

Act No. 23, 1907.

An Act to make provision for the defence of  
poor prisoners; and for other purposes con-  
nected therewith. [24th December, 1907.]

POOR PRISONERS  
DEFENCE.

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the "Poor Prisoners Defence Act, 1907."

2. Any person committed for trial for an indictable offence against the laws of New South Wales may, at any time before the jury is sworn, apply to the committing magistrate, or to a judge of the Supreme Court, or to a chairman of quarter sessions, for legal aid for his defence.

Provision for legal aid.  
cf. Federal Judiciary Act, s. 69, subs. 3, and 3 Edw. VII, c. 38, s. 1.

If the judge or chairman of quarter sessions or the committing magistrate is of opinion, on the facts brought before him, that such person is without adequate means to provide defence for himself, and that it is desirable in the interests of justice that such legal aid should be supplied, he shall certify this to the Attorney-General, who may thereupon cause arrangements to be made for the defence of the accused person, and payment of the expenses of all material witnesses.