

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

2015 - 2016

Department/Agency: ABS
Question: AET 2574-2577
Topic: Legal Costs
Reference: Written - 19 February 2016
Senator: Ludwig, Joe & Wong, Penny

Question:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

2574. List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency

2575. 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

2576. 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)

2577. How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice

Answer:

2574 - 2575 Total legal costs incurred from 14 September 2015 to 19 February 2016 was \$104,144.25. The table below contains a further breakdown of the source of legal advice, hours retained or taken to prepare the advice, the level of counsel used in preparing the advice, whether the advice was internal or external.

Source	Hours Retained (HH:MM)	Level of Counsel	Internal/ External	Total Cost
Ashurst Australia	2:18	Partner	External	\$3,918.52
Ashurst Australia	5:36	Senior Associate	External	
Ashurst Australia	2:24	Partner	External	\$3,510.53
Ashurst Australia	4:36	Senior Associate	External	
Ashurst Australia	1:36	Partner	External	\$2,485.26
Ashurst Australia	3:12	Senior Associate	External	
Ashurst Australia	0:12	Lawyer	External	
Ashurst Australia	1:42	Partner	External	\$3,854.81
Ashurst Australia	6:12	Senior Associate	External	

Ashurst Australia	0:42	Partner	External	
Ashurst Australia	6:30	Senior Associate	External	\$5,150.89
Australian Government Solicitor	1:42	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$2,148.53
Australian Government Solicitor	16:36	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	
Australian Government Solicitor	2:00	Lawyer	External	\$14,556.06
Australian Government Solicitor	1:00	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$533.50
Australian Government Solicitor	12:48	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$6,842.53
Australian Government Solicitor	1:06	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$586.85
Australian Government Solicitor	8:54	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	
Australian Government Solicitor	4:00	Graduate Lawyer	External	\$5,628.15
Australian Government Solicitor	6:36	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	
Australian Government Solicitor	14:00	Lawyer	External	\$11,165.55
Australian Government Solicitor	8:18	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	
Australian Government Solicitor	9:06	Senior Lawyer	External	\$10,011.65
Australian Government Solicitor	5:36	Lawyer	External	
Australian Government Solicitor	1:24	Para-legal	External	
Australian Government Solicitor	24:30	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$28,836.34
Australian Government Solicitor	43:48	Lawyer	External	
Australian Government Solicitor	1:24	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$737.55
Australian Government Solicitor	0:18	Lawyer	External	

Australian Government Solicitor	4:30	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$3,644.03
Australian Government Solicitor	3:30	Lawyer	External	
Australian Government Solicitor	1:00	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$533.50

2576. The ABS did not brief Counsel.

2577. Legal advice was procured via limited tender, accessing providers on the Legal Services Multi Use List.