

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

Question No. 116

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

In relation to the High Court being open to the public and performing a duty of providing public education and appreciation of the rule of law in Australia;

- a) is the High Court receiving adequate funding to perform this function effectively,
- b) has there been a reduction of hours the Court is open to the public over the past 12 months?
Please provide details, and
- c) are there any plans to reduce public opening hours in the foreseeable future?

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

- (a) The Court will have an operating loss in 2009/10. The Government is working with the Court to address funding issues.
- (b) The hours the Court building is open to the public have been increased from 4 October 2009 by the four hours each week as a result of the decision to open on Sunday afternoons.
- (c) No.