

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2014 - 2015

Department/Agency: ABS

Question: BET 384-387

Topic: Departmental Dispute Resolution

Reference: written - 17 June 2015

Senator: Ludwig, Joe

Question:

384. How are disputes between departmental and/or agency staff mediated?
385. Are any outside firms contracted to assist with this process? If yes: please list them, please include:
- a) The structure of payments made to each firm (e.g. retainers, fees for each consultation etc).
 - b) Amount paid to each firm since the last budget.
 - c) When the contract with the firm commenced.
 - d) When the contract with the firm will expire.
 - e) Why the firm was selected to provide the service.
 - f) Please provide a list of disputes referred to the firm, including a brief description of the dispute.
386. How are code of conduct violations by departmental and/or agency staff mediated?
387. Are any outside firms contracted to assist with this process? If yes: please list them, please include:
- a) The structure of payments made to each firm (e.g. retainers, fees for each consultation etc).
 - b) Amount paid to each firm since the last budget.
 - c) When the contract with the firm commenced.
 - d) When the contract with the firm will expire.
 - e) Why the firm was selected to provide the service.
 - f) Please provide a list of disputes referred to the firm, including a brief description of the dispute.

Answer:

384. There are no formal arrangements for mediation services within the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Any requirements for mediation are managed on a case by case basis by the impacted area of the organisation, utilising a person of their choice (on a fee for service basis where any costs are involved).
385. No outside firms are under contract to provide mediation services.
386. The ABS Code of Conduct violation procedures do not involve provision of mediation.
387. N/A.