



RESPONSE TO FOI REQUEST

QUALIFICATIONS TO RESPONSE

- These figures are based on proceedings classified by the Federal Court as Employment and Industrial Relations (E&IR) National Practice Area (NPA) proceedings (excluding Full Court and Appellate proceedings). Proceedings other than Fair Work Act proceedings may be commenced and classified by the Federal Court of Australia as E&IR NPA (for example: Other Registered Organisations Act 2009, Review of Decisions etc.). Additionally, proceedings in the Federal Court may plead the Fair Work Act, but that is not the primary cause of the proceeding. These proceedings will fall into other NPAs (for example: Commercial & Corporate Insolvency (CORPS) NPA - Commercial Contracts, Banking, Finance and Insurance Sub-Area (NPSA). The Court does not have the ability to report by the specific legislation pleaded in any proceeding.
- Reporting on Litigants in Person in the Federal Court is currently limited. These figures represent proceedings commenced by an **applicant** litigant in person, who was unrepresented **at the time of filing** the proceeding. These figures do not capture respondent litigants in person, or parties to a proceeding who are initially represented but later become unrepresented. Reporting is based on **unique proceeding number**. If there were 3 applicant litigants in person one Litigant in Person per proceeding, this would only account as 1 in the table above

FOI REQUEST

I am making this request for information for the purposes of the FOI Act on the grounds of public interest in relation to the efficiency of the Federal Court and its specific handling of self represented litigants particularly in the Employment and Industrial Relations Practice Area. The information I seek is as follows:

1. *Total number of Fair Work Act proceedings in each of the 22/23, 23/24 and 24/25 reporting periods?*

The following number of Employment and Industrial Relations (E&IR) National Practice Area (NPA) proceedings were commenced in the Federal Court of Australia:

Fiscal year	No. of E&IR proceedings commenced (excluding Full Court proceedings)
2022/23	231
2023/24	207
2024/25	294

2. *How many of these proceedings included any self represented litigants for each period?*

Fiscal year	No. of E&IR proceedings commenced by Litigants in person
2022/23	30
2023/24	26
2024/25	40

3. *How many of these matters are still outstanding?*

There are **37** litigant in person E&IR proceedings which are still current. This is based on proceedings which were filed between 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2025.

4. *The average, in each reporting period, of how long each of the above self represented matters took to complete from commencement?*

The finalisations are based on LIP proceedings that have been finalised between 1 July 2002 and 30 June 2025 (excluding Full Court proceedings):

Finalisations	No. of LIP proceedings finalised	Average of Time to finalisation (months)
2022/23	23	11.7
2023/24	21	10.3
2024/25	22	10.8
Total	66	11 months

5. *The average, in each reporting period, of how long each of the above remaining represented matters took to complete from commencement?*

The finalisations are based on non-LIP proceedings that have been finalised between 1 July 2002 and 30 June 2025 (excluding Full Court proceedings):

Finalisations	No. of represented proceedings finalised	Average of Time to finalisation (months)
2022/23	210	16.2
2023/24	217	16.3
2024/25	231	13.2
Total	658	15.2 months

6. *The average, in each reporting period, of how long each of the above self represented matters took to deliver judgements from the date of being reserved?*

LIP Delivered Judgments	Average of Time taken to deliver final judgment (months)	No. of Final Judgments Delivered
2022/23	0.5	5
2023/24	1.6	6
2024/25	2.5	10
Total	1.7 months	21