

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
FEDERAL MAGISTRATES COURT

**Question No. 163**

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

- a) Are you able to provide me with the total administrative costs of your Court, for each city in which it has a Registry, broken down into:
- i) The staffing numbers (in Full Time Equivalent) and costs for:
    - 1) Communications;
    - 2) Human Resources;
    - 3) Judges;
    - 4) IT staff;
    - 5) Other administrative staff (and how would these be classified).
  - ii) The accommodation costs for each city.
- b) To what extent are the administrative costs between these courts shared? Eg. do you have a shared administrative staff, or do you have a discrete staff?
- i) If so, could you indicate:
    - 1) What administrative staffing positions are shared between this Court and other Courts;
    - 2) The level of funding provided by the Court for the shared administrative costs.
- c) What other bodies are there that you provide administrative support to?
- i) Are you able to list the bodies and outline the nature of that support?

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

- a) (i) Federal Magistrates are located in Adelaide, Brisbane, Cairns, Canberra, Melbourne, Launceston, Newcastle, Parramatta, Sydney, Townsville, Perth and Darwin. The FMC relies on the Federal Court and Family Court registries for significant infrastructure and registry support. At the beginning of the 2006-07 financial year there were 35 federal magistrates. By 30 May 2007 this number had grown to 48 federal magistrates costing \$11.493m. Due to the provision of administrative services by the Federal and Family Court, it is not possible to itemise each of the other items set out in a)(i).
- ii) The FMC is able to provide the following information about accommodation and lease costs for 2006-07:

• Commonwealth Law Courts Building, Adelaide -	\$ 623,104
• Commonwealth Law Courts Building, Brisbane	\$ 101,975
• John Madison Towers, Goulburn Street, Sydney	\$1,288,274
• Macquarie House, 167 Macquarie Street, Sydney	\$ 37,632

Other accommodation and lease costs for the FMC in 2006-07 were provided by the Federal and Family Courts as part of the funding those Courts receive for services provided free of charge to the FMC.

- b) The FMC currently receives resources free of charge from the Family Court of \$13.575m. This follows a transfer of funding from the Federal Court of \$8.018m and \$1.575m from the Family Court to the FMC in the 2007-08 Budget. This funding was previously provided to the Federal and Family Courts for resources provided free of charge to the FMC. The FMC has a National Administration Office, located in Melbourne, with staff allocated in the

following functional areas:

- 1) Communications – three staff members costing \$228,500
  - 2) Human Resources – one staff member costing \$76,850
  - 3) IT Staff – two staff members costing \$155,952.
- c) The FMC does not provide administrative support to other bodies.