

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

Question No. 38

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 20 October 2008:

Provide figures on the average length, in terms of judge days required, of the matters that went to trial in the Family Court in 2007-08.

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

The average length, in terms of judge days required for Applications for Final Orders that went to trial in the Family Court of Australia in 2007-08, was as follows:

- 3.4 days for all trials (including matters that settled after trials commenced and those that went to judgment)
- 5.3 days for trials that went to judgment

The following graph provides some further historical data.

Family Court of Australia - Final Orders Applications Filed (and trial length)

Year	Cases Filed	Average Trial Length (Days)	
		All trials	Trials that went to judgment
1999-00 (pre-FMC)	21939	1.1	N/A
2003-04	14885	1.7	2.3
2004-05	11954	1.7	2.4
2005-06	11011	2.1	2.4
2006-07	7854	2.6	3.5
2007-08	4457	3.4	5.3