



**Richard Foster PSM**

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22 October 2009

Senator P. M. Crossin  
Senator for the Northern Territory  
Chair  
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs – Legislation  
Committee  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Crossin,

I refer to the statement I read into the Hansard before the Committee during its estimates hearing on the resumption of business after lunch on Monday 19 October 2009.

The statement was in relation to the Protocol for the division of work between the Family Court and Federal Magistrates Court tabled before the Committee. I stated that the statement had been approved by the Chief Justice and the Chief Federal Magistrate. I now wish to inform the Committee that due to a miscommunication, I believed that the statement had been approved and was ready for release. The Chief Justice and the Chief Federal Magistrate, however, have pointed out to me that the statement was not then in an approved form and at that point was intended for briefing only.

While what I said to the Committee represented my contemporaneous understanding of the matter, I was mistaken. I wish therefore to take the opportunity now to correct the record and apologise to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Richard Foster PSM

Chief Executive Officer, Family Court of Australia  
Acting Chief Executive Officer, Federal Magistrates Court of Australia