

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-172

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: LEGAL ADVICE COSTS

Hansard Page: CA 39

Senator Williams asked:

Ms Halton, officers of the Department of Health and Ageing told the House of Representatives health committee on 4 August that they had legal advice which made them confident that they would win proceedings in the High Court by anyone challenging the bills relating to tobacco plain packaging. How much has been spent obtaining this legal advice?

Answer:

The Department regularly receives internal and external legal advice on a range of policy initiatives. Advice has been provided on various aspects of the plain packaging legislation over a number of years, both internal and external, and it is not practical to attempt to accurately identify all costs associated with this advice.