

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2013-14
3 and 4 June 2013

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, CLIMATE CHANGE, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Legal Costs

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Bushby

QUESTION No.: BI-136

1. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for this financial year to date within the department/agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
2. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date 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 this financial year to date from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
4. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

ANSWER

Costs for the 2012-13 financial year to date as at 31 May 2013 are provided in the following table. Costs are GST exclusive.

Agency	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Question 4
DIICCSRTE	\$3,995,221	\$919,501	\$1,565,423	\$39,793
AIATSIS	\$34,075	\$2,000	\$32,075	Nil
AIMS	\$343,077 ¹	\$8,352 ²	Nil	Nil
ANSTO	\$599,420	\$46,140	\$527,504	Nil
ARC	\$67,860	\$56,202	Nil	Nil
ASQA	\$414,923	\$101,645	\$66,571	Nil
CSIRO ³	\$2,134,832	\$51,491	\$140,438 ⁴	Nil
IP Australia	\$145,000	\$481,700	\$78,600	Nil
TEQSA	\$405,753	\$4,758	\$17,977	Nil
CER	\$628,836 ⁵	\$326,159	\$423,315	\$111,127 ⁶
CCA	\$5,117	\$9,244 ⁷	Nil	Nil

¹ This figure comprises total costs of AIMS legal function including wages.

² Legal costs relating to Australian Government Solicitor comprise \$2,352 for professional fees for Securing AIMS Tropical Marine Science Capabilities and \$6,000 for professional fees regarding AIMS seeking advice on procedural aspects of compliance with Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997.

³ On the basis previously agreed with the Office of Legal Services Co-Ordination, this does not include any amounts paid to law firms outside Australia for legal services provided to the CSIRO in connection with the CSIRO's WLAN litigation

⁴ Figure does not include costs of the Independent Investigator for Allegations of Workplace Bullying and Other Unreasonable Behaviour as this is viewed as being a consultancy.

⁵ This figure represents Salary and Wages, Leave and Other Entitlements and Superannuation for staff in the Office of General Counsel and the Legal Services Section.

⁶ This figure includes the costs of lawyers seconded from the former Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency into the Clean Energy Regulator Legal Services Section (\$104,536.91), the cost of Law Society Practising Certificates (\$2,797) and Federal Register of Legislative Instruments filing fees (\$3,793.64).

⁷ This includes \$9,244 incurred by the former DCCEE for services from the AGS on behalf of the Authority for legal advice on the Authority's building lease. The costs were incurred in 2011/12 and recovered from the Authority in 2012/13.