

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

Question No. 146

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

- a) What is the courts relationship with AustLII?
- b) How long have they published judgements and other docs
- c) How was the current \$20,000 contribution determined?
- d) Where does that appear in the PBS?
- e) If court no longer wanted to rely on AustLII for publishing judgements and other matters on line, and brought it all in-house – what would it cost the court?

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

- a) The Court provides all judgments (except confidential ones) to AustLII which are uploaded automatically by a process developed by AustLII. Due to technical difficulties a few judgments can't be uploaded and are put on the Court's website.
- b) The Court has been sending judgments from 1996. The AustLII judgment database was established with data from Scale. AustLII hosted the Court's website from December 1996 to 2003 at no cost.
- c) The original contribution was the amount suggested by AustLII to undertake the enhancements they proposed. It has been increased in subsequent years to meet their funding proposals.
- d) As the amount is immaterial it is not separately identified in the PBS.
- e) The Court is already planning to provide judgments on its website as a backup to AustLII as this is no longer provided by the ScalePlus website. The judgments will be added in 2007-2008 as part of the project to move the website to the new secure gateway provider and bring the website under the management of MySource Matrix content management software and Funnelback search engine. The judgments are already in a database that the new website will access so there are no specific costs relating to judgments. The website project budget is \$70,000 plus the secure gateway charges, of which the website component cannot be separately identified.