

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

**Output 1.1**

**Question No. 49**

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

How often did the former Attorney make appointments to the Federal Magistrates Court without going through a standard selection process?

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

Traditionally, judicial appointments have been made on the Attorney-General's recommendation after such consultation and other processes as the Attorney-General saw fit.

The former Attorney-General, the Hon Philip Ruddock MP, who became Attorney-General on 7 October 2003, publicly stated on a number of occasions that, in developing recommendations for appointments to federal courts, he consulted extensively. Federal magistrates were appointed at various times in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007. Advertisements calling for expressions of interest in appointment as federal magistrates were published in May 2004 and November 2005.