

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No. EW0481_13

Senator Back provided in writing.

Question

Cost of Legal Services 2011/12

- “1. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for 2011-12? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
2. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for 2011-12 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 for 2011-12? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
4. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for 2011-12 from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.”

Answer

For the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 the spend on legal services from in-house areas for the Department and statutory agencies was:

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations	\$23,749,689
Fair Work Australia	\$0
Australian Building and Construction Commissioner	Expenditure amounts are not available
Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate	Expenditure amounts are not available
Fair Work Ombudsman	\$5,352,621
Safe Work Australia	\$618,368
Comcare	\$11,959,662
Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	\$0
Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	\$0

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

For the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 the spend on legal services from the Australian Government Solicitor for the Department and statutory agencies was:

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations	\$1,926,606
Fair Work Australia	\$1,381,995
Australian Building and Construction Commissioner	\$623,477
Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate	\$60,613
Fair Work Ombudsman	\$180,196
Safe Work Australia	\$19,980
Comcare	\$799,680
Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	\$141,807.05
Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	\$0

For the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 the spend on legal services from private firms for the Department and statutory agencies was:

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations	\$1,883,559
Fair Work Australia	\$473,645
Australian Building and Construction Commissioner	\$2,613,157
Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate	\$206,454
Fair Work Ombudsman	\$1,687,913
Safe Work Australia	\$116,250
Comcare	\$1,904,788
Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	\$0
Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	\$53,824.17

For the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 the spend on legal services from other sources for the Department and statutory agencies was:

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations	\$319,047
Fair Work Australia	\$61,391
Australian Building and Construction Commissioner	\$870,803
Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate	\$188,313
Fair Work Ombudsman	\$1,333,959
Safe Work Australia	\$9,600
Comcare	\$32,584
Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	\$0
Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	\$0

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