

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
NATIONAL NATIVE TITLE TRIBUNAL

Question No. 191

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2007:

Tribunal tests for registration

- a) What is the average time it takes for the Tribunal – in the first instance – to finalise registration of an application?
- b) Please provide the Committee with the full range of times that it takes for these applications to be finalised.
- c) What is the workload for these applications?
- i) For the years 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, how many applications were entered for registration?
- ii) For the years 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, how many of those were finalised?
- d) Please provide the number of officers who work in this area, including:
- i) Target workload for 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06.
- ii) Actual workload for 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06.

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

a)
In 2005/06 the average time to make first instance registration test decisions was 9.1 months. The average time for all registration test decisions was 5.8 months. Overall 77% of decisions were made within 6 months after the application was received for registration testing or re-registration testing.

The Registrar and his delegates decide almost all claimant applications affected by future act notices within the specified statutory period so that these applicants can obtain response rights including the right to negotiate. A consequence of prioritising applications lodged in response to future act notices is that it sometimes takes longer to deal with claimant applications not affected by future act notices.

b)
In 2005/06 the quickest registration test decision was made in one day. The longest decision was made 44 months after the claimant application was received. This claimant application was subject to numerous amendments during this period.

c) i) & ii)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
New Claimant Applications Filed	53	36	32	40
First Instance Registration Test Decisions finalised	82	41	32	35

Note: The table shows the number of new claimant applications filed. These figures include applications filed in a previous financial year, but for which the first instance registration test decision was made in the relevant financial year.

d)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Number of officers (Full time equivalents)	22	15	13	11
Target workload*	120	60	74	48
Actual workload	110	59	54	47

Notes:

1. Target workload figures include both first instance decisions and decisions on amended claims where the registration test is re-applied on a subsequent occasion or occasions. Hence the figures are higher than those provided in answer to questions (a), (b) and (c) above.
2. The FTE includes delegates, case managers and administrative staff who support the delegates in their work. The numbers are based on output expenditure for each year.