

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
FEDERAL MAGISTRATES COURT

Question No. 34

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 8 February 2010:

Regarding workload:

- a. What is the average waiting time for a case to be heard?
- b. What is currently the longest waiting period for a case to be heard?
- c. Is the court adequately resourced for the required workload?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- a. As at 28 February 2010, the average waiting time for an Application for Final Orders to be heard (from filing to first day of trial) in the Federal Magistrates Court (FMC) was 8.9 months (median was 7.8 months).
- b. As at 28 February 2010, the longest waiting period for a case to be heard was 55.1 months.
- c. The FMC works with the resources provided by government and constantly monitors workloads and shifts resources accordingly to meet the requirements of the workload.