

**Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Department of the Senate**

**Budget Estimates**

**26-30 May 2014**

**Question: 18**  
**Topic: Legal costs**  
**Written: 12 June 2014**

**Senator LUDWIG asked:**

List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency since Additional Estimates in February 2014.

- a) 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.
- b) 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).
- c) How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice.

**Answer:**

The department has spent \$8,741 on legal costs since 24 February 2014.

The department has engaged external legal counsel in support of the following matters.

<b>Source of legal advice</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Level of counsel used</b>	<b>Nature of advice</b>	<b>Procurement method</b>
HWL Ebsworth Lawyers	\$4,318	10.16	Special counsel / partner	External	Prequalified tender
Australian Government Solicitor	\$2,370	6.36	Senior lawyer / senior executive lawyer	External	Prequalified tender
Ashurst Australia *	\$2,053	23.12	Senior associate / lawyer	External	Prequalified tender

*\* Note: Reimbursement for a proportion of these costs was recovered from the other parliamentary departments noting that this is a joint project which is being coordinated by the department.*

Note: These figures do not include amounts paid for the provision of independent legal advice to support the work of legislative scrutiny committees.