

**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:** 370

**Topic:** Legal costs

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Smith** asked:

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.

**Answer:**

The Department is unable to provide year-to-date portfolio expenditure on legal services from private firms without diverting substantial resources.

Due to the complexities involved and the high level of resourcing required across the portfolio to collect the information, legal services expenditure is obtained and published once a year in the Department's Annual Report.

FaHCSIA's 2011-12 Annual Report is available at:

<http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/about-fahcsia/publications-articles/corporate-publications/annual-reports/2012>.

FaHCSIA's 2012- 13 legal services expenditure will be published in the 2012- 13 Annual Report by 30 October 2013, in accordance with the *Legal Services Directions 2005* obligations.