

## Question on Notice

No. 512

Asked on Wednesday 19 April 2006

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General (Mrs Lavarch) -

### QUESTION:

With reference to courts in the Nanango Electorate and their staffing numbers—

- (1) How many cases have been brought before Magistrates Courts in the Nanango Electorate each year since 2000?
- (2) How many criminal court cases are pending at present?
- (3) What are the staffing levels at each courthouse in the Nanango Electorate at present and for each year since 2000?
- (4) How many criminal cases have been heard in each court every year since 2000 in the Nanango Electorate?

### ANSWER:

(1) The following numbers of Magistrates Courts' criminal court lodgements in the Nanango electorate are based on the *Report on Government Services 2006* counting rules defining a case (i.e. unique cases are identified by matching first name, last name, date of birth and registered on the same day). There are three Magistrates Courts in the Nanango Electorate; Kingaroy Magistrates Court, Nanango Magistrates Court and Toogoolawah Magistrates Court. The table below shows the lodgements broken down by year and court and include both adult and juvenile cases. Figures are only available from 2001 when the courts criminal information system became available. Manual searches of files prior to 2001 have not been practical due to registry workloads.

Adult and Juvenile Cases lodged in the Nanango Electorate								
Year	Kingaroy		Nanango		Toogoolawah		Total - Electorate	
	Adult s	Juvenile s	Adult s	Juvenile s	Adult s	Juvenile s	Adult s	Juvenile s
2001	516	58	452	17	221	0	1,189	75
2002	484	61	308	13	211	0	1,003	74
2003	634	95	375	19	182	6	1,191	120
2004	508	60	390	39	231	3	1,129	102
2005	481	42	348	27	246	2	1,075	71
2006 (as at 31/3/06)	174	18	85	5	66	3	325	26

(2) The table below shows the number of criminal court cases pending as at 31 March 2006 for the Kingaroy, Nanango and Toogoolawah Magistrates Courts for both adult and juvenile cases.

Adult and Juvenile criminal court cases pending as at 31/3/2006		
Court	Adults	Juveniles
Kingaroy	56	4
Nanango	39	1
Toogoolawah	52	0
Electorate Total	147	5

(3) Staffing levels for courthouses in the Nanango electorate have been stable between 2000 and 2006 with the exception of Kingaroy Magistrates Court where a trainee officer position became available in 2003. Nanango Magistrates Court is staffed by one permanent officer and a casual officer is employed for 18 hours a week. Toogoolawah Magistrates Court is staffed by one permanent officer. Kingaroy Magistrates Court is staffed by four permanent officers (and from 2003) and a trainee officer. Of the three courts only Kingaroy Magistrates Court is a dual registry (i.e. it is a gazetted court for both the District Court and Magistrates Court). Kingaroy Magistrates Court staff undertake work arising from both the District and the Magistrates Courts.

(4) The following table shows the number of cases finalised in the Nanango electorate. Figures are only available from 2001 when the courts criminal information system became available. Manual searches of files prior to 2001 have not been practical due to registry workloads.

Adult and Juvenile Cases Finalised in the Nanango Electorate								
Year	Kingaroy		Nanango		Toogoolawah		Total - Electorate	
	Adults	Juveniles	Adults	Juveniles	Adults	Juveniles	Adults	Juveniles
2001	425	49	333	14	196	0	954	63
2002	408	50	261	12	169	1	838	63
2003	493	66	323	15	165	3	981	84
2004	461	41	412	33	156	1	1,029	75
2005	489	21	302	31	209	0	1,000	52
2006 (as at 31/3/06)	167	14	90	4	41	3	298	21