



Brisbane Case Management Initiative

The Federal Circuit Court is conducting a trial of a new way of managing cases in its Brisbane registry from **4 June 2018**.

The pilot will limit case management to a discrete number of judges who will have responsibility for managing applications as they progress towards resolution. The remaining judges will focus on hearing and determining matters that are listed for final hearing.

WHY IS THIS PILOT NEEDED?

The Court is conscious that it must explore ways of deploying its present resources to maximise the opportunity for cases to be resolved in a timely way.

The pending number of final order applications in the Court has grown in past five years; the percentage of pending cases over 12 months old has increased; and the median time for trial has increased to 15.2 months.

The Court is considering a range of options to manage its workload and these options focus on facilitating earlier resolution of matters and the timely disposition of those for which a trial is required.

WHAT WILL THIS PILOT ACHIEVE?

It is anticipated that concentrating case management of matters to a limited number of judges will have the following benefits:

- greater consistency by consolidating the management of cases to a limited number of judges
- reduced timelines by identifying matters that can be settled earlier in the life of the case

- improved outcomes by using additional forms of alternative dispute resolution
- improved efficiency by ensuring resources such as Family Consultants are used consistently and effectively
- reduced impact to litigants by lessening the time at court, and the number of visits to court
- better information for stakeholders, and
- reduced impact of the introduction of digital changes in family law.

WHEN WILL IT HAPPEN?

The pilot will commence on 4 June 2018 and run until 31 December 2018.

WHAT WILL CHANGE?

There will be minimal changes to filing and other registry-based procedures during the pilot.