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## Preface

This report, Victorian Higher Courts Sentencing Statistics 2001/02 – 2005/06 is published by Court Services, Department of Justice.

Victorian Higher Courts Sentencing Statistics for 1997/98 – 2001/02 and 2002/03 have previously been released. Since then considerable time and effort has been expended updating the Higher Courts Sentencing Database, including updating and improving data entry practices, updating counting rules to better reflect sentencing information and to improve consistency with the ABS Criminal Courts report and extensive data cleansing to ensure changes are applied to data back to 2001/02. As a result two years worth of data has been re-released in this publication.

I would like to acknowledge the work of Court Statistical Services who over the course of 6 months manually checked in excess of 9,500 conviction returns from the County and Supreme Court to ensure the data was correct. I would especially like to thank Cathy Burton, Senior Business Analyst, Court Statistical Services. Cathy has over many months managed the data cleansing process as well as tirelessly working to produce this report. Her efforts are acknowledged and greatly appreciated.

This report presents data for the period 2001/02 – 2005/06 for defendants sentenced in the Supreme and County Courts of Victoria. Information is provided to show the number of defendants found guilty, the types of sentences imposed and sentence lengths. The report also provides sentencing outcomes for the 35 most common offences in the Higher Courts.

Court Services is committed to the continual development and distribution of accurate and timely reports to support the courts and the legal profession in the sentencing process, and to inform the community of court practices and procedures.

John Griffin  
Executive Director, Courts

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## Acknowledgements

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- Supreme Court of Victoria
- County Court of Victoria
- Criminal Trial Listing Directorate
- Office of Public Prosecutions
- Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions

