

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0066) Program: Internal Product

Senator Cash asked:

FOI requests: I refer to an article viewed on the SMH website dated 11th April 2012 which states “the department spent about \$450,000 hiring solicitors and barristers in 2010-11 to advise it and represent it on FOI matters” – can you please confirm if that figure is correct? If it is not correct, how much did the department spend in relation to external advice on FOI matters?

Answer:

As stated in the 2010-11 FOI Annual Report published by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, the department spent \$411 895 on solicitors’ fees and \$35 469 on Counsel fees.