

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
FEDERAL MAGISTRATES COURT

Question No. 164

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

- a) What are the ongoing costs associated with maintaining your website and keeping it up-to-date?
 - i) How many people does that entail?
 - ii) And is that their main or sole responsibility?
- b) When was the last major upgrade of the court's website?
 - i) At what cost?
 - ii) What work was done?
- c) Are any major upgrades in the pipeline?
 - i) When for?
 - ii) What work do you have in mind?
- d) How many judgments did you publish last year (or in 2005-06)?
 - i) Electronically?
 - ii) In print?
 - iii) At what cost?
- e) What is the courts relationship with AustLII?
 - i) How long have they published judgments and other docs
 - ii) How was the current \$15,000 contribution determined?
 - iii) Where does that appear in the PBS?
 - iiii) If court no longer wanted to rely on AustLII for publishing judgments and other matters on line, and brought it all in-house – what would it cost the court?

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

- a) \$6435 per month
 - i) Two
 - ii) The external webmaster is a consultant with other clients. The Manager Public Affairs, who deals with content development, also has other responsibilities.
- b) 12 months ago
 - i) \$5000
 - ii) Upgrading of the site design and layout
- c) No
 - i) n/a
 - ii) n/a
- d) 2005-06: 2034 judgments.
 - i) 1972
 - ii) 62
 - iii) \$17,307, which is a proportion of the salary of the staff employed to undertake this work.
- e) The Court is an AustLII sponsor
 - i) Since 1 January 2000
 - ii) The figure was based on an assessment of usage by the Court of the AustLII service
 - iii) It is included in the figures provided in Table 5.1 on p 373 under "Supplier Expenses".
 - iv) It is not possible to answer this question without conducting a study to assess the cost implications.