

This paper looks at the relationship between the non-parole periods and head sentences imposed on federal offenders in the three years between 2006/7 and 2008/9 across a total of 439 sentences. The sentences are analysed by type of offending and on a State/Territory basis. The survey of sentences reflects consistency for drug sentences across Australia. In other offence types there is some variation of approach in the various jurisdictions but a reasonable level of consistency bearing in mind the approach reflected in the Judiciary Act 1903 is that federal sentencing is carried out by State/Territory courts and so State/Territory practice has a bearing on the sentences imposed.