

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2011-12 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 34

Topic: Freedom of Information

Hansard Page: Written

Q1. Senator McKenzie asked:

Has the Department/agency received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests?

Answer:

The Department follows the FOI Guidance Notes issued by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet in July 2011, Guidelines issued by the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and any advice provided by the Australian Information Commissioner and/or the Freedom of Information Commissioner when responding to FOI requests.

http://www.dpmc.gov.au/foi/guidance_notes.cfm

Q2. Senator McKenzie asked:

What was the total cost to the Department to process FOI requests for 2009-10 and 2010-11?

Answer:

The total cost to the Department to process FOI requests for 2009-10 was \$157,110 - as published in the 2009-2010 *Annual Report by the Minister for Privacy and Freedom of Information to the Parliament on the Operation of the Act*.

http://www.dpmc.gov.au/foi/annual_reports.cfm.

The total cost to the Department to process FOI requests for 2010-11 was \$285,053 - as published by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) in the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 Annual Report 2010-11*.

http://www.oaic.gov.au/publications/reports/FOIAR_10-11/index.html.

Q3. Senator McKenzie asked:

What is the total cost to the Department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?

Answer:

Expenditure on FOI processing is calculated by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) based on information submitted by the Department annually and published in the OAIC's annual report. It is not possible for the Department to accurately calculate the costs for the financial year to date without diverting significant resources to the task. It is expected that expenditure on FOI processing for 2011-12 will be broadly in keeping with that of 2010-11.