

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2010-2011**

Agency - Fair Work Australia

DEEWR Question No.EW0727_11

Senator Abetz asked on 23/02/2011, Hansard page 54.

Question

LENGTH OF TIME FOR COMPLETION OF CASES

Senator ABETZ—No, Mr Lee is shaking his head and saying no, so allow me to try to clarify. It is one of those things: I always know what I mean to say, but I do not necessarily express it as I ought. So, with those unfair dismissal cases that claim jurisdictional issues, how long does it take them from lodgement to completion? Also in that, could you tell us, once the jurisdictional issue is determined, how long it takes from that point to completion—if the data in Fair Work Australia allows you to— Ms O'Neill—I will have to take it on notice, because, for example, there are some jurisdictional objections which by their nature are dealt with at a preliminary or an initial hearing conference, and there are others where, by the nature of the objection, they are dealt with or listed to be dealt with at the same hearing or conference as the substantive matter.

Answer

Fair Work Australia has provided the following response.

It is not possible to extract from the database the length of time taken from lodgment to completion of applications involving jurisdictional issues.

For matters completed between 1 July 2010 and 31 January 2011, the average length of time taken from determination of jurisdictional issues to completion of the application was 53 days.