

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Treasury Portfolio**  
 Supplementary Budget Estimates  
 2014 - 2015

**Department/Agency:** ABS  
**Question:** SBT459-462  
**Topic:** Legal Costs  
**Reference:** Written - 30 October 2014  
**Senator:** Ludwig, Joe

**Question:**

- 459. List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency
- 460. 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
- 461. 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)
- 462. How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice

**Answer:**

459-460. The total cost of all ABS legal costs from 3 June 2014 to 31 October 2014 is \$224,461. 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 and whether the advice was internal or external:

<b>Provider</b>	<b>Hours Retained (HH:MM)</b>	<b>Level of counsel</b>	<b>Internal/ External</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
Australian Government Solicitor	1:06	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$496.10
Australian Government Solicitor	1:00	Paralegal	External	
Australian Government Solicitor	14:00	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$6,270.00
Australian Government Solicitor	7:12	National Practice Leader	External	\$7,880.40
Australian Government Solicitor	9:12	Senior Lawyer	External	
Australian Government Solicitor	0:06	Paralegal	External	
Australian Government	2:36	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$1,306.25

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Solicitor				
Australian Government Solicitor	12:24	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$6,322.25
Australian Government Solicitor	1:36	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$836.00
Australian Government Solicitor	20:54	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$10,133.75
Australian Government Solicitor	0:24	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$148.50
Australian Government Solicitor	0:54	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$418.00
Australian Government Solicitor	7:54	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$5,695.25
Australian Government Solicitor	1:36	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$963.13
Australian Government Solicitor	67:54	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$32,604.00
Australian Government Solicitor	19:42	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$11,145.75
Australian Government Solicitor	9:00	Senior Lawyer	External	
Australian Government Solicitor	2:12	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$963.16
Australian Government Solicitor	3:06	Special Counsel	External	\$3,039.85
Australian Government Solicitor	2:00	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	
Australian Government Solicitor	0:06	Special Counsel	External	\$5,969.70
Australian Government Solicitor	9:42	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	
Australian Government	2:18	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$3,289.00

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Solicitor				
Australian Government Solicitor	4:36	Senior Lawyer	External	
Australian Government Solicitor	41:12	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$20,693.64
Australian Government Solicitor	5:54	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$2,987.60
Australian Government Solicitor	6:00	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$2,706.00
Australian Government Solicitor	5:54	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$3,678.59
Australian Government Solicitor	1:06	Senior Executive Lawyer	External	\$586.85
Minter Ellison	None specified		External	\$440.00
Norton Rose Fulbright			External	\$982.08
Norton Rose Fulbright	1:36	Partner	External	
Norton Rose Fulbright	22:42	Partner	External	\$43,434.27
Norton Rose Fulbright	56:42	Senior Associate	External	
Norton Rose Fulbright		No specified personnel	External	\$342.76
Norton Rose Fulbright	15:06	Partner	External	\$35,357.19
Norton Rose Fulbright	50:24	Senior Associate	External	
Norton Rose Fulbright	2:12	Graduate	External	
Norton Rose Fulbright	5:30	Partner	External	\$15,771.37
Norton Rose Fulbright	20:36	Senior Associate	External	
Norton Rose Fulbright	4:54	Graduate	External	

461. The ABS briefed no Counsel between 3 June 2014 and 31 October 2014.

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462. All legal advice was procured through Limited tender, by accessing the providers on the Legal Services Multi Use List. Each provider was assessed as providing a value for money service.