

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

Group: 2

Program: Other Agency

Question: BE14/048

Senator Singh asked the following question at the hearing on 26-29 May 2014:

Senator SINGH: Mr Foster, can I ask you: what is the average length of cases that present as unrepresented litigants?

Mr R Foster: I cannot give you the figure for unrepresented litigants, but the average trial length in days, where a judgment was required, in 2003-04 was 2.3 days; and the latest figure I have is for 2009-10, where the average of a trial going to judgment is now 4.5 days.

Senator SINGH: So you do not have a breakdown—

Mr R Foster: I do not have a breakdown about those who are unrepresented compared to those who are represented. I could probably take that on notice and see whether I can get that figure for the committee.

Senator SINGH: Thank you, but only if it is not too erroneous. I know that you have a lot of work.—

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

Financial year	Legal representation	Months registration to finalisation		
		Average	Median	75th Percentile
2009-10	Neither have representatives	15.4	2.1	6.8
2009-10	One party had representative /one party SRL	6.7	3.6	7.5
2010-11	Neither have representatives	10.8	2.0	5.0
2010-11	One party had representative /one party SRL	6.6	3.3	7.3
2011-12	Neither have representatives	7.0	2.2	5.4
2011-12	One party had representative /one party SRL	6.7	3.8	7.9
2012-13	Neither have representatives	9.6	2.5	6.4
2012-13	One party had representative /one party SRL	8.4	4.2	9.4
2013-14	Neither have representatives	6.2	2.5	7.8
2013-14	One party had representative /one party SRL	7.6	4.2	10.0