

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Estimates

28 May 2012

Question: BR52
Topic: Legal Costs
Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bushby asked:

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:**Department**

1. The Department's total legal spend on internal and external services was \$4,082,009.

This consisted of the following services and categories of advice:

Service	Amount
External Services	\$3,528,682.74
Constitutional law	\$7,221.50
Debt Recovery	\$7,256.90
Employment Matters	\$20,330.00
Funding agreements	\$776,240.14
Intellectual Property	\$46,308.15
International Law	\$24,691.82
Legislation	\$272,932.91
Litigation	\$72,274.43
Montara	\$214,046.44
Probity	\$396,918.05
Property	\$31,908.78
Regulatory and Governance Issues	\$1,083,142.47
Secondment	\$563,893.15
Statutory Interpretation	\$11,518.00
Internal Services	\$553,326.24
Total	\$4,082,008.98

2. The Department spent \$1,015,176.72 on legal services from the Australian Government Solicitor to 30 April 2012. This consisted of the following services and categories of advice:

Service type	\$ Amount
Constitutional law	\$7,221.50
Funding agreements	\$51,920.48
Intellectual Property	\$15,365.50
International Law	\$18,703.08
Legislation	\$75,186.00
Regulatory and Governance Issues	\$277,769.01
Secondments	\$563,893.15
Statutory Interpretation	\$5,118.00
Total	\$1,015,176.72

3. The Department spent \$2,498,228.24 on legal services from private firms to 30 April 2012. The firms, services and categories of advice consisted of:

Firm/Service	\$Amount
Baker & McKenzie	\$790,409.60
Regulatory and Governance Issues	\$790,409.60
Clayton Utz	\$300,217.19
Employment Matters	\$16,530.00
Funding agreements	\$133,847.40
Legislation	\$8,450.00
Probity advice	\$125,669.76
Property	\$15,720.03
DLA Piper Australia	\$55,744.00
Probity advice	\$55,744.00
King & Wood Mallesons	\$230,141.61
Funding agreements	\$184,024.06
Probity	\$29,928.80
Property	\$16,188.75
Minter Ellison	\$155,256.06
Debt Recovery	\$7,256.90
Employment Matters	\$3,800.00
Funding agreements	\$112,378.30
Intellectual Property	\$8,650.80
Legislation	\$3,133.70
Regulatory and Governance Issues	\$13,636.36
Statutory Interpretation	\$6,400.00
Norton Rose	\$780,884.29
Funding agreements	\$294,069.90
Intellectual Property	\$22,291.85
Legislation	\$178,201.67
Litigation	\$72,274.43
Montara	\$214,046.44
Sparke Helmore	\$185,575.49
Probity advice	\$185,575.49
Total	\$2,498,228.24

4. The Department spent \$15,277.78 on legal services from the Attorney-General's Department. This consisted of the following services and categories of advice:

Service	\$Amount
International Law	\$5,988.74
Legislation	\$7,961.54
Regulatory and Governance Issues	\$1,327.50
Total	\$15,277.78

Tourism Australia

1. Tourism Australia (TA) spent \$317,444.28 on legal services for the 2011-12 financial year. As there are in excess of 200 invoices for multiple matters, it is not practical to itemise each service and cost. Instead, the aggregate cost for each law firm is provided in the answer to question 3.
2. TA did not enlist the services of the Australian Government Solicitor for the 2011-12 financial year for legal services.
3. As there are in excess of 200 invoices for multiple matters, it is not practical to itemise each service and cost. Instead, the aggregate amount for each law firm is provided. TA engages external lawyers in Australia and overseas to provide advice on employment law, litigation, intellectual property, contractual matters, probity and general commercial and governance matters. In 2011-12 TA engaged the following legal service providers:

Service type	\$Amount
Ashurst Australia (Blake Dawson Waldron)	\$159,325.37
Bell Gully	\$139.43
Bevans Solicitors	\$936.77
Clayton Utz	\$52,839.20
Condon and Forsyth	\$9,274.04
Craddock Murray Neumann	\$9,199.34
Deacons	\$42,592.97
DLA Piper UK LLP	\$15,387.85
DLA Piper UK LLP	\$2,906.23
Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP	\$3,918.69
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer	\$5,525.84
Kochhar & Co	\$481.21
Langton Hudson Butcher	\$4,604.14
Mc Carthy Tetrault LLP	\$336.40
McGrath LLP Solicitors	\$9,976.80
Total	\$317,444.28

4. TA did not spend any sum on legal services from other sources for the 2011-12 financial year.

Geoscience Australia

1. Geoscience Australia (GA) spent a total of \$71,743 (GST exclusive) on legal services for the 2011-12 financial year.
2. GA spent \$496 (GST exclusive) on general legal advice for the 2011-12 financial year from the Australian Government Solicitor.
3. GA spent \$71,246.86 (GST exclusive) on legal services for the 2011-12 financial year from private firms.

Firm/Service	\$Amount
Minter Ellison	\$58,816.69
Agency Agreements – Preparation or Review of Agreements and Contracts	\$45,639.09
General Legal Advice	\$13,177.60
Blake Dawson Waldron/Ashurst Australia	\$12,430.17
Human resources – advice regarding employment issues	\$12,430.17
Total	\$71,246.86

4. No legal services were obtained from other sources for the 2011-12 financial year.