



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025**

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked By: Mr Peter Cain MLA

Addressed to: Attorney-General

Reference: Attorney-General

Hearing Date: 30/07/2024

In relation to: Cost per Case

QON lodgement Date: 30/07/2024

Answer Due date: 06/08/2024

Noting Table 22 on pages 24-25 of the Budget Statement D:

- (1) Why did the estimated outcome of the cost per finalised criminal case in the Supreme Court experienced a 33% variance from the 2023-24 targets and the cost per finalised civil case had a 13% variance?
- (2) Why did the estimated outcome of the cost per finalised civil case had a 15% variance?

Shane Rattenbury MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

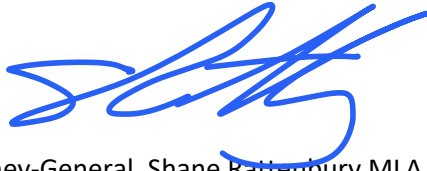
- (1) The notes under Table 22 (page 25 of Budget Statement D) state that the Supreme Court estimated outcome for cost per finalisation is above target for both criminal and civil cases due to lower finalisations as a result of:
  - a. A judicial vacancy in the period 1 July - 18 August 2023 which resulted in a reduction in criminal listings.
  - b. A large number of planned judicial leave days combined with judicial jury management training days, coinciding with this period, which reduced the number of sitting days available for listings.
  - c. An increase in the number of criminal trial days required which arose out of the complexity of the matters before the court. Of the trials listed during this period, 15 had estimates of greater than one week. Of those, five had estimates of greater than two weeks and one greater than three weeks.
  - d. Criminal matters which run for greater than one week impact significantly on the court being able to list matters generally given the small number of judges appointed to the court.
  - e. Two jury trials were unable to reach a verdict resulting in discharge of the jury panel and will result in a retrial in due course.

f. The Supreme Court is experiencing an increase in lodgements in the criminal jurisdiction which, combined with the complexity of trials, is negatively impacting clearance rates.

(2) The notes under Table 22 (page of 25 of Budget Statement D) state that the estimated outcome cost for a finalised civil case in the Magistrates Court exceeds the target due to lower than target finalisations in the Coroners Court. This is due to the court taking a therapeutic approach to finalising matters and a reduction in the finalisation of family and personal violence matters following unexpected, reduced staffing capacity in the conferencing team, resulting in the adjournment of a number of conferences and the subsequent inability to finalise matters in a timely manner. The court has recently undertaken the recruitment of conferencing officers which is expected to be finalised shortly and will address this issue.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature:



Date:

10/8/24

By the Attorney-General, Shane Rattenbury MLA