

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Agency: TEQSA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000546

Senator Ludwig, Joe provided in writing

TEQSA: Legal Costs

Question

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

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

The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) has provided the following response.

1-2

Internal hours	Internal costs	External Hours	External costs
Data not recorded	\$138,688 #	138.8	\$38,912

The cost of internal legal services includes legal staff cost. The cost per level of lawyer in preparing the advice is not available.

3.

Counsel Cost	Hours	Number of Male Counsel	Number of Female Counsel
\$6450	Data not recorded	1	0

Counsels are engaged by the agency, indirectly through the Australian Government Solicitor and other external legal services providers.

The cost of solicitors briefing counsel is not separately identified by the agency. In general, counsel costs are by day or half day, therefore, total hours are not available.

4. The legal services provided to TEQSA by the external solicitors were procured using the Attorney-General's Department Legal Services Multi-Use List (LSMUL) arrangements