

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA

**Question No. 161**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2006:**

Damage to Commonwealth property by a member of Court staff:

- (a) Was the graffiti to a toilet in a public area or one for staff access only?
- (b) What action was taken?

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

(a) The toilet is in a restricted area not accessible by the public. The toilet is accessible only by staff on Level 16.

(b) The NSW Police were notified and attended the registry to inspect the damage and to advise the District Registrar of the potential range of criminal charges relating to the damage. The NSW Sheriff's Office also attended. A staff meeting was held to advise of the seriousness of the situation and staff with any information relating to the incident were asked to come forward. There has been no response. The toilet area has since been closed to staff. The Police have indicated on a preliminary basis that it is unlikely this matter will be further investigated although they have kept a record of the incident (and have requested a photograph of the damage) for their records. Staff have been reminded of their obligations under the APS Code of Conduct and APS Values regarding employee conduct in the workplace.