

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

**Output 1.1**

**Question No. 11**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2007:**

On what date did the Western Australian Attorney-General first approach the Attorney-General about the appointment of a Family Court judge in Western Australia?

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

The Western Australian Attorney-General, Jim McGinty MLA, wrote to the Attorney-General on 4 September 2006 about two impending retirements of judges of the Family Court of Western Australia, Justice Tolcon in late September 2006 and Chief Judge Michael Holden in February 2007. The Attorney-General responded to Mr McGinty's letter on 11 October 2006.

Justice Jane Crisford was appointed to the Family Court of Western Australia on 24 October 2006. Justice Thackray was appointed as Chief Judge on 9 February 2007 following the retirement of Chief Judge Holden in February 2007. It is anticipated that a further appointment to the Family Court of Western Australia will be made in the near future.