

## Agency performance

In addition, the Commission received two new references in 2018-19:

- Maintenance and Champerty in Western Australia, which is considering whether the torts of maintenance and champerty should be abolished or whether the law in relation to their operation should be otherwise modified in Western Australia (Project 110)
- Review of the *Equal Opportunity Act 1984* (WA), which is considering possible amendments to enhance and update the legislation taking into account Australian and international best practices regarding equality and non-discrimination (Project 111).

### Professional Standards Council of Western Australia

The Department continued to provide secretariat support to the Professional Standards Council of Western Australia. The Council is an independent statutory authority. The Council is one of eight similar Councils across Australia, with the membership replicated across all Councils. Together, the Councils promote objects of schemes that limit the civil liability of occupational groups, facilitate the improvement of professional standards and protect consumers who use the services provided by service providers in these occupational groups.

In 2018/19, the Department facilitated the reappointment of the Western Australian member of the Council until 2021, in addition, helping introduce a scheme for the

Law Society of Western Australia, and an extension of a scheme for the Western Australian Bar Association.

### Aboriginal Justice Program

The Department's Aboriginal Justice Program continued to help address the over-representation of Aboriginal people in the criminal justice system by delivering culturally competent, practical programs throughout the year.

'Open Days' continue to be delivered in priority regional locations by staff using a collaborative service model with partner agencies. This approach allows Aboriginal people to access a range of services relating to birth certificate and registration applications, time to pay arrangements for outstanding fines, driver's licence applications, theory and practical driver testing, driving training and education, Centrelink services, Community Development Programs and in some locations, legal and financial assistance.

Of particular significance in 2018/19 was the continued increase in the number of licence suspensions lifted and the increasing value of fines paid.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2018/17	2018/19
Open days held	39	73	50	50	57
People attending open days	1,611	2,751	2,107	2,116	1,936
Conversion of fines – time to pay arrangements, stay of execution and orders to attend	\$178,290	\$329,096	\$838,930	\$843,664	\$951,116
Fines paid – actual amount	\$464,853	\$662,094	\$900,902	\$1,024,377	\$1,041,478
People entering into time to pay arrangements	204	339	310	204	228
Stay of warrant executions	93	138	164	140	122
Licence suspensions lifted	384	684	345	1089	1,116
Birth certificate applications	710	925	657	617	588
Confirmation of birth letters issued	233	424	253	155	66
Births registered (pre- and post-1980)	516	337	169	155	176
Practical driving assessments passed	138	146	130	121	159
Theory driving tests conducted	325	232	165	139	211
Driving log books issued/re-issued	62	115	74	71	65
Suspended fines for motor vehicle driver's licences	123	151	87	105	66
Centrelink – applications for Medicare	95	155	105	104	70
Centrelink – concession cards issued	80	146	98	123	80