

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

Question No. 120

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

What proportion of the Court's budget is directed at the maintenance of the website (including staff and associated costs)?

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

The Family Court of Australia provides information on line via two separate but related web sites. These web sites are:

- 1) www.familycourt.gov.au. The website delivers information specifically related to the operations of the Family Court of Australia and includes information regarding: Court lists, judgments and legislation, practice directions, forms and fees, publications etc.
- 2) www.familylawcourts.gov.au. The website is designed to simplify the **Family Law system** for the general public, rather than to focus on the jurisdictional and operational differences between the Family Court of Australia and the Federal Magistrates Court of Australia, exercising Family Law jurisdiction. The website provides information more broadly related to the Family Law System. The website provides information about Family Law principles, separation and divorce, children matters, property matters, family violence etc. It also provides links to the Family Court and Federal Magistrates Courts web sites. This site also provides, via File Search, a limited view of information contained within the Court's file.

The Family Court manages and administers the content, maintenance, and provision of the Family Law Courts website.

The costs of managing and maintaining the websites consists of:

- 1) The software used to support and maintain the website. The total cost per annum for software maintenance is \$20,772.
- 2) A web administrator for the provision content management, new development, performance management, administration etc. These services are \$66,163 (salary) per annum, are committed as one third to www.familylawcourts.gov.au and two thirds to www.familycourt.gov.au.
- 3) There is a small system administrative component of approximately 52 hours per annum, at a cost of approximately \$1500 per annum.
- 4) Therefore, the total cost of managing and maintaining both websites is approximately \$88,435 per annum.
- 5) The total cost of managing and maintaining this website represents less than 1 percent of the total budget for the Family Court of Australia.