

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

Group 2

Program 1.3

Question No. 78

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 18 November 2013:

1. Has the Attorney-General made any appointments of any court since becoming the Attorney in September 2013?
2. Are there any appointments on the horizon?
3. To the department, can you please outline the process for making court appointments?
4. Have there been any discussions about the process with the AG or appointments?
 - a) Has the attorney sought or been given a brief on the appointments process?
 - b) Does that brief match the evidence just been given?

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

1. No.
2. Yes.
3. Appointments to the federal courts are made by the Governor-General in Executive Council. The process for identifying suitable candidates for judicial appointment is a matter for the government of the day.
4. Yes.
 - a) Yes, judicial appointments processes were included in the Incoming Government Brief, noting that the process for identifying suitable candidates for judicial appointment is a matter for the government of the day.
 - b) Not applicable – no evidence was given on this matter.