

Australian Court Hierarchy

High Court of Australia

“The ultimate **responsibility** of the High Court is to **maintain the rule of law**. **No government and no citizen is above the law**... Judges decide disputes... according to law and **free from the influence**...”

- Murray Gleeson AC GBS QC,
former Chief Justice,
High Court of Australia.

The **apex** of the appellate system in Australia is the **High Court**. All **decisions** made in the **High Court** are **final and binding** on all lower courts across all geographical jurisdictions in Australia.

Supreme Courts /
Courts of Appeal

There are no intermediate courts in the Australian Capital Territory or Northern Territory.

Intermediate
Courts
(County/District Courts)

Federal
Court of
Australia

Federal
Circuit and
Family
Court of
Australia

Federal Courts

The specialist courts vary between each state and territory, and include the Children's Court, Youth Justice Court, Warden's Court and Drug Court.

Lower Courts
(Local/Magistrates Courts)

Specialist
Courts

Coroners
Court

State/Territory Courts

The ability to **appeal decisions** made in lower courts creates a system of **review**, ensuring the law is **interpreted and applied equally and fairly to all** and supporting the achievement of **just outcomes**.



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