

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

Question No. 25

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 19 October 2009:

Provide relevant particulars for each complaint (judicial and non-judicial) made in 2008 and 2009, including how many were resolved, and advise whether relevant judges were counselled.

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

The Federal Magistrates Court received 168 complaints (judicial and non-judicial) in 2007-08* and 104 complaints in 2008-09**.

The Federal Magistrates Court received 20 complaints in 2007-08 which the Court categorised as relating to the conduct of a judicial officer and 24 complaints in 2008-09.

The Court received 62 complaints concerning delays in the delivery of reserved judgments in 2007-08 and 27 in 2008-09.

In none of the complaints received during 2007-08 or 2008-09 was it found necessary for the Chief Federal Magistrate to raise the matter formally with a Judicial Officer.

During 2007-08 the Court received 86 non-judicial complaints and 53 non-judicial complaints 2008-09.

Details of individual complaints and complainants are not able to be divulged due to privacy restrictions.

** Please note whilst the categorisation of the number of complaints is correctly reported in the 2007-2008 Annual Report, the number of complaints was incorrectly totalled as 188 complaints.*

*** Please note whilst the categorisation of the number of complaints is correctly reported in 2008-2009 Annual Report, the number of complaints was incorrectly totalled as 145 complaints.*