

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES - 29 MAY 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Legal Costs

Question reference number: HS 50

Senator: Fifield

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 27 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) How much has been spent by DHS on external legal counsel in 2011-2012?
- b) What was the nature of the work?
- c) What was the purpose for which external counsel was sought?

Answer:

- a) Determining this amount would require an unreasonable diversion of resources. The department is required to report this information annually to the Office of Legal Services Coordination in accordance with the Attorney-General's *Legal Services Directions 2005*.
- b) Legal advice and representation.
- c) Legal advice and representation.