

DIVISION 26: REGISTRAR, WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

Supplementary Information Request No A16

Question: Mrs C.L. Edwardes: Could the minister provide that information? I am not sure what the system provides, for being able to document the average time for an unfair dismissal application to be heard. I suppose a significant issue would be dealt with under three months. How many of those applications will be under three months and therefore impacted upon by the legislation?

Answer: In the period from January 2002 to April 2003, there were 2,290 applications alleging unfair dismissal and or contractual benefits, lodged in the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission. Of these, 1,194 progressed through to a conference or hearing, before a Commission member. Of those 1,194;

- 76% were heard within 3 months of the date of lodgement,
- 20% between 3 and 6 months after lodgement and
- the remainder after 6 months.

It must be recognised that the Commission endeavours to settle matters by conciliation and that always involves time for parties to consider issues. In addition the Commission acknowledges that for reasons such as representative availability and circumstances peculiar to the parties, matters are, at the parties' request, often left in abeyance for periods of time. The Commission will generally support such delays as experience is that such arrangements often lead to settlement.