

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group 1

Corporate

Question No. 11

Senator HUMPHRIES asked the following question at the hearing on 23 May 2012:

Senator HUMPHRIES: ... You say that half [of the efficiency dividend savings] can be achieved through operational changes and half through a reduction in the size of the workforce. Of those savings in the way that the department does business, you mentioned legal expenses—does the department obtain legal advice externally?

Ms E Kelly: The department obtains a significant amount of external legal advice, primarily from the Australian Government Solicitor but also from the other firm with whom we have arrangements, namely, Blake Dawson, which is now called Ashurst. The total expenditure on legal expenses is over \$10 million and up towards \$11 million. We can get you the exact figure.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

Total spend on legal services April YTD for the Attorney-General's Department amounted to \$9,326,759 GST inclusive.

Of this amount, \$9,155,471 GST inclusive was sourced from external providers.