

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

Program SPCG

Question No. 91

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2010:

- a. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?
- b. What is the gender ratio of appointments made to boards since Budget Estimates 2010?
- c. Is the portfolio implementing the Government target of 40 per cent women appointed to Boards?

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

- a. As at 18 October 2010, the gender ratio of active appointments (including re-appointments and acting appointments of three months or more, but excluding standing acting appointments) on 38 boards/bodies¹ across the Attorney-General's portfolio is set out in the table below:

Board	Male	Female	Total	Male %	Female %
Administrative Appeals Tribunal	65	26	91	71	29
Administrative Review Council ²	5	2	7	71	29
Admiralty Rules Committee	5	2	7	71	29
Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity	1	0	1	100	0
Australian Crime Commission ³	19	0	19	100	0

¹ Board/body is defined as a statutory or non-statutory body in the Attorney-General's portfolio to which appointments are made by the Government (although some appointments are ex-officio – see footnotes regarding specific bodies below). It should be noted that some people hold more than one position on one or more boards. The tables set out the number of appointees and their gender, rather than the number of people, per board.

² Of these members, Justice Garry Downes AM is an ex-officio member on the Council due to his appointment as President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. Professor Rosalind Croucher is an ex-officio member by virtue of her appointment as President of the Australian Law Reform Commission.

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service	1	0	1	100	0
Australian Federal Police	4	0	4	100	0
Australian Government Solicitor Advisory Board	4	0	4	100	0
Australian Human Rights Commission ⁴	3	3	6	50	50
Australian Institute of Criminology	5	3	8	62	38
Australian Law Reform Commission	0	2	2	0	100
Australian Security Intelligence Organisation	1	0	1	100	0
Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre	1	0	1	100	0
Classification Board	3	3	6	50	50
Classification Review Board	2	4	6	33	67
Copyright Tribunal	1	0	1	100	0
Criminology Research Council	5	4	9	56	44
CrimTrac ⁵	13	0	13	100	0
Defence Force Discipline Appeal Tribunal	3	1	4	75	25

³ The membership of the Australian Crime Commission (ACC) is comprised of 15 ACC Board members and four ACC Examiners. All ACC Board members are ex-officio. This consists of seven Commonwealth representatives, and eight State and Territory Policy Commissioners (including the ACT Chief Police Officer). The Commonwealth does not exercise any control over State and Territory representatives. ACC Examiners are appointed as statutory office holders.

⁴ The Commission has a President and five Commissioners. The five Commissioner positions are currently held by four people, with two Commissioners holding dual appointments. The figures in this table represent each appointment, rather than each person.

⁵ The CrimTrac Board of Management contains one Commonwealth representative and the nine Commonwealth, State and Territory Police Commissioners (including the ACT Chief Police Officer), all of whom are appointed by the relevant jurisdiction. The Commonwealth does not exercise any control over State and Territory representatives. The remaining two board members (who do not have voting rights) are appointed by the Senior Officers Group of the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management – Police. In addition to the Board of Management, the CEO is appointed by the Minister for Justice under the *Public Service Act 1999*.

Director of Public Prosecutions	1	0	1	100	0
Family Court of Australia	26	14	40	65	35
Family Law Council	1	3	4	25	75
Federal Court of Australia	38	8	46	83	17
Federal Magistrates Court	42	20	62	68	32
High Court of Australia	5	3	8	62.5	37.5
Industrial Relations Court of Australia	5	0	5	100	0
Insolvency Trustee Service Australia	0	1	1	0	100
Inspector-General in Bankruptcy	0	1	1	0	100
International Legal Services Advisory Council	1	0	1	100	0
International Pro Bono Advisory Group	9	11	20	45	55
National Alternative Dispute Resolution Advisory Council	7	7	14	50	50
National Intercountry Adoption Advisory Group	3	16	19	16	84
National Native Title Tribunal	6	2	8	75	25
Office of Parliamentary Counsel	2	1	3	67	33
Solicitor-General	1	0	1	100	0
Supreme Court of Norfolk Island	3	0	3	100	0
Supreme Court of the ACT	14	4	18	78	22
Trade Measures Review Officer	1	0	1	100	0
Grand Total	306	141	447	68	32

- b. Since 24 May 2010, the gender ratio of appointments made to boards across the Attorney-General's portfolio (including re-appointments and acting appointments of three months or more, but excluding standing acting appointments) is set out in the table below:

Board	Male	Female	Total	% Male	% Female
Administrative Appeals Tribunal	15	3	18	83	17
Australian Institute of Criminology	2	0	2	100	0
Classification Board ⁶	2	2	4	50	50
Criminology Research Council	1	0	1	100	0
Family Court of Australia	2	2	4	50	50
Family Law Council	1	3	4	25	75
Federal Magistrates Court	1	1	2	50	50
International Pro Bono Advisory Group	0	4	4	0	100
National Alternative Dispute Resolution Advisory Council	1	4	5	20	80
National Intercountry Adoption Advisory Group	0	1	1	0	100
Supreme Court of the ACT	0	1	1	0	100
Total and overall ratio	25	21	46	54	46

- c. The Government is committed to increasing the participation of women on boards and bodies of influence. The Government's policy on appointments to government boards as set out in the Merit and Transparency guidelines is followed where it applies. Appointments are made on merit. The Office for Women's register, *AppointWomen*, is used by Departments to identify female candidates. Together with statutory and other criteria, the gender balance is considered in the making of appointments.

⁶ One male and one female were each appointed on two occasions during the reporting period to act for consecutive periods of three months. Each of these acting appointments is represented in these figures.