

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

Question No. 30

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 8 February 2010:

Please provide details of the case which has taken the longest time to finalise during 2008-09 of 66.2 months.

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

The case in question was a parenting matter. The initiating location application was filed by the father in 2003. The case was finalised in November 2008.

The matter was a complex children's case that involved the following issues:

- The child did not have any relationship with the father
- Domestic violence proceedings in State Court
- Allegations of family violence
- Special medical proceedings - Paternal testing
- Mental health issues – expert witness and ongoing psychiatric testing and psychiatric reports
- Period of supervised contact and trial of orders
- Applicant father self represented litigant