

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

**Cross Portfolio**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0940\_12

**Senator Back provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Cost of Legal Services 2011/12 FYTD**

- "1. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for this financial year to date within the department/agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
2. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
3. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
4. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs."

**Answer**

1. For the period 1 July 2011 to 31 January 2012 the spend on legal services from in-house areas for the Department and statutory agencies was:

The Department spent \$14,697,542

Fair Work Australia spent \$0

Australian Building and Construction Commissioner: expenditure amounts are not available

Fair Work Ombudsman spent \$3,003,626

Safe Work Australia spent \$0

In-house expenditure on legal services includes salaries, direct and indirect overhead costs.

The Department and its statutory agencies obtain legal services on the full range of matters within their jurisdiction.

2. For the period 1 July 2011 to 31 January 2012 the spend on legal services from the Australian Government Solicitor for the Department and statutory agencies was:

The Department spent \$1,145,161  
Fair Work Australia spent \$802,522  
Australian Building and Construction Commissioner: \$432,234  
Fair Work Ombudsman spent \$89,922  
Safe Work Australia spent \$19,980

The Department and its statutory agencies obtain legal services on the full range of matters within their jurisdiction.

3. For the period 1 July 2011 to 31 January 2012 the spend on legal services from private firms for the Department and statutory agencies was:

The Department spent \$978,066  
Fair Work Australia spent \$60,570  
Australian Building and Construction Commissioner: \$1,572,650  
Fair Work Ombudsman spent \$1,271,810  
Safe Work Australia spent \$67,156

The Department and its statutory agencies obtain legal services on the full range of matters within their jurisdiction.

4. For the period 1 July 2011 to 31 January 2012 the spend on legal services from other sources for the Department and statutory agencies was:

The Department spent \$193,211  
Fair Work Australia spent \$0  
Australian Building and Construction Commissioner: \$596,827  
Fair Work Ombudsman spent \$608,657  
Safe Work Australia spent \$0

The Department and its statutory agencies obtain legal services on the full range of matters within their jurisdiction.