Murder

Single Stabbing

Maximum Penalty: Life - s.19A (NSW) Crimes Act

Standard non-parole period

20 years: all offences committed on or after 1.2.2003

25 years: offences committed on or after 1.2.2003 where victim was a police officer, emergency services worker, correctional officer, judicial officer, health worker, teacher, community worker, or other public official, exercising public or community functions and the offence arose because of the victim's occupation

offences where plea or conviction on or after 25.6.2006 and offence arose because of the victim's 'voluntary work'

offences where plea or conviction on or after 1.1.2008 and where victim was a child under 18 years of age

offences where the offence arose because of the victim's occupation as a council law enforcement officer (added 9.6.2009)

offences committed on or after 24.11.2025 and where victim was an intimate partner of the offender

	NAME (age if known)	PLEA	SENTENCE	APPEAL	SUMMARY OF RECORD	INTENT	INVOLVEMENT & SUMMARY
1.	**TAULU** (42) NSWCCA 31.10.1994	VG	MT 12y AT 4y	AD	nil	intent GBH	Confronted new boyfriend of estranged de facto in street - stabbed once in chest.
2.	**DANIELSON** (18) NSWSC 27.6.1995 Smart J	VG	MT 9y AT 5y		minor	stabbing with glass intent GBH	In early hours of morning confrontation developed between victim and acquaintance of offender – victim kicked acquaintance and made threats – offender stabbed victim in neck with broken glass – spontaneous – excessive defence of another – major over-reaction Islander heritage - prior good character at school and church – deep remorse and shame – good prospects of rehabilitation – father to young child

This table has been prepared by the Public Defenders as a guide. Individual cases should be read if they are to be relied upon.

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3.	**KILMORE** (21) NSWSC 18.7.1997 Hidden J NSWCCA 13.8.1998	PG	MT 10y AT 4y	AD	dishonesty, drugs	intent GBH	Female stabbed male tourist after altercation in street - single stab wound through heart. Alcohol and drug problems
4.	**COX** (18) [1999] NSWCCA 246	PG	MT 11y AT 5y	AA MT 9y 6m AT 4y 6m	nil	intent GBH	Female - stabbed 14y girl over money owed. Good character – rehabilitation
5.	**BURKE** (29) [2000] NSWSC 356 Greg James J	PG	MT 5y AT 4y		street offences	intent GBH	Female - stabbed de facto husband in chest while in car - spontaneous offence - intoxicated and arguing and seriously emotionally disturbed. Aboriginal mother of four - deprived and abused life resulting in alcoholism and intellectual impairment - some evidence of rehabilitation.
6.	**HERON** [2000] NSWCCA 312	VG	MT 14y AT 4y	AD	convictions for assault	intent GBH	Stabbed male during drunken pub brawl. Disadvantaged and troubled life - voluntarily surrendered to police.
7.	**DAVENPORT** (39) [2001] NSWSC 1083 Bell J	VG	15y NPP 11y 3m		drugs	intent GBH	Stabbed friend once following drunken fight. Relationship characterised by frequent aggressive episodes during drinking bouts - alcohol addiction.
8.	**MTN** (17) [2002] NSWSC 1160 O'Keefe J	VG Murder PG Mal wound Affray	16y 6m NPP 11y FT 3y FT 12m Total: 17y 6m NPP 12y		not relevant	intent GBH	(1997) Gang attack on 2 victims outside amusement centre - mistakenly believed victim belonged to gang responsible for assault on friend – one victim stabbed in shoulder - second victim stabbed in heart - leader of attack Remorse - married with one child - borderline intelligence - good prospects of rehabilitation - disturbed background

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9.	**SLD** (13y 10m) [2002] NSWSC 758 Wood CJ at CL (2003) 142 A Crim R 503 [2003] NSWCCA 310	PG	20y NPP 10y	AD		intent to kill	Broke into neighbouring home at night and abducted 3y sleeping girl - removed clothes and stabbed her in chest once - discarded body in long grass - misled police during inquiries - callous and cold-blooded killing - motive unclear Seriously affected by background of upheaval, abuse and lack of emotional support - intellectual and speech disability and dysmorphic appearance - sexually abused by half-brother - disturbed individual - history of aggressive and unacceptable behaviour - significant level of future dangerousness, although difficult to assess at this stage
10.	**WILSON** (18) [2004] NSWSC 597 Simpson J (2005) 152 A Crim R 257 [2005] NSWCCA 112	PG (25%)	12y NPP 8y	Crown AA 15y NPP 11y	Nil	Intent GBH	Stabbed taxi driver in remote area during argument over fare – no premeditated intent to rob – burned taxi and stole money Originally found unfit to plead and sentenced after special hearing – dysfunctional childhood – low intelligence and depression – successful efforts at rehabilitation
11.	**HARRISON** (31) [2006] NSWSC 740 Grove J	VG	20y NPP 15y		Priors	Intent to kill	**SNPP 20 years** Upset over death of friend from fatal drug dose – blamed victim and friends – fatally stabbed victim some months later Aboriginal - deprived childhood - abandoned as a child – long term substance abuse – judgment clouded by abuse and low intelligence
12.	**MB** (16) [2006] NSWSC 1164 Howie J [2013] NSWCCA 254	VG	22y NPP 15y 6m	AA 17y 6m NPP 12y 6m	Nil	Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** Unprovoked confrontation on street between group of intoxicated youths and two intoxicated males – fist fight between offender and victim – stabbed victim in neck with broken bottle – unplanned offence – midrange seriousness Born in PNG – positive evidence of rehabilitation – youth
13.	**SAALFELD** (44) [2007] NSWSC 376 Howie J	VG	22y NPP 16y 6m		Minor	Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** Female stabbed female acquaintance during street confrontation – single stab wound – deteriorating relationship with victim over drugs – spontaneous offence – principal aggressor – offence slightly below mid-range Remorse – drug user

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14.	**SSA** (17) [2007] NSWSC 1202 Hidden J	VG	18y NPP 13y		Brief	Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** Stabbed young stranger during fight in amusement arcade – in company – carrying knives for protection – single stab to chest – spontaneous offence Disturbed childhood – Philippino – became involved in gang culture and early drug abuse – evidence of rehabilitation and remorse Co-offender dealt with for manslaughter – SIOSE
15.	**DARCY** (44) [2007] NSWSC 1392 Berman AJ	PG (15%)	20y NPP 15y		Non-custodial record	Intent to kill	**SNPP 20 years** Stabbed de facto partner in neck – heavily intoxicated – element of pre-mediation after earlier argument – prevented calling of ambulance – slightly below mid-range Aboriginal male – suffers epilepsy – long history of alcohol abuse
16.	**PEARCE** (25) [2008] NSWSC 1434 Latham J	PG (no discount)	20y NPP 15y		Lengthy – no major violence	Intent to kill	**SNPP 20 years** Arrived at friend's unit armed with knife - became involved in fight with male victim and stabbed in back – spontaneous offence – no assistance to victim – paranoid and highly aroused state from amphetamines – slightly below mid-range Appalling childhood marked by domestic violence – both parents heroin addicts – no education – early drug abuse
17.	**CARR** (18) [2009] NSWSC 995 McClellan CJ at CL	PG (15%)	16y NPP 12y		Lengthy criminal record including violence – breached conditional liberty	Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** Single stab wound to chest of male acquaintance outside party – spontaneous offence – earlier argument inside house – offence moderately below mid-range Aboriginal male - under influence of alcohol, ice and cannabis – severe drug addiction – deprived background
18.	**SULLIVAN** (51) [2010] NSWSC 755 Fullerton J [2012] NSWCCA 41	VG	25y NPP 18y 9m	AD	Manslaughter - possess drugs - dishonesty	Intent to kill	**SNPP 20 years** Supplied drugs to victim – believed victim had stolen his wallet – stabbed victim to chest - not premeditated in sense of being planned in advance, but intended to confront victim – Mid-range offence. Mental health - brain damage had some causal connection with offence - behavioural and personality dysfunction - tendency to violence and unrestrained hostility when crossed – previously convicted of manslaughter diminished responsibility (where victim stabbed over unpaid rent).

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19.	**YUKE** (30) [2010] NSWSC 754 Barr AJ	VG	24y NPP 14y		Violence, property, breach AVO, weapons, public nuisance - Local Ct matters only	Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** Stabbed partner with single blow during argument – heavily intoxicated - history of some violence in relationship - below mid-range – no intent to kill Substantial intellectual deficit – alcohol abuse
20.	**BELDON** (34) [2011] NSWSC 112 Barr AJ [2012] NSWCCA 194	PG (10%)	24y NPP 16y	AD	lengthy	Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** Stabbed male occupier of upstairs flat during argument over drugs – both affected by drugs at time of killing – spontaneous offence with no premeditation – below mid-range Pleaded on day of trial – long history of drug abuse and mental instability
21.	**SHIELS** (20) [2011] NSWSC 1177 Barr AJ	VG	20y NPP 13y		Bonds for assaults including assault on victim – committed while mentally ill	Intent to kill	**SNPP 20 years** Stabbed father in temple during argument at party – both intoxicated - history of violent arguments with father – spontaneous offence – issue at trial was substantial impairment, provocation and self defence Suffering schizophrenia – regular user of marijuana and alcohol – voluntary surrender to police – remorse – prospects of rehabilitation
22.	**SHEATHER** (42) [2011] NSWSC 1239 Hoeben J	PG (10%)	20y NPP 15y		No significant record	Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** Unplanned and unprovoked stabbing of male during drinking session in offender's home – offender heavily intoxicated – spontaneous and inexplicable rage - single stab wound – below mid-range Remorse – prospects of rehabilitation linked to alcohol abuse
23.	**HUON** (26) [2012] NSWSC 1092 Hall J	PG (20%)	21y NPP 16y		malicious wounding	Intent to kill	**SNPP 20 years** Adopted as a child – killed adoptive mother's mother (aged 80) – stabbed victim in left cheek while victim sitting in chair – used victim's credit cards. Substance and alcohol abuse - psychiatric illness.
24.	**HICKS** [2013] NSWSC 1324 Adams J	PG (15%)	17y NPP 12y 9m		lengthy	Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** Stabbed female partner during argument – some history of domestic violence and frequent arguments – both had been taking drugs – not planned offence Difficult childhood – borderline cognitive abilities

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25.	**MBELE** (22) [2013] NSWSC 1394 Latham J	VG	26y NPP 18y		Breached bond for assault	Intent GBH	**SNPP 25 years** Stabbed 16y during confrontation at railway station in early evening – earlier confrontation with victim – members of opposing groups – angry – deliberately antagonised victim to provoke confrontation – single stab to chest – 'cowardly, vicious, vengeful and premeditated attack'
26.	**BRILLIANTES** (21) [2013] NSWSC 1693 Adamson J	PG (25%)	18y NPP 13y 6m		Breached parole for break and enter offences – involved in affray ten days before murder	Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** Stabbed male stranger during altercation on street at night – attended scene at request of female acquaintance anticipating punch up Difficult and neglected childhood
27.	**FILIHIA** (22) [2013] NSWSC 1871 Adamson J	PG (35% plea and assist) Murder s.98	14y 3m NPP 10y 8m 6y 6m NPP 4y 10m (concurrent)		Record – breached conditional liberty	Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** Fatal stabbing of male receptionist during robbery of brothel – single stab wound – robbery planned by co-offender – stabbed victim in panic Genuine remorse – needed cash for drug addiction – good prospects of rehabilitation
28.	**HINES (No 3)** [2014] NSWSC 1273 Hamill J	VG Sched: 2 x AOABH	24y NPP 16y 6m		Murder, agg sexual assault, assault	Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** Single stab wound to chest – argument with male – substantial degree of provocation by victim – abuse and threats – no premeditation. Deprived background – early exposure to alcohol - previous murder of partner committed in 1994 - significant risk of committing further offences if return to similar patterns of drinking - some prospects of rehabilitation.
29.	**CRAMP** (39) [2015] NSWSC 271 Adams J [2016] NSWCCA 305	VG	40y NPP 30y	AA 34y NPP 25y 6m	Record for violence	Intent to kill	**SNPP 20 years** Attended former workplace during day and stabbed employee through neck severing spinal cord – motive for killing unclear – cut wires to security cameras in view of other employees Affected by ice but not irrational - dangerous

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30.	**SCOTT (No.6)** (41) [2015] NSWSC 678 Wilson J [2017] NSWCCA 296	VG	24y NPP 18y	Conviction AD	Lengthy record for violence	Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** Stabbed male once in chest during fight in car-park – all participants intoxicated Pattern of violent behaviour both in and out of gaol – alcohol abuse
31.	**BROOKS** (19) [2017] NSWSC 824 Hamill J	VG Murder s.33	20y NPP 14y 6m 7y 6m NPP 5y Total: 22y NPP 14y 6m		Nil	Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** Stabbed male stranger once to chest in altercation outside pizza place late at night – stabbed second male in chest twice – spontaneous offence – protective of brother who had been pushed to ground but no self-defence – carrying knife in public place – below mid-range Good prospects of rehabilitation – prior good character – some reduction for conduct of trial
32.	**DE BEYER** (50) [2017] NSWSC 1700 Hidden AJ	VG	25y NPP 19y		Sporadic – several breaches of AVO and stalking offences – murder breached AVO	Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** Single stab wound to abdomen of wife during argument – circumstances of stabbing unknown – attempted to cover up act Troubled although lengthy relationship with alcohol and drug abuse – domestic violence – troubled and violent childhood
33.	**IMPSON** (38 at offence; 42 at sentence) [2018] NSWSC 1490 Walton J	VG	18y NPP 12y		Minimal – AOABH, contravene AVO	Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** Female – single stabbing of male in back - believed victim had killed offender's cat – spontaneous – incident took place near offender's place of abode which was a tent on unpopulated island - low range objective seriousness - mental illness contributed to conduct – reduced moral culpability Itinerant lifestyle – isolated – estranged from family at time of offence - mental health - bipolar affective disorder; borderline personality disorder - good progress in custody - unlikely to re-offend - reasonably good prospects of rehabilitation - re-established strong and supportive connection to family

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34.	**RUSSELL (No.3)** (54) [2018] NSWSC 1673 Rothman J	VG Murder	24y NPP 14y			Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** Killed male victim with single stab wound – almost no force used – picked up knife from table – homeless and at house of victim either for drugs or short-term stay – more intoxicated than friends had ever seen him before – spontaneous offence – upset over payment for drugs Aboriginal male – started drinking aged 5y – dysfunctional and violent childhood - drug addiction – offered plea to manslaughter - only issue at trial was intent and intoxication – requirement of significant supervision and support upon release – remorse
35.	**DENNIS** (49) [2018] NSWSC 1733 RA Hulme J	VG Murder Sched: s.33B	18y 9m NPP 14y		lengthy – incudes violence – breached bonds and suspended sentence	Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** After drinking all day continued drinking at friend's house – walked to kitchen to get knife and stabbed 26y female friend who arrived at house – single stab wound to chest – superficial cuts to face – spontaneous but extreme aggression – just below mid-range - possibly motivated by jealousy or rejection – left house and maintained threating presence near male friend while carrying knife – intoxicated and ice-affected Aboriginal male – early drug and alcohol abuse – violence and sexual abuse - remorse
36.	**YAVUZ** (34) [2019] NSWSC 95 Davies J [2020] NSWCCA 226	VG	21y NPP 15y 9m	AD	assault	Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** Offender assaulted by male neighbour while sitting in car with partner – attack unprovoked - returned to neighbour's house with knife and inflicted fatal stab wound to chest – low to mid-range objective seriousness
37.	**FREDES** (58) [2020] NSWSC 1332 Hidden AJ	PG (25%)	17y 3m NPP 13y		Minor and old - not significant	Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** Stabbed ex-partner after she did not wish to be intimate – upset victim in new relationship – unplanned, impulsive – deliberate act – sought to obtain medical assistance – isolated incident in a long relationship with no suggestion of prior abuse – below mid-range Remorse - borderline personality order – background of physical and sexual abuse as a child

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38.	**BOTRUS (No.6)** (18) [2021] NSWSC 199 Walton J	VG	20y NPP 14y		On bail in Children's court.	Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** Stabbed male victim seated at barber's - victim known to accused – "targeted" - victim had no warning of attack – single blow – planning, premeditation. Substance abuse disorder – social disadvantage – tumultuous early childhood in Iraq – refugee background – remorse – rehabilitation.
39.	**ARCHER** (49) [2021] NSWSC 1485 Hamill J	VG	19y 6m NPP 13y 6m		Five offences – 2 personal violence offences although old	Stabbing Intent GBH	**SNPP 20y** Carrying knife in unit block when came across male acquaintance – angered by belief victim had broken into offender's unit and stolen personal property – in fight stabbed victim once in back – aggressor but stabbing not pre-meditated – comfortably below range Reasonable prospects of rehabilitation – 2.5% discount for assistance in trial – onerous conditions of custody due to poor health and Covid restrictions
40.	**BURNS (No.2)** (21) [2022] NSWSC 140 McCallum JA	PG (10%) Murder s.98	Indicative: 19y 9m 6y 9m Aggregate: 21y NPP 14y		Traffic offences only	Stabbing Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** Stabbed victim once in struggle in victim's house during attempted robbery for drugs – robbery of limited planning – stabbing intentional but fleeting and spontaneous intent based on desire to escape struggle – use of weapon aggravating factor – both offences below mid-range Prior good character – *Bugmy* factors applied – mental health issues – offence reflected immaturity and under-developed self-control – good prospects of rehabilitation – unlikely to re-offender – support of fiancé – harsh conditions in custody due to pandemic
41.	**CONWAY** (45) [2023] NSWSC 55 Wilson J [2023] NSWCCA 265	VG	16y NPP 12y	Conviction AD	Long – mostly dishonesty	Stabbing Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** Stabbed friend once to abdomen after minor argument over victim's refusal to play fight with knives – both under influence of ice – fled house Difficult personal life – sexual abuse, homelessness and early drug abuse – remorse – guarded prospects of rehabilitation

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42.	**KNIGHT** (52) [2023] NSWSC 321 Yehia J	PG (25%) Schedule: Contravene ADVO	17y 6m NPP 12y 6m		AOABH	Single stabbing Intent GBH	**SNPP 20y** Stabbed female partner from whom separated following argument - single stab wound to deceased's back - committed in presence of one of their children at deceased's home – other children asleep in bedroom - heavily intoxicated – domestic violence. Aboriginal male - considerable remorse – *Bugmy*, dysfunctional childhood – special circumstances.
43.	**KS (No.1)** (16) [2023] NSWSC 696 Yehia J	PG (25%) Murder GBH with intent cause GBH	14y 3m 7y 6m Aggregate 16y NPP 11y		Nil	Stabbing Intent GBH	Single stabbing of 16y male deceased – multiple stabbing of second 16y male victim - ongoing arguments – deceased and second victim approached offender's home yelling abuse – offender took knife and met with victims outside where stabbings took place. Lack of planning and premeditation – intent to cause GBH. Mental health issues - prospects of rehabilitation very good - family support.
44.	**NIGUIDULA** (43) [2023] NSWSC 1283 Dhanji J	VG Murder PG AOABH	16y NPP 12y s.10A conviction		nil	Stabbing Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** Travelled with victim from USA for business purposes - intimate relationship – victim also employee of offender - angry and emotional upon learning of victim's affair – struck victim with lamp – later single stabbing to chest in shower – impulsive – lower end of range – context of domestic relationship and employment relationship made victim vulnerable Female - borderline personality disorder significantly impacted offence and will impact custodial conditions – some remorse – facilitated trial process – good prospects of rehabilitation
45.	**ALLEN** (39) [2023] NSWSC 1495 Fagan J	VG	22y NPP 15y 9m		Lengthy including multiple offences of violence and subsequent offence of reckless wounding	Stabbing Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** Stabbed male victim once to chest during attempted robbery at door of victim's caravan – sought to rob victim of drugs or money – expected victim to resist so armed self with knife – co-offender waiting in car. Difficult childhood with exposure to violence, sexual abuse, early drug use, out of home care, poor education and neglect – significant substance abuse – mental health issues – no real indication of remorse

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46.	**VUJICA** (25) [2023] NSWSC 1532 Sweeney J	VG	19y NPP 14y		Assault, assault law officer, assault GBH, assault ABH.	Stabbing Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** Held male victim responsible for loss of $50 for purchase of drugs – offender illogical, as victim had not taken his money - approached victim with friend – victim picked up brick, in self-defence – offender threw haymaker punch towards victim's head - holding small knife blade attached to key ring, stabbed victim in neck – offender left scene and burned clothes he had been wearing - not planned or premeditated - just below midrange objective seriousness. Mental health - anxiety disorder - post-traumatic stress disorder - likely increased subjective perception of threat from victim.
47.	**RAJAPAKSE (No 3)** (28) [2024] NSWSC 1642 Chen J	VG	24y NPP 18y		Assault, reckless wound, drug possession, larceny. On bail.	Stabbed Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** Inflicted single fatal stab wound to victim's armpit using flick knife – victim refused to hand over stolen methylamphetamine (drug rip) – armed with knife when attended premises but unplanned offence. No remorse – poor prospects rehabilitation – application of Bugmy principles – Indigenous male - exposure to domestic and family violence - PTSD/complex trauma.
48.	**CAIRNEY** (52) [2026] NSWSC 287 Campbell J	VG	20y NPP 13y 6m		Assault, affray. assault police, agg sexual int w/o consent, B&E, common assault	Stabbed Intent GBH	**SNPP 20 years** Single stab wound – close friends, re-acquainted after years of no contact - victim resided with offender - being evicted after hostile encounters - victim repeatedly returned to offender's home despite being told to leave - over several hours, fuelled by victim's intoxication, mutual aggression, and dispute about victim's car alleged by victim to be missing - victim chased offender armed with offensive weapon of some description - also used metal pole striking offender and offender's partner to head – offender armed himself with large kitchen knife, knowing victim at that stage unarmed – during struggle stabbed victim once above collar bone intending to drive victim away - stab ruptured major artery – child present in home - lower end objective seriousness. History of mental and physical illness - PTSD – childhood deprivation - *Bugmy* – special circumstances – remorse - some prospect rehabilitation.

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