

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Federal Court of Australia

Question No. BE17-211

Senator McKim asked the following question on 18 August 2017:

Senator McKIM: Attorney, you appointed a new judge to Tasmania. I'm relying on my memory here but it would be about a year ago, I suspect. You and I discussed this at a previous Senate estimates committee hearing.

Senator Brandis: Well, strictly speaking, His Excellency the Governor-General did so.

Senator McKIM: Yes, but on your advice. Perhaps this is a matter for the officials supporting you here today, but can you give us an indication of the beneficial impact of that appointment in reducing the length of time it's taken to finalise.

Senator Brandis: It was certainly a very well received appointment. I went down to Launceston for the public swearing-in ceremony. It was very well received, particularly by people in northern Tasmania. I'm sure it has had a very beneficial impact for obvious reasons, but I'll take your question on notice and try to give you some statistical information.

Senator McKIM: Thanks.

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

Judge Roberts retired from the Court on 19 June 2016. Judge McGuire relocated from the Melbourne Registry to the Launceston Registry on 19 June 2016 to replace Judge Roberts.

As at 30 June 2016:

- 245 final order applications were pending;
- The median age to finalisation of a final orders application was 11.42 months;
- The median time from lodgement to trial was 11.4 months.

As at 30 June 2017:

- 141 final order applications were pending;
- The median age to finalisation of a final orders application was 8.52 months;
- The median time from lodgement to trial was 7.6 months.