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# Freehills



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## Private & confidential

**Date** 16 December 2003  
**From** Annette Bain  
Phone +61 2 9225 5434  
Email [annette.bain@freehills.com](mailto:annette.bain@freehills.com)  
**To** Louise Gell  
Secretary to the Committee  
Senate Legal and Constitutional  
Committee  
Fax 6277 5794  
**Pages** 4

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# Freehills

15 December 2003

Our ref     Annette Bain:14F  
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 Matter no   12708  
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Attention: Ms Louise Gell

Australian Senate  
 Legal and Constitutional References Committee  
 Parliament House  
 Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Gell

## **Inquiry into current legal aid and justice arrangements**

I refer to your letter dated 24 November 2003 and now provide an answer to the question asked at the public hearing of the Legal and Constitutional References Committee, a copy of which is enclosed for ease of reference.

For the year ending June 2003, the proportion of pro bono work completed by Freehills for clients located in regional, rural and remote areas in Australia is as follows:

Perth Office	6%
Melbourne Office	20%
Brisbane Office	10.8%
Sydney Office	8.3%

In total, on a national level, 13.45% of the pro bono legal work that Freehills has completed in the last financial year ending June 2003 has been for clients located in regional, rural and remote areas in Australia.

Please note that the percentage shown above does not include:

- (a) not for profit clients who are located in a capital city and who provide services in regional, rural and remote Australia; and
- (b) the work that our solicitors on pro bono secondment to community legal centres in capital cities do for clients in regional, rural and remote Australia.

We would estimate that to include these would increase slightly the overall percentage.

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Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Annette Bain".

Annette Bain

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENCES COMMITTEE  
INQUIRY INTO THE CAPACITY OF CURRENT LEGAL AID AND ACCESS TO  
JUSTICE ARRANGEMENTS TO MEET THE COMMUNITY NEED FOR LEGAL  
ASSISTANCE

PUBLIC HEARING

THURSDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2003

**Freehills**

**Question 1**

*(pp. 86-87, Committee Hansard)*

**Senator PAYNE**—So what proportion of the pro bono work that Freehills does would be assisting those in rural and remote areas, do you think?

**Ms Bain**—I would like to get back to you on that, if I may.

**Senator PAYNE**—It is an interesting question because a lot of the evidence that we have taken over the last couple of days has been about how difficult it is to get pro bono support outside metropolitan areas. So to have an acknowledgement of that is important, and I would like to follow that up with you.

**Ms Bain**—Certainly. I am sure it is going to be a sad answer.