graduate of the University of Queensland and Oxford University. He was admitted to the Queensland Bar in 1977 and in 1988 was appointed Queen's Counsel. He was Solicitor-General for Queensland from 1992 to 2005. Justice Keane was appointed a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2015.



JUSTICE GEOFFREY NETTLE

Geoffrey Arthur Akeroyd Nettle was appointed to the Court in February 2015. At the time of his appointment, he was a judge of the Victorian Court of Appeal, to which he was appointed in June 2004. Before that he served as a judge of the Trial Division of the Supreme Court of Victoria, to which he had been appointed in July 2002. He graduated in economics from the Australian National University, in law from the University of Melbourne and as a Bachelor of Civil Law from the University of Oxford. He was admitted to practise in 1977 and joined the Victorian Bar in 1982. He was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1992. He practised in state and federal courts principally in commercial, equity, taxation and constitutional matters.



JUSTICE MICHELLE GORDON

Michelle Marjorie Gordon was appointed to the Court in June 2015. At the time of her appointment, she was a judge of the Federal Court of Australia, to which she was appointed in April 2007. She graduated in law from the University of Western Australia. She was admitted to practise in Western Australia in 1987 and joined the Victorian Bar in 1992. She was appointed Senior Counsel in 2003. She practised in state and federal courts principally in commercial, equity, taxation and general civil matters. She was appointed a Professorial Fellow of the Melbourne Law School in July 2015.

In the 2014-2015, year, two Justices of the High Court retired:



JUSTICE KENNETH HAYNE AC

Kenneth Madison Hayne was appointed to the Court in September 1997. At the time of his appointment he was a judge of the Victorian Court of Appeal, having been appointed one of the foundation judges of that Court in 1995. He graduated in arts and law from the University of Melbourne. He was Victoria's Rhodes Scholar in 1969 and graduated as a Bachelor of Civil Law from Oxford University. He joined the Victorian Bar in 1971, and was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1984. He practised in state and federal courts principally in commercial, constitutional and general civil matters. He was appointed a judge of the Victorian Supreme Court in 1992. Justice Hayne was appointed a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2002.



JUSTICE SUSAN CRENNAN AC

Susan Maree Crennan was appointed to the Court in November 2005. At the time of her appointment she was a judge of the Federal Court of Australia, having been appointed to that office in February 2004. She was educated at the University of Melbourne (BA and PostgradDipHist) and the University of Sydney (LLB). Justice Crennan was admitted to the New South Wales Bar in 1979 and joined the Victorian Bar in 1980. She was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1989. Justice Crennan was President of the Australian Bar Association 1994–95, Chairman of the Victorian Bar Council in 1993–94, and a Commissioner for Human Rights in 1992. Justice Crennan was appointed a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2008.





Chief Justice's Overview



Part 3

Chief Justice's Overview

Section 71 of the Constitution vests the judicial power of the Commonwealth in the High Court of Australia, in such other federal courts as the Parliament creates, and in such other courts as it vests with federal jurisdiction. The High Court has original jurisdiction in matters defined by s 75 of the Constitution and original jurisdiction conferred by laws made by the Parliament under s 76 of the Constitution — including jurisdiction in any matter arising under the Constitution or involving its interpretation, or in any matter arising under any laws made by the Parliament. The High Court is also the final court of appeal for all other Federal courts or courts exercising federal jurisdiction and for the Supreme Court of any State.

The High Court today consists of seven Justices, each appointed until the age of 70. The Justices administer the affairs of the Court pursuant to s 17 of the *High Court of Australia Act 1979* (Cth). In carrying out that task they are assisted by the Chief Executive and Principal Registrar, Mr Andrew Phelan, and by senior staff of the Court. The Justices have a Business Meeting with the Chief Executive and Principal Registrar in each month in which the Court is sitting. There are also committees of the Court, each of which consists of two or more Justices, assisted by relevant Court staff. The Committees relate to Finance, Information Technology, Rules, Public Information, Library Services, Art and the production of the Annual Report.

In 2014-2015, the Court decided 428 Special Leave Applications, 46 appeals, one case

involving an application for constitutional writs and 13 other cases. Ninety-four per cent of the applications for leave or special leave to appeal and 98% of appeals decided by the Court during the reporting year were completed within nine months of filing. All civil and criminal appeals decided by the Full Court in 2014-2015 were decided within six months of the hearing of argument. Seventy-six per cent of the cases were decided within three months of the hearing.

Cases decided by the Court during the reporting period reflected the subject matters encompassed by the Court's jurisdiction. They included cases about the constitutional validity of State consorting and organised crime laws, implied terms in contracts, the powers of responsible entities in managed investment schemes,

the liability of builders for latent defects, the power of Commonwealth Officers interdicting asylum seekers offshore, the powers of the Independent Commission Against Corruption of New South Wales and cases covering a variety of other topics including criminal law, intellectual property, native title and taxation law.

The range of matters decided reflects the Court's function as the final appellate and constitutional court of Australia. The Court does not choose the cases which commence in its original jurisdiction. However, in determining whether or not to grant special leave to appeal from a decision of another court, the Court has regard to whether the proceedings involve a question of law that is of public importance or in respect of which there is a need to resolve differences of opinion between different courts, or within the one court as to the state of the law. The Court may also have regard to whether the interests of the administration of justice, either generally or in the particular case, require consideration of the judgment to which the application for special leave applies.

In the 2014-2015 year, income received by the High Court including from its principal source, namely parliamentary appropriations, was \$16.336 million. Operating expenses including unfunded depreciation charges of \$4.802 million amounted to a total of \$21.167 million. The underlying deficit after taking out unfunded depreciation allowances was \$29,334.

The High Court has a small administration. Its total staff comprises (not including Justices) 99 persons. Thirty-seven are full-time and part-time ongoing staff, 36 are full-time and part-time non-ongoing staff and 26 are casual staff. The Court operates nationally with extended logistical requirements and large fixed costs. Its level of funding is low compared with the Parliament and many parts of the Executive Government. Historically its appropriated revenues have not kept pace with unavoidable cost increases particularly in building related expenditure.

Many of the Court's administrative costs are fixed, for example, statutory charges for electricity to operate the building. Government imposed efficiency dividends affect core elements of the Court's operations such as Registry and Library staffing. The Court has undertaken comprehensive reviews of its Registry and administrative processes and structures since 2008. The position continues to be that there is no material scope to reduce the Court's administrative costs without cutting significant elements of its operations including circuit visits which it undertakes from time to time to Perth, Adelaide and Brisbane dependent upon the workload in those capitals.

A one off increase to the efficiency dividend was announced as part of the 2013 economic statement by the previous Government. A further small increase was announced after the election. On 9 October 2013 I wrote to the Prime Minister requesting that the Government consider not applying the proposed efficiency dividend to the High Court. The Government, through the Prime Minister, advised that it was unable to alter the decision of the previous Government in relation to a temporary increase in the rate of efficiency dividend to 2.25% per annum to apply for three years from 1 July 2014. However, the High Court was exempted from the increase in the efficiency dividend of 0.25% which had been announced as part of the present Government's election commitments.

During the reporting year significant work has been undertaken in relation to the enhancement of the Court's information technology including courtroom audio-visual recording and conferencing. Work to make the interior of the Court safer for its visitors was undertaken including increasing the height of internal balustrades, installing new handrail barriers in the upper gallery in Courtroom 1 and replacing broken tiles in the Court building precinct.

During the reporting year the Court also negotiated an agreement with the Australian

Federal Police for protective security officers to be present in the Court building every day when the Court building is open to the public. The new arrangement commenced on 29 June 2015. The Court has also reviewed and updated its emergency response plan and engaged a new training service provider.

The Court's public education and visitor programs have continued with a view to enhancing awareness of its constitutional role and the rule of law. During the reporting year, 32,000 school students received guided tours of the Court and presentations on its constitutional and appellate role. Approximately 43,000 other visitors attended the building during the year. Some 13,000 people attended concerts, moots, lectures and other events at the Court. The Court Guides conduct tours of the building for visitors and school groups generally and speak about the role and history of the Court and the architecture of the building.

Public access to the work of the Court is provided by on-line written submissions, transcripts of oral arguments, judgments and judgment summaries. An audio-visual record of Full Court hearings has been in place since October 2013 and ordinarily becomes available at the end of each sitting day.

Throughout the reporting period, the public hall has continued to be utilised for Sunday concerts, on one or two Sundays of each month. The concerts are free of charge. Twenty-one concerts were held throughout the year with performances by local and national choirs and musical groups. The Court supports the hosting of exhibitions and other events by Embassies and cultural communities in the Canberra building.

During the reporting period the Court welcomed a number of international visitors including Judges, senior court administrators and lawyers from a variety of countries. In March 2015, Justices of the Court hosted a Colloquium with the Chief Justice and senior Justices of the Supreme Court of India and the Attorney-General of India. It was the fourth Colloquium of its kind conducted

between our courts. The Court continues to maintain its involvement with the Asia Pacific Judicial Reform Forum, the secretariat of which was chaired by Justice Hayne until his retirement in June 2015 and is now chaired by Justice Bell. The Chief Executive and Principal Registrar provides secretariat services to the Forum. In October 2014 I attended the Third Congress of the World Conference on Constitutional Justice in Seoul, met with the Chief Justice of the Republic of Korea and the President of its Constitutional Court and addressed the Australian Chamber of Commerce in Korea. I also addressed students at Seoul National University on Australia's constitutional system. In March 2015 I delivered a keynote address at the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators Centenary Conference in Hong Kong and met with the Chief Justice and Justices of the Court of Final Appeal.

The Australian judicial system is a national integrated judicial system. In recognition of its importance, I chair the Council of Chief Justices of Australia and New Zealand, which meets twice yearly. The Chief Executive and Principal Registrar provides administrative support and secretariat services to that Council.

There were two significant changes to the personnel of the Court during the reporting year with the retirement of Justice Crennan in February 2015 and Justice Hayne in June 2015. The great service given by both of those judges to the Court was publicly acknowledged in Court at the time of their retirements. Their successors, Justices Nettle and Gordon were publicly welcomed at swearing in ceremonies conducted on 3 February 2015 and 9 June 2015 respectively.

I take the opportunity of thanking the Chief Executive and Principal Registrar, the Senior Officers of the Court and members of the staff of the Court for the assistance which they have provided to the Justices during the financial period ended 30 June 2015.



The Year in Review

Judicial workload	19	Public information	20
Court funding	20	International	21
Administrative activities	20		



Part 4

The Year in Review

JUDICIAL WORKLOAD

Full Court hearings and decisions

As shown in Tables A and B, the numbers of Full Court hearings and decisions in 2014-15 were comparable with averages for both during the past 10 years.

Of the civil and criminal appeals decided by the Full Court in 2014-15, the decision was given in 100 per cent of cases within six months of the hearing of argument. The decision was given in 76 per cent of the cases within three months of the hearing.

Applications for Special Leave

Table C demonstrates the proportion of applications filed by self represented litigants in the past 10 years. Forty six per cent of special leave applications were filed by self represented litigants in 2014-15.

The proportion of civil special leave applications involving immigration matters at 32 per cent was consistent with the 28 per cent in 2013-14. Table D illustrates the number of immigration matters as a proportion of civil special leave applications filed in the past 10 years.

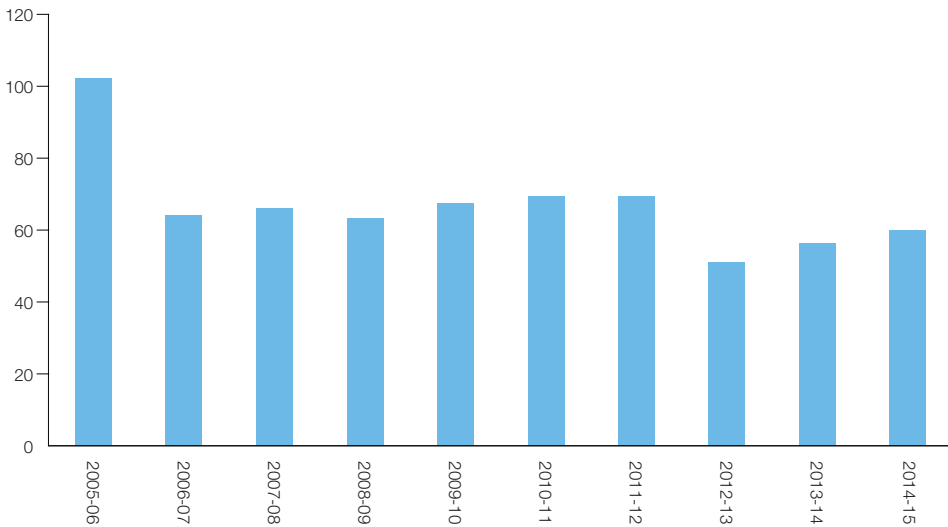
Eighty two per cent of the immigration applications filed in 2014-15 were filed by self represented litigants.

Sixty per cent of the applications for leave or special leave to appeal decided by the Court during 2014-15 were determined on the papers, in accordance with the procedures in the *High Court Rules 2004* governing the consideration of applications. Forty seven per cent of the applications for leave or special leave to appeal decided during 2013-14 were determined on the papers.

Constitutional Writs

The number of applications for constitutional writs filed in 2014-15 was 89. The proportion of applications for constitutional writs involving immigration matters remained consistent with the 97 per cent during 2013-14 at 94 per cent in 2014-15. Table E illustrates the number of immigration matters as a proportion of applications for constitutional writs filed in the past 5 years.

Table A. Full Court hearings (other than special leave)



COURT FUNDING

In 2014-15, income including revenue from appropriations amounted to \$16.336m, and operating expenses were \$21.167m, resulting in a deficit of \$4.831m.

The deficit is attributable the Court not receiving appropriation funding for depreciation of non-financial assets. Unfunded depreciation totalling \$4.802m formed part of the Court’s operating expenses in 2014-15.

The Court’s underlying operating result (excluding unfunded depreciation) was a deficit of \$0.029m.

There was also a write down in asset value of \$13.773m from a revaluation of the High Court building, which was included as changes in the asset revaluation surplus. The revaluation was undertaken by a professional quantity surveyor based on contemporary building methods.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

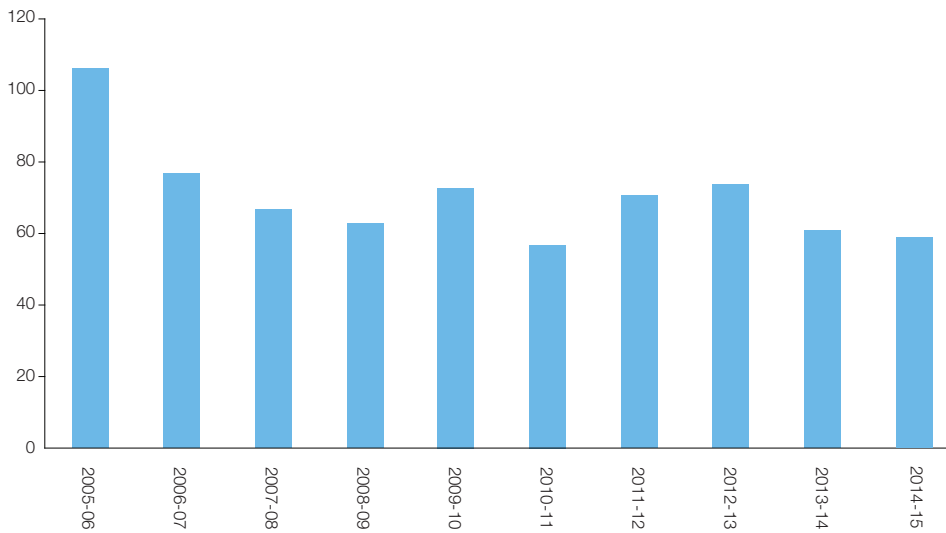
During the year, the Court commenced or implemented a range of projects to continue to improve the physical and technical infrastructure of the Court, Court security and the administrative processes supporting Court operations. Information on these is in Chapter 5.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Court considers that it is important for members of the public to understand why the independent exercise of judicial power is essential to the maintenance of the rule of law in Australia’s constitutional democracy. Accordingly, the Court:

- provides comprehensive information about the Court and its operations on its website
- maintains appropriate communications with the media

Table B. Full Court decisions (other than special leave)



- offers educational programs and activities in the High Court building in Canberra.

Information on the Court's public information programs and activities is in Chapter 5.

INTERNATIONAL

In March 2015, the Court hosted the Indo-Australian Legal Forum Meet, in Canberra. The Meet was the fourth in a biennial series of meetings between the highest courts of India and Australia, intended to achieve a closer continuing understanding of each other's legal systems in the light of their common origins and many similarities. Topics discussed included: 'Judicial Independence and accountability in India and Australia', 'Proportionality in Public Law', 'Interpreting a Written Constitution' and 'Statutory Interpretation in India and Australia.' The

Indian delegation comprised the Hon H L Dattu, Chief Justice of India, the Hon Justices T S Thakur, Anil R Dave and S J Mukhopadhyaya of the Supreme Court of India, and Mr Mukul Rohatgi, the Attorney-General of India, accompanied by their spouses. The delegation also attended a reception hosted by the Governor-General and Lady Cosgrove, observed Question Time in Parliament at the invitation of the Speaker and met with the Prime Minister and Attorney-General.

During 2014–15, the Court maintained its many links with courts, judges and legal organisations in the region and around the world. The Court welcomed a number of international visitors, including delegations of judges, senior lawyers, court administrators, parliamentarians, government officials, lawyers and law students from the Philippines, Thailand, Nepal, New Zealand, Belarus, the People's Republic of China, Japan, Indonesia,



Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, the United Kingdom, the United States, Kenya and Austria.

In November 2014 the Chief Justice attended the World Conference on Constitutional Justice in Seoul where he met the Chief Justice of the Republic of Korea and the President of the Constitutional Court, addressed the Korean-Australian Chamber of Commerce and delivered a lecture at Seoul National University. In March 2015, His Honour delivered a keynote address at the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators Centenary Conference in Hong Kong along with the President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom and met with the Chief Justice and Judges of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal.

An important aspect of the Court's International linkages is the Asia Pacific Judicial Reform Forum (APJRF), which was chaired for several years by Justice Hayne until his retirement. Justice Bell has chaired the APJRF since June 2015. The Chief Executive and Principal Registrar provides administrative support to the Forum, including maintaining its website www.apjrf.com.

Table C. Applications for Special Leave Filed

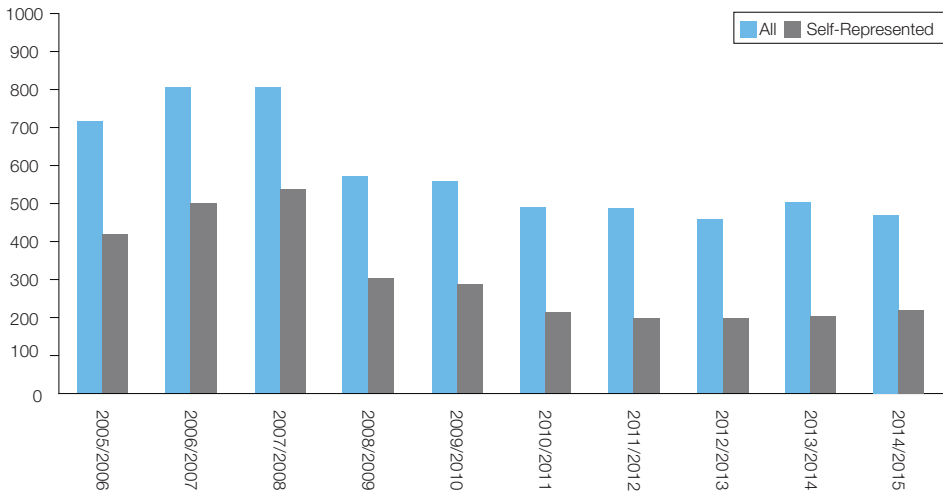


Table D. Immigration Matters as a Proportion of Civil Special Leave Applications Filed

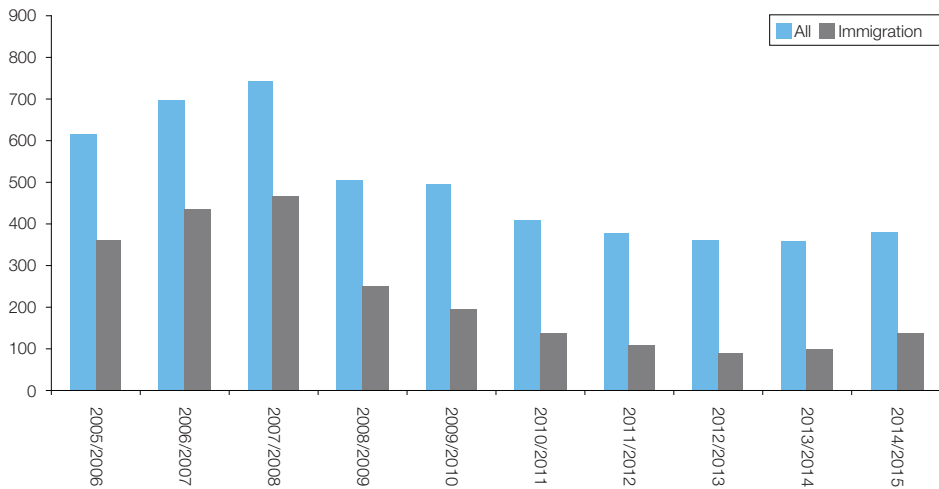
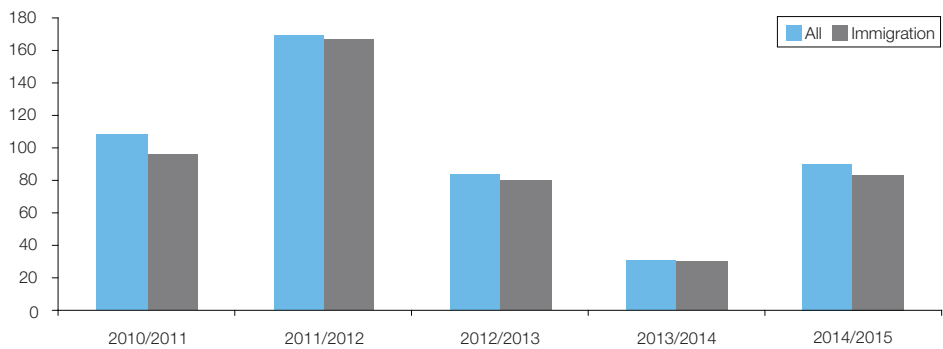


Table E. Constitutional Writs Filed





Background Information

Establishment	25	Appointment of Justices of the Court	26
Functions and powers	25	Composition of the Court	26
Sittings of the Court	25	Chief Justices and Justices of the Court	27
Seat of the Court	25		



Part 5

Background Information

ESTABLISHMENT

The High Court of Australia has its origins in the Australian Constitution, section 71 of which provides that 'The judicial power of the Commonwealth shall be vested in a federal Supreme Court, to be called the High Court of Australia, and in such other federal courts as the Parliament creates, and in such other courts as it invests with federal jurisdiction.' The *Judiciary Act 1903* (Cth) regulates the exercise of the original and appellate jurisdiction of the Court. The Court was given the power to administer its own affairs by the *High Court of Australia Act 1979* (Cth).

FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

The Constitution confers both appellate and original jurisdiction upon the High Court. Appeals from the Supreme Courts of the states and territories, the Federal Court of Australia and the Family Court of Australia are heard if special leave is granted by the Court. Under the Constitution, the High Court is the final arbiter of constitutional questions. Such questions may come on appeal from a lower court or may be initiated by an application to the High Court itself. Appeals

may also be brought to the High Court from the Supreme Court of the Republic of Nauru.

SITTINGS OF THE COURT

The Court conducts its sittings in Canberra and such other places as are determined by a Rule of Court made by the Justices in the preceding year. Approximately two-thirds of all sitting days of the Full Court are in Canberra. In addition, applications for special leave to appeal to the Court are heard regularly in Sydney and Melbourne, and the Court continues the practice, established on its inauguration, of sitting in Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Hobart if warranted by the amount of business. When sitting in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth, the Court uses Commonwealth Law Courts buildings. In Hobart, facilities are available with the cooperation and assistance of the Tasmanian Supreme Court.

SEAT OF THE COURT

Section 14 of the *High Court of Australia Act 1979* (Cth) provides that the seat of the High Court shall be at the seat

of government in the Australian Capital Territory.

The High Court building in Canberra is located on 3.4 hectares of land fronting the shores of Lake Burley Griffin in the Parliamentary Zone. The Court is forty metres tall, and consists of three courtrooms, Justices' chambers, the Court's Principal Registry, library, administrative wing and large public hall. Its total floor area, including car parks and patios, is approximately 29 400 square metres.

The Court was designed by architectural firm Edwards Madigan Torzillo and Briggs Pty Ltd, the winners of a national architectural design competition held in 1972–73. The builder was PDC Constructions (ACT) Pty Ltd. Construction costs totalled \$46.5m. The building was opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 26 May 1980.

APPOINTMENT OF JUSTICES OF THE COURT

Under section 72 of the Constitution, Justices of the High Court:

- are appointed by the Governor-General in Council
- cannot be removed except by the Governor-General in Council on an address from both Houses of Parliament in the same session, praying for such removal on the grounds of proved misbehaviour or incapacity
- receive such remuneration as the Parliament may fix but the remuneration shall not be diminished during their continuance in office
- must retire on attaining the age of 70 years.

Part II of the *High Court of Australia Act 1979* (Cth) contains further provisions concerning the Court and the justices, including:

- the Attorney-General shall, before an appointment is made to a vacant office of Justice of the Court, consult with the Attorneys-General of the states in relation to the appointment
- a person shall not be appointed as a justice unless:
 - he or she has been a judge of a court created by the parliament or of a court of a state or territory, or
 - he or she has been enrolled as a barrister or solicitor or as a legal practitioner of the High Court or of a Supreme Court of a state or territory for not less than five years
- a Justice is not capable of accepting or holding any other office of profit within Australia
- the Chief Justice and the other Justices shall receive salary and other allowances at such rates as are fixed from time to time by Parliament.

COMPOSITION OF THE COURT

The Justices of the High Court in 2014-15 and the dates they were sworn in, are as follows:

Chief Justice French AC	1 September 2008
Justice Hayne AC	22 September 1997 (retired 5 June 2015)
Justice Crennan AC	8 November 2005 (retired 2 February 2015)
Justice Kiefel AC	3 September 2007
Justice Bell AC	3 February 2009
Justice Gageler	9 October 2012
Justice Keane AC	5 March 2013
Justice Nettle	3 February 2015
Justice Gordon	9 June 2015

CHIEF JUSTICES AND JUSTICES OF THE COURT

There have been 12 Chief Justices and 46 Justices since the High Court was established in 1903, including the current members of the Court.

Chief Justices of the Court

.....
 Sir Samuel Walker Griffith 1903–19

 Sir Adrian Knox 1919–30

 Sir Isaac Alfred Isaacs 1930–31

 Sir Frank Gavan Duffy 1931–35

 Sir John Greig Latham 1935–52

 Sir Owen Dixon 1952–64

 Sir Garfield Edward John Barwick 1964–81

 Sir Harry Talbot Gibbs 1981–87

 Sir Anthony Frank Mason 1987–95

 Sir (Francis) Gerard Brennan 1995–98
 (Anthony) Murray Gleeson 1998–2008

 Robert Shenton French 2008–

Justices of the Court

.....
 Sir Edmund Barton 1903–20

 Richard Edward O'Connor 1903–12

 Sir Isaac Alfred Isaacs 1906–30

 Henry Bournes Higgins 1906–29

 Sir Frank Gavan Duffy 1913–31

 Sir Charles Powers 1913–29

 Albert Bathurst Piddington 1913–13

 Sir George Edward Rich 1913–50

 Sir Hayden Erskine Starke 1920–50

 Sir Owen Dixon 1929–52

 Herbert Vere Evatt 1930–40

 Sir Edward Aloysius McTiernan 1930–76

 Sir Dudley Williams 1940–58

 Sir William Flood Webb 1946–58

 Sir Wilfred Kelsham Fullagar 1950–61

 Sir Frank Walters Kitto 1950–70

 Sir Alan Russell Taylor 1952–69

Three members of the Court – Sir Isaac Isaacs, Sir Ninian Stephen and Sir William Deane – resigned to be appointed to the office of Governor-General.

The name and years of service of each Chief Justice and High Court Justice are:

.....
 Sir Douglas Ian Menzies 1958–74

 Sir Victor Windeyer 1958–72

 Sir William Francis Langer Owen 1961–72

 Sir Cyril Ambrose Walsh 1969–73

 Sir Harry Talbot Gibbs 1970–81

 Sir Ninian Martin Stephen 1972–82

 Sir Anthony Frank Mason 1972–87

 Sir Kenneth Sydney Jacobs 1974–79

 Lionel Keith Murphy 1975–86

 Sir Keith Arthur Aickin 1976–82

 Sir Ronald Darling Wilson 1979–89

 Sir (Francis) Gerard Brennan 1981–95

 Sir William Patrick Deane 1982–95

 Sir Daryl Michael Dawson 1982–97

 John Leslie Toohey 1987–98

 Mary Genevieve Gaudron 1987–2003

 Michael Hudson McHugh 1989–2005

 William Montague Charles Gummow 1995–2012

 Michael Donald Kirby 1996–2009

 Kenneth Madison Hayne 1997–2015

 Ian David Francis Callinan 1998–2007

 (John) Dyson Heydon 2003–2013

 Susan Maree Crennan 2005–2015

 Susan Mary Kiefel 2007–

 Virginia Margaret Bell 2009–

 Stephen John Gageler 2012–

 Patrick Anthony Keane 2013–

 Geoffrey Arthur Akeroyd Nettle 2015–

 Michelle Marjorie Gordon 2015–



Administration

Overview	29	Corporate services	40
Chief Executive and Principal Registrar	29	Human resource management	42
Officers and employees	31	Information technology	43
External scrutiny	31	Building operations	44
Registry	31	Public information and visitor Programs	45
Judicial workload	33	Visitor numbers	47
Rules of Court	37	Links and visits	47
Library	38		



Part 6

Administration

OVERVIEW

Statutory provisions covering the administration of the High Court appear primarily in Part III of the *High Court of Australia Act 1979* (Cth). Of particular relevance are section 17 (administration of the Court), section 19 (functions and powers of the Chief Executive and Principal Registrar) and section 26 (officers and employees). The operations of the Registry, which is under the control of the Chief Executive and Principal Registrar, are provided for in Part IV of the Act, while Part V deals with Court finances and accounts.

The High Court's executive team comprises the Chief Executive and Principal Registrar, the Senior Registrar, the Court Librarian, the Manager Corporate Services and the Senior Executive Deputy Registrar.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND PRINCIPAL REGISTRAR

Section 18 of the *High Court of Australia Act 1979* (Cth) provides for the appointment by the Governor-General, upon the nomination of the Court, of the Chief Executive and Principal Registrar of the High Court. The Chief Executive and Principal Registrar

holds office for such period, not exceeding five years, as is specified in the instrument of his or her appointment, but is eligible for re-appointment (section 20(1)).

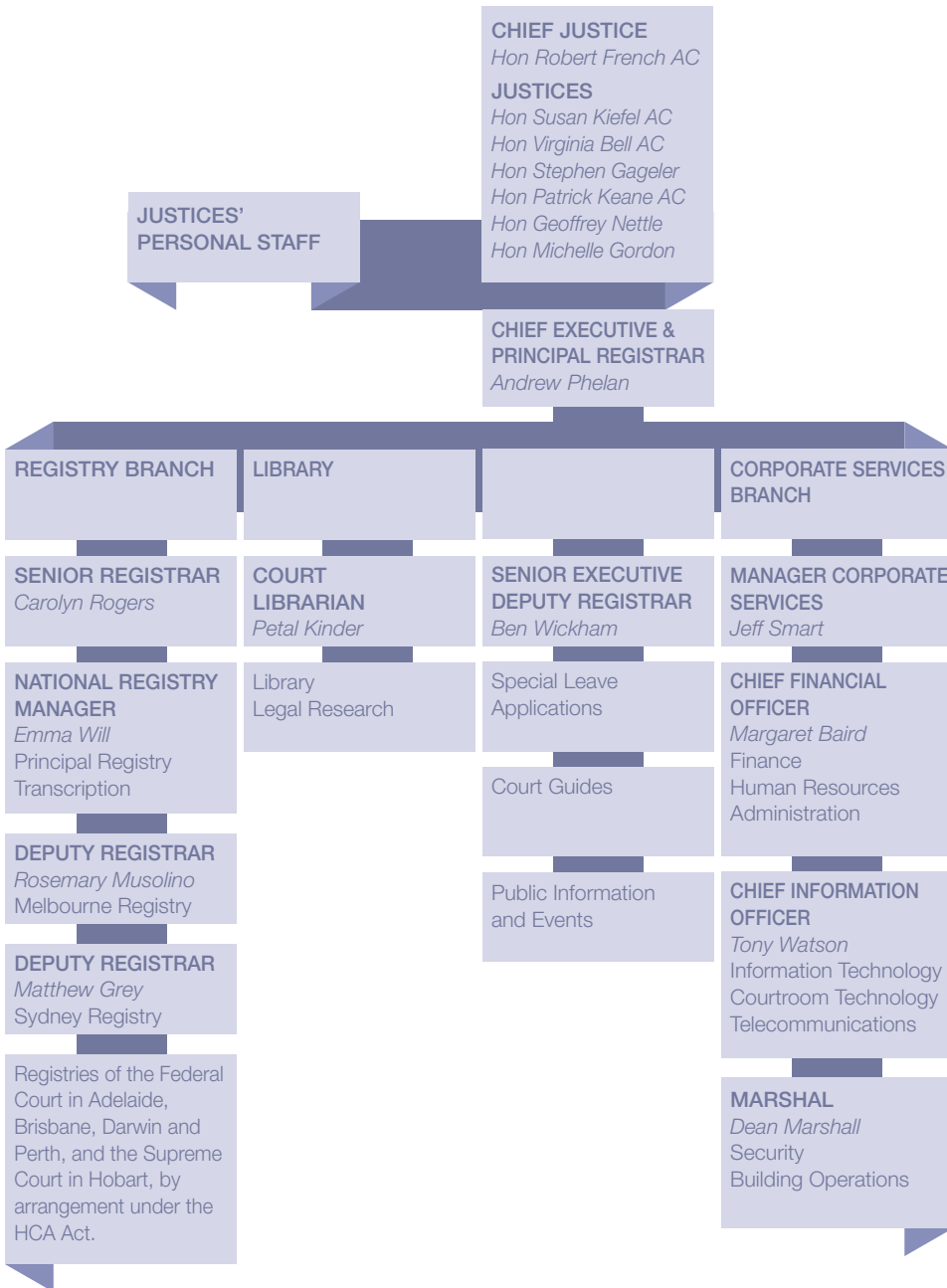
The current Chief Executive and Principal Registrar, Mr Andrew Phelan, was originally appointed to the position on 20 July 2007 and was reappointed for a further five years from 20 July 2012.

The Chief Executive and Principal Registrar has the function of 'acting on behalf of, and assisting, the Justices in the administration of the affairs of the High Court under section 17 and has such other functions as are conferred on him or her by this Act or are assigned to him or her by the Court' (section 19(1)).

The Chief Executive and Principal Registrar has power to 'do all things that are necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with the performance of his or her functions' (section 19(2)).

In the performance of his or her functions and the exercise of his or her powers the Chief Executive and Principal Registrar shall comply with any directions given to him or her by the Court (section 19(7)).

HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA ORGANISATIONAL CHART AS AT 30 JUNE 2015



OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

The Chief Executive and Principal Registrar may appoint such other officers and engage other employees as the Court considers necessary for the purposes of the Court (section 26(1) and (3)). The Court determines the terms and conditions of employment, including remuneration and allowances (section 26(4)). Employees of the High Court are not covered by the *Public Service Act* 1999 (Cth). Further information about officers and employees of the Court is provided in the preceding organisation chart, in the Human Resources Management section of this Part below, and in Annexure B.

EXTERNAL SCRUTINY

Section 42 of the *High Court of Australia Act* 1979 (Cth) provides that the Court 'shall cause to be kept proper accounts and records of the transactions and affairs relating to the administration of the affairs of the Court under section 17 and shall do all things necessary to ensure that all payments out of the moneys held by the Court are correctly made and properly authorised and that adequate control is maintained over the assets held by, or in the custody of, the Court and over the incurring of liabilities by the Court'.

Section 43 of the Act provides for the Auditor-General annually to inspect and audit the accounts and records of the financial transactions of the Court and to draw the attention of the Attorney-General to any irregularity disclosed by that inspection and audit. During 2014-15 the Auditor General did not conduct any performance audits involving the Court. Results of the Auditor General's audit of the Court's 2014-15 financial statements, which can be found at Part VII of this report,

were reported to the Attorney-General on 14 September 2015. The report was unqualified and there were no significant issues arising from the audit.

Section 47 of the Act requires the Court, as soon as practicable after 30 June in each year, to prepare and submit to the Attorney-General a report relating to the administration of the affairs of the Court under section 17 during the year that ended on that 30 June, together with financial statements in respect of that year in such form as the Finance Minister approves. The Court's Annual Report 2013-2014 was submitted to the Attorney-General on 12 November 2014 and it was presented to the Parliament on 24 November 2014.

REGISTRY

The Registry provides administrative services for the judicial activities of the Court and coordinates the case-flow management of the judicial workload of the Court.

The Senior Registrar and Deputy Registrars provide information and assistance to practitioners and self-represented persons on the jurisdiction, practice and procedure of the Court as contained in the Constitution, the *Judiciary Act* 1903 (Cth) and the *High Court Rules* 2004. They supervise the issue of writs of summons and the filing of applications for constitutional writs in the original jurisdiction and the filing of applications for leave or special leave to appeal and notices of appeal in the appellate jurisdiction of the Court.

The Principal Registry of the Court is situated in Canberra. Offices of the Registry are also located in Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, Darwin, Hobart and Perth. The Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney Registries are staffed by officers of the Court. Registry functions in Hobart are

performed by officers of the Supreme Court of Tasmania under ministerial arrangements. Registry functions in Adelaide, Brisbane, Darwin and Perth are performed by officers of the Federal Court of Australia by arrangement between the Chief Justices of the respective Courts.

The Registry Service Charter describes the function of the Registry and the standards of service that can be expected from the Registry staff. The Service Charter also provides a system for the resolution of complaints regarding the provision of Registry services. The Service Charter is available at the Registry in each capital city and on the Court's website, www.hcourt.gov.au.

The Court has its own Court reporting service which provides an accurate transcript of the proceedings of the High Court for the use of the Justices. The High Court's transcript is a verbatim record of its proceedings and includes the full text of citations referred to by counsel during the hearings. The transcript is also made available, in paper form and electronically through the Court's website at <http://www.hcourt.gov.au/publications/judgments/transcripts>, to legal practitioners, litigants and other interested persons. The transcript is usually available within two hours of the Court rising each sitting day in Canberra. Transcripts of special leave applications and cases heard on circuit are available in paper form and on the website within a few days of the hearing. Transcripts dating back to 1994 are available on that site.

A total of 317 individual transcripts, containing 6119 pages, were produced by the Court reporting service during 2014-15. This is consistent with the number of transcripts produced by the Court reporting service during 2013-14.

When the Court delivers judgments, copies are available from the Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney offices, and are provided to the parties and media free of charge. Additional copies can be purchased, at the fee prescribed in the *High Court of Australia (Fees) Regulation 2012*, by the parties and the public in the Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney offices of the Registry. This service is also provided if the Court delivers judgments when sitting in other cities. Judgments are also available from the Court's website at <http://www.hcourt.gov.au/publications/judgments> on the day they are delivered by the Court and can be viewed and downloaded, world-wide, without cost.

All legal practitioners in Australia who wish to practise in federal courts or State or Territory courts exercising federal jurisdiction are required to have their names entered in the Register of Practitioners maintained by the Chief Executive & Principal Registrar in Canberra. The Registry provides an information service to practitioners advising them of their entitlement to practise in federal courts, the procedure for having their name entered on the register and, if required, providing them with certificates of good standing to enable them to seek admission in other jurisdictions. The names of 2,447 new practitioners were added to the register in 2014-15.

JUDICIAL WORKLOAD

Cases filed

Comparisons of the number of cases filed in each Registry and the categories of cases filed during 2013-14 and 2014-15 are provided in table F.

The number of cases filed increased slightly this year, with a total of 698 cases filed compared with 630 cases filed in 2013-14. The proportion of special leave applications filed by self-represented litigants during 2014-15 was 46 per cent compared with 40 per cent during 2013-14.

In 2014-15, 45 per cent of the cases were filed in the Sydney office of the Registry. The Melbourne office of the Registry, which processed cases filed in Melbourne, Adelaide and Hobart, accounted for 35 per cent of total filings. The Registry in Canberra processed cases filed in Canberra, Brisbane, Darwin and Perth, accounting for 20 per cent of all filings.

Cases decided

Table G compares the number of cases and categories of cases decided by the Court during 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Pending cases

The number of cases pending in the Court at 30 June 2013 and 30 June 2014 is recorded in table H.

Original jurisdiction

Cases commenced in the original jurisdiction of the Court include applications made under section 75(v) of the Constitution against officers of the Commonwealth, applications for removal from other courts into the High Court pursuant to section 40 of the *Judiciary Act* 1903 (Cth), cases stated, and references under section 18 of the *Judiciary Act*. Cases governed by these procedures include cases arising under the Constitution or involving its interpretation.

During the reporting year 175 cases were commenced in the original jurisdiction of the Court, compared with 77 in 2013-14.

Cases commenced in the original jurisdiction are generally listed before a single Justice of the Court in the first instance. Not all cases filed in the original jurisdiction proceed to hearing before the Full Court. Some cases are remitted to another Court for trial pursuant to section 44 of the *Judiciary Act*. In 2014-15, the Full Court delivered judgment in 14 cases filed in the original jurisdiction.

The Court sits as the Court of Disputed Returns to try petitions disputing the validity of elections or returns of persons to the House of Representatives or the Senate. These cases are often determined by a single Justice or remitted to another Court for determination. There were no election petitions filed in the reporting year.

Table F. Cases filed: by Registry

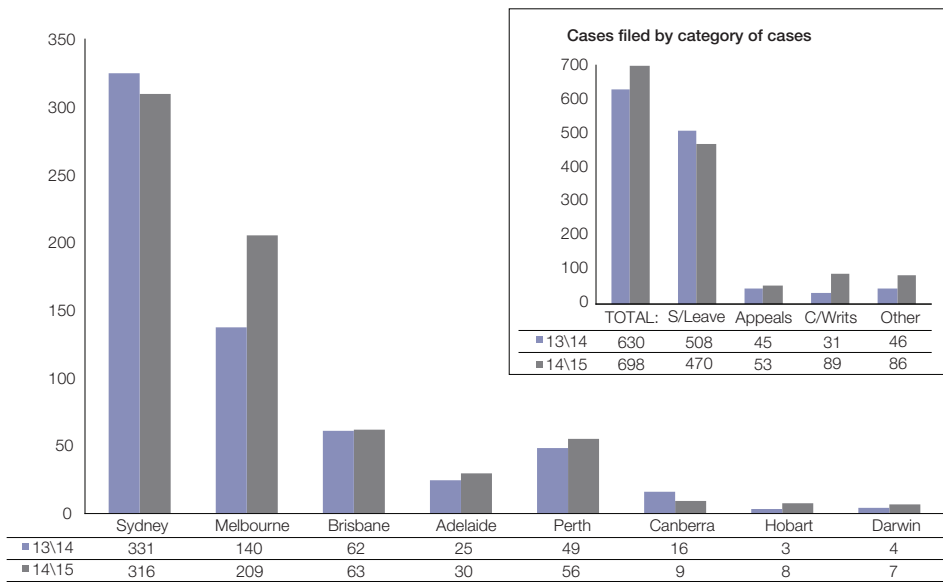


Table G. Cases decided: by Registry

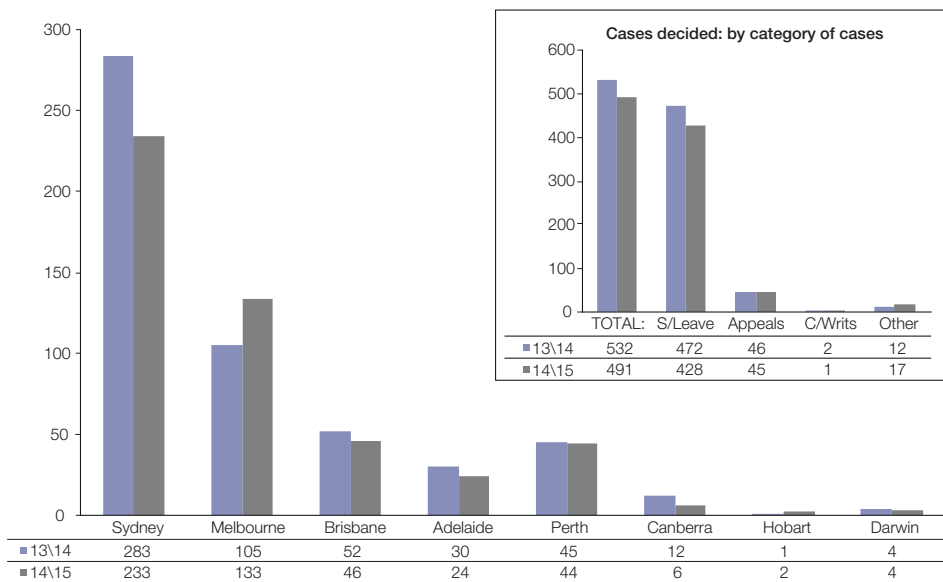


Table H. Pending Cases: by Registry

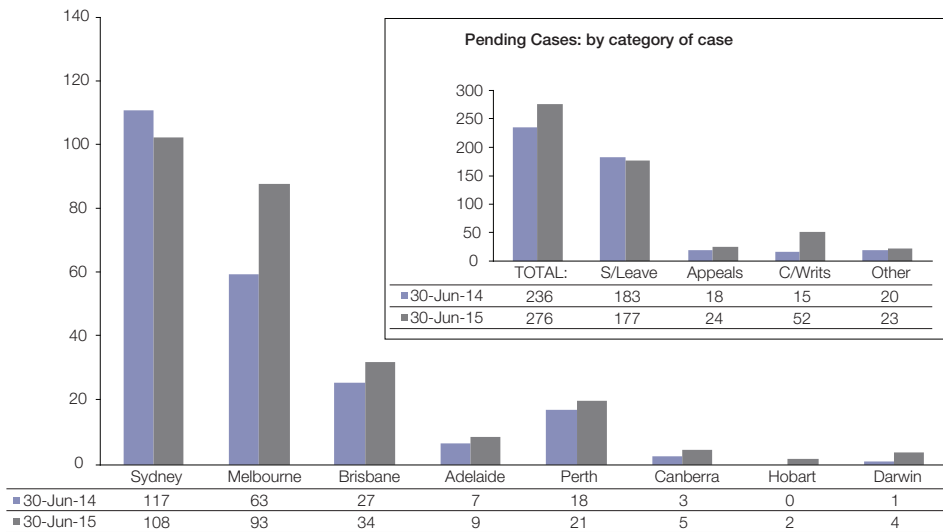
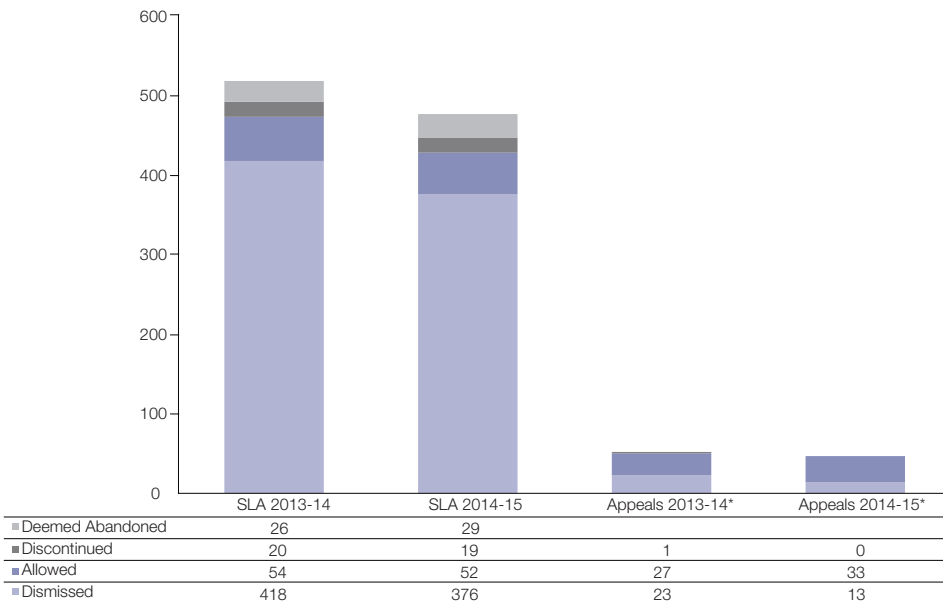
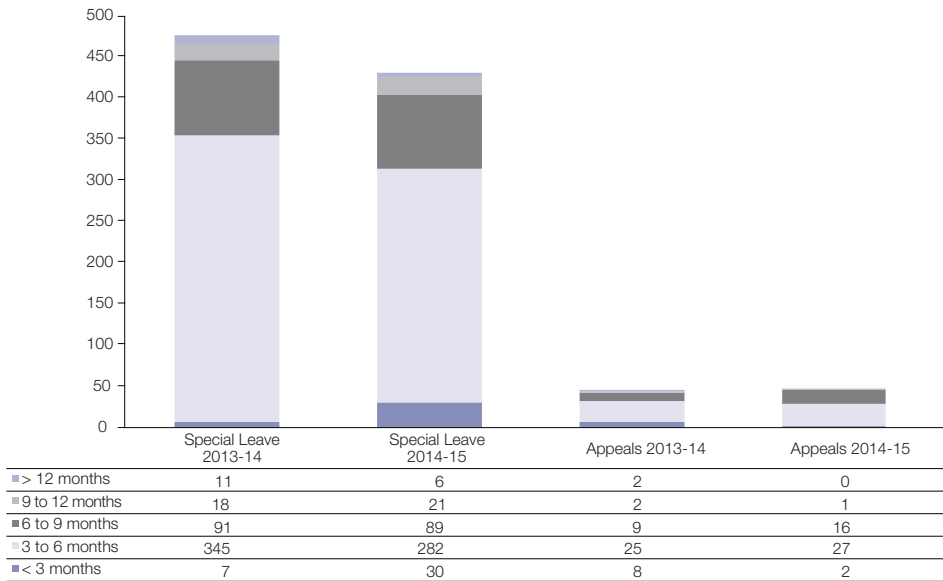


Table I. Means of determination: Applications and Appeals



(*deemed abandonment provisions only apply to special leave applications and do not apply to appeals).

Table J. Time for Determination: Applications and Appeals



Appellate cases finalised

Table I compares how appellate cases were finalised during 2013-14 and 2014-15.

There was one application for special leave referred to the Full Court to be argued as if on appeal in 2014-15. It was granted and the appeal treated as instituted and heard instanter. The determination figures have been adjusted to reflect those final outcomes.

The *High Court Rules* 2004 provide that the Court may determine leave and special leave applications on the papers without an oral hearing. In those cases, the applications are not listed for hearing but for pronouncement of orders and publications of reasons only. Sixty per cent of the applications decided in 2014-15 were finalised without an oral hearing, compared with 47 per cent in 2013-14.

Appellate cases – time for determination

The provisions of Chapter 4 of the *High Court Rules* 2004 impose time standards for the filing of applications for leave or special leave to appeal and appeals. These provisions assist case-flow management by providing time standards for the various stages in the preparation of applications and appeals. Table J compares the periods of time taken for cases filed in the appellate jurisdiction of the Court during 2013-14 and 2014-15 to be determined.

Ninety four per cent of the applications for leave or special leave to appeal and ninety eight per cent of the appeals decided by the Court during the reporting year were completed within nine months of filing. The figures for 2013-14 were 94 per cent and 84 per cent respectively.

RULES OF COURT

The Justices have responsibility for making Rules of Court which prescribe the annual sittings of the Court, regulate all cases of practice and procedure in the Court, and prescribe the various forms to be used for proceedings of the Court.

The *High Court Rules* which govern the practice and procedure of the Court are kept under review by the Rules Committee. The Court consults with interested persons and organisations when any significant changes are contemplated to the Rules.

Rules of Court are made and promulgated as legislative instruments. Copies of the Rules are distributed to all legal publishers, law societies and bar associations immediately a Rule is made, and copies are available in all offices of the Registry and on the Internet for the information of the profession and the public.

During 2014-15 the Court made the following Rules of Court:

- Legislative Instrument F2014LO1227 on 9 September 2014 – Annual sittings of the High Court
- Select Legislative Instrument No 139 of 2014 on 9 September 2014 – High Court Amendment (2014 Measures No. 1) Rules 2014 – Amendments to the provisions governing notices under section 78B of the *Judiciary Act* 1903, interlocutory applications, taxation of costs, and to Schedule 2 (Costs).

Court fees and charges

Fees and charges in the High Court form an integral part of litigation costs and are prescribed by regulation on the initiative of the Attorney-General. Fees payable for filing, issuing or sealing a document in an office of the Registry of the High Court, or

for obtaining a document or service, are provided in Schedule 1 of the *High Court of Australia (Fees) Regulation* 2012.

Regulation 11 of the *High Court of Australia (Fees) Regulation* 2012 provides that persons in receipt of legal aid, persons who hold a concession card issued by Centrelink or the Department of Veterans' Affairs, persons in public detention, children under the age of 18, persons in receipt of youth allowance, an Austudy payment or in receipt of benefits under the ABSTUDY scheme and persons granted assistance under Part 11 of the *Native Title Act* 1993 (Cth) are eligible for a full exemption from paying filing and hearing fees associated with the proceedings in the High Court.

Waiver of fees

A person liable to pay a filing fee or a hearing fee may apply to the Registrar to have the two-thirds of the fee waived upon the ground that payment of the fee would cause financial hardship to that person. A refusal by a Registrar to waive a fee may be reviewed by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. There were four refusals to waive a fee in the reporting period.

During the reporting year 687 cases attracting a filing fee and/or hearing fees were filed in the Court. Of these, 291, or 42 per cent of cases were eligible for an exemption from paying fees. In addition, the Registrar waived payment of two-thirds of the fee in 146, or approximately 21 per cent, of cases. The filing fees and hearing fees foregone in these 437 cases for the entire period amounted to \$879,410. The composition of this total is shown in the following table.

RECORD OF NON-PAYMENT OF FEES 2014–15

Reasons for non-payment	Regulation	No.	Amount (\$)
Legal Aid (exemption)	11(1)(a)	16	\$14,840
Holder of a concession card (exemption)	11(1)(b)	120	\$303,675
Person in public detention (exemption)	11(1)(c)	154	\$303,295
Child under the age of 18 years (exemption)	11(1)(d)	1	\$2,645
Youth allowance, Austudy payment recipient or ABSTUDY recipient (exemption)	11(1)(e)	0	\$0
Recipient of assistance under Native Title Act (exemption)	11(1)(f)	0	\$0
Financial hardship (waiver of two-thirds fee)	12	146	\$254,955
TOTAL		437	\$879,410

Professional costs

The allowable professional costs of, and incidental to, the steps in proceedings in the High Court are contained in the Second Schedule to the *High Court Rules* 2004. The *High Court Rules* 2004 provide for an estimate of costs as an alternative to the taxation of bills of costs. Such an estimate is made in the absence of the parties and, if the parties do not object in accordance with the Rules, a Certificate of Taxation is issued for the amount of the estimate. As a result the taxation of bills of costs with the attendance of the parties and associated cost's to the parties is often not required.

LIBRARY

The Court has a Library Committee, which during the year comprised Justice Hayne AC (Chair and member until June 2015), Justice Crennan AC (until February 2015), Justice Gageler, Justice Keane AC (Chair from June 2015), the Chief Executive and Principal Registrar and the Court Librarian.

The functions of the High Court Library are to:

- support the Court through the provision of relevant, comprehensive and timely reference and research services to the Justices and their staff
- provide and maintain a comprehensive collection of legal resources which support the reference and research needs of the Justices and their staff
- support the legal referencing needs of lawyers appearing before the Court in Canberra
- publish the Court's dispositions, judgments and related summaries and Bulletins.

Library Materials Budget

The Library's acquisitions and subscription costs remained within budget during the year. Subscription rates, particularly for on-line subscriptions, have continued to rise above rates of inflation, although these were moderated to some extent by the relative strength of the Australian dollar during the year.

Legal Research Officer

During the year the Legal Research Officer undertook research and analysis on a variety of legal issues at the direction of the Justices and the Chief Executive and Principal Registrar. The Legal Research Officer also produces the *High Court Bulletin*, which provides information to the public about cases before the Court, and the *Overseas Decisions Bulletin*, which provides information to the Justices about relevant decisions from overseas jurisdictions.

Authorities

The Library is responsible for the coordination, production and distribution of authorities relied upon by counsel during oral argument in Court for Canberra sittings. During the year, the library provided authorities to the Justices for 46 hearings.

This year Library staff continued to provide fully searchable and paginated electronic copies of all authorities for use by the Justices and their associates, together with printed copies of material not held in chambers. The Legislation Officer continued to coordinate the provision to Chambers of full copies of legislation considered relevant to forthcoming cases by the Legal Research Officer.

Reference services

Library staff assist with reference and research queries from the Justices and their staff. These can range from providing a case or early colonial act to researching legislative history. Reference and research assistance is also provided to counsel when they appear before the Court.

Inter-library loans

521 inter-library loans were processed by the library during the year.

Collection development

The following table shows changes in the library collection during the year:

Location	Number of volumes
Total Canberra holdings	152 011
Acquisitions	
Books purchased	417
New print subscriptions	5
Print to online subscriptions	14
New online subscriptions	8
Print subscriptions cancelled	59

Library Management System

The Court went live with a new integrated library system (ILS), SirsiDynix on 31 July 2014. The cooperative agreement signed last year with the Federal Court for the managed service arrangement now also includes the NSW Law Courts Library and the Supreme Court of Victoria.

Web publications

The Library makes the following publications available:

- High Court Bulletin with its full archive is published on BarNet and AustLII
- New Library Books published on the Court's website
- Overseas Decisions Bulletin, which includes decisions from the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, the Supreme Court of Canada, the Supreme Court of the United States, the Constitutional Court of South Africa, the Supreme Court of New Zealand and the Court of Appeal, Singapore, is available on the Court's website. Alerts are published for these publications enabling the legal profession and wider public to subscribe.

High Court Judgments Database

The Court's decisions from 2000 onwards are now available on the Court's website at eresources.hcourt.gov.au.

The project was initiated and undertaken by staff of the Library and included the sourcing of judgments and preparation and linking of metadata. Prosentient, an Australian web services company, was engaged by the Court to develop the open source software, DSpace, as a repository for its judgments. Additional major enhancements were made by BarNet who customised the interface and search engine.

The aim of the project was to ensure immediate, continuous and efficient availability of the Court's judgments and to provide what will be an invaluable resource not only for the Court but also Australian and international users. In due course, further content such as the Unreported Judgments will be added to the Court's Judgments Database.

Activities of the Court Librarian

The Court Librarian, Ms Petal Kinder, as Immediate Past President of the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL) attended the 33rd Annual Course of International Law and Legal Information in Buenos Aires, Argentina in September 2014. As a member of the Board of Directors she attended and participated at two IALL Board Meetings held in conjunction with the conference. Ms Kinder attended and presented a paper at the Australian Law Librarians' Association (ALLA) Annual Conference in Adelaide in September 2014.

CORPORATE SERVICES

Corporate Services comprises the financial, human resources, information technology, security and building operations for the Court.

Finance Committee

The Court has a Finance Committee which:

- reviews and, where appropriate, makes recommendations to the Court on Court budgets
- monitors and reports to the Court on expenditure against budgets
- reviews and adopts annual financial statements prior to their signing by the Chief Executive and Principal Registrar
- reviews and advises where necessary on processes for identifying and managing financial business risks, including appropriate risk management, audit and fraud control frameworks
- considers building strategies and projects.

During the year, the Finance Committee comprised Chief Justice French AC (chair), Justice Hayne AC (until June 2015), Justice Kiefel AC, Justice Gageler (from June 2015) and the Chief Executive and Principal Registrar. It met regularly during the year.

Internal Audit

The Court's internal audits are performed by a contracted auditor. During 2014-15 the internal auditor conducted reviews of:

- travel
- business continuity management
- records management
- revenue

Risk management

During 2014-15 the Court:

- conducted a security risk assessment with assistance from an external provider
- conducted a property risk inspection by an external provider
- assessed and considered risks for building projects

Fraud control

The Court's Fraud Risk Assessment and Fraud Control Plan are undertaken and updated in accordance with the *Commonwealth Fraud Control Framework* 2014.

There was no reported allegation of fraud during 2014-15.

Financial management

The Court's estimates for 2014-15 were reported in the Attorney-General's Portfolio Budget Statements.

Justices' remuneration and allowances are paid out of a Special Appropriation. Payments are made by the Attorney-General's Department using a drawing right on a Special Appropriation administered by the Australian Public Service Commission and do not form part of the Court's financial statements in Part VII.

Financial results

In 2014-15 the Court received an operating appropriation of \$13.424m and incurred a Net Cost of Services of \$18.255m.

In 2014-15 the Court received an equity injection of \$4.007m including departmental capital budget.

The audited financial results for 2014-15 are in Part VII.

Consultants

During 2014-15 the Court entered into 16 consultancy contracts with a total value of \$250,104 (including GST).

Contracts with a total value of \$10,000 or more (including GST) were:

Name	Description	Contract Price
GHD	Design and documentation to upgrade fire protection services	144,213
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	Upgrade fraud risk assessment and fraud control plan and provide awareness training	20,020
Australian Valuation Services	Provide a valuation report for the High Court building and land	16,500
Pelle Architects	Design and documentation to refurbish toilets	10,780
B Haycock	Judicial robe concept study	10,000

Contract management

The Court sought advice from the Australian Government Solicitor in drafting contracts during 2014-15.

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Terms and conditions of employment

High Court staff are employed under the *High Court of Australia Act 1979* (Cth). Section 26(4) of the Act provides for the terms and conditions of Court staff to be determined by the Court. These terms and conditions are generally similar to those applying in the Australian Public Service. No High Court staff member received performance pay during 2014-15.

Staffing overview

Tables giving an overview of the numbers of employees in full time, part time and casual employment and the composition by gender and salary classification are at [Annexure B](#).

Training

The Court continues to provide a comprehensive first day induction program. In the course of 2014-15 the Court provided training in the following areas:

- effective communication
- leadership
- resume writing, addressing selection criteria and interview techniques
- work, health and safety courses noted below

All new staff were requested to complete online training modules for work, health and safety, workplace diversity and workplace behaviours.

Work, health and safety

Throughout 2014-15 the Court reviewed and updated work health and safety policies and procedures.

During 2014-15 the Work, Health and Safety (WH&S) Committee met four times. This Committee provides an opportunity for employees to raise any issues they have about personal and workplace safety. Designated Workplace Representatives are encouraged to consult within their areas prior to and after Committee meetings.

Information about the Court's health and safety arrangements, WH&S Committee minutes and a register of issues can be accessed by employees from the Court's intranet.

The Court arranged WH&S training in 2014-15 for:

- managers' WHS responsibilities
- preventing and managing musculoskeletal disorder
- first aid
- chief wardens and floor wardens procedures
- fire awareness and familiarisation with fire panel and fire extinguisher
- other initiatives undertaken during 2014-15 to promote the health, safety and welfare at work of employees, contractors and visitors included:
- influenza vaccinations
- 12 workstation assessments including two reasonable adjustment reports

- RUOK Day
- participating in the Global Corporate Challenge Programme which promoted healthy levels of physical activity
- encouraging staff to use services provided by the Court's employee assistance provider

During 2014-15 the following work health and safety incidents occurred:

- there were no incidences that required the Court to provide information to Comcare under section 68 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 1991 (Cth) or section 36, 37 and 38 of the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Cth)
- seven minor incidents
- no new workers compensation claims

As at 30 June 2015 there were:

- two continuing workers compensation claims which relate to injuries prior to 1 July 2014
- no continuing workers compensation claims for any injury reported in 2014-15
- no safety issues notified to the WH&S Committee which were unresolved.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Court has an IT Committee which oversees and guides, at a strategic level, the use of information and communications technology within the Court.

During the year, the Committee comprised Justice Hayne AC (Chair and member until June 2015), Chief Justice French AC (Chair from June 2015), Justice Gageler (until January 2015), Justice Nettle (from February 2015 to May 2015), Justice Bell AC (from June 2015), Justice Gordon (from June 2015) and the Chief Executive and Principal Registrar. It met regularly during the year.

Courtroom technology replacement

During 2014-15 the Court entered into a contract for the design and documentation of courtroom audio-visual recording and conferencing technology. The initial focus of that design is the three courtrooms in Canberra. The design will be extended later to the Court's Sydney and Melbourne courtrooms. From the design, an approach to market has been made for the procurement of all of the equipment required for the three courtrooms in Canberra. The installation of the design will be completed during 2015-16.

The Court's transcription software was replaced in 2014-15.

A contract was signed in 2014-15 to provide significant bandwidth increases for the Court's interstate Chambers and registries. The commissioning of the network will be completed early in 2015-16.

Server room

A new server room was completed and commissioned in 2014-15. Planning has begun to physically move ICT equipment during 2015-16.

Desktop and notebook replacements

Significant planning was completed and a detailed design implemented to upgrade the Court's desktop and notebook fleet, with an upgrade to the Windows 7 operating system. Half of the desktops were replaced in 2013-14 and all of the remaining equipment was replaced early in 2014-15.

Contracts

During 2014-15 the Court used whole of government contracts to achieve cost savings for desktop computers, contractors, national long distance calls, mobile charges, multifunction devices and printers.

BUILDING OPERATIONS

Rectification of safety issues

During 2014-15 the Court:

- commenced installing glass sections to increase the height of internal balustrades in the public area. This work will be continued in 2015-16
- installed a new handrail barrier to the upper gallery in Courtroom One
- replaced broken tiles in the Court building precinct
- completed design work to increase the height of balustrades and handrails on the forecourt.

Removal of asbestos containing material

A non-destructive asbestos survey conducted in 2009 included a recommendation to remove asbestos-containing air conditioning reheat units. Air quality testing confirmed that there was no immediate safety concern. The units have been gradually replaced since then. It is anticipated that units on the last level will be removed in 2015–16.

In early 2014-15 the Court completed the replacement of fire doors which contained asbestos.

The Court's Asbestos-Containing Material Register was updated during 2014-15.

Building security and emergency management

During 2014-15 the Court negotiated an agreement with the Australian Federal Police for Protective Security Officers to be present in the Court building every day when the Court building is open to the public. This new arrangement commenced on 29 June 2015 and replaced a previous agreement where Protective Security Officers were only present on court sitting days.

During 2014-15 the Court reviewed and updated the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) and engaged a new training service provider to undertake training of the Emergency Control Organisation (ECO) and General Occupants of the Court building. The Emergency Planning Committee (EPC) met in accordance with the requirements of AS 3745-2010 and endorsed the updated ERP and proposed training schedule.

High Court art collection

In 2015 the Court established a Court Art Committee to monitor the care and maintenance of the Court's art collection. During 2014-15 a number of conservation activities were undertaken to ensure that the Court's art collection was kept in appropriate condition.

Other building projects

Other building projects undertaken in 2014-15 included:

- refurbishment of the rear timber wall in Courtroom Two
- developing detailed specifications to replace and upgrade the Court building heating, ventilation and air conditioning system

- developing detailed specifications to replace and upgrade the Court building external lighting
- replacing the carpet on Level Nine to match the carpet when the building was opened in 1980
- Refurbishing toilets on Level 10
- Seeking conceptual design advice to upgrade the public entrance doors on the forecourt level of the Court building
- signing a contract to replace the public entrance doors on the ground floor of the Court building
- commissioning a report on the Court building's fire detection and protection services.

Heritage Management

The Court seeks heritage impact assessments before undertaking works that affect the heritage values of the Court building and precinct.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND VISITOR PROGRAMS

Public Information Committee

It is important for members of the public to understand why the independent exercise of judicial power is essential to the maintenance of the rule of law in Australia's constitutional democracy. The Court, under broad directions set by the Court's Public Information Committee, contributes to public education through the extensive information on its website, by maintaining appropriate communications with the media, and by offering specialised educational programs and activities in the High Court building in Canberra. During the year, the Committee comprised Justice Kiefel AC (member and Chair until June

2015), Chief Justice Robert French AC, Justice Bell AC (Chair from June 2015), Justice Keane AC (from June 2015) and the Chief Executive and Principal Registrar.

The High Court makes available, via its website, an array of information about the work of the Court. This includes transcripts of hearings, judgments, case summaries, judgment summaries, special leave dispositions, the High Court bulletin, business and court lists, speeches by present and former Justices, and information about the art and architecture of the building. The parties' submissions in Full Court matters are also available on the Court's website, as are audio-visual recordings of all Full Court hearings in Canberra.

The Justices of the Court and senior staff routinely host visiting delegations of Justices and court officials from overseas jurisdictions.

ACTIVITIES

During 2014-2015 the Committee's priority continued to be the provision and accessibility of information about the work of the Court and to encourage the use of the High Court building as a civic space. Activities included:

- the publication of audio-visual recordings of Full Court hearings, ordinarily available at the end of each sitting day. There has been a significant uptake of this service with over 27,000 hits in the relevant period. There has also been significant interest in the written submissions of parties in Full Court matters, with over 148,000 hits, together with a large number of hits on speeches given by Justices of the Court
- the maintenance of subscription services which alert subscribers to upcoming judgments, case summaries, judgment

summaries and publications, with approximately 25,000 subscribers to these services, representing an additional 5,000 subscribers from last year

- the continued recruitment, development and training of the Court Guide team, which conducts tours of the High Court building and its courtrooms, and provides information to visitors and school groups on the role, history and architecture of the Court. In 2014-2015, the Court had approximately 750 school groups visit from across Australia
- the Court hosted a session of the United Nations Model Assembly, attended by students from around the country
- Chief Justice French AC presided over the Jessup Moot Grand Final in Courtroom 1, and the Court hosted the official dinner for competitors
- Justice Gageler spoke at the official dinner for the National Schools Constitutional Convention, held in the Public Hall
- Justices of the Court hosted the announcement and reception of the Governor-General's prize, an annual essay competition open to all Australian citizens and permanent residents enrolled in an undergraduate degree at an Australian university. Justice Kiefel AC chaired the judging panel
- two lectures were held in the High Court Public Lecture series. On 10 September 2014, Dr Philip Ayres delivered an address "The High Court's Ambassadors: Latham, Dixon and Stephen Compared", chaired by Justice Crennan AC. On 13 May 2015, Professor Paul Brand from All Souls College, Oxford, gave a lecture in connection with the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta, entitled "Magna Carta and the Development of the Common

Law", chaired by Justice Hayne AC. This lecture was followed by the opening of the Rule of Law Institute's Magna Carta exhibition. These lectures are open to all members of the public and are followed by a reception hosted by the Justices

- the Justices hosted the Indo-Australian law meet from 1 to 4 March 2015, attended by Justices of the Supreme Court of India.

The Court has continued to make available the Public Hall and its wonderful acoustics for Sunday concerts. These concerts take place on one or two Sundays of each month (as advertised on the Court's website) and are free of charge. The Court was fortunate to receive a long-term loan of a concert grand piano from the ANU School of Music. Throughout the year, 21 concerts were held with performances by local and national choirs and musical groups. These concerts have attracted over 10,000 visitors to the Court who, in addition to enjoying the performances, are able to take a tour of the Court and learn about its role and history. A particular highlight was the concert jointly sponsored with the Australian War Memorial entitled "Resounding Gallipoli". Based on authentic accounts from the period, this concert featured performances on brass instruments originally played at Gallipoli and now held privately or by the Australian War Memorial. These instruments were restored especially for this event. The Court also continued to host a performance as part of the Canberra International Music Festival. The Court also permitted its forecourt area to be used as part of the Enlighten Festival.

The Court supports the hosting of exhibitions and other events by embassies and cultural communities in its Canberra building.



VISITOR NUMBERS

During 2014–15 approximately 32,000 school students received guided tours of the Court and presentations on its constitutional and appellate role. There were approximately 43,000 additional visitors to the High Court's Canberra building during the year. In addition, approximately 13,000 people attended concerts, moots, lectures and other events at the Court.

LINKS AND VISITS

The Court maintains links with a wide range of international and domestic visitors and their hosts in embassies, universities, government agencies and other organisations. Public and private events engage both visitors and hosts with the work of the Court.

During 2014–15, the Court maintained its many links with courts, judges and legal organisations in the region and around the world. The Court welcomed a number of international visitors, including delegations of judges, senior lawyers, court administrators, parliamentarians, government officials, lawyers and law students from the Philippines, India, Thailand, Nepal, New Zealand, Belarus, the People's Republic of China, Japan, Indonesia, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, the United Kingdom, the United States, Kenya and Austria.



Financial Statements

Independent Auditor's Report	49
Financial Statements	52





INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Attorney-General

I have audited the accounts and records and financial statements of the High Court of Australia for the year ended 30 June 2015. The financial statements, which accompany this report, comprise:

- Statement by the Chief Executive and the Chief Financial Officer;
- Statement of Comprehensive Income;
- Statement of Financial Position;
- Statement of Changes in Equity;
- Cash Flow Statement;
- Schedule of Commitments;
- Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income;
- Administered Schedule of Assets and Liabilities;
- Administered Reconciliation Schedule;
- Schedule of Administered Cash Flow; and
- Notes to and forming part of the financial statements, including a summary of Significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory information.

Chief Executive and Principal Registrar's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Chief Executive and Principal Registrar of the High Court of Australia is responsible for the preparation of financial statements in the form approved by the Finance Minister under sub-section 47(1) of the *High Court of Australia Act 1979*. The form approved is the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015* which incorporates by reference the Australian Accounting Standards.

The Chief Executive and Principal Registrar is also responsible for keeping proper accounts and records of the transactions and affairs relating to the administration of the affairs of the High Court of Australia and for such internal control as is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the accounts and records and on the financial statements based on my audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. These auditing standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements and, in this audit, about the financial transactions being in accordance with the High Court of Australia Act.

GPO Box 707 CANBERRA ACT 2601
19 National Circuit BARTON ACT
Phone (02) 6203 7300 Fax (02) 6203 7777

The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and of non-compliance. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, and to compliance with the High Court of Australia Act, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting my audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate the requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Opinion

The financial statements of the High Court of Australia are in agreement with the Court's accounts and records and, in my opinion:

- (a) are based on proper accounts and records;
- (b) are in the form approved by the Finance Minister under the *High Court of Australia Act 1979*, including:
 - (i) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015*; and
 - (ii) presenting fairly the financial position of the High Court of Australia as at 30 June 2015, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Further, in my opinion, the receipt, expenditure and investment of moneys, and the acquisition and disposal of assets by the High Court of Australia during the year ended 30 June 2015 have been in accordance with the *High Court of Australia Act 1979*.

Australian National Audit Office



Rebecca Reilly
Executive Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra
14 September 2015

High Court of Australia
STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015 are based on properly maintained financial records and present fairly the matters required by the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015.

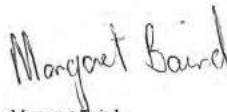
In our opinion, at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Court will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.



Andrew Phelan
Chief Executive & Principal Registrar
High Court of Australia

Date of signing

14 September 2015



Margaret Baird
Chief Financial Officer
High Court of Australia

Date of signing

14 September 2015

High Court of Australia
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the period ended 30 June 2015

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
NET COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits	4A	8,631,952	8,810,923
Suppliers	4B	7,586,808	7,623,210
Depreciation and amortisation		4,801,861	4,661,962
Write-down and impairment of assets	4C	146,425	4,335,461
Losses from asset sales	4D	41	702
Total expenses		21,167,087	25,432,258
Own-Source Income			
Own-source revenue			
Sale of goods and rendering of services	5A	222,963	167,272
Interest		423,078	470,288
Resources received free of charge	5B	2,171,323	2,160,316
Other revenues	5C	80,828	249,324
Total own-source revenue		2,898,192	3,047,200
Gains			
Other gains	5D	13,700	3,200
Total gains		13,700	3,200
Total own-source income		2,911,892	3,050,400
Net (cost of) services		(18,255,195)	(22,381,858)
Revenue from Government	5E	13,424,000	13,405,000
(Deficit) attributable to the Australian Government		(4,831,195)	(8,976,858)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		(12,941,525)	3,557,645
Total comprehensive income		(12,941,525)	3,557,645
Total comprehensive (loss)		(17,772,720)	(5,419,213)
Total comprehensive (loss) attributable to the Australian Government		(17,772,720)	(5,419,213)

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

High Court of Australia
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
as at 30 June 2015

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
ASSETS			
Financial assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	7A	3,342,811	2,807,595
Trade and other receivables	7B	185,348	213,244
Other Investments	7C	9,500,000	9,500,000
Total financial assets		13,028,159	12,520,839
Non-financial assets			
Land and buildings	8A	186,824,839	202,713,287
Property, plant and equipment	8B	6,295,189	5,119,765
Library holdings	8C	13,198,664	12,495,977
Intangibles	8E	170,934	228,173
Other non-financial assets	8G	140,313	115,617
Total non-financial assets		206,629,939	220,672,819
Total assets		219,658,098	233,193,658
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	9A	473,150	366,898
Other Payables	9B	373,211	337,173
Total payables		846,361	704,071
Provisions			
Employee provisions	10A	2,485,827	2,396,957
Total provisions		2,485,827	2,396,957
Total liabilities		3,332,188	3,101,028
Net assets		216,325,910	230,092,630
EQUITY			
Contributed equity		83,560,598	79,554,598
Reserves		164,743,573	177,685,098
Retained surplus (accumulated deficit)		(31,978,261)	(27,147,066)
Total equity		216,325,910	230,092,630

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

High Court of Australia
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
for the period ended 30 June 2015

	Retained earnings		Asset revaluation reserves		Contributed equity/capital		Total equity	
	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Opening balance								
Balance carried forward from previous period	(27,147,066)	(18,170,208)	177,685,098	174,127,453	79,554,598	74,751,598	230,092,630	230,708,843
Adjusted opening balance	(27,147,066)	(18,170,208)	177,685,098	174,127,453	79,554,598	74,751,598	230,092,630	230,708,843
Comprehensive income								
Other comprehensive income	-	-	(12,941,525)	3,557,645	-	-	(12,941,525)	3,557,645
(Deficit) for the period	(4,831,195)	(8,976,858)	-	-	-	-	(4,831,195)	(8,976,858)
Total comprehensive income	(4,831,195)	(8,976,858)	(12,941,525)	3,557,645	-	-	(17,772,720)	(5,419,213)
Transactions with owners								
Contributions by owners								
Equity injection - Appropriation	-	-	-	-	1,450,000	1,450,000	1,450,000	1,450,000
Departmental capital budget	-	-	-	-	2,557,000	3,353,000	2,557,000	3,353,000
(Distribution) of Equity	-	-	-	-	(1,000)	-	(1,000)	-
Sub-total transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	4,006,000	4,803,000	4,006,000	4,803,000
Closing balances as at 30 June	(31,978,261)	(27,147,066)	164,743,573	177,685,098	83,560,598	79,554,598	216,325,910	230,092,630
Closing balance attributable to the Australian Government	(31,978,261)	(27,147,066)	164,743,573	177,685,098	83,560,598	79,554,598	216,325,910	230,092,630

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

High Court of Australia
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
as at 30 June 2015

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Appropriations		13,424,000	13,405,000
Sale of goods and rendering of services		254,997	175,295
Interest		446,257	444,358
Net GST received		792,888	917,798
Other		80,828	319,901
Total cash received		14,998,970	15,262,352
Cash used			
Employees		8,512,794	8,267,265
Suppliers		6,354,882	6,614,938
Total cash used		14,867,676	14,882,203
Net cash from operating activities	11	131,294	380,149
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		4,210	91
Investments		-	1,217,270
Total cash received		4,210	1,217,361
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		3,606,288	4,655,140
Investments		-	136,936
Total cash used		3,606,288	4,792,076
Net cash (used by) investing activities		(3,602,078)	(3,574,715)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Capital injection		4,007,000	4,803,000
Total cash received		4,007,000	4,803,000
Cash used			
Distributed equity		1,000	-
Total cash used		1,000	-
Net cash from financing activities		4,006,000	4,803,000
Net increase in cash held		535,216	1,608,434
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		2,807,595	1,199,161
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	7A	3,342,811	2,807,595

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

High Court of Australia
SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS
as at 30 June 2015

2015	1 year to 5			Total
	< 1 year	years	> 5 years	
Commitments Payable				
Land and buildings ¹	640,717	-	-	640,717
Property, plant and equipment	506,866	-	-	506,866
Intangibles	10,725	-	-	10,725
Operating leases	157,253	127,305	-	284,558
Other ²	1,631,316	922,086	21,544	2,574,946
Total	2,946,877	1,049,391	21,544	4,017,812
Commitments Receivable				
Sublease rental income	1,815	-	-	1,815
Net GST recoverable on commitments	267,733	95,399	1,959	365,091
Total	269,548	95,399	1,959	366,906
Net commitments	2,677,329	953,992	19,585	3,650,906

2014	1 year to 5			Total
	< 1 year	years	> 5 years	
Commitments Payable				
Land and buildings ¹	1,282,225	-	-	1,282,225
Property, plant and equipment	-	-	-	-
Intangibles	50,270	-	-	50,270
Operating leases	163,751	148,225	-	311,976
Other ²	1,480,490	669,354	-	2,149,844
Total	2,976,736	817,579	-	3,794,315
Commitments Receivable				
Sublease rental income	7,178	1,815	-	8,993
Net GST recoverable on commitments	269,960	74,160	-	344,120
Total	277,138	75,975	-	353,113
Net commitments	2,699,598	741,604	-	3,441,202

¹ Capital commitments represent contracts for capital works in the Court and precinct.

² Other commitments include contracts for security, telecommunications and buildings maintenance

Nature of lease	General description of leasing arrangement
Agreement for the provision of motor vehicles to Justices and one office vehicle.	The Court leases motor vehicles under the terms of a contract with various operative dates.
Lease for multi function devices	The court leases multi function devices under the terms of a contract.

High Court of Australia
ADMINISTERED SCHEDULE OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
As at 30 June 2015

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
NET COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Total expenses		-	-
Income			
Revenue			
Non-taxation revenue			
Sale of goods and rendering of services	16A	2,097,055	1,628,547
Total non-taxation revenue		2,097,055	1,628,547
Total income		2,097,055	1,628,547
Total comprehensive income		2,097,055	1,628,547

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

High Court of Australia
ADMINISTERED SCHEDULE OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
As at 30 June 2015

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
ASSETS			
Financial Assets			
Trade and other receivables	17A	<u>1,183</u>	-
Total financial assets		<u>1,183</u>	-
Net assets		<u>1,183</u>	-

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

ADMINISTERED RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Opening assets less liabilities as at 1 July	-	-
Net contribution by services		
Income	2 097 055	1 628 547
Transfers (to)/from the Australian Government		
Appropriation transfers to OPA		
Transfers to OPA	<u>(2,095,872)</u>	<u>(1,628,547)</u>
Closing assets less liabilities as at 30 June	<u>1,183</u>	-

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

High Court of Australia
SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTERED CASH FLOW
for the period ended 30 June 2015

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Fees and charges		<u>2,095,872</u>	<u>1,628,547</u>
Total cash received		<u>2,095,872</u>	<u>1,628,547</u>
Net cash from (used by) operating activities		<u>2,095,872</u>	<u>1,628,547</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		<u>2,095,872</u>	<u>1,628,547</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		-	-
Cash to Official Public Account for			
Cash to OPA - Other		<u>(2,095,872)</u>	<u>(1,628,547)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1: Significant Accounting Policies	61
Note 2: Events After Balance Sheet Date.....	68
Note 3: Net Cash Appropriation Arrangements	69
Note 4: Expenses	70
Note 5: Income	72
Note 6: Fair Value Measurements	73
Note 7: Financial Assets	76
Note 8: Non-Financial Assets.....	78
Note 9: Payables	86
Note 10: Provisions	86
Note 11: Cash Flow Reconciliation.....	87
Note 12: Senior Management Personnel Remuneration	88
Note 13: Public Money in the Custody of the Court.....	88
Note 14: Financial Instruments	89
Note 15: Financial Assets Reconciliation.....	94
Note 16: Administered Income	95
Note 17: Administered Financial Assets	95
Note 18: Appropriations	96
Note 19: Compensation and Debt Relief.....	97
Note 20: Reporting of Outcomes.....	98
Note 21: Budgetary Reports and Explanations of Major Variances	99

High Court of Australia

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1: Significant Accounting Policies

1.1 Objectives of the High Court of Australia ("the Court")

The Court is a Commonwealth entity. It is a not-for-profit entity. The objective of the Court is to interpret and uphold the Australian Constitution and to perform the functions of the ultimate appellate court of Australia.

The Court operates solely in Australia and is structured to meet one outcome.

Outcome 1: To interpret and uphold the Australian Constitution and to perform the functions of the ultimate appellate court of Australia.

The continued existence of the Court is guaranteed by the Constitution.

All activities contributing toward this outcome are classified as either departmental or administered. Departmental activities involve the use of assets, liabilities, income and expenses controlled or incurred by the Court in its own right. Administered activities involve the management or oversight by the Court, on behalf of the Government, of items controlled or incurred by the Government.

The Court conducts the following administered activities: Fees and charges are collected in accordance with the *High Court of Australia (Fees) Regulations 2012* Schedule 1. The fees and charges collected are transferred to consolidated revenue.

1.2 Administration of the Court

The Court is administered by the Justices, who are assisted by the Chief Executive and Principal Registrar of the Court.

Chief Justice:

The Honourable Robert French AC

Justices:

The Honourable Kenneth Hayne AC (retired 04 June 2015)

The Honourable Susan Crennan AC (retired 02 February 2015)

The Honourable Susan Kiefel AC

The Honourable Virginia Bell AC

The Honourable Stephen Gageler

The Honourable Patrick Keane AC

The Honourable Geoffrey Nettle (appointed 03 February 2015)

The Honourable Michelle Gordon (appointed 09 June 2015)

Chief Executive & Principal Registrar:

Andrew Phelan

Under section 10 of the *High Court of Australia Act 1979* (Cth), a Justice is not capable of accepting or holding any other office of profit within Australia. No related party transactions have occurred during the 2014-2015 financial year.

1.3 Basis of Preparation of the Financial Statements

The financial statements and notes are required by section 47 (1) of the *High Court of Australia Act 1979* (Cth) and are general purpose financial statements. Under section 47 (1) the financial statements are required to be in such a form as the Minister of Finance approves.

On that basis, the financial statements and notes have been prepared in accordance with:

- Financial Reporting Rule (FRR) for reporting periods ending on or after 1 July 2014, as amended; and
- Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are in accordance with the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities at fair value. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and values are rounded to the nearest dollar unless otherwise specified. Unless alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard or the FRR's, assets and liabilities are recognised in the statement of financial position when and only when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the Court or a future sacrifice of economic benefit will be required and the amounts of the assets or liabilities can be reliably measured. However, assets and liabilities arising under executor contracts are not recognised unless required by an accounting standard. Liabilities and assets that are unrecognised are reported in the schedule of commitments or the schedule of contingencies.

Unless alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard, income and expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when and only when the flow, consumption or loss of economic benefits has occurred and can be reliably measured.

1.4 Significant Accounting Judgement and Estimates

In the process of applying the accounting policies listed in this note, the Court has made the following judgments that have the most significant impact on the amounts recorded in the financial statements:

- The fair value of land and buildings has been taken to be the written down replacement cost as determined by an independent valuer. The Court's building is purpose-built and may in fact realise more or less in the market.

No accounting assumptions or estimates have been identified that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next accounting period.

1.5 New Australian Accounting Standards

Adoption of new Australian Accounting Standard requirements

The following revised/amending standards were issued prior to the signing of the statements by the Chief Executive & Principal Registrar and Chief Financial Officer, were applicable to the current reporting period and had a material effect on the Court's financial statements:

Standard/ Interpretation	Application date for the Court	Nature of impending change/s in accounting policy and likely impact on initial application
AASB 113 Fair Value	30 June 2015	Amendments to simplify disclosures
AASB 1055 Budgetary Reporting	01 July 2014	This standard requires reporting of budgetary information by not-for profit entities within the General Government Sector. In particular: original budget presented to Parliament; variance of actuals from budget; and explanations of significant variances.

Future Australian Accounting Standards requirements

The following new standard was issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board prior to the signing of the statements by the Chief Executive & Principal Registrar and Chief Financial Officer, which is expected to have a material impact on the Court's financial statements for the future reporting periods:

Standard/ Interpretation	Application date for the Court	Nature of impending change/s in accounting policy and likely impact on initial application
AASB 15 Revenue from contracts with customers	30 June 2017	AASB 15 <i>Revenue from contracts with customers</i> (issued in January 2015) is the new comprehensive standard for revenue recognition, replacing AASB 111 <i>Construction contracts</i> , AASB 118 <i>Revenue</i> and AASB 1004 <i>Contributions</i> .

High Court of Australia

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

		The new standard's core principle requires entities to recognise revenue to depict the transfer of goods or services to customers in amounts that reflect the consideration (that is, payment) to which the company expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services.
--	--	---

All other standards that were issued prior to the signoff date and are applicable to future reporting periods are not expected to have a future material impact on the Court's financial statements.

1.6 Revenue

Revenue from Government

Amounts appropriated for departmental appropriations for the year (adjusted for any formal additions and reductions) are recognised as Revenue from Government when the Court gains control of the appropriation, except for certain amounts that relate to activities that are reciprocal in nature, in which case revenue is recognised only when it has been earned.

Resources Received Free of Charge

Resources received free of charge are recognised as revenue when, and only when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. Use of those resources is recognised as an expense.

Resources received free of charge are recorded as either revenue or gains depending on their nature.

Other Types of Revenue

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when:

- the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the buyer;
- the Court retains no managerial involvement nor effective control over the goods;
- the revenue and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- it is probable that the economic benefits associated from the transaction will flow to the Court.

Revenue from rendering of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date. The revenue is recognised when:

- the amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- the probable economic benefits with the transaction will flow to the Court.

The stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date is determined by reference to the proportion that costs incurred to date bear to the estimated total costs of the transaction.

Receivables for goods and services, which have 30 day terms, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any impairment allowance account. Collectability of debts is reviewed at end of reporting period. Allowances are made when collectability of the debt is no longer probable.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method as set out in AASB 139 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement*.

1.7 Gains

Resources Received Free of Charge

Resources received free of charge are recognised as gains when and only when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. Use of those resources is recognised as an expense.

Resources received free of charge are recorded either as revenue or gains depending on their nature.

Sale of Assets

Gains from disposal of assets are recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

High Court of Australia

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1.8 Transactions with the Government as Owner

Equity Injections

Amounts appropriated which are designated as 'equity injections' for a year (less any formal reductions) and Departmental Capital Budgets (DCBs) are recognised directly in contributed equity in that year.

1.9 Employee Benefits

Liabilities for 'short-term employee benefits' (as defined in AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*) and termination benefits expected within twelve months of end of reporting period are measured at their nominal amounts.

The nominal amount is calculated with regard to the rates expected to be paid on settlement of the liability.

Other long-term employee benefits are measured as net total of the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting period minus the fair value at the end of the reporting period of plan asset (if any) out of which the obligations are to be settled directly.

Leave

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave and long service leave. No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and the average sick leave taken in future years by employees of the Court is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration at the estimated salary rates that will be applied at the time the leave is taken, including the Court's employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

The liability for long service leave has been determined by reference to the work of an actuary as at 30 June 2015. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

Separation and Redundancy

Provision is made for separation and redundancy benefit payments. The Court recognises a provision for termination when it has developed a detailed formal plan for the terminations and has informed those employees affected that it will carry out the terminations.

Superannuation

Staff of the Court are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS), the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap) or other complying accumulation superannuation funds.

The CSS and PSS are defined benefit schemes for the Australian Government. The PSSap is a defined contribution scheme.

The liability for defined benefits is recognised in the financial statements of the Australian Government and is settled by the Australian Government in due course. This liability is reported in the Department of Finance's administered schedules and notes.

The Court makes employer contributions to the employees' superannuation scheme at rates determined by an actuary to be sufficient to meet the current cost to the Government. The Court accounts for the contributions as if they were contributions to defined contribution plans.

The liability for superannuation recognised as at 30 June represents outstanding contributions for the final fortnight of the year.

1.10 Leases

A distinction is made between finance leases and operating leases. Finance leases effectively transfer from the lessor to the lessee substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of leased assets. An operating lease is a lease that is not a finance lease. In operating leases, the lessor effectively retains substantially all such risks and benefits.

High Court of Australia

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Where an asset is acquired by means of a finance lease, the asset is capitalised at either the fair value of the lease property or, if lower, the present value of minimum lease payments at the inception of the contract and a liability is recognised at the same time and for the same amount.

The discount rate used is the interest rate implicit in the lease. Leased assets are amortised over the period of the lease. Lease payments are allocated between the principal component and the interest expense.

Operating lease payments are expensed on a straight-line basis which is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets.

1.11 Fair Value Measurement

The Court deems transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy to have occurred at the end of the reporting period.

1.12 Cash

Cash is recognised at its nominal amount. Cash and cash equivalents includes:

- cash on hand; and
- demand deposits in bank accounts with an original maturity of 3 months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

1.13 Financial Assets

The Court classifies its financial assets in the following categories:

- held-to-maturity investments; and
- loans and receivables.

The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of initial recognition. Financial assets are recognised and derecognised upon trade date.

Effective Interest Method

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and of allocating interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset, or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Income is recognised on an effective interest rate basis except for financial assets that are recognised at fair value through profit or loss.

Held-to-Maturity Investments

Non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturity dates that the Court has the positive intent and ability to hold to maturity are classified as held-to-maturity investments. Held-to-maturity investments are recorded at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment, with revenue recognised on an effective yield basis.

Loans and Receivables

Trade receivables, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment. Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate.

Impairment of Financial Assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period.

- *Financial assets held at amortised cost* - if there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred for loans and receivables or held to maturity investments held at amortised cost, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The carrying amount is reduced by way of an allowance account. The loss is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

High Court of Australia

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1.14 Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are classified as either financial liabilities 'at fair value through profit or loss' or other financial liabilities. Financial liabilities are recognised and derecognised upon 'trade date'.

Other Financial Liabilities

Other financial liabilities, including borrowings, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. These liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective yield basis.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability, or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Supplier and other payables are recognised at amortised cost. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).

1.15 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the statement of financial position but are reported in the notes when they arise. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a liability or asset or represent an asset or liability in respect of which the amount cannot be reliably measured. Contingent assets are disclosed when settlement is probable but not virtually certain and contingent liabilities are disclosed when settlement is greater than remote.

1.16 Acquisition of Assets

Assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below. The cost of acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken. Financial assets are initially measured at their fair value plus transaction costs where appropriate.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and income at their fair value at the date of acquisition, unless acquired as a consequence of restructuring of administrative arrangements. In the latter case, assets are initially recognised as contributions by owners at the amounts at which they were recognised in the transferor accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

1.17 Property, Plant and Equipment

Asset Recognition Threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the Statement of Financial Position, except for purchases costing less than \$3,000 (or building improvements less than \$10,000), which are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

Revaluations

Following initial recognition at cost, property, plant and equipment are carried at fair value less subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Valuations are conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets do not differ materially from the assets' fair values as at the reporting date. The regularity of independent valuations depends upon the volatility of movements in market values for the relevant assets.

Revaluation adjustments are made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment is credited to equity under the heading of asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that it reverses a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised in the surplus/deficit. Revaluation decrements for a class of assets are recognised directly in the surplus/deficit except to the extent that they reverse a previous revaluation increment for that class.

Any accumulated depreciation as at the revaluation date is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the asset restated to the revalued amount.

High Court of Australia

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Depreciation

Depreciable property, plant and equipment assets are written-off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives to the Court using, in all cases, the straight-line method of depreciation.

Depreciation rates (useful lives), residual values and methods are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate.

Depreciation rates applying to each class of depreciable asset are based on the following useful lives:

	2015	2014
Building assets	8 to 165 years	6 to 169 years
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	0 to 35 years	0 to 35 years
Library holdings	50 years	50 years

All heritage and cultural assets have indefinite useful lives and are not depreciated.

Impairment

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2015. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment made if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs of disposal and its value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Where the future economic benefit of an asset is not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate future cash flows, and the asset would be replaced if the Court were deprived of the asset, its value in use is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost.

Derecognition

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no further future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal.

Heritage and Cultural Assets

The Court has a small collection of heritage assets which includes rare books, works of art and antique furniture. The Court has classified them as heritage and cultural assets as they are primarily used for purposes that relate to their cultural significance. The aims of the Court's preservation activities are to preserve collection items and to maintain access to them, consistent with their significance to the collection, usage requirements and current condition. The Court's preservation activities include documenting the collection, providing appropriate storage arrangements, adopting adequate security measures and undertaking conservation treatments when material is at risk or damaged.

1.18 Intangibles

The Court's intangibles comprise externally acquired software for internal use. These assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Software is amortised on a straight-line basis over their anticipated useful life. The useful lives of the Court's software is 3 years (2013-14: 3 years).

All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2015.

1.19 Taxation

The Court is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) and the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of GST except:

- where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office; and
- for receivables and payables.

High Court of Australia

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1.20 Reporting of Administered Activities

Administered revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities and cash flows are disclosed in the schedule of administered items and related notes.

Except where otherwise stated below, administered items are accounted for on the same basis and using the same policies as for departmental items, including the application of Australian Accounting Standards.

Administered Cash Transfers to and from Official Public Account

Revenue collected by the Court for use by the Government rather than the Court is administered revenue. Collections are transferred to the Official Public Account (OPA) maintained by the Department of Finance. These transfers to the OPA are adjustments to the administered cash held by the Court on behalf of the Government and reported as such in the statement of administered cash flows and in the administered reconciliation schedule.

Revenue

All administered revenues are revenues relating to the course of ordinary activities performed by the Court on behalf of the Australian Government.

Note 2: Events After Balance Sheet Date

No events have occurred after the reporting period that affect the Financial Statements.

High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 3: Net Cash Appropriation Arrangements

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Total comprehensive income/(loss) less depreciation/amortisation expenses previously funded through revenue appropriations	(12,970,859)	(757,251)
Plus: depreciation/amortisation expenses previously funded through revenue appropriation	<u>(4,801,861)</u>	<u>(4,661,962)</u>
Total comprehensive (loss) - as per the Statement of Comprehensive Income	<u>(17,772,720)</u>	<u>(5,419,213)</u>

High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 4: Expenses

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Note 4A: Employee Benefits		
Wages and salaries	6,497,503	6,548,773
Superannuation		
Defined contribution plans	543,204	548,690
Defined benefit plans	557,045	605,413
Leave and other entitlements	708,722	804,027
Fringe Benefits Tax	286,442	250,980
Separation and redundancies	39,036	53,040
Total employee benefits	8,631,952	8,810,923

The salaries and allowances paid to the Chief Justice and other Justices of the Court are administered by the Attorney-General's Department through a drawing right on a special appropriation held by the Australian Public Service Commission. These payments are not included in the Financial Statements of the High Court of Australia.

Note 4B: Suppliers

Goods and services supplied or rendered

Property	4,177,654	4,219,490
Travel	953,893	931,502
Information Technology and Communications	572,127	581,024
Electronic library subscriptions	371,677	327,007
Contractors and other Consultants	273,469	267,421
General Insurance	122,903	177,980
Other	747,603	740,248
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	7,219,326	7,244,672

Goods supplied in connection with

Related parties	-	7,548
External parties	276,219	262,470
Total goods supplied	276,219	270,018

Services rendered in connection with

Related parties	2,622,502	2,938,024
External parties	4,320,605	4,287,609
Total services rendered	6,943,107	7,225,634
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	7,219,326	7,495,652

Other suppliers expenses

Operating lease rentals in connection with

External parties		
Minimum lease payments	182,171	184,645
Workers compensation expenses	185,311	193,893
Total other suppliers	367,482	378,538
Total suppliers	7,586,808	7,623,210

High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 4C: Write-Down and Impairment of Assets

Revaluation decrement - Library holdings	-	4,192,436
Impairment of property, plant and equipment	26,783	1,236
Impairment of buildings	119,642	141,789
Total write-down and impairment of assets	146,425	4,335,461

Note 4D: Losses from Asset Sales

Proceeds from sale	(4,210)	(91)
Carrying value of assets sold	4,251	793
Total losses from asset sales	41	702

High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 5: Income

	2015	2014
Own-Source Revenue	\$	\$

Note 5A: Sale of Goods and Rendering of Services

Sale of goods in connection with

Related parties	-	-
External parties	<u>39,126</u>	<u>37,748</u>
Total sale of goods and rendering of services	<u>39,126</u>	<u>37,748</u>

Rendering of services in connection with

Related parties	<u>16,027</u>	19,093
External parties	<u>167,810</u>	<u>110,431</u>
Total rendering of services	<u>183,837</u>	<u>129,524</u>
Total sale of goods and rendering of services	<u>222,963</u>	<u>167,272</u>

Note 5B: Resources received free of charge

Resources received free of charge

Remuneration of auditors	<u>48,000</u>	43,000
Property operating cost	<u>2,123,323</u>	<u>2,117,316</u>
Total Resources received free of charge	<u>2,171,323</u>	<u>2,160,316</u>

Note 5C: Other Revenue

Practitioner certificates	<u>76,295</u>	56,620
Department of Finance contribution to Chambers Fit out	-	175,000
Other	<u>4,533</u>	<u>17,704</u>
Total other revenue	<u>80,828</u>	<u>249,324</u>

Note 5D: Other Gains

Assets recognised for the first time	<u>13,700</u>	3,200
Total other gains	<u>13,700</u>	<u>3,200</u>

Revenue from Government

Note 5E: Revenue from Government

Appropriations		
Departmental appropriation	<u>13,424,000</u>	13,405,000
Total revenue from Government	<u>13,424,000</u>	<u>13,405,000</u>

High Court of Australia NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 6: Fair Value Measurements

The following tables provide an analysis of assets that are measured at fair value. The different levels of the fair value hierarchy are defined below.

Level 1: Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets that the entity can access at measurement date.

Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3: Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

Note 6A: Fair value measurements, Valuation Techniques and Inputs Used

Fair value measurements at the end of the reporting period by hierarchy for assets and liabilities in 2015

	Fair value measurements at the end of the reporting period		Category (Level 1, 2 or 3)	For Level 2 and 3 fair value measurements	
	2015	2014		Valuation technique(s) ¹	
	\$	\$		Market approach	Market transactions
Financial assets					
Investments	9,500,000	9,500,000	Level 2	Market transactions	
Total financial assets	9,500,000	9,500,000			
Non-financial assets					
Land	8,500,000	8,500,000	Level 3	Market approach	Adjusted market transactions
Buildings on freehold land					Replacement Cost New (price per square metre) Consumed economic benefit / Obsolescence of asset
Heritage and cultural	178,324,838	194,213,287	Level 3	Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC)	Adjusted market transactions
Other property, plant and equipment	4,414,140	3,644,445	Level 2	Market Approach	Adjusted market transactions
Other property, plant and equipment (General & Technical)	1,234,787	1,259,355	Level 2	Market Approach	Adjusted market transactions
Library holdings	646,262	215,963	Level 3	Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC)	Replacement Cost New Average annual depreciation
	13,198,665	12,495,977	Level 2	Market Approach	Adjusted market transactions
Total non-financial assets	206,318,692	220,529,027			
Total fair value measurements of assets in the statement of financial position	215,818,692	229,829,027			

1. No change in valuation technique occurred during the period.

High Court of Australia NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Fair value measurements – highest and best use differs from current use for non-financial assets (NFAs)
The Courts assets are held to meet the operational requirements of the *High Court of Australia Act 1979* and not held for the purposes of deriving a profit. The current use of all NFAs is considered their highest and best use.

Recurring and non-recurring Level 3 fair value measurements - valuation processes

The Court's policy is to revalue the land and buildings asset classes annually. The Court tests the procedures of the valuation model of all other asset classes as an internal management review at least once every 12 months (with a formal revaluation undertaken once every three years). If a particular asset class experiences significant and volatile changes in fair value (i.e. where indicators suggest that the value of the class has changed materially since the previous reporting period), that class is subject to specific valuation in the reporting period, where practicable, regardless of the timing of the last specific valuation. During the 2014-15 financial year the Court procured valuation services from:

- Australian Valuation Solutions (AVS) for the valuation of the Court's land and buildings assets,
- Harding Alford for the valuation of the Court's Heritage and cultural asset class and,
- Peter Tinsley for the valuation of the Court's Library holdings asset class.

The Court has relied on valuation models provided by each of the Consultants. Each of the Consultants has provided written assurance to the Court that the model developed is in compliance with AASB13.

Significant Level 3 inputs utilised by the entity are derived and evaluated as follows:

Buildings on freehold land - Consumed economic benefit/ Obsolescence of asset

Assets that do not transact with enough frequency or transparency to develop objective opinions of value from observable market evidence have been measured utilising the cost (Depreciated Replacement Cost or DRC) approach. Under the DRC approach the estimated cost to replace the asset is calculated and then adjusted to take into account its consumed economic benefit / asset obsolescence (accumulated Depreciation). Consumed economic benefit / asset obsolescence has been determined based on professional judgement regarding physical, economic and external obsolescence factors relevant to the asset under consideration.

Land - Adjusted market transactions

The Land asset has been measured using the market approach. No directly comparable sales of land parcels having a similar size and/or development potential were identified. Sales of land parcels with varying degrees of comparability have been identified and utilised to assess the fair value of the land asset based on the Valuers professional judgement.

High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 6B: Reconciliation for recurring Level 3 fair value measurements

Recurring Level 3 fair value measurements - reconciliation for assets

	Non-financial assets							
	Land ³		Buildings		PP&E		Total	
	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
As at 1 July	8,500,000	9,000,000	194,213,287	190,940,404	215,963	247,683	202,929,250	200,188,087
Total gains/(losses) recognised in net cost of services ¹	-	-	(4,077,773)	(3,914,081)	(67,042)	(81,077)	(4,144,815)	(3,995,158)
Total gains/(losses) recognised in other comprehensive income ²	-	(500,000)	(13,772,753)	4,172,037	-	-	(13,772,753)	3,672,037
Purchases	-	-	2,081,720	3,156,716	501,495	49,357	2,583,215	3,206,073
Impairment	-	-	(119,642)	(141,789)	(4,154)	-	(123,796)	(141,789)
Total as at 30 June	8,500,000	8,500,000	178,324,839	194,213,287	646,262	215,963	187,471,101	202,929,250

1. These gains/(losses) are presented in the Statement of Comprehensive Income under depreciation and amortisation.

2. These gains/(losses) are presented in the Statement of Comprehensive Income under changes in asset revaluation surplus.

3. The land asset has been transferred into level 3 as significant professional judgement has been utilised to determine fair value.

The entity's policy for determining when transfers between levels are deemed to have occurred can be found in Note 1.

High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 7: Financial Assets

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Note 7A: Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash on hand or on deposit	3,342,811	2,806,095
Other	-	1,500
Total cash and cash equivalents	3,342,811	2,807,595
Note 7B: Trade and Other Receivables		
Goods and services receivables in connection with		
Related parties	-	700
External parties	20,252	26,005
Total goods and services receivables	20,252	26,705
Other receivables		
Statutory receivables	69,984	73,577
Interest	91,533	114,712
Other	5,329	-
Total other receivables	166,846	188,289
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	187,098	214,994
Less impairment allowance		
Goods and services	1,750	1,750
Total impairment allowance account	1,750	1,750
Total trade and other receivables (net)	185,348	213,244
Trade and other receivables (net) expected to be recovered		
No more than 12 months	185,348	213,244
Total trade and other receivables (net)	185,348	213,244
Trade and other receivables (gross) aged as follows		
Not overdue	181,702	205,693
Overdue by:		
0 to 30 days	3,419	5,950
31 to 60 days	1,977	-
61 to 90 days	-	-
More than 90 days	-	3,351
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	187,098	214,994
Impairment allowance aged as follows		
Overdue by:		
31 to 60 days	1,750	-
61 to 90 days	-	-
More than 90 days	-	1,750
Total impairment allowance	1,750	1,750

Credit terms for goods and services were within 30 days (2014: 30 days).

High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Reconciliation of the Impairment Allowance

Movements in relation to 2015

	Goods and services \$'000	Total \$'000
Opening balance	1,750	1,750
Increase/(Decrease) recognised in net cost of services	-	-
Closing balance	1,750	1,750

Movements in relation to 2014

	Goods and services \$'000	Total \$'000
Opening balance	1,750	1,750
Increase/(Decrease) recognised in net cost of services	-	-
Closing balance	1,750	1,750

Note 7C: Other Investments

Deposits ¹	<u>9,500,000</u>	<u>9,500,000</u>
Total other investments	<u>9,500,000</u>	<u>9,500,000</u>

Other investments expected to be recovered

No more than 12 months	<u>9,500,000</u>	<u>9,500,000</u>
Total other investments	<u>9,500,000</u>	<u>9,500,000</u>

¹ Deposits held with financial institutions as authorised by the CE&PR under Section 41 of the *High Court of Australia Act* 1979.

High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 8: Non-Financial Assets

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Note 8A: Land and Buildings		
Land		
Fair value	<u>8,500,000</u>	8,500,000
Total land	<u>8,500,000</u>	8,500,000
Buildings on freehold land		
Work in progress	732,979	964,770
Fair value	177,619,061	193,337,320
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(27,201)</u>	<u>(88,803)</u>
Total buildings on freehold land	<u>178,324,839</u>	194,213,287
Total land and buildings	<u>186,824,839</u>	202,713,287

No indicators of impairment were found for land and buildings.

No land or buildings are expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

Note 8B: Property Plant and Equipment

Heritage and cultural		
Artworks - fair value	4,037,200	3,332,200
Rare books - fair value	149,090	132,245
Heritage furniture - fair value	<u>227,850</u>	<u>180,000</u>
Total heritage and cultural	<u>4,414,140</u>	3,644,445
Other property, plant and equipment		
Work in progress	279,486	27,868
Fair value	2,221,655	1,737,914
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(620,092)</u>	<u>(290,462)</u>
Total other property, plant and equipment	<u>1,881,049</u>	1,475,320
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>6,295,189</u>	5,119,765

No indicators of impairment were found for property, plant and equipment.

No property, plant and equipment are expected to be sold or disposed within the next 12 months.

Note 8C: Library holdings

Work in progress	156,575	115,844
Fair value	13,043,108	12,380,133
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(1,019)</u>	-
Total Library holdings	<u>13,198,664</u>	12,495,977

No indicators of impairment were found for library holding assets.

No library holdings are expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Revaluations of non-financial assets

All revaluations were conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy stated at Note 1. On 30 June 2015, independent valuers conducted valuations on land and buildings, heritage and cultural assets and library holdings.

A revaluation decrement of \$13,772,753 for buildings (2014: increment \$4,172,037), revaluation increment of \$755,994 for heritage and cultural (2014: nil) and a revaluation increment of \$75,234 for library holdings (2014: decrement \$4,192,436) were credited to the asset revaluation reserve by asset class and included in the equity section of the statement of financial position.

**High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Note 8D: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Property, Plant and Equipment (2014-15)

	Land	Buildings	Total land and buildings	Other PP&E	Heritage and cultural ¹	Library holdings	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
As at 1 July 2014							
Gross book value	8,500,000	194,302,090	202,802,090	1,765,782	3,644,445	12,495,977	220,708,294
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	(88,803)	(88,803)	(290,462)	-	-	(379,265)
Total as at 1 July 2014	8,500,000	194,213,287	202,715,287	1,475,320	3,644,445	12,495,977	220,329,029
Additions:							
By purchase	-	2,081,720	2,081,720	787,667	-	885,616	3,755,003
By other movements	-	-	-	-	13,701	-	13,701
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	-	(13,772,753)	(13,772,753)	-	755,994	75,234	(12,941,525)
Impairments recognised in the operating result	-	(119,642)	(119,642)	(25,727)	-	(1,056)	(146,425)
Depreciation expense	-	(4,077,773)	(4,077,773)	(351,960)	-	(257,106)	(4,686,839)
Disposals:							
Other disposals	-	-	-	(4,251)	-	-	(4,251)
Movements:							
Other movements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total as at 30 June 2015	8,500,000	178,324,839	186,824,839	1,881,049	4,414,140	13,198,664	206,318,693
Total as at 30 June 2015 represented by:							
Gross book value	8,500,000	178,352,040	186,852,040	2,501,141	4,414,140	13,199,684	206,967,005
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	(27,201)	(27,201)	(620,092)	-	(1,019)	(648,312)
Total as at 30 June 2014	8,500,000	178,324,839	186,824,839	1,881,049	4,414,140	13,198,664	206,318,693

¹Land, buildings and other property, plant and equipment that met the definition of a heritage and cultural item were disclosed in the heritage and cultural asset class.

High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 8D: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Property, Plant and Equipment (2013-14)

	Land	Buildings	Total land and buildings	Other PP&E	Heritage and cultural ¹	Library holdings	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
As at 1 July 2013							
Gross book value	9,000,000	191,005,576	200,005,576	1,371,550	3,640,940	16,512,177	221,530,243
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	(65,172)	(65,172)	(1,490)	-	(316,266)	(382,928)
Total as at 1 July 2013	9,000,000	190,940,404	199,940,404	1,370,060	3,640,940	16,195,911	221,147,315
Additions							
By purchase	-	3,156,716	3,156,716	396,333	305	945,257	4,498,611
By other movements	-	-	-	-	3,200	-	3,200
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	(500,000)	4,172,037	3,672,037	-	-	(114,392)	3,557,645
Impairments recognised in the operating result	-	(141,789)	(141,789)	(1,236)	-	(4,192,436)	(4,335,461)
Depreciation expense	-	(3,914,081)	(3,914,081)	(289,044)	-	(338,363)	(4,541,488)
Disposals:							
Other disposals	-	-	-	(793)	-	-	(793)
Total as at 30 June 2014	8,500,000	194,213,287	202,713,287	1,475,320	3,644,445	12,495,977	220,329,029
Total as at 30 June 2014 represented by:							
Gross book value	8,500,000	194,302,090	202,802,090	1,765,782	3,644,445	12,495,977	220,708,294
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	(88,803)	(88,803)	(290,462)	-	-	(379,265)
Total as at 30 June 2014	8,500,000	194,213,287	202,713,287	1,475,320	3,644,445	12,495,977	220,329,029

¹Land, buildings and other property, plant and equipment that met the definition of a heritage and cultural item were disclosed in the heritage and cultural asset class.

High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
<u>Note 8E: Intangibles</u>		
Computer software		
Work in progress	-	39,940
Purchased	897,445	1,063,697
Accumulated amortisation	(726,511)	(875,464)
Total computer software	170,934	228,173
Total intangibles	170,934	228,173

No indicators of impairment were found for intangible assets.

No intangibles are expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

**High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Note 8F: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Intangibles (2014-15)

	Computer software purchased	Total
	\$	\$
As at 1 July 2014		
Gross book value	1,103,637	1,103,637
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(875,464)	(875,464)
Total as at 1 July 2014	228,173	228,173
Additions		
By purchase	57,783	57,783
Amortisation	(115,022)	(115,022)
Total as at 30 June 2015	170,934	170,934
Total as at 30 June 2015 represented by		
Gross book value	897,445	897,445
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(726,511)	(726,511)
Total as at 30 June 2014	170,934	170,934

High Court of Australia
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 8F: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Intangibles (2013-14)

	Computer software purchased	Total
	\$	\$
As at 1 July 2013		
Gross book value	947,106	947,106
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(754,990)	(754,990)
Total as at 1 July 2013	192,116	192,116
Additions	156,531	156,531
Amortisation	(120,474)	(120,474)
Total as at 30 June 2014	228,173	228,173
Total as at 30 June 2014 represented by		
Gross book value	1,103,637	1,103,637
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(875,464)	(875,464)
Total as at 30 June 2014	228,173	228,173

High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
<u>Note 8G: Other Non-Financial Assets</u>		
Other prepayments	<u>140,313</u>	<u>115,617</u>
Total other non-financial assets	<u>140,313</u>	<u>115,617</u>
Other non-financial assets expected to be recovered		
No more than 12 months	<u>140,313</u>	<u>115,617</u>
Total other non-financial assets	<u>140,313</u>	<u>115,617</u>

No indicators of impairment were found for other non-financial assets.

High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 9: Payables

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Note 9A: Suppliers		
Trade creditors	274,706	82,658
Accruals	<u>198,444</u>	<u>284,240</u>
Total suppliers	<u>473,150</u>	<u>366,898</u>
Suppliers expected to be settled		
No more than 12 months	<u>473,150</u>	<u>366,898</u>
Total suppliers	<u>473,150</u>	<u>366,898</u>
Suppliers in connection with		
Related parties	24,442	-
External parties	<u>448,708</u>	<u>366,898</u>
Total suppliers	<u>473,150</u>	<u>366,898</u>

Settlement is usually made within 30 days.

Note 9B: Other Payables

Wages and salaries	315,388	278,196
Superannuation	39,122	40,697
Unearned revenue	<u>18,701</u>	<u>18,280</u>
Total other payables	<u>373,211</u>	<u>337,173</u>
Other payables expected to be settled		
No more than 12 months	<u>373,211</u>	<u>337,173</u>
Total other payables	<u>373,211</u>	<u>337,173</u>

Note 10: Provisions

Note 10A: Employee Provisions

Leave	<u>2,485,827</u>	<u>2,396,957</u>
Total employee provisions	<u>2,485,827</u>	<u>2,396,957</u>
Employee provisions expected to be settled		
No more than 12 months	974,935	693,693
More than 12 months	<u>1,510,892</u>	<u>1,703,264</u>
Total employee provisions	<u>2,485,827</u>	<u>2,396,957</u>

High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 11: Cash Flow Reconciliation

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents as per statement of financial position to cash flow statement		
Cash and cash equivalents as per		
Cash flow statement	3,342,811	2,807,595
Statement of financial position	<u>3,342,811</u>	<u>2,807,595</u>
Discrepancy	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash from/(used by) operating activities		
Net (cost of)/contribution by services	(18,255,195)	(22,381,858)
Revenue from Government	13,424,000	13,405,000
Adjustments for non-cash items		
Depreciation / amortisation	4,801,861	4,661,962
Gain - other, assets recognised for the first time	(13,700)	(3,200)
Net write down of non-financial assets	146,425	4,193,672
Losses from sale of assets	41	702
Impairment expense	-	141,789
Movements in assets and liabilities		
Assets		
(Increase) / decrease in net receivables	27,896	83,377
(Increase) / decrease in prepayments	(24,696)	(55,809)
Liabilities		
Increase / (decrease) in employee provisions	88,870	260,294
Increase / (decrease) in supplier payables	(100,246)	42,696
Increase / (decrease) in other payable	<u>36,038</u>	<u>31,524</u>
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities	<u>131,294</u>	<u>380,149</u>

High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 12: Senior Management Personnel Remuneration

Note 12A: Senior Management Personnel Remuneration

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Short-term employee benefits		
Salary	<u>1,120,707</u>	1,099,445
Total short-term employee benefits	<u>1,120,707</u>	1,099,445
Post-employment benefits		
Superannuation	<u>188,624</u>	197,970
Total post-employment benefits	<u>188,624</u>	197,970
Other long-term employee benefits		
Long-service leave	57,681	56,840
Annual leave accrued	<u>95,748</u>	95,396
Total other long-term employee benefits	<u>153,429</u>	152,236
Total senior executive remuneration expenses	<u>1,462,760</u>	1,449,651

Note 13: Public Money in the Custody of the Court

Suitor's Fund

Balances as at July 2014	19,500	14,000
Amounts received	10,000	7,020
Amounts deducted/paid out	<u>(17,500)</u>	(1,520)
Balance as at 30 June 2015	<u>12,000</u>	19,500

These are funds paid into the Court under an order of the Court or a Justice of the Court.

High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 14: Financial Instruments

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Note 14A: Categories of Financial Instruments		
Financial Assets		
Held-to-maturity investments		
Term deposits	<u>9,500,000</u>	<u>9,500,000</u>
Total held-to-maturity investments	9,500,000	9,500,000
Loans and receivables		
Cash at bank	<u>3,342,811</u>	<u>2,807,595</u>
Receivable for goods and services	<u>20,252</u>	<u>26,705</u>
Total loans and receivables	3,363,063	2,834,300
Total financial assets	12,863,063	12,334,300
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Supplier payables	<u>274,706</u>	<u>82,658</u>
Accrued expenses	<u>198,444</u>	<u>284,240</u>
Total financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	473,150	366,898
Total financial liabilities	473,150	366,898

High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Note 14B: Net Gains or Losses on Financial Assets		
Held-to-maturity investments		
Interest revenue	388,550	433,934
Net gains/(losses) held-to-maturity investments	388,550	433,934
Loans and receivables		
Interest revenue	34,528	36,354
Net gains/(losses) loans and receivables	34,528	36,354
Net gains/(losses) from financial assets	423,078	470,288

Note 14C: Fair Value of Financial Instruments

	Carrying amount 2015 \$	Fair value 2015 \$	Carrying amount 2014 \$	Fair value 2014 \$
Financial Assets				
Cash at bank	3,342,811	3,342,811	2,807,595	2,807,595
Held-to-maturity	9,500,000	9,500,000	9,500,000	9,500,000
Receivables for goods and services	20,252	20,252	26,705	26,705
Total financial assets	12,863,063	12,863,063	12,334,300	12,334,300
Financial Liabilities				
Suppliers payable at amortised cost	274,706	274,706	82,658	82,658
Accrued expenses at amortised cost	198,444	198,444	284,240	284,240
Total financial liabilities	473,150	473,150	366,898	366,898

High Court of Australia

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 14D: Credit Risk

The Court's primary credit risk exposure arises from the Court's business interactions on credit with trade debtors. The credit quality of other customers is risk assessed by management taking into account their financial position, past experience and other factors and compliance with the Court's credit terms is regularly monitored by management.

The Court assessed the risk of the default on payment and has allocated \$1750 in 2015 (2014: \$1750) to an impairment allowance account. The Court had policies and procedures that guided employees debt recovery techniques that were to be applied.

The Court held no collateral to mitigate against credit risk.

The following table illustrates the Court's gross exposure to credit risk, excluding any collateral or credit enhancements.

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Cash and cash equivalents	3,342,811	2,807,595
Loans and receivables	20,252	26,705
Total	3,363,063	2,834,300

Credit quality of financial assets not past due or individually determined as impaired

	Not past due nor impaired 2015 \$	Not past due nor impaired 2014 \$	Past due or impaired 2015 \$	Past due or impaired 2014 \$
Cash and cash equivalents	3,342,811	2,807,595	-	-
Loans and receivables	14,856	17,404	5,396	9,301
Total	3,357,667	2,824,999	5,396	9,301

Ageing of financial assets that were past due but not impaired for 2015

	0 to 30 days \$	31 to 60 days \$	61 to 90 days \$	90+ days \$	Total \$
Loans and receivables	3,419	227	-	-	3,646
Total	3,419	227	-	-	3,646

Ageing of financial assets that were past due but not impaired for 2014

	0 to 30 days \$	31 to 60 days \$	61 to 90 days \$	90+ days \$	Total \$
Loans and receivables	5,950	-	-	1,601	7,551
Total	5,950	-	-	1,601	7,551

High Court of Australia

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 14E: Liquidity Risk

The Court manages liquidity risk by continuously monitoring the forecast and actual cash flows associated with the financial assets and liabilities of the Court. The following tables illustrates the maturities for the Court's financial liabilities.

Maturities for non-derivative financial liabilities 2015

	On demand	Within 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 5 years	> 5 years	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Supplier payables	-	274,706	-	-	-	274,706
Accrued expenses	-	198,444	-	-	-	198,444
Total	-	473,150	-	-	-	473,150

Maturities for non-derivative financial liabilities 2014

	On demand	Within 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 5 years	> 5 years	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Supplier payables	-	82,658	-	-	-	82,658
Accrued expenses	-	263,348	-	-	-	263,348
Total	-	346,006	-	-	-	346,006

High Court of Australia

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 14F: Market Risk

The Court's primary market risk exposure arises from changes in the interest rates associated with funds held with banks and financial institutions.

The weighted average interest rate received on cash at bank funds during the 2014-15 financial year was 1.950%. Based on recent trends and the current economic environment, management estimates that the maximum perceived exposure to changes in the interest rates in the next 12 months is approximately +/- 0.40%.

The weighted average interest rate received on investments during the 2014-15 financial year was 3.626%. Based on recent trends and the current economic environment, management estimates that the maximum perceived exposure to changes in the interest rates in the next 12 months is approximately +/- 0.40%.

Sensitivity analysis of the risk that the entity is exposed to for 2015

Risk variable	Change in risk variable %	Effect on		
		Net cost of services	Equity	
Interest rate risk - cash at bank	1.950	(0.40)	(13,364)	-
Interest rate risk - cash at bank	1.950	0.40	13,364	-
Interest rate risk - investments	3.626	(0.40)	(38,000)	-
Interest rate risk - investments	3.626	0.40	38,000	-

Sensitivity analysis of the risk that the entity is exposed to for 2014

Risk variable	Change in risk variable %	Effect on		
		Net cost of services	Equity	
Interest rate risk - cash at bank	2.325	(0.60)	(16,825)	-
Interest rate risk - cash at bank	2.325	0.60	16,825	-
Interest rate risk - investments	3.918	(0.60)	(57,000)	-
Interest rate risk - investments	3.918	0.60	57,000	-

High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 15: Financial Assets Reconciliation

		2015	2014
		\$	\$
	Notes		
Total financial assets as per statement of financial position		13,028,159	12,520,839
Less: non-financial instrument components			
Other receivables		(166,846)	(188,289)
Impairment allowance		<u>1,750</u>	<u>1,750</u>
Total non-financial instrument components		<u>(165,096)</u>	<u>(186,539)</u>
Total financial assets as per financial instruments note	14A	<u>12,863,063</u>	12,334,300

High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 16: Administered Income

	2015	2014
Non-Taxation Revenue	\$	\$

Note 16A: Sale of Goods and Rendering of Services

Rendering of services in connection with

Filing and other hearing fees - external parties	2,035,803	1,576,367
Other	<u>61,252</u>	<u>52,180</u>
Total rendering of services	2,097,055	1,628,547
Total sale of goods and rendering of services	2,097,055	1,628,547

Note 17: Administered Financial Assets

Note 17A: Receivables

Goods and services receivable in connection with

Related parties	-	-
External parties	<u>1,183</u>	<u>-</u>
Total goods and services receivables	1,183	-

High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 18: Appropriations

Note 18A: Annual Appropriations ('Recoverable GST exclusive')

	<i>Appropriation Act</i> Annual Appropriation \$	Appropriation applied in 2014-15 (current and prior years) \$	Variance \$
Departmental			
Ordinary annual services	13,424,000	13,424,000	-
Other services			
Equity	1,450,000	1,450,000	-
Total departmental	14,874,000	14,874,000	-

	<i>Appropriation Act</i> Annual Appropriation \$	Appropriation applied in 2013-14 (current and prior years) \$	Variance \$
Departmental			
Ordinary annual services	13,405,000	13,405,000	-
Other services			
Equity	1,450,000	1,450,000	-
Total departmental	14,855,000	14,855,000	-

Note 18B: Departmental Capital Budgets ('Recoverable GST exclusive')

	2015 Capital Budget Appropriations	Capital Budget Appropriations applied in 2015	
	Annual Capital Budget Appropriation \$'000	Payments for non- financial assets \$'000	Variance \$'000
Departmental			
Ordinary annual services			
Departmental Capital Budget	2,557,000	2,557,000	-

The amounts are appropriated directly to the High Court of Australia in the Appropriations Acts. The appropriations are applied when amounts are paid to the High Court of Australia.

	2014 Capital Budget Appropriations	Capital Budget Appropriations applied in 2015	
	Annual Capital Budget Appropriation \$'000	Payments for non- financial assets \$'000	Variance \$'000
Departmental			
Ordinary annual services			
Departmental Capital Budget	3,353,000	3,353,000	-

The amounts are appropriated directly to the High Court of Australia in the Appropriations Acts. The appropriations are applied when amounts are paid to the High Court of Australia.

High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 19: Compensation and Debt Relief	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Compensation and Debt Relief - Administered		
16 waivers of amounts owing to the Australian Government were made pursuant to Regulation 11 (1)(a) of the <i>High Court of Australia (Fees) Regulations</i> 2004, for persons in receipt of legal aid (2014:30)	14,840	21,240
120 waivers of amounts owing to the Australian Government were made pursuant to Regulation 11 (1)(b) of the <i>High Court of Australia (Fees) Regulations</i> 2004, for persons who hold a concession card issued by Centrelink or Dept of Veterans' Affairs (2014:102)	303,675	233,335
154 waivers of amounts owing to the Australian Government were made pursuant to Regulation 11 (1)(c) of the <i>High Court of Australia (Fees) Regulations</i> 2004, for persons detained in a public institution (2014:155)	303,295	128,980
1 waivers of amounts owing to the Australian Government were made pursuant to Regulation 11 (1)(d) of the <i>High Court of Australia (Fees) Regulations</i> 2004, for persons being a child under the age of 18 (2014:3)	2,645	5,480
Nil waivers of amounts owing to the Australian Government were made pursuant to Regulation 11 (1)(e) of the <i>High Court of Australia (Fees) Regulations</i> 2004, for persons in receipt of Youth Allowance, Austudy payment or ABSTUDY benefits. (2014: 1)	-	2,505
146 waivers of amounts owing to the Australian Government were made pursuant to Regulation 12 of the <i>High Court of Australia (Fees) Regulations</i> 2004, for persons being in financial hardship.(2014:109)	254,955	176,610

High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 20: Reporting of Outcomes
Note 20A: Net Cost of Outcome Delivery

	Outcome 1		Total	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Departmental				
Expenses	(21,167,087)	(25,432,258)	(21,167,087)	(25,432,258)
Own-source income	2,898,192	3,047,200	2,898,192	3,047,200
Administered				
Expenses	-	-	-	-
Own-source income	2,097,054	1,628,547	2,097,054	1,628,547
Net cost/(contribution) of outcome delivery	(16,171,841)	(20,756,511)	(16,171,841)	(20,756,511)

High Court of Australia

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 21: Budgetary Reports and Explanations of Major Variances

The following tables provide a comparison of the original budget as presented in the 2014-15 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) to the 2014-15 final outcome as presented in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards for the entity. The Budget is not audited.

Variances are considered to be 'major' based on the following criteria:

- The variance between budget and actual is greater than 10%; and
- The variance between budget and actual is greater than 2% of the relevant category (Income, Expense and Equity totals); or
- An item below this threshold but is considered important for the reader's understanding or is relevant to an assessment of the discharge of accountability and to an analysis of performance of an entity.

Where a budget has not been provided for in the PBS, for example non-cash items such as asset revaluations and write offs, these items will be denoted by 'NB'. Unless the variance is considered to be 'major' no explanation has been provided.

High Court of Australia

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 21A: Departmental Budgetary Reports

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the period ended 30 June 2015

	Actual	Budget estimate	
		Original ¹	Variance ²
	2015	2015	2015
	\$	\$	\$
	'000	'000	'000
NET COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits	8,632	8,675	(43)
Suppliers	7,587	7,547	40
Depreciation and amortisation	4,802	4,602	200
Write-down and impairment of assets	146	NB	146
Total expenses	21,167	20,824	343
Own-Source Income			
Own-source revenue			
Sale of goods and rendering of services	223	165	58
Interest (a)	423	380	43
Other revenues	81	100	(19)
Resources received free of charge	2,171	2,153	18
Total own-source revenue	2,898	2,798	100
Gains			
Other gains	14	-	14
Total gains	14	-	14
Total own-source income	2,912	2,798	114
Net (cost of) services	(18,255)	(18,026)	(229)
Revenue from Government	13,424	13,424	-
(Deficit) attributable to the Australian Government	(4,831)	(4,602)	(229)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus (b,c)	(12,942)	NB	(12,942)
Total comprehensive income	(12,942)	-	(12,942)
Total comprehensive (loss)	(17,773)	(4,602)	(13,171)
Total comprehensive (loss) attributable to the Australian Government	(17,773)	(4,602)	(13,171)

¹The entity's original budgeted financial statement that was first presented to parliament in respect of the reporting period (i.e. from the entity's 2014-15 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS)).

²Between the actual and original budgeted amounts for 2015. Explanations of major variances are provided further below.

High Court of Australia

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Financial Position

for the period ended 30 June 2015

		Actual	Budget estimate	
			Original ¹	Variance ²
		2015	2015	2015
		\$	\$	\$
		'000	'000	'000
ASSETS				
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	(a)	3,343	1,222	2,121
Trade and other receivables		185	296	(111)
Other Investments	(a)	9,500	5,822	3,678
Total financial assets		13,028	7,340	5,688
Non-financial assets				
Land and buildings	(a,b)	186,825	200,632	(13,807)
Property, plant and equipment	(c)	15,080	20,815	(5,735)
Intangibles		171	567	(396)
Heritage and cultural assets		4,414	3,741	673
Other non-financial assets		140	80	60
Total non-financial assets		206,630	225,835	(19,205)
Total assets		219,658	233,175	(13,517)
LIABILITIES				
Payables				
Suppliers	(d)	473	95	378
Other Payables		373	237	136
Total payables		846	332	514
Provisions				
Employee provisions	(e)	2,486	2,444	42
Total provisions		2,486	2,444	42
Total liabilities		3,332	2,776	556
Net assets		216,326	230,399	(14,073)
EQUITY				
Contributed equity		83,561	83,562	(1)
Reserves	(b,c)	164,743	174,127	(9,384)
Retained surplus (accumulated deficit)		(31,978)	(27,290)	(4,688)
Total equity		216,326	230,399	(14,073)

¹The entity's original budgeted financial statement that was first presented to parliament in respect of the reporting period (i.e. from the entity's 2014-15 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS)).

²Between the actual and original budgeted amounts for 2015. Explanations of major variances are provided further below.

High Court of Australia NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Changes in Equity
for the period ended 30 June 2015

	Retained earnings				Asset revaluation reserves				Contributed equity/capital				Total equity				
	Actual	Budget estimate	Actual	Budget estimate	Actual	Budget estimate	Actual	Budget estimate	Actual	Budget estimate	Actual	Budget estimate	Original ¹	Variance ²	Original ¹	Variance ²	
	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	
	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000
Opening balance																	
Balance carried forward from previous period (b,c)	(27,147)	(22,688)	(4,459)	177,685	174,127	3,558	79,555	79,555	-	230,093	230,994	230,994	(901)				(901)
Adjusted opening balance	(27,147)	(22,688)	(4,459)	177,685	174,127	3,558	79,555	79,555	-	230,093	230,994	230,994	(901)				(901)
Comprehensive income																	
Other comprehensive income (Deficit) for the period (b,c)	-	-	-	(12,942)	NB	(12,942)	-	-	-	(12,942)	-	(12,942)	-	(12,942)			(12,942)
Total comprehensive income	(4,831)	(4,602)	(229)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(4,831)	(4,602)	(4,602)	(229)				(229)
Total comprehensive income	(4,831)	(4,602)	(229)	(12,942)	-	(12,942)	-	-	-	(17,773)	(4,602)	(4,602)	(13,171)				(13,171)
Transactions with owners																	
Contributions by owners																	
Equity injection -																	
Appropriation	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,450	1,450	-	1,450	1,450	1,450	-				-
Departmental capital budget (Distribution) of Equity	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,557	2,557	-	2,557	2,557	2,557	-				-
Sub-total transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)				(1)
owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,006	4,007	(1)	4,006	4,007	4,007	(1)				(1)
Closing balances as at 30 June	(31,978)	(27,290)	-	164,743	174,127	-	83,561	83,562	-	216,326	230,399	230,399	(14,073)				(14,073)
Closing balance attributable to the Australian Government	(31,978)	(27,290)	-	164,743	174,127	-	83,561	83,562	-	216,326	230,399	230,399	(14,073)				(14,073)

¹ The entity's original budgeted financial statement that was first presented to parliament in respect of the reporting period (i.e. from the entity's 2014-15 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS)).

² Between the actual and original budgeted amounts for 2015. Explanations of major variances are provided further below.

High Court of Australia

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Cash Flow Statement

for the period ended 30 June 2015

	Actual	Budget estimate	
		Original ¹	Variance ²
	2015	2015	2015
	\$	\$	\$
	'000	'000	'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Appropriations	13,424	13,424	-
Sale of goods and rendering of services	255	165	90
Interest	(a) 446	380	66
Net GST received	793	770	23
Other	81	100	(19)
Total cash received	14,999	14,839	160
Cash used			
Employees	8,513	8,795	(282)
Suppliers	6,355	6,044	311
Total cash used	14,868	14,839	29
Net cash from operating activities	131	-	131
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment	4	-	4
Investments	(a) -	1,223	(1,223)
Total cash received	4	1,223	(1,219)
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(a) 3,606	5,230	(1,624)
Investments	-	-	-
Total cash used	3,606	5,230	(1,624)
Net cash (used by) investing activities	(3,602)	(4,007)	405
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Capital injection	4,007	4,007	-
Total cash received	4,007	4,007	-
Cash used			
Distributed equity	1	-	1
Total cash used	1	-	1
Net cash from financing activities	4,006	4,007	-
Net increase in cash held	535	-	536
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	2,808	1,222	1,586
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	3,343	1,222	2,122

¹The entity's original budgeted financial statement that was first presented to parliament in respect of the reporting period (i.e. from the entity's 2014-15 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS)).

² Between the actual and original budgeted amounts for 2015. Explanations of major variances are provided further below.

High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 21B: Departmental Budgetary Reports Major Variances for 2015

Affected line item (and schedule)	Explanations of major variances
a	<p>The Court's capital spending in the 2013-14 and 2014-15 years were lower than budgeted and this has resulted in the financial assets value being higher than budgeted. The key factors for the lower than budgeted capital spends are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the development of capital project specifications took longer than anticipated due to the complexity of the projects; • planning approval timeframes were longer than forecasted; and • the scheduled replacement of a major software asset did not occur as a decision was taken to enter into an operating lease rather than a capital outlay.
b	<p>The actual value of the Court's building reflects a revaluation decrement of \$13,773k for 2014-15 and a revaluation increment of \$3,558k for 2013-14. Both of these revaluations took place after the budget was finalised. The 2014-15 building revaluation was undertaken using the depreciated replacement cost method with the current replacement cost being derived by a professional quantity surveyor based on contemporary building methods and reference to current market costs for material and labour. Previously the current replacement cost was determined by reference to original cost with an annual relevant index adjustment to reflect current market costs for material and labour.</p>
c	<p>The actual value of the Court's library Collection reflects a revaluation increment of \$75k for 2014-15 and a revaluation decrement of \$ 4,192k for 2013-14. The 2013-14 revaluation decrement was expensed. Both of these revaluations took place after the budget was finalised. The 2012-13 devaluation of the library collection reflects the diminution of market values for printed materials which appears to be due to the increased use of electronic means to access such material.</p>
d	<p>The budget assumed there would be minimal accruals for capital projects. There were six major capital projects in progress at the end of the financial year with accrued costs totalling \$227k.</p>
e	<p>The variation in the value of the employee provision of \$329k is primarily due to fluctuations in discount rates.</p>

High Court of Australia
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 21C: Administered Budgetary Reports Comprehensive Income

Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income for not-for-profit Reporting Entities
for the period ended 30 June 2015

	Actual	Budget estimate	
		Original ¹	Variance ¹
	2015	2015	2015
	\$	\$	\$
	'000	'000	'000
NET COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses	-	-	-
Total expenses	-	-	-
Income			
Revenue			
Non-taxation revenue			
Sale of goods and rendering of services (f)	2,097	1,829	268
Total non-taxation revenue	2,097	1,829	268
Total income	2,097	1,829	268
Total comprehensive income	2,097	1,829	268

Note 21D: Administered Budgetary Reports Major Variances for 2015

Affected line items
(and schedule)

Explanations of major variances

- f The increase in income is predominately due to the types of matters before the Court. Hearing Fees collected for Full Court appeals have increased by \$234k on the prior year. The budget estimate was based on past filing trends.



Annexures

ANNEXURE A:		ANNEXURE B:	
Freedom of Information	107	Staffing overview	112
FoI procedures and initial contact points	109		
Facilities for access	109		
Offices around Australia	110		



Part 8

Annexure A

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The High Court administration routinely includes information in its annual and financial reports consistent with the reporting requirements of the *Freedom of Information Act* 1982 (Cth) (Fol Act). The Fol Act applies only to administrative, non-judicial documents held by the Court, and does not apply to the holder of a judicial office or other office pertaining to the Court. The officers of the Court who are exempt under the Act include:

- the Justices of the Court
- the Chief Executive and Principal Registrar of the High Court
- the officers performing the duties of Senior Registrar, Senior Executive Deputy Registrar, Deputy Registrars, and the Court Marshal
- As noted above, the Act does not apply to Registry documents that are not of an administrative nature. However, the case files of the Court are accessible to members of the public under the procedures in Rule 4.07.4 of the *High Court Rules* 2004.

The primary source of public information available to the public is via the Court website. It provides a wide range of

information related to the core business of the Court, its history, structure and administration. The Court has also published an Information Publication Plan as required under section 8 of the Fol Act.

The website provides access to documents related to legal matters filed at the High Court Registry, such as parties' initiating documents and submissions, short particulars of appeals and original jurisdiction matters, the results of applications for special leave, and judgment summaries. Some of these documents are published on both the Court and AustLII websites and are also distributed through subscription email lists. Transcripts of all Court hearings are also accessible on the website, as are audio-visual recordings of Full Bench hearings in Canberra. The website provides links to relevant legislation, the High Court Rules and Forms, the library catalogue, and the library's current year's new books notification service. The website also provides information about fees for filing, issuing or sealing a document or obtaining a service, pursuant to Schedule 1 of the *High Court of Australia (Fees) Regulations*, and the Scale of Professional Costs,

pursuant to Schedule 2 of the *High Court Rules 2004*.

The website provides access to many of the speeches delivered by the Justices of the Court, and to speeches of former Chief Justices and Justices.

The website also provides information about the Court building in Canberra – the competition for its design, the materials used in its construction, its heritage listing and the features of each courtroom. It also provides information about visiting the Court and the art collection.

The website also includes a site map and search function to assist individuals to access information from the site, and includes a ‘contact us’ webpage and dedicated email address for inquiries, including a link for making FoI inquiries and lodging requests for information.

An email based subscription service is available to the public, media and legal profession which allows for notification of upcoming judgments, judgment summaries and case summaries.

Other information that the Court makes available includes:

- the High Court Bulletin, produced by the High Court library. This provides a record of recent High Court cases: decided, reserved for judgment, awaiting hearing in the Court’s original jurisdiction, granted special leave to appeal, and refused special leave to appeal. It is published in hard copy and is also available via the website, on a link to the AustLII website
- the Conservation Management Plan for the Court consistent with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth)
- the Court sitting calendar, business lists and daily court lists
- venue and safety information for school excursions
- information transmitted orally by Court Guides stationed in the Public Hall and courtrooms to pre-booked school groups, other groups and visitors at large. Visitors are given an overview of the history, role and powers of the High Court and an explanation of the workings of each courtroom they visit. If the court is sitting, school groups watch proceedings for a short time and debrief in another courtroom about what they have observed
- tailored guided tours for official visitors
- information about functions such as Sunday concerts, moots and public lectures.

The Court works with other institutions in the Parliamentary Zone to facilitate public access to information about the Court. For example, the Court has an established partnership with the National Archives of Australia (NAA). The NAA includes in its permanent exhibitions and on its website information about the Court, as do other national institutions, including the Australian Parliament.

The Court maintains appropriate channels of communication with the media, relevant agencies and the public about the operations of the Court.

FOI PROCEDURES AND INITIAL CONTACT POINTS

Inquiries concerning access to documents or other matters relating to freedom of information should be directed to:

High Court of Australia
PO Box 6309
Kingston ACT 2604
Telephone: (02) 6270 6819
Fax: (02) 6270 6868
Email: enquiries@hcourt.gov.au

The Registry services in Adelaide, Brisbane, Darwin and Perth are provided by staff of the Federal Court of Australia. Registry services in Hobart are provided by the Supreme Court of Tasmania.

Canberra

Parkes Place, Parkes ACT 2600
Postal Address: PO Box 6309,
Kingston ACT 2604

Registry telephone: (02) 6270 6857
Registry facsimile: (02) 6273 3025

FACILITIES FOR ACCESS

Facilities for examining documents and obtaining copies are available at the addresses shown below. Information about the facilities available to assist people with disabilities to obtain access to documents can be obtained from the offices of the Court Registry.

The Principal Registry of the High Court of Australia is located at the seat of the Court in Canberra. There are offices of the Registry at the capital city of each State and in Darwin.

OFFICES AROUND AUSTRALIA



SYDNEY

Level 23, Law Courts Building
Queens Square, Sydney NSW 2000

Registry telephone: (02) 9230 8369
Registry facsimile: (02) 9230 8376



MELBOURNE

Level 17, Law Courts Building
305 William Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Registry telephone: (03) 8600 3001
Registry facsimile: (03) 8600 3007



BRISBANE

Federal Court of Australia
Level 6, Commonwealth Law Courts
Building
119 North Quay, Brisbane QLD 4000

Registry telephone: (07) 3248 1100
Registry facsimile: (07) 3248 1260



PERTH

Federal Court of Australia
Level 6, Commonwealth Law Courts
Building
1 Victoria Avenue, Perth WA 6000

Registry telephone: (08) 9268 7100
Registry facsimile: (08) 9221 3261



ADELAIDE

Federal Court of Australia
Level 5, Commonwealth Law Courts
3 Angas Street, Adelaide SA 5000

Registry telephone: (08) 8219 1000
Registry facsimile: (08) 8219 1001



HOBART

Supreme Court of Tasmania
Salamanca Place, Hobart TAS 7000

Registry telephone: (03) 6233 6245
Registry facsimile: (03) 6223 7816



DARWIN

Federal Court of Australia
Level 3, Supreme Court Building
State Square, Darwin NT 0800

Registry telephone: (08) 8941 2333
Registry facsimile: (08) 8941 4941

Annexure B

STAFFING OVERVIEW

This Annexure comprises two tables which provide a profile of the Court administration's staff as at 30 June 2015.

All High Court staff are employed under the *High Court of Australia Act 1979* (Cth). Conditions of employment for staff below the senior executive level are contained in the Determination under section 26(4) of that Act. As at 30 June 2015 the High Court employed 37 full-time and part-time ongoing staff; 36 full-time and part-time non-ongoing staff; and 26 casual staff.

Staff distribution

Staff distribution by branch/section, as at 30 June 2015.

Branch/section	Ongoing		Non-ongoing		Casual	Total	
	full time	part time	full time	part time		2015	2014
CE&PR	1	-	1	-	-	2	2
Chambers	3	-	22	-	-	25	25
Corporate Services	11	4	2	-	-	17	21
Library	4	5	2	-	-	11	12
Public Information		1	1	-	17	19	16
Registry	6	2	5	3	9	25	29
Total	25	12	33	3	26	99	105

Staff classification

Ongoing and non-ongoing full-time, part-time and casual staff by classification and gender, as at 30 June 2015.

Classification	Ongoing				Non-ongoing				Casual		Total		Total	
	full time		part time		full time		part time				2015		2014	
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
HCE1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4
HCE2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	7	10	8	7	8
HCE3	2	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	8	1	13	1	14	3
HCE4	3	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	2	9	2
HCE5	3	1	2	-	8	6	-	-	-	-	13	7	12	9
HCE6	3	1		1	8	1	-	-	-	-	11	3	11	2
EL1	2	4	3	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	6	6	6	5
EL2	-	2	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	3	3	3	4
Senior Executive	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	2
Office Holder	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Total	13	12	11	1	20	13	3	-	18	8	65	34	65	40
Grand total	25		12		33		3		26		99		105	



