

## Community Affairs

### ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014**

**Ref No: SQ14-000063**

**OUTCOME:** 0 - Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** Legal Costs

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Ludwig Joe

**Question:**

List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency since 7 September 2013

1. List the total cost for these items, broken down by source of legal advice, hours retained or taken to prepare the advice and the level of counsel used in preparing the advice, whether the advice was internal or external
2. List cost spend briefing Counsel, broken down by hours spend briefing, whether it was direct or indirect briefing, the gender ratio of Counsel, how each Counsel was engaged (departmental, ministerial)
3. How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice

**Answer:**

It is not practicable to answer all parts of all questions. Either the information is not available or it would require an unreasonable diversion of resources to gather this information.

The following information can be provided in relation to the Department of Health (including Therapeutic Goods Administration, National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme, and the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator):

The total cost of legal services from 7 September 2013 to 26 February 2014 is \$4,051,646 for internal legal expenditure and \$2,401,846 for external legal expenditure\*.

Three male and two female Counsel were engaged during this period. All were engaged by the department.

Internal advice is provided by lawyers in various legal positions.

External advice is generally sought through the Legal Services Multi User List.

*\* Please note the figures above exclude expenditure in relation to litigation arising from the Tobacco Plain Packaging Legislation.*