

Appendix A: Indigenous Sentencing Courts in Australia

State	Location/Type	Link
Western Australia	Kalgoorlie-Boulder Community Court	<p>The Kalgoorlie Community Court is a sentencing court designed to be more culturally inclusive of Aboriginal people. It is set up in a less formal structure than other courts with the Magistrate sitting at a special table with the other participants including Aboriginal elders, the offender and their family.</p> <p>http://www.magistratescourt.wa.gov.au/K/kalgoorlie_boulder_community_court.aspx?uid=3291-2300-6331-4792</p>
	Geraldton Family Violence Court - Barndimalgu	<p>The Barndimalgu Court hears family and domestic violence matters involving aboriginal people. This service provides offenders with the opportunity to complete programs to address their violent behaviour before the final sentence is delivered.</p> <p>The project is supported by the Geraldton <u>Aboriginal Justice Agreement</u> which provides a link between the Geraldton Aboriginal Community, the <u>Department of the Attorney General</u> and the <u>Department of Corrective Services</u></p> <p>http://www.magistratescourt.wa.gov.au/G/geraldton_family_violence_court_barndimalgu.aspx?uid=4497-7800-5232-5352</p>
Victoria	Koori court	<p>The Koori Court has been created under the <i>Magistrates Court Act 1989</i>. It operates as a division of the Magistrates' Court, which sentences Indigenous defendants.</p> <p>Koori Elders or Respected Persons, the Koori Court Officer, Koori defendants and their families can contribute during the Court hearing. This helps to reduce perceptions of cultural alienation and to ensure sentencing orders are appropriate to the cultural needs of Koori offenders, and assist them to address issues relating to their offending behaviour.</p> <p>The Koori Court is currently located at Bairnsdale, Broadmeadows, Latrobe Valley, Mildura, Shepparton, Swan Hill and Warrnambool Magistrates' Courts. Children's Koori Courts are also located in Melbourne and Mildura.</p> <p>http://www.magistratescourt.vic.gov.au/jurisdictions/specialist-jurisdictions/koori-court</p>

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	Children's Koori Court	<p>The Children's Koori Court was established in 2005 to address the over-representation of young Koori people in the criminal justice system. By involving the Koori community in the court process through the participation of Elders and Respected Persons the Koori Court aims to reduce offending behaviour and reduce the number of young Koori people being sentenced to a period of detention</p> <p>http://www.childrenscourt.vic.gov.au/jurisdictions/koori-court</p>
South Australia	Nunga Courts	<p>Aboriginal Sentencing Courts are presided over by a Magistrate, who is assisted by Aboriginal Elders and/or Respected Persons. As they are sentencing courts, they do not hear trials or contested matters. Aboriginal Sentencing Courts provide an opportunity for Aboriginal court users to have their voice heard in a culturally appropriate manner, and family members and support persons are encouraged to attend and speak directly to the court.</p> <p>To attend an Aboriginal Sentencing Court, the court user must be an Aboriginal adult, who has pleaded guilty to their offences. The offences need to have occurred in the local Aboriginal court area.</p> <p>http://www.courts.sa.gov.au/OurCourts/MagistratesCourt/Pages/Aboriginal-Sentencing-Courts-and-Conferences.aspx</p>
	Aboriginal Sentencing Conferences	<p>Section 9C Aboriginal Sentencing Conferences empowers a court in any criminal jurisdiction to convene an Aboriginal Sentencing Conference. Aboriginal Sentencing Conferences usually take place in a conference room (not a courtroom). Every participant has a chance to have their say around a table. Aboriginal defendants are encouraged to explain the background to their offending. Aboriginal Elders attend and</p>

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		<p>are very important participants, as they can advise the court and defendant. Conferences also give defendants an opportunity to face victims and apologise for their actions.</p> <p>http://www.courts.sa.gov.au/OurCourts/MagistratesCourt/Pages/Aboriginal-Sentencing-Courts-and-Conferences.aspx</p>
Northern Territory	The Community Court	<p>Community Courts harness the cultural strengths and influences of Indigenous communities and embraces principles of restorative justice.</p> <p>http://www.nt.gov.au/justice/ntmc/specialist_courts.shtml</p>
New South Wales	Circle Sentencing	<p>Circle Sentencing Court, which is an alternative sentencing court for Aboriginal Adult offenders. Elders, respected community member to not only undertake assessment to see if offender is eligible but also to be involved with the sentencing of that offender at the Circle Sentencing Courts. Nowra, Dubbo, Walgett, Brewarrina, Bourke, Lismore, Armidale, Kempsey and Mt Druitt. An Aboriginal Project Officer is located in each site where Circle Sentencing operates</p> <p>http://www.healthinonet.ecu.edu.au/key-resources/programs-projects?pid=925</p>