

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES - 20 OCTOBER 2011 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Legal Costs

Question reference number: HSW 27

Senator: McKenzie

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 December 2011

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 within the department and agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- b) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- c) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- d) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- e) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services FYTD within the department and agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- f) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services FYTD from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- g) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services FYTD from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- h) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services FYTD from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

Answer:

- a) The information is available from the department's website at '<http://www.humanservices.gov.au/corporate/publications-and-resources/legal-services-expenditure>'.
- b) See answer (a).
- c) See answer (a).

- d) See answer (a). The department also obtains legal services from counsel. The department reports all expenditure for services from counsel as one amount regardless of whether the services were direct or through an external legal firm.
- e) The department is required by the *Legal Services Directions 2005* to report legal services expenditure to the Office of Legal Services Coordination annually. To prepare year to date figures at this time would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- f) See answer (e).
- g) See answer (e).
- h) See answer (e).