

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014
Communications Portfolio
Telecommunications Universal Service Management Agency

Question No: 446

Program No. TUSMA

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Legal Costs

Senator LUDWIG asked:

List all legal costs incurred by the Department/Agency since 25 February 2014

1. 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
2. List cost spend briefing Counsel, broken down by hours spend briefing, whether it was direct or indirect briefing, the gender ratio of Counsel, how each Counsel was engaged (Departmental, Ministerial).
3. How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice.

Answer:

1. TUSMA legal costs incurred since 25 February to 29 May 2014 total \$8,181 (GST exclusive). One external provider, Corrs Chambers Westgarth, was sourced by TUSMA. In relation to internal legal costs, TUSMA has obtained the services of one full-time Senior Lawyer from the Department of Communications for the ongoing provision of legal advice to TUSMA.
2. TUSMA has not briefed Counsel since 25 February 2014.
3. The advice from an external provider was procured through the Legal Services Multi-Use List administered by the Attorney-General's Department. The services of a full-time Senior Lawyer were procured through a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Communications.