

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Industry Portfolio  
Budget Estimates Hearing 2014-15  
2-3 June 2014

---

**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

**TOPIC:** Australian Government Solicitor Advice on ATS Legislation

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 3 June 2014, page 76-77).

**QUESTION No.:** BI-78

**Senator KIM CARR:** Can I ask about contract number CN1916461, which is a matter I raised in the cross-portfolio discussions, Mr Durrant.

**Mr Durrant:** The department had a contract with the Australian Government Solicitor. The Australian Government Solicitor for a number of years has provided advice on the ATS legislation. That was a contract of \$25,000, and \$9,003 of that contract was spent.

**Senator KIM CARR:** Has it been your custom and practice to record the Australian Government Solicitor's advice in this matter? Is this the regular pattern for recording the transaction?

**Mr Durrant:** Yes, it is.

**Senator KIM CARR:** It is a standard contractual arrangement.

**Mr Durrant:** Yes, and we report it along with other tenders the department have been involved in.

**Senator KIM CARR:** Why wouldn't you say 'Australian Government Solicitor' in the contract notes?

**Mr Durrant:** I was following procedure. I do not think it was any different to the way any other tenders are recorded, whether AGS, private sector or other.

**Ms Tregurtha:** Can I get the question again?

**Senator KIM CARR:** Why was the Australian Government Solicitor not referred to in the contract notes?

**Ms Tregurtha:** I would have to look at the contract notes. Is this off the legal services multi-use list?

**Senator KIM CARR:** This is the contract that I raised with the secretary yesterday—\$25,000 for legal services. I understand you came to the table at that point.

**Ms Tregurtha:** Yes.

**Senator KIM CARR:** I cannot quite follow why we were not advised this was the Australian Government Solicitor.

**Ms Tregurtha:** Again, I would have to go and look at the exact record to see why it was put in in that way.

**ANSWER**

The record notes for this contract reference the Australian Government Solicitor and can be found at: <https://www.tenders.gov.au/?event=public.cn.view&CNUUID=1BFE96E5-B349-C78C-E5726E9595BA1D91>.