

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO**

Program: Federal Court of Australia

Question No. AE17/064

Senator Pratt asked the following question at the hearing on 28 February 2017:

1. Now that Justice Edelman has joined the High Court, do you know when his successor will be appointed to the Federal Court?
2. How long has that position been vacant for now?
3. How long are positions of judges usually left vacant for?

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

1. On 24 March 2017, the Attorney-General announced the appointment of Mr Roger Derrington QC to the Federal Court of Australia. Mr Derrington commenced in the Brisbane Registry on 29 March 2017, and fills the vacancy left upon the elevation of the Hon Justice James Edelman to the High Court of Australia.
2. The position is not vacant.
3. The appointment of a judge to a court is a matter for Government on a case by case basis.