

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Sub Program 1.1.1**

**Question No. 35**

**Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on Monday 19 October 2009:**

When was the last time that consideration was given to increasing the number of Federal Court judges at the Brisbane registry? What was the outcome of such discussions, are documents available that minute these discussions, if so, can these be provided to the Committee?

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

When consideration is given to appointing judicial officers to the Federal Court the Attorney-General's Department provides advice to the Attorney-General on the most appropriate locations to make these appointments. This involves consultation with the Court and careful analysis of workload and resourcing statistics for the Court.

This process was used to identify the need for the five last appointments to the Court (three in Sydney and two in Melbourne) recently announced by the Attorney-General. The advice provided to the Attorney-General took into account observations made by the Federal Court on the need for replacement appointments. It is not appropriate for the Department to disclose the substance of advice given to the Attorney-General.