

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

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Question No. 51

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

Will it be up to the Attorney-General to decide, under the new system for recruitment and selection of appointees to the Federal Magistrates Court, whether it is the head of the court or an experienced member of the court who is the court's representative on the panel, or will that be a matter for the head of the court to depute to an experienced member of the court?

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

The Attorney-General welcomes the participation of the Chief Federal Magistrate in the process for selecting appointees to the Federal Magistrates Court to the extent that his other obligations allow. It will be for the Chief Federal Magistrate to decide whether he will sit on the panel, or whether an experienced member of the court will sit in his place.