

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
FAMILY COURT OF AUSTRALIA/FEDERAL MAGISTRATES COURT OF AUSTRALIA

Question No. 98

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 12 February 2013:

In his 2012 Chief Executive Officer's Report, Mr Richard Foster noted that the Family Court of Australia and the Federal Magistrates Court of Australia would "achieve a balanced budget in 2012-13 and 2013-14, without the need for drastic job losses".¹

1. Given this, why are the Family Court and the Federal Magistrates Court recording deficits across the forward estimates?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The Courts are showing deficits across the forward estimates attributable to the Depreciation and Amortisation expenses previously funded through revenue appropriations. From 2010-11 the government introduced net cash appropriation arrangements where Appropriation Act 1 or Bill No. 3 revenue appropriations for depreciation and amortisation expenses of *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* agencies were replaced with a separate capital budget (the departmental capital budget) provided through Appropriation Act No. 1 or Bill No. 3 equity appropriations.

¹ Message from the Chief Executive Officer, 2 October 2012, page v