

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

Question No. 45

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked the following question at the hearing on 20 October 2008:

Provide further detail surrounding the increase in cases in 2005-06.

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

In 2005-06 a total of 13,719 matters were filed in the Federal Court and the Federal Magistrates Court. This compared to a total of 11,056 matters filed in both courts in 2004-05.

The main reasons for the increase of 2,663 matters filed in the two courts between 2004-05 and 2005-06 are:

- an increase of over 1,900 first instance Corporations Act matters filed in the Federal Court;
- an increase of over 1,030 Bankruptcy Act matters filed in the Federal Magistrates Court.

There was a reduction of about 300 Migration Act matters filed in the Federal Court between 2004-05 and 2005-06, which explains why the net increase in the total number of matters filed in the two courts was 2,663. The number of Migration Act matters filed in the Federal Magistrates Court in 2004-05 and 2005-06 remained constant.