

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Agency - Fair Work Commission

Department of Employment Question No. EM0782_15

Senator McKenzie provided in writing.

Question

FWC - Performance

- During the past five years, have there been any internal or external reviews of allocation of FWC member duties, caseloads and spare capacity?
- What is the average time it takes FWC to hand down a decision following the conclusion of hearings?
- Could FWC provide the committee with data on its key performance indicators relating to the conduct of its hearings?
- Could the committee have a copy of any reports which have been prepared?

Answer

Allocation of Member duties, caseloads and spare capacity

There have been no internal or external reviews on the allocation of FWC Member duties, caseloads and spare capacity in the period from the commencement of the Fair Work Commission on 1 July 2009 to date. Individual Member allocations of duties and caseloads are routinely monitored.

Average time to hand down a decision

Timeliness benchmarks for the time it takes the FWC to hand down a decision following the conclusion of hearings were implemented on 1 July 2012. Performance against these benchmarks is reported on the Commission's website under 'reserved decisions': www.fwc.gov.au/about-us/timeliness-benchmarks.

95.8 per cent of decisions were delivered within 12 weeks of the conclusion of hearings in the period 1 November 2013 to 30 April 2014.

Timeliness benchmarks for the time it takes the FWC to hand down a decision following the conclusion of appeal hearings were introduced on 1 July 2013. Performance against these benchmarks is also reported on the Commission's website: www.fwc.gov.au/cases-decisions-and-orders/appeal-decision-or-order/appeals-benchmarking.

100 per cent of appeal decisions were delivered within 12 weeks of the conclusion of hearings in the period 1 October 2013 to 31 March 2014.

Key performance indicators relating to hearings

The Commission has a single planned outcome and programme and performance is reported in the Commission's annual report.

- Programme 1: Dispute resolution, minimum wage setting, orders and approval of agreements.

The key performance indicators under Programme 1 relating to the conduct of hearings are:

- Annual wage review to be completed to enable an operative date of 1 July.
- Improve the time taken to list applications relating to industrial action.
- Improve the agreement approval time.

In 2012-13:

- The annual wage review was completed by 3 June 2013.
- The time taken to list applications relating to industrial action was a median of 3 days from lodgment of the application
- The agreement approval time was a median of 16 days from lodgment of the application