

Annual Report 2021–22



**Children's
Court**
of Victoria

Letter to the Governor

The Honourable Linda Dessau AC,
Governor of Victoria
Government House
Melbourne VIC 3004

Dear Governor,

In accordance with section 514 of the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005*, I have much pleasure in submitting the Children's Court of Victoria Annual Report for the year 2021–2022.

The report covers the Court's operation and performance, and provides information on our activities and achievements during the reporting period.

Yours sincerely

Judge Jack Vandersteen
President, Children's Court of Victoria.

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Reports



This ability to adapt and be flexible, particularly via the use of technology, has meant the Court was able to finalise 31,513 cases in the reporting period – an increase of 4.8% on 2020-21 and 5.5% on 2019-20.

Report of the President and Chief Executive Officer

The extraordinary challenges of the last year have again highlighted the skills, resilience, and commitment of everyone who contributes to the Children’s Court. Our magistrates, judicial registrars, and staff continue to work tirelessly each day to ensure cases are dealt with fairly, expertly, and as quickly as possible. Their hard work, as well as that of the lawyers who practice in this Court, DFFH officers, Victoria Police members, Youth Justice staff, and other key agency staff, has been critical in maintaining court operations throughout this period.

COVID-19 has continued to present very real challenges to court operations over the past 12 months and required the continued implementation of policy and operational responses which adapt to changing circumstances and requirements. This ability to adapt and be flexible, particularly via the use of technology, has meant the Court was able to finalise 31,513 cases in the reporting period – an increase of 4.8% on 2020-21 and 5.5% on 2019-20. Given the significant disruptions experienced over the last 12 months, this is an extraordinary outcome and a source of pride for this Court and everyone who works within it.

Beyond the daily challenges of maintaining the continuity of court operations during COVID-19, the Court has advanced key strategic priorities and projects which will contribute to significant organisational reform in the years ahead. The Court continues to make significant strides in developing its new Case Management System software, and we remain on track to implement the product into the Child Protection jurisdiction in the first quarter of 2023. Beyond this, the Court continues to work in close partnership with the Magistrates’ Court with respect to deploying the product in the criminal and family violence jurisdictions.

Despite the challenges faced by the construction industry, we have been very pleased to see the continued strong progress on our new purpose-built specialist Children’s Court at Foster St, Dandenong. When it commences operations in early 2023, this state-of-the-art facility will manage all Children’s Court cases in this growing region and strengthen access to local justice in Melbourne’s South-East. The Court is also contributing strongly to the development of new multi-jurisdictional facilities in Bendigo and Wyndham and is committed to establishing and maintaining specialist Children’s Court operations at those sites.



The Court continues to make significant strides in developing its new Case Management System software, and we remain on track to implement the product into the Child Protection jurisdiction in the first quarter of 2023.

The work of the Court is greatly assisted by the efforts and expertise of many, including Victoria's Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, Alannah and Madeline Foundation, Child Protection Litigation Office, Child Protection Practitioners, Community Legal Centres, Department of Education and Training, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, Department of Justice and Community Safety, Djirra, Law Institute of Victoria, Private Practitioners, the Victoria Police Children's Court Prosecution Unit, Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service, Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency, the Victorian Bar, Victoria Legal Aid, and Youth Justice. We extend our thanks to you all.

To the Magistrates of the Children's Court, thank you for your expertise, dedication, and extraordinary commitment to the work of this jurisdiction. It is an honour and privilege to work alongside you.

To the Court's entire staff, thank you for your hard work to ensure the Court has continued to stay open as an essential service each and every day. Our particular thanks go to Kylie Pieters, who led the administration of the Court so expertly as acting Chief Executive Officer for a large part of the year.

Finally, thank you to the families, children, and young people who came before the Court for your patience as we navigated our approach to COVID-19. It has been humbling for us to witness your resilience during these unique and challenging times.

About the Children’s Court

The Children’s Court of Victoria is a fair, accessible and specialist court dealing with cases involving children and young people.

The Family Division hears applications relating to the protection and care of children and young people at risk and applications for intervention orders.

The Criminal Division hears cases relating to alleged criminal offending by children and young people.

Judicial officers bring legal expertise and experience to the consideration of matters involving children, young people, and their families. Court processes are effective, equitable and transparent. Our workforce is highly professional and committed.

Statement of Priorities 2019–2021

OUR FIVE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



PRIORITY 1

User-centric design and team-based practice.



PRIORITY 2

Greater statewide specialist capability.



PRIORITY 3

Culture and practices that are outcome and evidence based.



PRIORITY 4

Enhanced public and professional sector engagement.

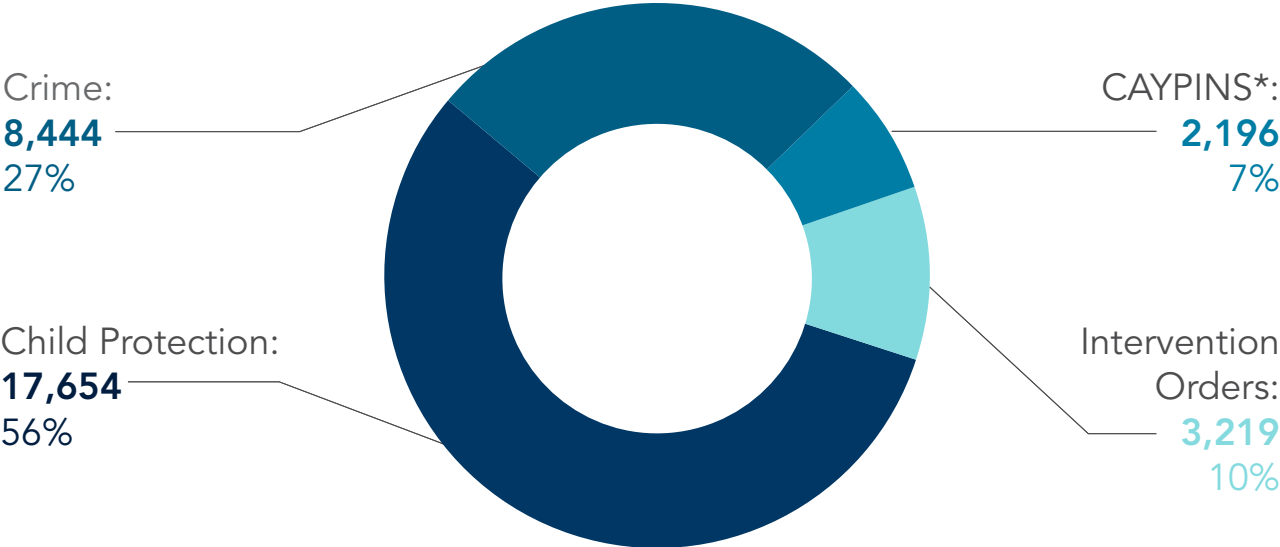


PRIORITY 5

Increased capacity for growth to meet the demands of system reform.

The Year at a Glance

In the 2021–22 year the Children’s Court of Victoria finalised a total of 31,513 cases.



FIVE YEAR COMPARISON FOR TOTAL CASES FINALISED

	17–18	18–19	19–20	20–21	21–22
Family Division	16,201	16,429	17,173	18,451	17,654
Criminal Division	9,530	9,230	8,142	7,708	8,444
Interventions Orders	2,655	3,028	2,600	2,709	3,219
CAYPINS	3,787	2,963	1,955	1,195	2,196
Total	32,173	31,650	29,870	30,063	31,513

*CAYPINS stands for ‘Children and Young Persons Infringement Notice System’. It is an alternative to court when dealing with children and young people who fail, in the first instance, to pay on-the-spot fines and other penalties issued to them by prosecuting bodies such as Victoria Police and the Department of Transport. A CAYPINS infringement is dealt with by a registrar who can make an order for payment of all or part of the fine.

Child Protection

Overview

The Children’s Court Family Division has jurisdiction under the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* to hear and determine applications relating to the protection and care of children and young people at risk and applications for intervention orders under the *Family Violence Protection Act 2008* and the *Personal Safety Intervention Orders Act 2010*.

The Family Division has the power to make a broad range of orders in relation to children and young people. The Court makes these decisions in the best interests of the child or young person.

Child Protection cases

SUBSTANTIVE ORDERS FROM 2017–18 TO 2021–22

Child Protection Orders	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22
Family Preservation Order	3,389	3,713	3,559	3,338	3,200
Extension of Family Preservation Order	498	552	446	488	609
Family Reunification Order	2,094	2,174	1,772	1,976	2,084
Extension of Family Reunification Order	578	546	505	567	650
Care by Secretary Order	1,074	952	946	889	994
Extension of Care by Secretary Order	245	624	410	633	627
Care by Secretary Order Conversion	6	3	8	4	3
Long-Term Care Order	219	330	277	378	335
Permanent Care Order	438	457	376	493	430
Leave apply to vary/revoke Permanent Care Order	20	11	1	1	3
Undertakings	659	669	822	1,046	875
Interim Accommodation Order	9,823	14,121	15,955	14,693	12,149
Extension of Interim Accommodation Order	19,204	16,573	15,405	17,519	13,500
Therapeutic Treatment Order	14	11	21	22	14
Extension of Therapeutic Treatment Order	3	3	6	3	5
Safe Custody Warrants	6,505	7,983	8,439	6,429	5,672
TOTAL (substantive orders)	44,769	48,722	48,948	48,479	41,150

CHILD PROTECTION CASES – STATEWIDE TOTAL

Total number of primary and secondary applications initiated, finalised, and pending by region.

Court Region	2020–21			2021–2022		
	Initiated	Finalised	Pending	Initiated	Finalised	Pending
Barwon South-West	1,510	1,428	451	1,338	1,229	298
Gippsland	1,675	1,709	454	1,354	1,201	290
Grampians	1,182	1,008	531	1,185	1,258	243
Hume	1,571	1,525	468	1,476	1,252	331
Loddon Mallee	1,793	1,839	401	1,727	1,566	440
Broadmeadows	1,756	2,019	749	1,837	1,991	527
Melbourne	4,589	6,227	3,020	4,697	6,954	2,483
Moorabbin	3,206	2,696	692	3,060	2,203	743
Statewide	17,282	18,451	6,766	16,674	17,654	5,355

Family Drug Treatment Court

Operating at Broadmeadows and Shepparton Children’s Court, the Family Drug Treatment Court (FDTC) provides intensive support and judicial monitoring to parents in cases where a child has been removed from parental care due to drug and alcohol use. The FDTC is the only court of its kind in Australia and its primary goal is to achieve safe and sustainable family reunification.

The FDTC provides a 12-month collaborative program where the participants are supported by a dedicated multi-disciplinary team of professionals including an FDTC magistrate, a court-employed clinical team and Child Protection Practice Leader. The holistic program works alongside a range of external service providers to support long term recovery.

Throughout 2021–22, the FDTC has supported 64 parents in working to address their drug and alcohol use with a view to achieving safe and sustainable reunification with their children. To date, greater than 80% of all participants who completed the 12-month FDTC program have achieved reunification with their children. Overall, 94% of program graduates have achieved reunification.

NUMBER OF PARENTS REFERRED AND INDUCTED INTO THE FDTC DURING 2021–22*



* Referrals do not guarantee induction into the FDTC program. Prospective participants may be assessed as being unsuitable due to denying a substance use problem or its impact on their parenting capacity; withdrawing their consent from participating in the program, or where they are not able to be contacted for assessment.

Marram-Ngala Ganbu – Koori Hearing Day

MARRAM-NGALA GANBU SHEPPARTON

Marram-Ngala Ganbu (MNG) Shepparton has continued to provide a more effective, culturally appropriate, and just response for Koori families through court processes that enable greater participation and more culturally informed decision-making.

Since April 2021, the MNG Shepparton team have improved the identification of Aboriginal children contributing to an increase in MNG sittings from monthly to fortnightly to meet demand. This increased engagement has led to more manageable lists resulting in better outcomes for Koori families and service providers. Additionally, the appointment of a dedicated Children's Court Coordinator to complement the existing MNG Shepparton team has proved invaluable.

A core feature of the MNG model is the adapted courtroom setting which operates differently from the mainstream Children's Court by providing a culturally safe environment and using communication styles that make court a more welcoming place for Koori families. To support the physical design of the courtroom, the MNG Shepparton team engaged a local joinery company to create an oval bar table to accommodate the parties involved in hearings. Partnering with local artist Uncle Kevin Atkinson, the artwork 'Woka Walla Country' featured on the new bar table is inspired by his connection to country and ancestors.

The Bangerang Cultural Centre created a Bigangga (possum skin cloak) designed and created by Bangerang men Clinton Edwards and Roland Atkinson. The cloak is in the main courtroom and features designs that represents the main rivers and creeks within the Shepparton area. A Malka (shield) also features on the cloak and represents the protection the MNG program will offer for local Koori children, young people and their families. The MNG team have also obtained art and artefacts from local artists as sourced through Art Programs run by Kaiela Arts which are on display in the MNG courtroom.

MNG BROADMEADOWS

The MNG Broadmeadows team maintain strong relationships with key stakeholders and various community organizations, both Aboriginal and mainstream to support the successful delivery of the program. Throughout the reporting period, matters were heard online, in person or within a hybrid setting enabling participation by court users, family members and service providers. The development of operating guidelines has further improved awareness of the court process for Koori participants involved in the program as recommended by the *Evaluation of Marram-Ngala Ganbu 2019*.

MNG Broadmeadows has provided private spaces for services to do immediate intake on hearing days. The creation of a Koori Space known as the Kirrip (friends) room has proved to be invaluable for families attending the court when matters were heard in person. The Kirrip room features local service information, a private space for assessments and referrals to take place and a contact point for the MNG team to meet families. MNG Broadmeadows continued to sit weekly throughout the reporting period with consistent engagement from family members both online and in person.

**NUMBER OF MARRAM-NGALA GANBU SITTINGS
2021–22 SHEPPARTON**

Month	Total sittings	Number of families
Jul 21	1	15
Aug 21	2	22
Sep 21	3	33
Oct 21	1	14
Nov 21	2	25
Dec 21	2	25
Jan 22	1	11
Feb 22	2	26
Mar 22	3	31
Apr 22	2	21
May 22	2	18
Jun 22	2	22

**NUMBER OF MARRAM-NGALA GANBU SITTINGS
2021–22 BROADMEADOWS**

Month	Total sittings	Number of families
Jul 21	4	25
Aug 21	5	48
Sep 21	4	44
Oct 21	4	33
Nov 21	4	40
Dec 21	2	23
Jan 22	3	24
Feb 22	4	38
Mar 22	5	51
Apr 22	4	42
May 22	5	38
Jun 22	4	31

Conciliation Conferences

Conciliation conferences allow families to participate in a non-adversarial process where discussions occur in an informal environment facilitated by a Court appointed convenor.

During the reporting period:

- Over 21,000 people participated in 3,170 conferences state-wide
- On average, seven people participated in each conference
- 42% of conferences resulted in a negotiated settlement (highest of any reporting period).

STATE-WIDE CONCILIATION CONFERENCES 2019–20 TO 2021–22

	Conferences conducted	Conferences achieving full settlement	Settlement rate
2019-20	3,260	1,276	39%
2020–21	2,988	1,190	40%
2021–22	3,170	1,332	42%

Children’s Court Clinic

The Children’s Court is an independent body that conducts assessments and reports on children and their families at the request of magistrates across Victoria. These reports provide independent clinical and forensic evaluations for judicial officers presiding over matters in both the Criminal and Family Divisions of the Court.

During the reporting period:

- 38 young people from the Criminal Division of the Children’s Court were referred to the Clinic for either a psychological or psychiatric assessment
- the Clinic completed 134 family assessment reports for Family Division child protection cases
- 26 neuropsychological assessments were also undertaken in both divisions.

Court Support Coordinators

Court Support Coordinators (CSC) are specialist court staff who provide practical support and information to our most vulnerable and disadvantaged court users. The support provided by the CSCs minimises the stress and anxiety that can be experienced by court users, especially by those who are not represented. The CSCs have been instrumental to the success of online hearings during COVID-19.

CSCs provide:

- referrals to community support services, including drug and alcohol, housing, youth support, and family violence
- information about court processes
- emotional support to people who are distressed or seeking help
- assistance to join online hearings, and support during hearings.

In the reporting period, CSCs provided support to over 1,907 court users, including to 1,607 self-represented parties.

Intervention Orders

Family Violence

The Children’s Court of Victoria is committed to ensuring all individuals impacted by family violence are provided support to ensure they can access and navigate the court process.

FAMILY VIOLENCE REFORM: PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND INITIATIVES

Family violence practitioners provide non-legal support and assistance to participants in family violence proceedings. This includes the completion of risk assessments, safety plan development and facilitated referrals to legal and support services. The family violence practitioner also assists with online court hearings to ensure court users can participate in hearings. Referrals are prioritised based on risk with preference given to matters involving allegations of adolescents using violence in the home.

FAMILY VIOLENCE: INFORMATION SHARING AND RISK MANAGEMENT

The Court is a prescribed Information Sharing Entity (ISE) and participates in both the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS) and Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS). In addition, the Children’s Court in conjunction with the Magistrates’ Court of Victoria has established separate information sharing agreements with the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) and the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCFCOA).

APPLICATIONS FOR AN INTERVENTION ORDER FINALISED UNDER THE ACT

<i>Family Violence Protection Act 2008</i>	20–21	21–22
Intervention order made	1,095	1,145
Application refused	17	19
Application struck out	157	197
Application revoked	5	7
Application withdrawn	646	717
Application withdrawn with undertaking	128	158

Personal Safety Intervention Orders

Personal Safety Intervention Orders are court orders that are made to protect a person, their children and their property from another person who is not their family member.

APPLICATIONS FOR AN INTERVENTION ORDER FINALISED UNDER THE ACT

<i>Personal Safety Intervention Orders Act 2010</i>	20-21	21-22
Intervention order made	531	581
Application refused	2	5
Application struck out	119	183
Application withdrawn	143	238
Application withdrawn with undertaking	70	126

Crime

Criminal Division – Overview

The Children’s Court of Victoria has jurisdiction under the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* to hear cases involving children and young people aged 10–17 years at the time of the alleged offending.

The Criminal Division of the Court has jurisdiction to summarily hear and determine all offences (other than murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, child homicide, homicide by firearm, culpable driving causing death and arson causing death) where the alleged offender was under the age of 18 but of or above the age of 10 years at the time the offence was committed and under the age of 19 when proceedings were commenced in the Court. The Children’s Koori Court (Criminal Division) has jurisdiction to hear matters relating to criminal offending by Koori children and young people, other than sexual offences.

Criminal Cases

YOUNG PEOPLE FOUND GUILTY

2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
5,427	4,533	4,155	3,778	3,523	2,928	2,822	2,364	2,079	1,632	1,215	1,141

THE 5 MOST COMMON OFFENCE CATEGORIES YOUNG PEOPLE WERE FOUND GUILTY OF

Assault	Robbery	Traffic Offences	Property Damage	Theft of Motor Car
1,039	260	202	172	128

SENTENCING OUTCOMES

Order	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Discharge	4	3	4
Unaccountable undertaking	9	12	10
Accountable undertaking	99	63	69
Good behaviour bond	661	446	547
Fine	115	53	32
Probation	312	264	201
Youth Supervision Order	238	217	148
Youth Attendance Order	31	34	36
Youth Residential Centre	4	3	2
Youth Justice Centre	157	116	88
Youth Control Centre	2	4	4
TOTAL	1,632	1,215	1,141

The Remand Court

The Melbourne Children’s Court operates a Remand Court to actively case manage the criminal charges of children held on remand. The Remand Court has performed a critical role in reducing the risks that vulnerable young people face in custody by expediting the hearing and case management of custodial matters.

The Remand Court Consists of:

- specialist judicial officers assigned by the President of the Children’s Court
- a team of dedicated court staff
- specialist Victoria Police prosecutors assigned to Remand Court duties
- legal practitioners from Victoria Legal Aid
- dedicated clinical support from the Children’s Court Clinic.

The Remand Court sits at Melbourne Children’s Court each day and hears matters from the Melbourne, Sunshine and Moorabbin catchment areas. During the reporting period, the Remand Court determined on average 55 bail applications per month. Practice Direction 1 of 2022 expanded the priority approach for the criminal proceedings of children held on remand to include all metropolitan and regional courts, creating efficiencies in the listing of cases and improving outcomes for young people and the community.

Youth Diversion Program

The Children’s Court Youth Diversion (CCYD) program delivers a brief and tailored intervention for children charged with low-level offences and who have little or no criminal history. The CCYD provides an opportunity for eligible children to:

- address harm caused by their offending by taking responsibility and completing a diversion activity
- address the underlying cause of their offending
- receive assistance to engage with support services
- on successful completion of the diversion activity have the charges dismissed, with a non-disclosable criminal record
- avoid the stigma associated with a criminal record and its impact on future life opportunities.

During the reporting period, the Court has allowed diversion matters to be determined in the absence of parties (‘on the papers’) to progress cases during COVID-19.

Children’s Koori Court

The Children’s Koori Court is a sentencing court for young Aboriginal people who plead guilty to a criminal offence (other than a sexual offence). The Children’s Koori Court sits at 12 locations across the State.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW MELBOURNE CHILDREN’S KOORI COURT OFFICER

Koori Court Officers play a critical role in the operation of the Children’s Koori Court by:

- working with the Koori community to help with understanding the court process
- providing non-legal support and advice
- supporting judicial officers with access to information to support culturally appropriate outcomes.

Tia Paterson-Dunn was welcomed in May 2022 as Melbourne Children’s Koori Court officer. Koori Court officers are available at Magistrates’ venues where a Koori Court is available.

CHILDREN’S KOORI COURT ARTWORK

The culturally welcoming environment of the Koori Children’s Court has been enhanced by the addition of a hand-woven mat made from traditional materials and designs. The mat was created by Northern territory-based artists and reflects the diversity within the Victorian Aboriginal community and broader Australian Aboriginal community. This is a stunning addition to the Children’s Koori Court room which complements the existing Koori artworks and artifacts to enhance and promote Aboriginal culture across the Children’s Court.

CHILDREN’S KOORI COURT STATE-WIDE DATA FOR 2021-2022

Location	No of young people	Matters finalised
Latrobe Valley (including Bairnsdale)	1	3
Geelong	1	3
Heidelberg	10	17
Melbourne	39	99
Mildura	6	0
Shepparton	13	13
Swan Hill	1	1
Warrnambool (including Portland & Hamilton)	2	2
Dandenong	0	0
TOTAL	73	138

Projects

Case Management System

The 2017–18 State Budget provided Court Services Victoria with \$89.2 million for a modern case management system for the Children’s Court and Magistrates’ Court. The funding for a new case management system was part of the Victorian Government’s response to the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

The project is focused on delivering a case management system that will support greater integration and connectivity in the justice system. This will allow the courts’ internal and external processes to operate more efficiently by strengthening the ability to capture and share appropriate critical information, reducing the reliance on paper files, and minimising manual practices.

The jurisdictional leads and representatives from the Children’s Court continue to work directly with the technology partner to guide the system’s configuration and management to ensure the CMS project delivers the best possible solution for the courts.

DANDENONG CHILDREN'S COURT

In December 2021, the Victorian Government provided funding to establish a dedicated Children's Court facility in Dandenong to meet ongoing demand for justice services in Melbourne's south-east. The Children's Court of Victoria is working in partnership with Court Services Victoria to deliver the new Dandenong Children's Court which is scheduled to open in March 2023.

The Dandenong Children's Court will hear Family Division matters, including child protection and intervention order cases, and Criminal Division proceedings, including custody cases. The Court will be a state-of-the-art, fit-for-purpose facility with a range of innovative features including:

- three courtrooms, including a Children's Koori Court
- secure, child focused waiting room for children in emergency care
- custody centre with five holding cells to facilitate remand and bail hearings
- space for services including the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, Victoria Legal Aid, Victoria Police Prosecutions, and private legal practitioners
- carefully designed public waiting areas that provide privacy and wayfinding to services
- separate entrance, waiting area and remote hearing facilities for vulnerable court users, including the victims of family violence.

This initiative will strengthen access to local justice services in Melbourne's south-east and improve outcomes for children, families, and young offenders.

BENDIGO LAW COURTS

The Victorian Government provided \$152.4 million in the 2019–20 State Budget to build a new regional headquarter court in Bendigo for the Loddon Mallee Region, which is expected to begin operations from January 2023. Work continues the development of the operating model and delivery requirements for what will be Victoria's first regional specialist Children's Court.

WYNDHAM LAW COURTS

The 2020–21 Victorian State Budget committed \$271 million for the development of future Wyndham Law Courts. The purpose-built court complex will include a specialist Children's Court providing a range of programs and services. Wyndham Law Courts will be the largest court complex outside of Melbourne's central business district, bringing together multiple Victorian court jurisdictions to the rapidly growing Wyndham area. Wyndham's future court will prioritise user experience, safety, sustainability, and technological capability. Construction will commence in late 2022 and is expected to be complete in early 2025.

Appendices

Our Judiciary

The Children's Court at Melbourne is the only venue of the Court which sits daily in both divisions. The Children's Court at Melbourne, Broadmeadows and Moorabbin has 18 magistrates sitting full-time, three judicial registrars and five reserve magistrates together with the President who is a judge of the County Court.

Magistrates in other metropolitan courts also sit as Children's Court magistrates in those regions on nominated days, and as required, hearing Criminal Division and intervention order matters only. The exceptions are the courts at Moorabbin and Broadmeadows where Child Protection cases are heard on a daily basis. Magistrates in country areas sit as Children's Court magistrates in both divisions on nominated days and as required.

PRESIDENT

Judge Jack Vandersteen

MAGISTRATES

Ms Jacqueline Billings

Ms Jennifer Bowles

Mr Darrin Cain

Ms Erica Contini (appointed March 2022)

Mr Peter Dotchin

Ms Melissa Stead

Ms Michelle Ehrlich (retired March 2022)

Ms Lesley Fleming

Ms Jane Gibson

Ms Annabel Hawkins

Ms Gail Hubble

Mr Randall Kune

Ms Elizabeth Langdon

Ms Kay Macpherson

Mr Shiva Pillai

Ms Kim Parkinson

Ms Kristen Rose

Ms Sharon Smith

Mr Francis Zemljak

RESERVE MAGISTRATES

Ms Margaret Harding

Ms Michelle Ehrlich (from March 2022)

Mr Gregory Levine

Ms Cathy Lambie

Mr Charlie Rozencwajq

JUDICIAL REGISTRARS

Ms Judith Benson

Ms Majella Foster-Jones

Ms Robyn Hamilton (to June 2022)

Ms Julia Lever-Davidson

Court locations

The Children’s Court of Victoria sits at:

- the Melbourne, Broadmeadows and Moorabbin Children’s Courts; and
- locations at which the Magistrates’ Court is held.

MELBOURNE REGION:

Family Division:

Melbourne Children’s Court (headquarters court), Moorabbin, Broadmeadows.

Criminal Division:

Melbourne Children’s Court (headquarters court), Moorabbin, Broadmeadows, Dandenong, Frankston, Heidelberg, Neighbourhood Justice Centre, Ringwood, Sunshine, Werribee.

GRAMPIANS REGION:

Ballarat (headquarters court), Ararat, Bacchus Marsh, Edenhope, Hopetoun, Horsham, Nhill, St. Arnaud, Stawell.

LODDON MALLEE REGION:

Bendigo (headquarters court), Castlemaine, Echuca, Kerang, Kyneton, Maryborough, Mildura, Ouyen, Robinvale, Swan Hill.

BARWON SOUTH WEST REGION:

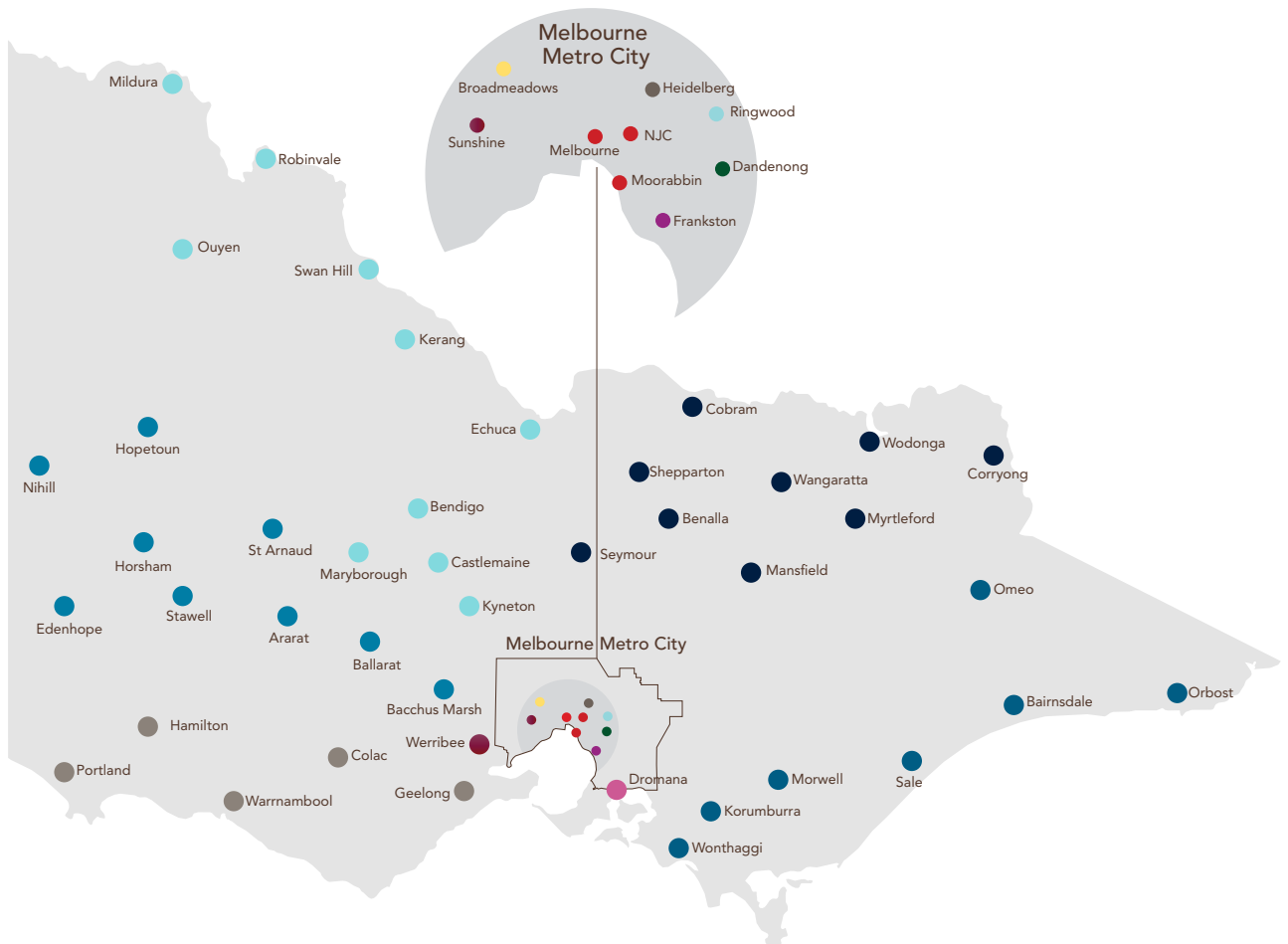
Geelong (headquarters court), Colac, Hamilton, Portland, Warrnambool.

GIPPSLAND REGION:

Latrobe Valley (Morwell) (headquarters court), Bairnsdale, Korumburra, Moe, Omeo, Orbost, Sale, Wonthaggi.

HUME REGION:

Shepparton (headquarters court), Benalla, Cobram, Corryong, Mansfield.





**Children's
Court
of Victoria**