

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 1.1

Question No. 10

Senator Kirk asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2007:

- a) Is it the intention of the Government to increase the number of Family Court judges in the next 12 months?
- b) Since the [FMC] Court's inception (2000), how many judges has the Court had each year?

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

- a) This is a matter for Government. The Government monitors the workload and judicial resources for the family law system nationally. Decisions about judicial resourcing are based on an assessment of the appropriate jurisdiction, as well as workload and resources of each of the federal courts, so that resources are allocated to best meet the needs of the community.
- b) The following table provides the number of judges in the Family Court. As at 10 July 2007, there are 52 Federal Magistrates.

Year*	Judges^
1999-2000	53
2000-01	52
2001-02	50
2002-03	50
2003-04	50
2004-05	49
2005-06	46
2006-07	44

* As at 30 June in the relevant financial year

^ Includes judges of the Family Court of Western Australia who are also appointed to the Family Court of Australia.