

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014
Communications Portfolio
Australia Post

Question No: 334

Program No: Australia Post

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Legal Costs

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:

- 1-3. Australia Post's legal costs (includes internal and external) for the period 1 June 2014 to 30 November 2014 were approximately \$6.1m. Details about individual services and costs are commercial-in-confidence.
4. Generally, Australia Post obtains legal advice from its internal lawyers, or, where the matter requires specialist advice outside the expertise of its internal lawyers, from one of the firms on its panel of external lawyers.