

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2014-15 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programs

Question No: 96

Topic: Legal Costs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

1. List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency
2. List the total cost for these items, broken down by source of legal advice, hours retained or taken to prepare the advice and the level of counsel used in preparing the advice, whether the advice was internal or external
3. List cost spend briefing Counsel, broken down by hours spent briefing, whether it was direct or indirect briefing, the gender ratio of Counsel, how each Counsel was engaged (departmental, ministerial)
4. How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice

Answer:

To answer this question would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.

DSS legal services expenditure is published on the Department's website by 30 October each financial year, in accordance with the *Legal Services Directions 2005* obligations.