

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017**

**Federal Court of Australia**

**Question No. BE17-210**

**Senator McKim asked the following question on 18 August 2017:**

Senator McKIM: I want to ask some questions about the Lismore registry. My understanding is that at the moment final hearings at the Lismore registry take place over two years from the filing date, on average, due to the size of the list and the number of matters that are heard each day. Is that correct?

Mr Soden: This would be in relation to family law, I suspect, and so I might ask one of my colleagues.

Dr Fenwick: The predominant workload in that region would be for the Federal Circuit Court, and I would have to take anything to do with specific locations or specific filings or timings on notice.

**The response to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:**

The Lismore Registry is a circuit location visited by a Judge from the Brisbane Registry.

In the 2016/2017 financial year, 235 final order applications were filed in the Lismore Registry. The median age of finalisations for final order applications in the Lismore Registry during this period was 10.9 months. The national median was 8.42 months.

For those final order applications proceeding to trial, the median time from lodgement to trial was 12.52 months in the Lismore Registry. The national median was 13.3 months.

The Federal Circuit Court operates a docket system. It is up to each Judge to determine the number of matters listed on each day to enable them to appropriately manage their docket. As such, the number of matters listed each day will vary based on a number of factors. The Court is not able to provide data on the number of matters listed each day.