

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

**Group: 2**

**Program: Other Agency**

**Question No. AE15/027**

**Senator Wright asked the following question at the hearing on 24 February 2015:**

Senator WRIGHT: A number of our stakeholders have raised concerns that the amalgamation may lead to a further institutionalisation of a quick and cheap approach to the resolution of matters at that AAT and the SSAT, where applicants are pushed through the system without appropriate support and without being allocated adequate hearing time to set out their case and provide evidence. What is the average hearing time for initial review proceedings in the AAT?

Mr Matthies: We will have to take that question on notice.

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

The Administrative Appeals Tribunal has calculated the average hearing time for cases in all jurisdictions that were finalised in 2013–14 by way of a decision to affirm, vary or set aside the decision under review under section 43 of the *Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975*. The median hearing time was 2 hours and 30 minutes. This figure reflects the actual hearing time and does not include any breaks during a hearing day.