



COMMITTAL REFORM REVIEW

REPORT

March 2015

Table of Contents

1 Executive Summary 3

2 Background 5

3 Impact on Magistrates Courts 5

3.1 Frequency and Duration 5

3.1.1 Table 1. Overview of the outcome of indictable offence cases in the Northern Territory Magistrates Courts..... 6

3.1.2 Table 2. Duration from initiation to committal or finalisation for indictable offences in Northern Territory Magistrates Courts 7

3.1.3 Table 3. Summary of duration of finalisation for indictable offences in Northern Territory Magistrates Courts..... 7

3.1.4 Table 4. Outcome of indictable offence cases finalised in Northern Territory Magistrates Courts 8

3.1.5 Table 5. Preliminary examination types of Northern Territory Supreme Court committals. 8

3.1.6 Table 6. Preliminary examination types of Northern Territory Supreme Court committals –youth cases only. 9

4 Impact on Supreme Court 10

4.1 Incidence and Duration..... 10

4.1.1 Table 7. Average duration from committals to finalisation – Northern Territory Supreme Court. 10

4.1.2 Table 8. Cases finalised* within six months in Northern Territory Supreme Court 11

4.1.3 Table 9. Proportion of duration* of cases finalised in Northern Territory Supreme Court undertaken in the Magistrates Courts..... 11

4.1.4 Table 10. Number of Trials and length of Pre-Trial hearings in Northern Territory Supreme Court..... 12

4.1.5 Table 11. Verdict of finalised cases in the Northern Territory Supreme Court. 12

4.1.6 Table 12. Nolle Prosequi orders for finalised cases in the Northern Territory Supreme Court. 13

4.1.7 Table 13. Outcome of finalised Supreme Court committal cases in the Northern Territory. 14

4.1.8 Table 14. Directed acquittals in the Supreme Court, Northern Territory. 15

4.2 Background Tables..... 16

4.2.1 Table 15. Gender of distinct alleged offenders of indictable offence cases in the Northern Territory. 16

4.2.2 Table 16. Indigenous status of distinct alleged offenders of indictable offence cases in the Northern Territory..... 17

4.2.3 Table 17. Indictable offence cases by the top five ANZSOC* divisions for cases finalised in the Supreme Court in the Northern Territory 17

5 Glossary..... 18

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1 Executive Summary

This report is the third review of the Committals Reform which was implemented on 1 April 2011. The statistics in this report cover the six and a half year period from April 2008 to September 2014. However, some of the data from the period between April 2014 and September 2014 are not analysed as they are preliminary and in some instances incomplete.

Based on the analysis of relevant statistics, the Committals Reform has largely achieved its intended objectives without incurring the potential undesirable side effects.

The key findings of comparing the data from before and after the commencement of the Committals Reform are:

- Oral committals as a proportion of all committals reduced from 59% in the immediate twelve months prior to the Committals Reform to 38% in its first twelve months of operation; it reduced to 35% in the subsequent two year period.
- In its first year of operation the number of oral committals reduced by 29% (or 67 committals) while the number of written committals increased by 69% (or 112 committals). The number of oral committals continued to decline during the second and third year of operation, it reduced by 35% (or 81 committals) and 42% (or 98 committals) respectively compared to the twelve months immediately prior to the implementation of the Committals Reform.
- The average duration of cases from initiation to committal was 177 days in the year prior to the reform, and reduced to 167 days in its first year of operation; in the second year of operation it reduced to 153 days. However, in the third year of operation it increased to 171 days. It should be noted that the increase might have been attributable to the introduction of the mandatory sentencing for violent crimes which was implemented on 1 May 2013.
- The average duration from committals to finalisation of cases heard in the Supreme Court has also decreased considerably since the Committals Reform. In its first twelve months of operation, the average duration from initiation to finalisation was 129 days compared with 161 days for the twelve month period prior to the Reform. In its second year of operation it reduced to 106 days. The preliminary average duration is 97 days in its third year of operation although there are still 20 cases not yet finalised.

A concern was raised during the development phase of the Committals Reform that without the advantage of cross examining witnesses, some cases may be unnecessarily committed to the Supreme Court resulting in an increase in the number of not guilty verdicts. The review finds that the efficiency gained at the Magistrates Courts did not cause any undesirable effect at the Supreme Court.

Courts outcome statistics show that the proportion of not guilty verdicts handed down by the Supreme Court for finalised cases with a committal date in the first twelve months after commencement of the Reform decreased to 12% from 17% a year earlier; the proportion of not guilty verdicts for finalised cases with a committal date in the second year of the reform was 14% and in the third year was 15%. After three years of operation, the Committals Reform has not led to an increase in not guilty verdicts at the Supreme Court.

In addition, for cases where committals took place during the first twelve months immediately after the commencement of the Reform, only 8% resulted in Nolle Prosequi compared with 12% a year earlier; the proportion of finalised cases with a committal date within the second and third years of the reform that resulted in a Nolle Prosequi order were 8% and 7%, respectively.

2 Background

This review is the third annual evaluation of the effectiveness of the Committals Reform which commenced on 1 April 2011, pursuant to amendments to the *Justices Act*. The then Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, the Hon Delia Lawrie MLA stated in the second reading speech that it was intended that a review of the effectiveness of the Reform would be conducted twelve months after commencement.

In the second reading speech, Ms Lawrie stated that the purpose of the Reform is to streamline committal proceedings to avoid situations where witnesses attend court unnecessarily. The main objectives of the Reform are to relieve stress on witnesses associated with having to give evidence at committal and trial and to ensure committals run more efficiently.

The key features of the Reform are:

- A written statement that the prosecutor is intending to rely on must be admitted as the prosecution evidence as if the witness had given evidence verbally. The court can refuse to accept the evidence if it does not comply with the rules of evidence, or if the prosecutor has not provided the required documents to the court and the defendant within the required time frame. The prosecutor can seek leave from the court to have some, or all, of the evidence in chief of a witness given orally if it is in the interest of justice to do so.
- The period in which a committal brief must be served on the defendant increased from 14 days to 28 days before the committal date, unless a Justice fixes a different period for service; or the defendant consents to a shorter period of service. Provision is also made for the prosecution to provide further written statements as they become available.
- Where a youth and an adult are charged with offences which arise out of the same incident their committals can be heard together. The bill allows the Justice to separate the proceedings at any stage if it is in the interests of justice to do so.
- Categories of witnesses currently protected under the *Justices Act* remain protected. Children cannot give evidence if one of the offences the defendant has been charged with is a sexual offence or a serious violence offence. The victim of an alleged sexual offence is also prohibited from giving oral evidence.
- The defendant cannot question a prosecution witness unless permission to do so has been sought and granted by the court, or the prosecution has consented. If leave is given for a witness to be cross-examined the prosecution evidence is restricted to the witness identifying him or herself, and attesting their handed up witness statement is true. The defendant is not restricted to questioning only on the issue for which permission to question was granted.

3 Impact on Magistrates Courts

3.1 Frequency and Duration

During the third year of the Reforms (1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014), there were 391 committals to the Supreme Court in the Northern Territory, which is a 10% decrease from the previous year, and 5 less (1%) than that the number of committals during the twelve months prior to the Committals Reform. The proportion of cases containing an indictable offence that resulted in a committal to the Supreme Court during April 2012 to March 2013 was 7% and during April 2013 to March 2014 was 6%, which are less than the average 9% for the previous four years. This reduction is primarily due to the courts and police prosecutions

clearing up outstanding warrants, many of which resulted in the withdrawal of the charges at the Magistrates Courts level.

Over two-thirds of indictable offence cases that were finalised in the Magistrates Courts in the Northern Territory since April 2008 comprised only offences which if found guilty summarily could be finalised in the Magistrates Courts (eg. offences against section 188(2) of the *Criminal Code Act NT* state ‘the offender is guilty of a crime and is liable to imprisonment for 5 years or, upon being found guilty **summarily**, to imprisonment for 2 years’).

3.1.1 Table 1. Overview of the outcome of indictable offence cases in the Northern Territory Magistrates Courts

Period of committal/ final order	Outcome				
	Supreme Court committal		Finalised in Magistrates Courts		All
	All offences		Indictable only offence	Penalty > 2 years but may be treated summarily	No. of cases
	No. of cases	% of all	No. of cases	No. of cases	
Apr08-Mar09	366	8%	1139	2891	4396
Apr09-Mar10	390	9%	1179	2932	4501
Apr10-Mar11	396	8%	1308	3036	4740
Apr11-Mar12	441	9%	1406	3011	4858
Apr12-Mar13	434	7%	1998	4013	6445
Apr13-Mar14	391	6%	1992	4260	6643
Apr14-Sep14	227	7%	1029	2120	3376

Source: Extracted from IJIS on 22/10/2014

As shown in Table 2, the average duration from initiation to committal to Supreme Court had been decreasing over the five year period from April 2008 to March 2013, particularly for the two years following the introduction of the Committals Reform. However, the average duration in the period April 2013 to March 2014 increased by 12% (or 18 days) compared with the previous twelve month period from 153 days to 171 days. This may be a result of the impact of the introduction of Mandatory Sentencing for violent offences from 1 May 2013. In spite of this impact, the average duration of 171 days was still six days (or 3%) less than the duration in the twelve months immediately prior to the introduction of the Committals Reform.

There was a large increase in the number of finalisations of indictable offences in the Magistrates Courts during the two year period April 2012 to March 2014 compared with the previous four years and there was a significant increase in the duration (ie. 763 days for April 2012 to March 2013 and 488 days for April 2013 to March 2014). This increase is primarily due to the courts and police prosecutions clearing up outstanding old warrants.

3.1.2 Table 2. Duration from initiation to committal or finalisation for indictable offences in Northern Territory Magistrates Courts

Period of committal/ final order in Magistrates Courts	Supreme Court committals		Finalised in Magistrates Courts		All
	Cases	Duration to committal	Cases	Duration to finalisation	Cases
	No.	Days	No.	Days	No.
Apr08-Mar09	366	186	4030	185	4396
Apr09-Mar10	390	185	4111	184	4501
Apr10-Mar11	396	177	4344	158	4740
Apr11-Mar12	441	167	4417	162	4858
Apr12-Mar13	434	153	6011	763	6445
Apr13-Mar14	391	171	6252	488	6643
Apr14-Sep14	227	221	3149	161	3376

Source: Extracted from IJIS on 22/10/2014

The 'clearing up of old warrants' can be seen in Table 3 where the number of finalised cases with a duration of more than ten years rose from 20 in the period April 2011 to March 2012 to 670 in the period of April 2012 to March 2013 and 414 in the period April 2013 to March 2014. Of these, 664 (or 99%) cases and 411 (or 99%) cases resulted in a final order of withdrawn.

3.1.3 Table 3. Summary of duration of finalisation for indictable offences in Northern Territory Magistrates Courts

Period of final order	Duration to finalisation						All finalised No. of cases
	<= 1 year		>1 year and <= 10 years		>10 years		
	No. of cases	% of all	No. of cases	% of all	No. of cases	% of all	
Apr08-Mar09	3623	90%	392	10%	15	0%	4030
Apr09-Mar10	3732	91%	355	9%	24	1%	4111
Apr10-Mar11	4032	93%	300	7%	12	0%	4344
Apr11-Mar12	4082	92%	315	7%	20	0%	4417
Apr12-Mar13	5006	83%	335	6%	670	11%	6011
Apr13-Mar14	5529	88%	309	5%	414	7%	6252
Apr14-Sep14	2917	93%	226	7%	6	0%	3149

Source: Extracted from IJIS on 22/10/2014

The proportion of cases of indictable offences finalised in the Magistrates Courts resulting in an imprisonment remained unchanged after the implementation of the Committals Reform at between 40% and 41%. There was a noticeable difference in the number of cases withdrawn, in that the proportion withdrawn in the period April 2012 to March 2013 and April 2013 to April 2014 was 38% and 36% respectively compared with 32% in the previous twelve months. This was principally the result of the courts and police prosecutions clearing up outstanding old warrants.

3.1.4 Table 4. Outcome of indictable offence cases finalised in Northern Territory Magistrates Courts

Period of final order	Imprisonment order*		Other order		Withdrawn		All
	No. of cases	% of all	No. of cases	% of all	No. of cases	% of all	No. of cases
Apr08-Mar09	1669	41%	1079	27%	1282	32%	4030
Apr09-Mar10	1645	40%	1099	27%	1367	33%	4111
Apr10-Mar11	1729	40%	1136	26%	1479	34%	4344
Apr11-Mar12	1820	41%	1175	27%	1422	32%	4417
Apr12-Mar13	2395	40%	1326	22%	2290	38%	6011
Apr13-Mar14	2515	40%	1477	24%	2260	36%	6252
Apr14-Sep14	1285	41%	816	26%	1048	33%	3149

- * includes partially suspended imprisonment, home detention and fully suspended imprisonment
 Source: Extracted from IJIS on 22/10/2014

Oral Preliminary Examinations

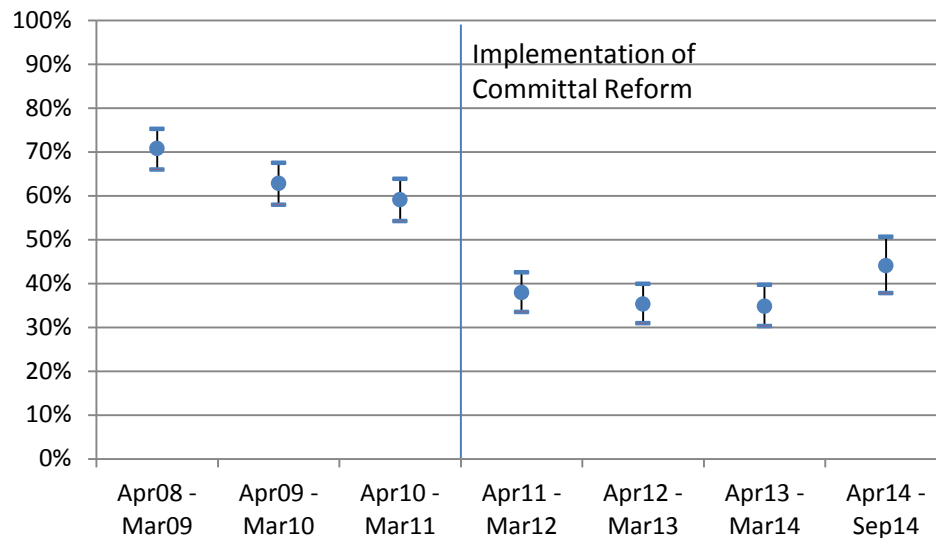
While the proportion of oral presentations had been decreasing since the period April 2008 to March 2009, the Committals Reform has had strong additional impact on this decrease. In the first year of implementation of the Reform, the proportion of oral presentations reduced from 59% to 38% and reduced further to 35% in the subsequently two years (Table 5 and Figure 1). The preliminary data for the period April 2014 to September 2014 show the proportion of oral presentation increased to 44% which is still well below the 59% recorded before the Reform was implemented. The methodology for obtaining information regarding oral preliminary examinations is described in the glossary.

3.1.5 Table 5. Preliminary examination types of Northern Territory Supreme Court committals

Period of committal	Preliminary examination type				
	Oral		Written		All
	No. of cases	% of all	No. of cases	No. of cases	
Apr08-Mar09	259	71%	107	366	
Apr09-Mar10	245	63%	145	390	
Apr10-Mar11	234	59%	162	396	
Apr11-Mar12	167	38%	274	441	
Apr12-Mar13	153	35%	281	434	
Apr13-Mar14	136	35%	255	391	
Apr14-Sep14	100	44%	127	227	

Source: Extracted from IJIS on 22/10/2014

Figure 1. Percentage of Oral Preliminary Examination



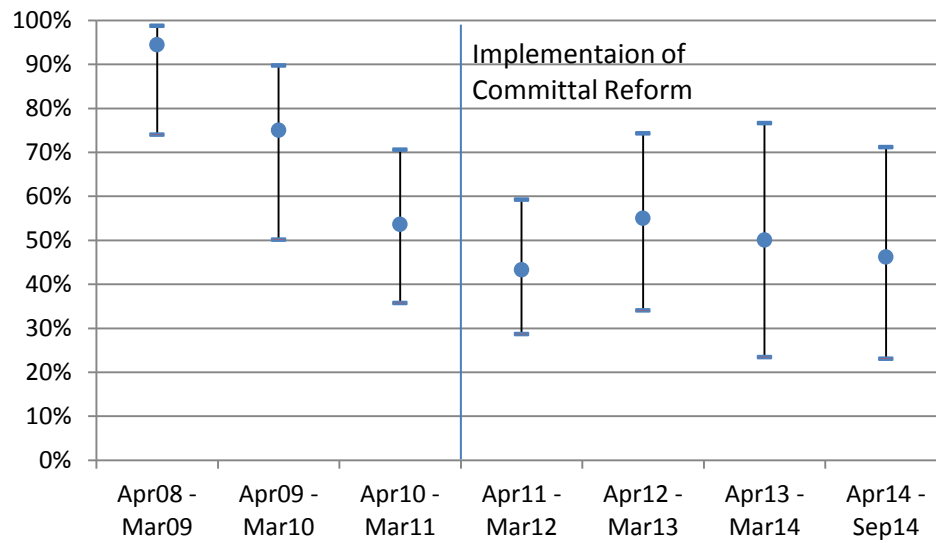
Five per cent of the alleged offenders for cases resulting in committal proceedings since 1 April 2008 were youths. The impact of the Committals Reform on the proportion of oral presentations for youths has been less than that for all alleged offenders. In the first year of implementation of the Reform, the proportion of oral youth presentations reduced from 54% to 43%. However, the subsequent two years have seen the proportion rise back to 55% and 50%, respectively. It should be noted that the number of youth presentations are small and slight variations in number result in large changes in the proportions.

3.1.6 Table 6. Preliminary examination types of Northern Territory Supreme Court committals –youth cases only

Period of committal	Preliminary examination type			
	Oral		Written	All
	No. of cases	% of all	No. of cases	No. of cases
Apr08-Mar09	17	94%	1	18
Apr09-Mar10	12	75%	4	16
Apr10-Mar11	15	54%	13	28
Apr11-Mar12	16	43%	21	37
Apr12-Mar13	11	55%	9	20
Apr13-Mar14	5	50%	5	10
Apr14-Sep14	6	46%	7	13

Source: Extracted from IJIS on 22/10/2014

Figure 2. Percentage of Oral Preliminary Examination of Youth Cases



4 Impact on Supreme Court

4.1 Incidence and Duration

As shown in Table 7, initially there was a noticeable increase in the number of Supreme Court committals (441 committals) in the first twelve months following the Committals Reform compared with the three years prior to the Reform (average 384 committals per year). The number of committals has since been decreasing. In the period April 2013 to March 2014, the number of committals reduced to 391, representing five fewer committals than the twelve months period prior to the implementation of the Reform.

One of the potential undesirable effects of the Committals Reform was that without the benefit of cross examining witnesses at the committal at the Magistrates Courts, cases would take longer to finalise at the Supreme Court. However, the average durations for the finalisation of cases in the Supreme Court in the Northern Territory (Table 7) have decreased since the Committals Reform.

4.1.1 Table 7. Average duration from committals to finalisation – Northern Territory Supreme Court

Period of committal	Finalised		Unfinalised	All
	No. of cases	Days*	No. of cases	No.
Apr08-Mar09	362	160	4	366
Apr09-Mar10	388	150	2	390
Apr10-Mar11	393	161	3	396
Apr11-Mar12	440	129	1	441
Apr12-Mar13	431	106	3	434
Apr13-Mar14	371	97	20	391
Apr14-Sep14	93	64**	134	227

Source: Extracted from IJIS on 22/10/2014

* - period from committal to first final order. ** - the very low duration occurs because of the high proportion of these cases unfinalised as at the date of analysis. Only the shorter cases have been finalised.

The decrease in duration however is further supported by examining the proportion of finalised cases which were finalised within six months from the date of committal. Table 8 shows that since the Committals Reform there has been an increase in the number and proportion of cases finalised within six months of the committal, compared with the three years prior to the Reform.

4.1.2 Table 8. Cases finalised* within six months in Northern Territory Supreme Court

Period of committal	Cases finalised within 6 months from committal		All
	No. of cases	% of all	No. of cases
Apr08-Mar09	264	72%	366
Apr09-Mar10	279	72%	390
Apr10-Mar11	260	66%	396
Apr11-Mar12	353	80%	441
Apr12-Mar13	373	86%	434
Apr13-Mar14	323	83%	391
Apr14-Sep14	93	41%*	227

Source: Extracted from IJIS on 22/10/2014

* - as six months have not passed since the committal for most of these cases, this percentage is lower than it will once more time has elapsed.

Table 9 shows the average proportion of total case duration spent at Magistrates Court for cases finalised at the Supreme Court. The proportion has increased considerably since the Committals Reform. It increased to 64% for the period April 2013 to March 2014 from 52% for the period twelve months prior to the Reform. The cause for this change was due mainly to the reduction in the duration from the committal to the final order.

4.1.3 Table 9. Proportion of duration* of cases finalised in Northern Territory Supreme Court undertaken in the Magistrates Courts

Period of committal	Finalised cases	
	Proportion of duration heard at Magistrates Courts	No. of cases
Apr08-Mar09	54%	362
Apr09-Mar10	55%	388
Apr10-Mar11	52%	393
Apr11-Mar12	56%	440
Apr12-Mar13	59%	431
Apr13-Mar14	64%	371
Apr14-Sep14	76%	93

Source: Extracted from IJIS on 22/10/2014

* from initiation to finalisation

Trials

The number of cases with trial hearings appears to be decreasing following the introduction of the Committals Reform, compared with the three years prior to the Reform. In addition, the average duration to the trial following the Reform is less than for two years prior to the Committals Reform.

4.1.4 Table 10. Number of Trials and length of Pre-Trial hearings in Northern Territory Supreme Court

Period of committal	Trial hearings			All
	No. of cases	% of all cases	Average no. of days to trial*	No. of cases
Apr08-Mar09	146	40%	85	362
Apr09-Mar10	85	22%	171	388
Apr10-Mar11	68	17%	180	393
Apr11-Mar12	69	16%	148	440
Apr12-Mar13	55	13%	128	431
Apr13-Mar14	58	16%	134	371
Apr14-Sep14	20	22%	98	93

Source: Extracted from IJIS on 22/10/2014

* from first hearing in Supreme Court to first trial hearing date

Outcomes and Verdicts

One of the major concerns associated with the implementation of the Committals Reform was that some cases might be unnecessarily committed to the Supreme Court, resulting in an increase in not guilty verdicts at the Supreme Court.

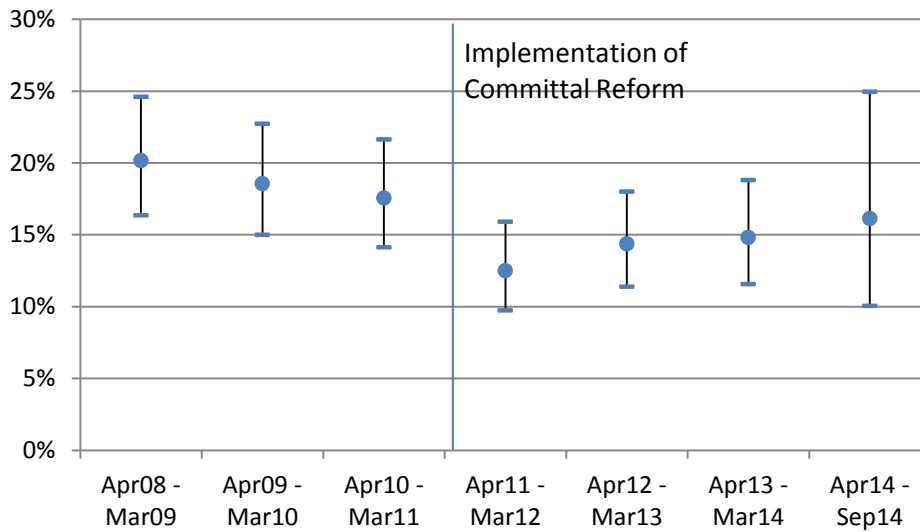
As shown in Table 11, the number and proportion of not guilty verdicts for finalised cases in the Northern Territory Supreme Court following the Committals Reform were smaller than for the three years prior to the Reform.

4.1.5 Table 11. Verdict of finalised cases in the Northern Territory Supreme Court

Period of committal	Guilty	Not guilty		All finalised
	No. of cases	No.	% of all	No. of cases
Apr08-Mar09	289	73	20%	362
Apr09-Mar10	316	72	18%	388
Apr10-Mar11	324	69	17%	393
Apr11-Mar12	385	55	12%	440
Apr12-Mar13	369	62	14%	431
Apr13-Mar14	316	55	15%	371
Apr14-Sep14	78	15	15%	93

Source: Extracted from IJIS on 22/10/2014

Figure 3. Percentage of not guilty verdict finalised at the Supreme Court



Nolle Prosequi

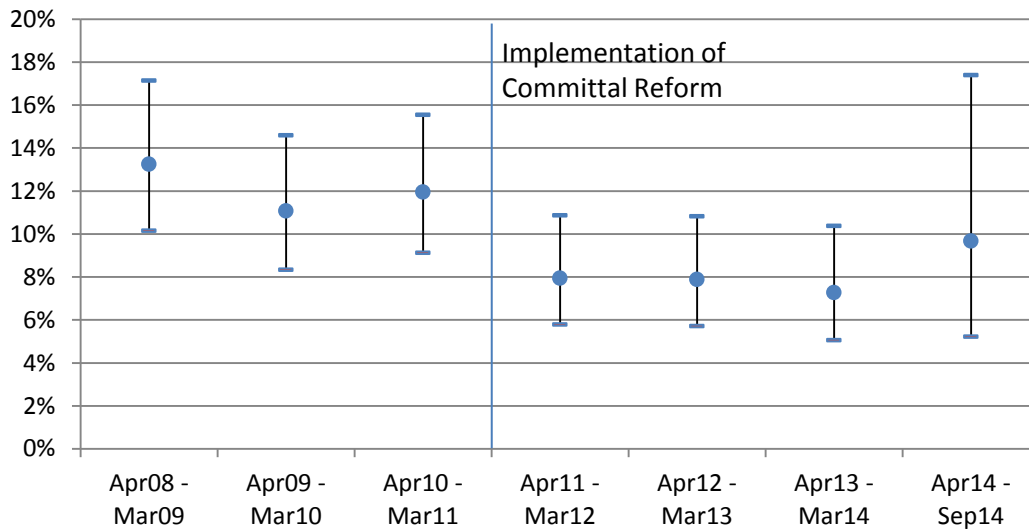
There has been a slight decrease in the number and proportion of Nolle Prosequi orders, since the Committals Reform, compared with the three years prior to the Reform.

4.1.6 Table 12. Nolle Prosequi orders for finalised cases in the Northern Territory Supreme Court

Period of committal	Not guilty			All finalised No. of cases
	Nolle Prosequi		Other	
	No. of cases	% of all finalised	No. of cases	
Apr08-Mar09	48	13%	25	362
Apr09-Mar10	43	11%	29	388
Apr10-Mar11	47	12%	22	393
Apr11-Mar12	35	8%	20	440
Apr12-Mar13	34	8%	28	431
Apr13-Mar14	27	7%	28	371
Apr14-Sep14	9	10%	6	93

Source: Extracted from IJIS on 22/10/2014

Figure 4. Percentage of Nolle Prosequi orders for finalised cases in the Northern Territory Supreme Court



Final Outcomes

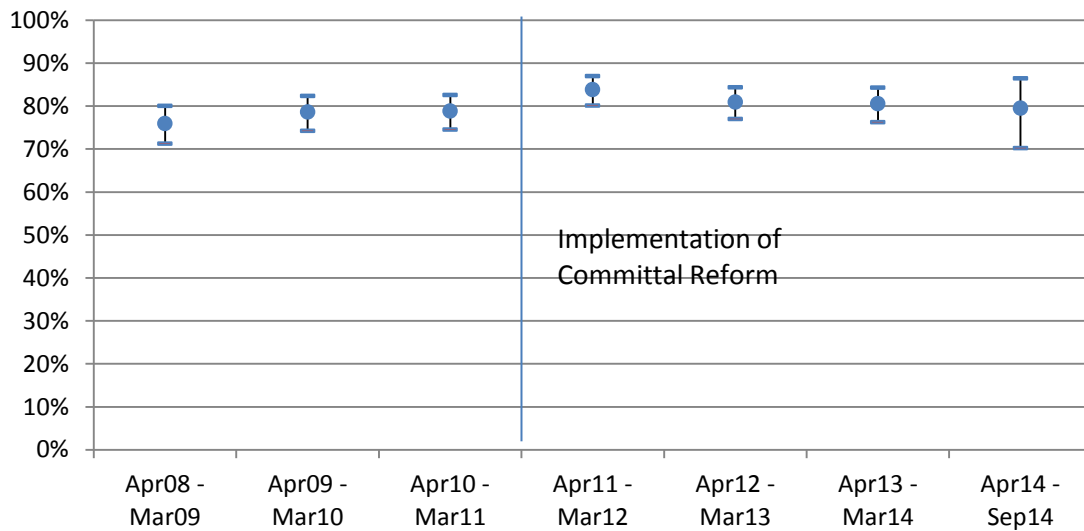
There was a noticeable increase in the number and proportion of imprisonment orders for those finalised cases with a committal date following the Committals Reform, compared with the prior three years. The proportion of imprisonment orders has stabilised at around 81% following the Reform.

4.1.7 Table 13. Outcome of finalised Supreme Court committal cases in the Northern Territory

Period of final order	Imprisonment order*		Other order		Not Guilty or Withdrawn		All
	No. of cases	% of all	No. of cases	% of all	No. of cases	% of all	
Apr08-Mar09	275	76%	14	4%	73	20%	362
Apr09-Mar10	305	79%	11	3%	72	19%	388
Apr10-Mar11	310	79%	14	4%	69	18%	393
Apr11-Mar12	369	84%	16	4%	55	13%	440
Apr12-Mar13	349	81%	20	5%	62	14%	431
Apr13-Mar14	299	81%	17	5%	55	15%	371
Apr14-Sep14	74	80%	4	4%	15	16%	93

- * includes partially suspended imprisonment, home detention and fully suspended imprisonment
Source: Extracted from IJIS on 22/10/2014

Figure 5. Percentage of actual imprisonment* orders of finalised Supreme Court committal cases in the Northern Territory.



Directed Acquittals

There was a concern that the Committals Reform might lead to an increase in directed acquittals. As shown in Table 14, this concern has proven to be unfounded. The number of directed acquittals over the past six years has been low; there were no recorded directed acquittals in the period of April 2012 to March 2013 and only one in the period April 2013 to March 2014.

4.1.8 Table 14. Directed acquittals in the Supreme Court, Northern Territory

Period of committal	Number of directed acquittals
Apr08-Mar09	11
Apr09-Mar10	1
Apr10-Mar11	1
Apr11-Mar12	2
Apr12-Mar13	0
Apr13-Mar14	1
Apr14-Sep14	0

Source: Extracted from IJIS on 7/11/2014

4.2 Background Tables

Gender

The proportion of female defendants' matters finalised in Magistrates Courts are higher than the proportion of those committed to the Supreme Court before and after the Committals reform. Overall there were ten distinct persons whose gender was not recorded, who are included in the 'All' columns.

The table below describes distinct persons for the different periods and courts. Thus a person may have a case in two or more periods and be counted in the relevant periods, but will only be counted once in the total for the outcome. Similarly a person may be counted once for a committal and once for a case finalised in the Magistrates Courts in a given period, but will only be counted once in the total for that period.

4.2.1 Table 15. Gender of distinct alleged offenders of indictable offence cases in the Northern Territory

Period of committal/ final order	Outcome											
	Supreme Court committals				Finalised in Magistrates Courts only				All indictable cases			
	Male	Female		All	Male	Female		All	Male	Female		All
	No.	No.	% of All	No.	No.	No.	% of All	No.	No.	No.	% of All	No.
Apr08-Mar09	318	37	10%	356	2884	542	16%	3426	3202	579	15%	3782
Apr09-Mar10	347	26	7%	373	2891	653	18%	3545	3238	679	17%	3918
Apr10-Mar11	345	38	10%	383	3048	622	17%	3670	3393	660	16%	4053
Apr11-Mar12	399	32	7%	431	3099	606	16%	3706	3498	638	15%	4137
Apr12-Mar13	351	58	14%	410	4141	938	18%	5081	4492	996	18%	5491
Apr13-Mar14	330	45	12%	375	4212	1040	20%	5255	4542	1085	19%	5630
Apr14-Sep14	193	26	12%	219	2307	582	20%	2892	2500	608	20%	3111
Total	2128	249	10%	2378	13,811	3905	22%	17725	15939	4154	21%	20103

Source: Extracted from IJIS on 22/10/2014

Indigenous Status

Indigenous people continued to represent the majority of the cases of indictable offences in both the Supreme Court and Magistrates Courts.

The following table describes distinct persons for the different periods and courts. Thus a person may have a case in two or more periods and be counted in the relevant periods, but will only be counted once in the total for the outcome. Similarly a person may be counted once for a committal and once for a case finalised in the Magistrates Courts in a given period, but will only be counted once in the total for that period.

4.2.2 Table 16. Indigenous status of distinct alleged offenders of indictable offence cases in the Northern Territory

Period of committal/ final order	Finalised in Magistrates											
	Supreme Court committals				Courts only				All Indictable cases			
	Non-Ind	Indigenous		Not known	Non-Ind	Indigenous		Not known	Non-Ind	Indigenous		Not known
	No.	No.	% of known	No.	No.	No.	% of known	No.	No.	No.	% of known	No.
Apr08-Mar09	132	201	60%	23	787	2552	76%	87	919	2753	75%	110
Apr09-Mar10	137	218	61%	18	827	2633	76%	85	964	2851	75%	103
Apr10-Mar11	155	213	58%	15	907	2713	75%	50	1062	2926	73%	65
Apr11-Mar12	150	268	64%	13	832	2843	77%	31	982	3111	76%	44
Apr12-Mar13	145	255	64%	10	1372	3668	73%	41	1517	3923	72%	51
Apr13-Mar14	130	240	65%	5	1250	3980	76%	25	1380	4220	75%	30
Apr14-Sep14	63	153	71%	3	526	2340	82%	26	589	2493	81%	29
Total	872	1423	62%	83	5423	11965	69%	337	6295	13388	68%	420

Source: Extracted from IJIS on 22/10/2014

Non-Ind - Non Indigenous

Offence Type

'Acts intended to cause injury' (most commonly assault offences) was the most commonly recorded most serious offence for the six and a half year period, followed by 'sexual assault and related offences' and 'illicit drug offences'.

4.2.3 Table 17. Indictable offence cases by the top five ANZSOC* divisions for cases finalised in the Supreme Court in the Northern Territory

Most serious offence in case	Committal date									
	Apr09-Mar10		Apr10-Mar11		Apr11-Mar12		Apr12-Mar13		Apr13-Mar14	
	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
Acts intended to cause injury	127	33%	131	33%	153	35%	161	37%	134	36%
Sexual assault and related offences	99	26%	90	23%	89	20%	80	19%	69	19%
Illicit drug offences	66	17%	45	11%	71	16%	67	16%	62	17%
Robbery, extortion and related offences	18	5%	27	7%	40	9%	30	7%	21	6%
Unlawful entry with intent	13	3%	17	4%	30	7%	29	7%	24	6%
Other offences	65	17%	83	21%	57	13%	64	15%	61	16%
All Offences	388	100%	393	100%	440	100%	431	100%	371	100%

Source: Extracted from IJIS on 22/10/2014* - Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011.

5 Glossary

IJIS - Integrated Justice Information System: The Integrated Justice Information System is the core information system supporting justice processes in the Northern Territory. The Integrated Justice Information System records and manages justice information for police and courts from initial arrest and apprehension of a person through all court processes. Prior to August 2009, this system also contained information re corrections processes.

Case: Defined as an event relating to one or more cases for an individual on a distinct date of committal.

Oral Preliminary Examinations: A large number of preliminary examinations did not contain information which identified whether it was an oral or paper presentation (even though the code exists). Many of the examinations were recorded as 'PEM' (Preliminary Examination Mentions) which according to court staff could be either verbal or oral examinations. Following discussion with court staff, a counting rule was developed such that if a summons existed which predated the committal date, the preliminary examination was categorised to be an oral examination. If no summons existed, then the examination was categorised as written examination.

Directed Acquittals: This data was derived from all 'trial by jury' cases which returned a not guilty verdict and the associated text indicates that the jury was directed to return a verdict of not guilty.