

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
FAMILY COURT OF AUSTRALIA

Question No. 130

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2007:

Workload and Vacancies

a) Is there a breakdown available for target workloads which judges are expected to perform their various roles (i.e. sitting on trials, writing judgments, etc.)?

i) If not, why not?

ii) If so, please provide for 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 (to date).

b) Is there a breakdown available for the average workloads which judges are expected to perform their various roles (as above)?

i) If not, why not?

ii) If so, please provide for 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 (to date).

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

a) Target workloads and expected performance by the Court are detailed in the Court's Portfolio Budget Statement (PBS). These targets are detailed in the table below as well as the actuals achieved in the respective financial years.

Family Court of Australia actual performance against its PBS Performance Targets

		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (March YTD)
Output Group 1.1 - Resolution						
1.1.1 Mediated Agreements	75% of cases filed are resolved through mediated agreements between the parties;	73%	69%	59%	61%	61%
	90% of these are resolved within 6 months of filing.	69%	67%	66%	70%	65%
1.1.2 Consent Orders	90% of compliant consent orders filed are finalised within 4 weeks of filing.	85%	81%	84%	88%	86%

Output Group 1.2 - Determination

1.2.1 Divorce*	90% of divorces filed are determined within 3 months.	87%	82%	n.a	n.a	n.a
1.2.2 Interim orders	90% of applications for interim orders are finalised within 3 months.	69%	63%	66%	66%	62%
1.2.3 Final Orders**	75% of Final Orders Applications not resolved finalised within 6 months of TN issue.	n.a	49%	43%	42%	32%
1.2.4 Appeals***	75% of Appeals are finalised within 6 months*	7.4	6.4	7.0	7.2	N/A

Source: FCoA 2003-2007 NORs, Casetrack, Appeals from Annual Reports & AIS

N/A - Not Available, n.a - not applicable

Notes: * Since November 2003 all Divorce applications are filed with FMC. As a result the FCoA no longer maintains timeliness figures on divorces.

** 2002/2003 data is not available as Trial Notices were not recorded in the Court's Case Management System until November 2003, therefore the data is incomplete for this financial year.

*** -Figures shown are the months to dispose 75% of Appeals. 2006/2007 figures are not yet available as during 2006 the Court commenced recording Appeals cases in Casetrack and the data is currently undergoing data validity checking to ensure records are complete.

b) The performance targets are associated with the whole Court, therefore it is not appropriate to have 'averages'. As a result the Court can not provide an answer to Senator Ludwig's question.