

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

Question Number: 9-19

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Date: 17/06/2026

From: J Davis

To: Hon Marie-Clare Boothby

Portfolio: Attorney-General

Agency: Attorney-General's Department

Subject: Longest time to have a matter heard in lower courts

QUESTION:

What is the longest period of time that someone has waited, in the reporting period, to have their matter heard in the lower courts?

ANSWER:

Finalised Local Court matters are calculated by subtracting the Date of Initiation from the Date of Finalisation.

Date of Initiation is either the date of committal or the date of registration depending on the court level.

Date of Finalisation is the date on which the case laid against the defendant is regarded as formally completed.

The following table provides wait times for finalised NT Local Court criminal cases.

Cases Duration	2025-26 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026	2025-26 Percentage of total cases %
<= 3 mths	7,803	57.9
> 3 and <= 6 mths	1,869	13.9
> 6 and <= 12 mths	2,398	17.8
> 12 and <= 18 mths	748	5.5
> 18 and <= 24 mths	254	1.9
> 24 mths	410	3.0
Total Cases	13,482	100.0