

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** Cross

**Question No:** 36

**Topic:** Legal costs

**Hansard Page:** 03/06/2013 - CA26

**Senator Cash** asked:

For the last five financial years, can you provide what component of the legal budget was for litigation, either undertaken by the department or defended by the department?

**Answer:**

The Department has complied with its obligations under paragraph 11 of the *Legal Services Directions 2005* to record and monitor its legal services expenditure and to make publically available records of its legal services expenditure by 30 October each financial year.

Details of the Department's legal services expenditure for the last five financial years is available in the Department's Annual Reports located at: <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/about-fahcsia/publications-articles/corporate-publications/annual-reports>.

The majority of litigation that arises under the legislation the Department administers is conducted by the Department of Human Services. Litigation arising out of claims made against the Department may otherwise be managed by Comcover.

The Department does not separately record litigation expenses as a category of its overall internal or external legal expenditure. To identify litigation costs as a category of expenditure would require a substantial diversion of resources.