

PART THREE

THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES
AND SPECIALISED COURTS

From the previous section it can be seen that a great deal of activity is currently taking place in Commonwealth jurisdictions to modify the rules of evidence and procedure and to modernise court practices in order to expedite the hearing of cases in the criminal courts. These measures are being applied to those offences for which it is felt that a traditional court hearing is essential. Developments on another plane, however, proceed on the basis that some types of criminal cases may not require a full court hearing or may benefit from having a specialised hearing with procedures relevant to the features of a particular class of cases. It is to an examination of such measures that we now turn.