

Federal Circuit Court of Australia (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2012

Introduced into the House of Representatives on 28 November 2012

Portfolio: Attorney-General

1.1 This bill is part of the legislative changes to rename the Federal Magistrates Court of Australia as the Federal Circuit Court of Australia and to change the title of federal magistrates to judges. It does not alter the jurisdiction nor the status of the Federal Magistrates Court or its judicial officers.

Compatibility with human rights

1.2 The bill is accompanied by a self-contained statement of compatibility which states that the bill does not engage any of the relevant human rights or freedoms. No substantive changes are made to the jurisdiction or powers of the court; and there are no substantial changes to the conditions on which Federal magistrates serve, apart from the change in title to judge.

1.3 The committee notes that while the bill and accompanying legislation relate to the right of a person to a fair hearing before an independent and impartial court in the determination of a criminal charge or of rights and obligations in a suit at law, it does not appear to give rise to any human rights concerns.