ALS
Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited

LAW AND JUSTICE FOUNDATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Mapping Court Finalisations with Aboriginal Defendants: Using Data to Inform Service Planning

National CLCs Conference

Nadine Miles, Delphine Bellerose

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The ALS project

- What the ALS wanted to find out and why
- The ALS approached the Foundation
- Research project:
  - Map the **geographic distribution of matters** coming before the different levels of courts across NSW
  - Analyse and report on how data might be used to **assess demand for services** and assist with service planning

Methodology

- Criminal Courts statistics on finalised matters with Aboriginal defendants are used as a **proxy measure** to assess **potential demand for ALS services** in NSW

- Data set sourced from BOCSAR

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

- The Foundation processed the data to create a database and generate maps

BOCSAR data

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

Finalisation: a matter with one or more charges that have been laid and which are heard together as one unit of work by a court at a particular level.

Charge: each separate offence, also referred to as 'sequence', finalised at a single court appearance.

- Local, Children's, District & Supreme Courts
- 145 court locations in NSW
- Five-year study period (2012-2016)
  - Total finalisations
  - Number with Aboriginal defendants
  - Percentage with Aboriginal status not known

- Just under **123,000** finalisations
  with Aboriginal defendants in NSW between 2012 and 2016.

Is the number of finalisations a reliable proxy for demand for services?

- Highly complex cases with multiple charges might require a higher level of assistance.

→ Request for additional data on number of **charges** per finalisation.

Index of finalised charges

- A calculation of the number of finalisations multiplied by the number of charges
- A more accurate measure of the potential demand for services
  - more weight to the more complex cases (finalisations with multiple charges)

Interactive database

Tableau public - www.lawfoundation.net.au

filters

totals for selection

Home | Data table

Finalised matters with Aboriginal defendants in NSW 2012-2016

Data shows the number of finalisation with Aboriginal defendants in the NSW Local Court, Children's Court and Higher Courts over the period 2012 to 2016.

Developed by LAW AND JUSTICE FOUNDATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES for ALS Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited

Select locations and court types from the fields below to filter the data shown

Region: (All) | ALS Office: (All) | Cluster: Lismore-Grafton-Kemp... | Court type: Local | Court locat...: (All)

A def: Number of finalisations with Aboriginal defendants
Index: Number of finalisations multiplied by the number of charges at finalisation
Unkwn: Percentage of finalisations where the defendant's Aboriginality was not known
Change: Percentage growth from 2012 to 2016

Use the scroll bars to view the columns and rows out of screen view

	Totals for the five-year period					Totals by Year													
	A def 12-16	Index 12-16	Unkwn 12-16	Change A def 12-16	Change Index 12-16	A def 2016	Index 2016	Unkwn 2016	A def 2015	Index 2015	Unkwn 2015	A def 2014	Index 2014	Unkwn 2014	A def 2013	Index 2013	Unkwn 2013	A def 2012	Index 2012
NSW 2012 - 2016	122,995	291,715	12.1%	19.5%	22.7%	27,214	65,435	12.6%	25,418	60,870	12.4%	24,262	56,958	12.1%	23,328	55,144	11.8%	22,773	53,308
Selected data 2012 - 2016	14,601	32,455	10.5%	30.8%	39.9%	3,327	7,659	12.3%	3,029	6,710	11.2%	2,951	6,474	9.6%	2,750	6,138	9.0%	2,544	5,474

Court	Court type	ALS Office	Cluster	Region	A def 2016	Index 2016	Unkwn 2016	A def 2015	Index 2015	Unkwn 2015	A def 2014	Index 2014	Unkwn 2014	A def 2013	Index 2013
Ballina	Local	Lismore	Lismore-Grafton-Kempsey-CoffsH	Northern	123	272	14.1	130	286	14.8	122	260	14.6	109	243
Bellingen	Local	Grafton	Lismore-Grafton-Kempsey-CoffsH	Northern	12	19	16.5	8	11	16.7	18	29	20.2	14	20
Byron Bay	Local	Lismore	Lismore-Grafton-Kempsey-CoffsH	Northern	60	156	16.2	47	110	16.4	57	119	16.3	70	127
Casino	Local	Lismore	Lismore-Grafton-Kempsey-CoffsH	Northern	209	429	11.6	194	391	7.8	117	200	8.2	108	203
Coffs Harbo..	Local	Coffs Harbour	Lismore-Grafton-Kempsey-CoffsH	Northern	488	1,231	9.9	372	855	9.6	367	816	8.0	290	648
Forster	Local	Kempsey	Lismore-Grafton-Kempsey-CoffsH	Northern	144	307	9.6	111	216	9.9	126	225	8.2	72	157
Gloucester	Local	Kempsey	Lismore-Grafton-Kempsey-CoffsH	Northern	6	13	12.5	8	17	16.2	6	12	13.5	5	10
Grafton	Local	Grafton	Lismore-Grafton-Kempsey-CoffsH	Northern	252	558	11.3	224	533	7.6	237	524	6.5	253	637
Kempsey	Local	Kempsey	Lismore-Grafton-Kempsey-CoffsH	Northern	329	646	16.9	338	713	8.3	344	694	8.4	397	833
Kyogle	Local	Lismore	Lismore-Grafton-Kempsey-CoffsH	Northern	32	63	11.3	18	39	11.7	16	21	13.8	27	56
Lismore	Local	Lismore	Lismore-Grafton-Kempsey-CoffsH	Northern	499	1,283	7.6	455	1,106	9.9	393	956	8.7	317	813
Macksville	Local	Kempsey	Lismore-Grafton-Kempsey-CoffsH	Northern	96	208	14.6	98	190	11.1	108	209	10.5	118	225
Maclean	Local	Grafton	Lismore-Grafton-Kempsey-CoffsH	Northern	72	151	15.0	59	126	9.8	60	165	7.2	50	115

The Law and Justice Foundation of NSW and Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited.
Data Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR).

Enquiries: datadigest@lawfoundation.net.au
Last updated: June 2018

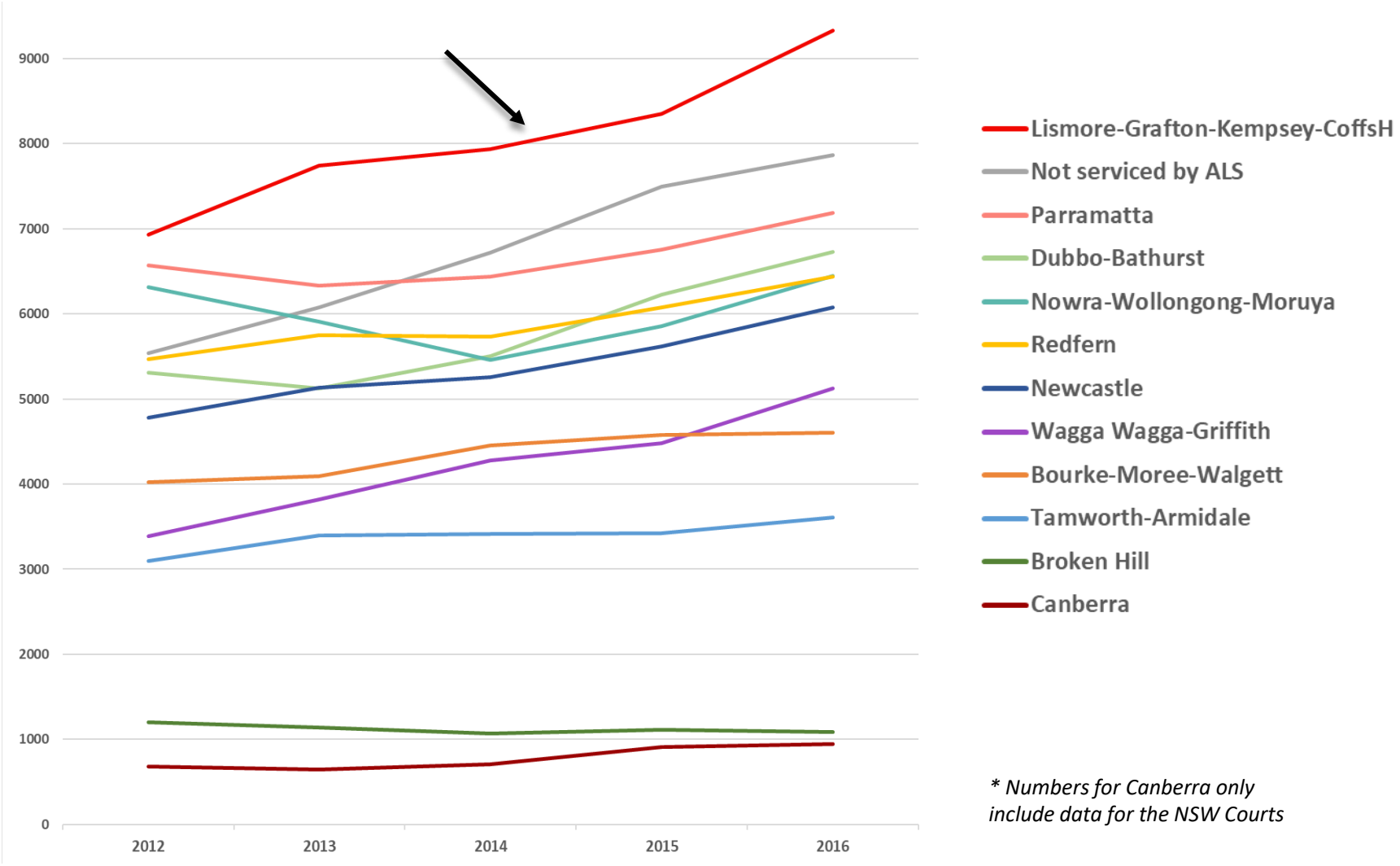
Overview

2012 - 2016	Aboriginal status unknown	Finalisations with Aboriginal defendants	Index	Finalisation increase	Index increase
NSW	**12.1%**	**122,995**	**291,715**	**19.5%**	**22.7%**
Central South Eastern	12.7%	50,670	119,214	12.4%	14.1%
Northern	10.9%	40,817	97,112	26.3%	32.7%
Western	11.5%	31,508	75,389	23.1%	25.0%

- 122,995 finalisations with Aboriginal defendants in NSW between 2012 to 2016
- 19.5% increase in 5-year period
- Aboriginal status unknown for 12.1% of finalisations.

Data Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

Index of finalised charges by ALS clusters, 2012 to 2016



** Numbers for Canberra only include data for the NSW Courts*

Data Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

Map 1 - Index of finalised charges with Aboriginal defendants by court location in NSW – Totals for the period 2012-2016

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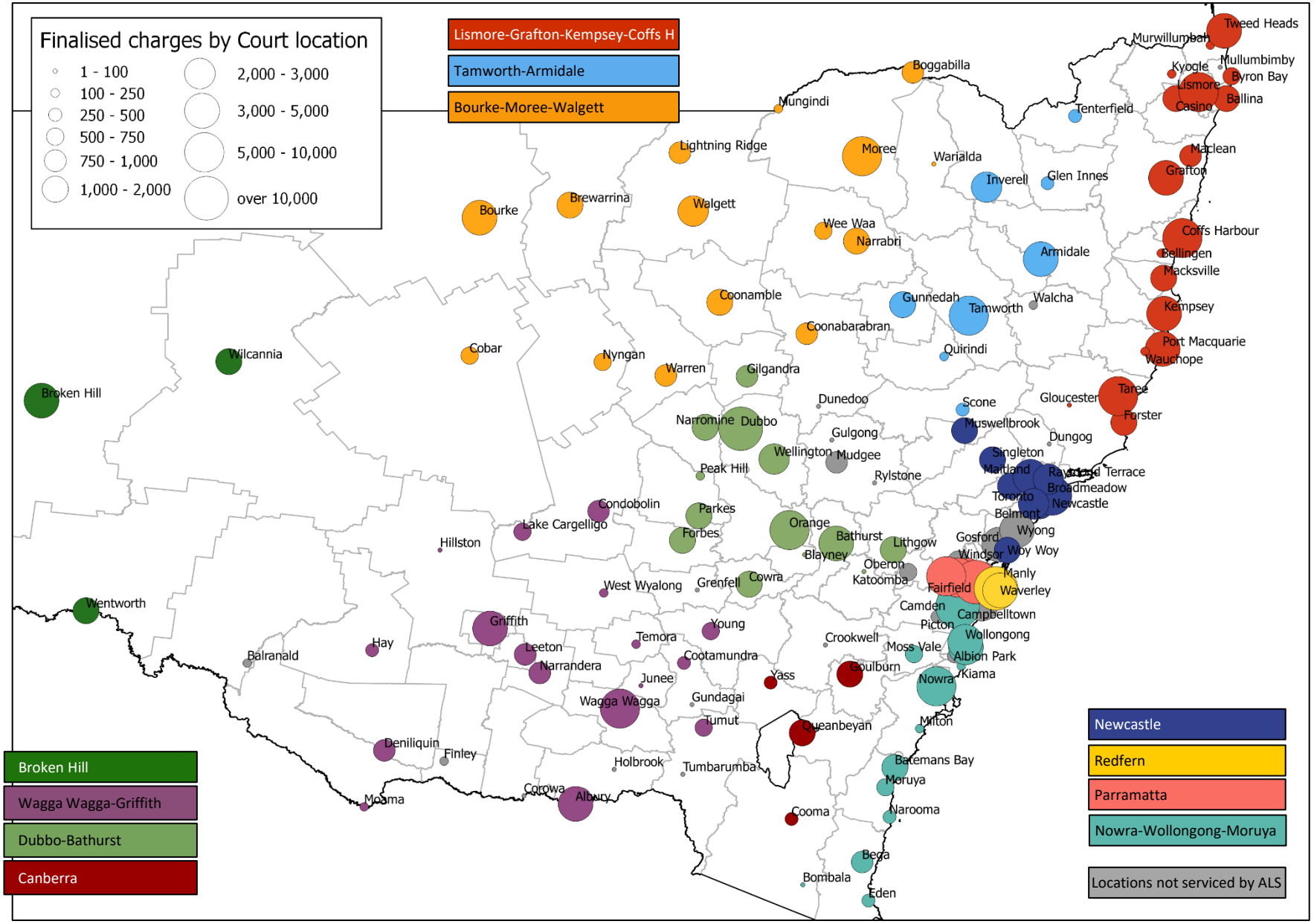

Data Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

Map 1b - Index of finalised charges with Aboriginal defendants by court location in NSW – Totals for the period 2012-2016

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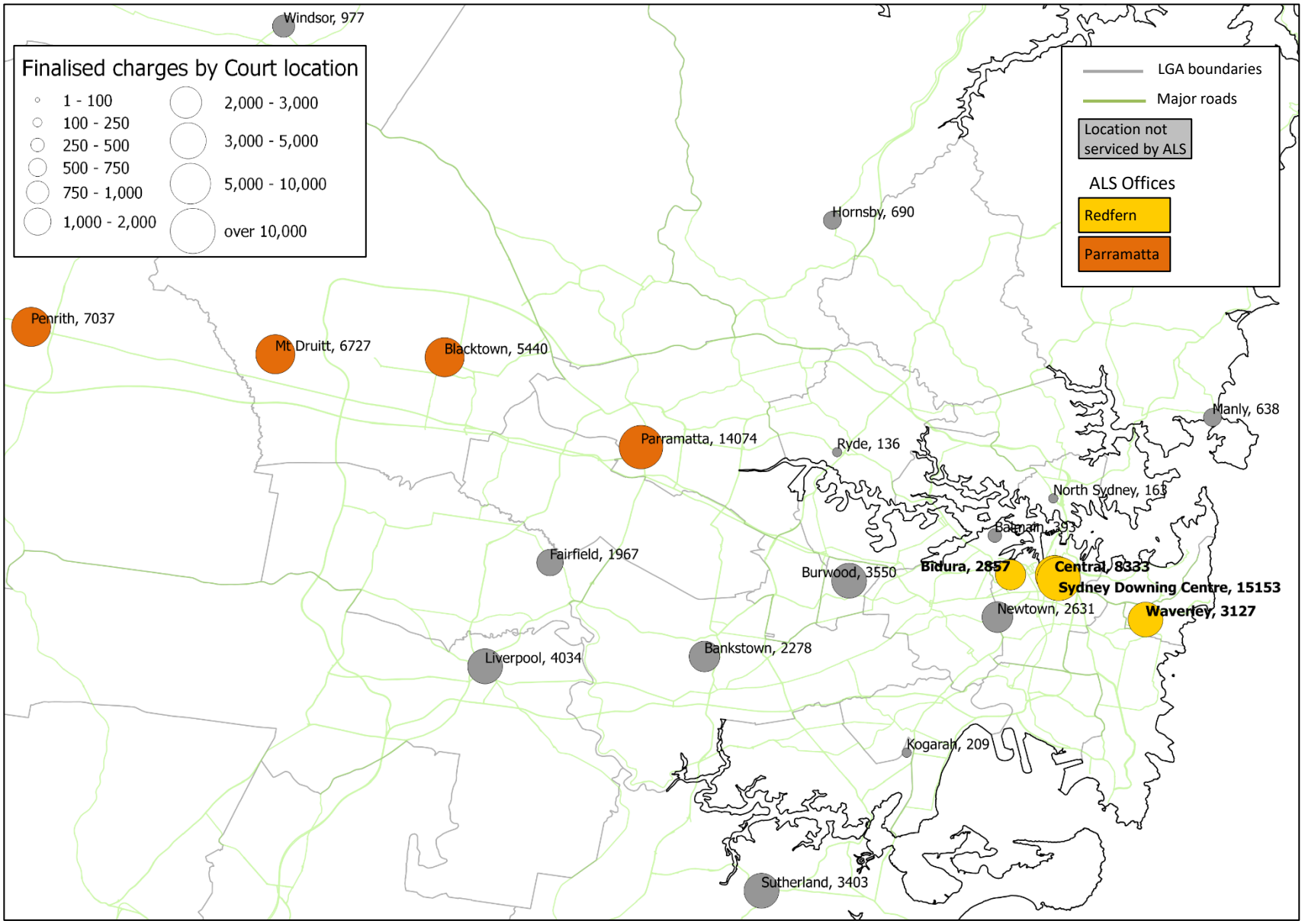
Parramatta - Redfern



Data Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

Map 2 - Index of finalised charges with Aboriginal defendants
Percentage change over the period 2012-2016, by ALS office

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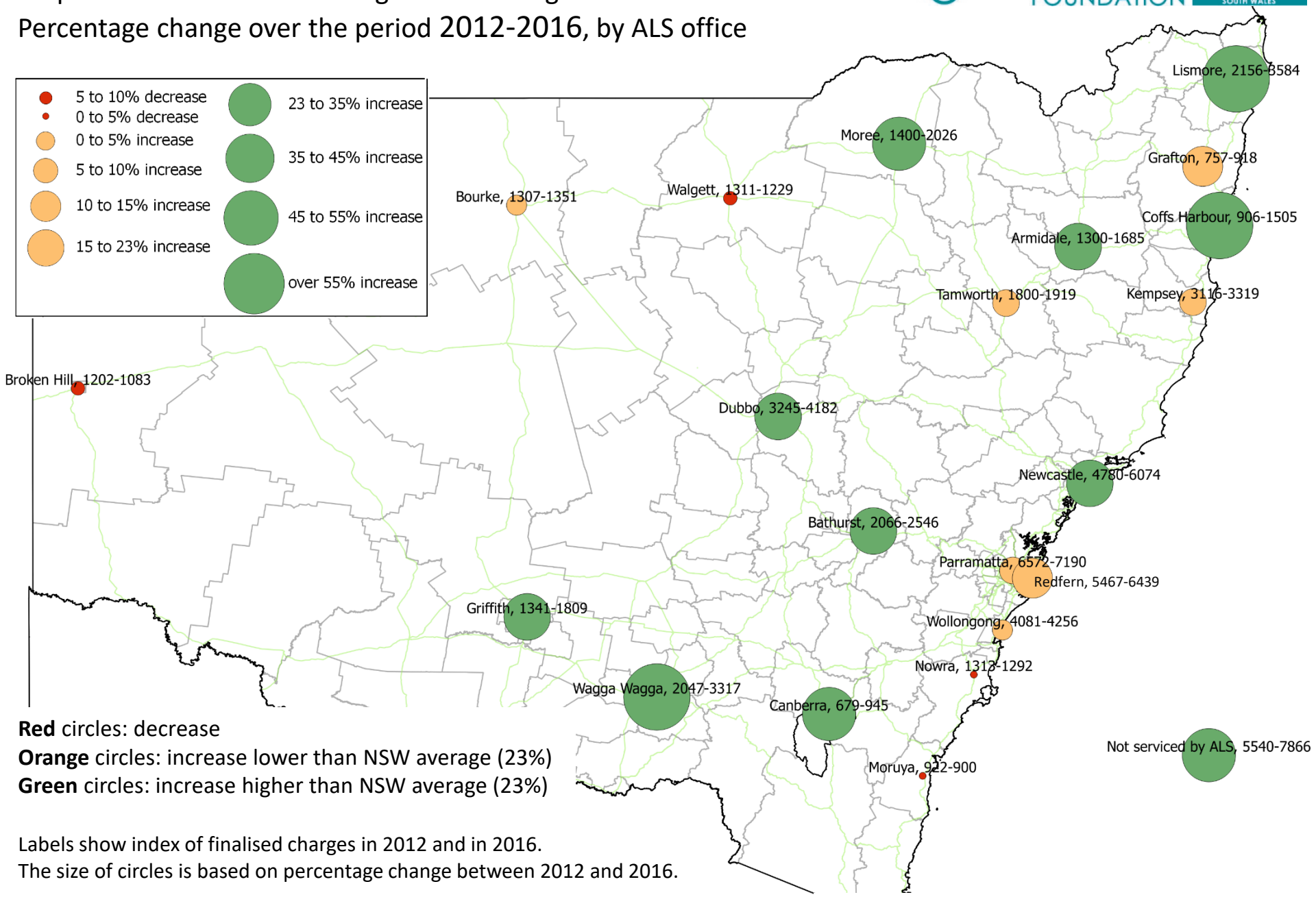

Red circles: decrease
Orange circles: increase lower than NSW average (23%)
Green circles: increase higher than NSW average (23%)

Labels show index of finalised charges in 2012 and in 2016.
The size of circles is based on percentage change between 2012 and 2016.

Data Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

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What next?

- Future years?
  - Regular updates to maintain a dynamic tool rather than a static resource
- Other jurisdictions? National?
  - New project to complete a similar study in another jurisdiction