

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
FEDERAL MAGISTRATES COURT

Question No. 154

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

Is there any correlation between the Magistrates Court and the Federal Court in terms of workload for migration work?

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

Since 1 December 2005, when the substantive migration provisions of the *Migration Litigation Reform Act 2005* came into force, most first instance migration matters are filed in the Federal Magistrates Court. This has reduced greatly the first instance migration workload of the Federal Court.

The decisions of Federal Magistrates, including in migration matters, may be appealed to the Federal Court. In 2005/06, 410 appeals on migration matters heard in the Federal Magistrates Court were filed in the Federal Court.