



Auditor-General for Australia



7 May 2020

Senator James Paterson  
Chair  
Senate Standing Committees on Finance and Public Administration  
Australian Parliament House

By email: [fpa.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:fpa.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Senator Paterson

I am writing to provide a correction to a response the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) provided to a written Question on Notice (QoN) in relation to the Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee's 2019-20 Supplementary Budget Estimates inquiry in October 2019.

In response to QoN 274 on Legal Costs, for the 2019-20 YTD period (1 July 2019 to 31 October 2019) the ANAO provided the figure of \$122,786 for 'external legal costs' and 'total legal costs' of \$236,141.

In preparing a response to QoN 327 on legal costs related to the Committee's 2019-20 Additional Budget Estimates, it was discovered that the amount of \$41,342 had been incorrectly attributed as an external legal cost.

For the period 1 July to 31 October 2019, the correct figure for the ANAO's external legal costs is \$81,444 and total legal costs is \$194,799.

A copy of the corrected response is enclosed.

Yours sincerely

Grant Hehir

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2019

#### Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Australian National Audit Office

**Outcome/Program:**

**Topic:** Legal costs

**Senator:** Senator Kitching

**Question reference number:** 274

**Type of question:** Written – 31 October 2019

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 06 December 2019

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

What are the total legal costs for the Department/agency for FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20 to date?

**Answer:**

The ANAO's Legal Services Expenditure Report for the 2018-19 financial year and previous financial years are reported annually on the [ANAO's website](#), in accordance with the *Legal Services Directions 2017*.

The table below reproduces the ANAO's 2018-19 Legal Services Expenditure Reporting and provides equivalent year to date costs.

Period	Internal legal costs	External legal costs	Total legal costs
2018-19	\$342,233	\$324,634	\$666,867
1 July 2019 to 31 October 2019	\$113,355	\$81,444	\$194,799