

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

Question No. 40

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 18 February 2008:

Please indicate the proportion of the costs of running the Federal Magistrates Court at the moment that are devoted to the adjudication of family law matters?

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

The Federal Magistrates Court's running costs budget for 2007-08 totals \$67.372m (including \$14.885m of resources free of charge from the Family Court). It is estimated that 67% (\$45.181m) of the Court's running costs are attributed to family law matters. This calculation is based on an allocation of actual direct costs incurred in adjudicating family law matters as at 31 December 2007 and a dissection of remaining indirect costs and overheads incurred as at 31 December 2007 based on the number of federal magistrates hearing family law matters. At 31 December 2007 it was estimated that the full time equivalent of 36.95 federal magistrates (out of a total of 53 federal magistrates appointed to the Court) were undertaking family law work.