

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
FEDERAL MAGISTRATES COURT

Question No. 152

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

Please provide the committee with statistics of the numbers of self-represented litigants over the past three years.

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

	Self Represented Litigant filings in Family Law in the FMC	Total Family Law filings in FMC	% of Total Family Law filings in FMC
2003-04	39039	70261	56%
2004-05	41461	73853	56%
2005-06	39725	73287	54%
YTD 2006-07 (to 31st May 2007)	28863	69477	42%

The data above is extracted from originating family law applications only and only from those applications where representation information has been offered and captured. Whilst not every application has this data available, the FMC believes the data presented above is a reliable indication of what is occurring in family law in the Federal Magistrates Court.

No accurate or reliable data on self-represented litigant filings in the general federal law jurisdiction of the Federal Magistrates Court is available.