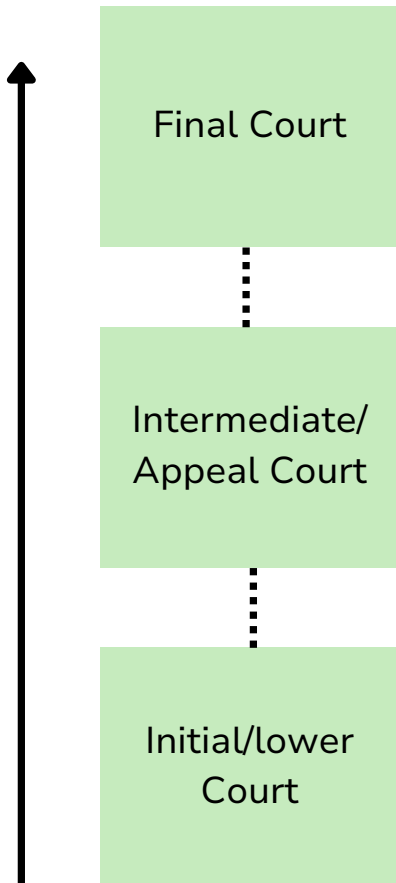


The Australian Court System



There are a number of different courts in the Australian Court System. Different courts hear different kinds of matters. Courts exist in a hierarchy, meaning some courts can overturn decisions made in courts below them.



Most cases will be heard initially in some kind of lower court. If a person is not happy with the judgement of that court, they can lodge an appeal to an intermediate court. In some cases, a matter may be heard by more than one intermediate court. Some matters go directly to an intermediate court, without being heard by a lower court. The final court in which an Australian case can be heard is the High Court of Australia.

State and federal laws exist in Australia. There are state and federal courts to hear cases based on the type of law involved. The structure of the hierarchy is similar between state and federal court systems, following the pattern of lower, intermediate and final court. However, the courts have different names in different jurisdictions.

