

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
FEDERAL MAGISTRATES COURT

Question No. 153

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

Page 372 and Page 373 appear to be inconsistent amounts for the estimated value of services that are provided free of charge. Could you please provide an explanation of the differing amounts? (\$23.121m against 13.575m)

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

Table 5.1 on page 373 of the Portfolio Budget Statements gives the Budget estimate 2007-08 for resources provided free of charge as \$13.575m.

That table also shows that the estimated actual for 2006-07 resources free of charge was \$23.121m.

The reference in the last paragraph on page 372 to the 2007-08 estimated value of services to the Federal Magistrates Court should have been a reference to 2006-07. The reference on the fourth line of that paragraph to 'This is a reduction' should have been a reference to the reduction for 2007-08 which is correctly shown in the table as \$13.575m.

Because of a transfer of funding in the 2007-08 Budget, table 5.2 (page 373) reflects a difference in resources received free of charge between the FMC's Estimated Actual in 2006-07 and the Budget Estimate 2007-08 of \$9.593 million. This funding (\$9.593 million) has been transferred to the FMC and is included in the total Departmental appropriation for the FMC Budget 2007-08 as part of the revenue from Government in Table 5.2, page 373.

As noted on pages 372 and 373, the FMC continues to receive an estimated \$13.575 million of services provided by the Family Court free of charge for 2007-08. This reflects the difference between \$15.151 million (the previous year's free of charge amount, rounded by Family Court to \$15.150m) and the \$1.575 million transferred from the Family Court to the FMC as part of the 2007-08 Budget.