

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

Question No. 26

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 25 May 2009:

Provide the total cost, the work undertaken and the benefits of the refurbishment of the Chief Justice's chambers and associated areas in the Family Court in Melbourne.

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

The total cost for this refurbishment was \$916,352 (GST inclusive).

The work undertaken included:

- A large 30+ person conference room and appropriate audio/visual conferencing facilities.
- A foyer and waiting area.
- Visiting executive and judicial chambers.
- Upgraded Chief Justice Chambers & administrative areas.

The benefits this refurbishment provides are:

- Upgraded conference room and facilities which are now used by both the Family Court and the Federal Magistrates Court. Prior to this refurbishment conferences and other large meetings needed to be held off-site at hired venues. This has saved considerable cost.
- Video and teleconferencing facilities, with the ability to link to other facilities throughout the country and share information remotely.
- Upgraded conference room facilities providing useable space for both the Family Court and Federal Magistrates Court. Conference room is now used by all occupants of the building as a high quality conference facility.
- Appropriate accommodation for the Chief Justice and associated staff to conduct Court business.
- Additional meeting spaces and visiting areas.
- Upgraded Chief Justice Chambers.
- Upgraded administration areas for administration staff providing additional functionality and useability.
- Additional chambers for visiting judiciary or executive.