

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013-2014

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Electoral Commission

Outcome/Program: General

Topic: Cost of Inquiry

Senator: Faulkner

Question reference number: F24

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, Page 88, 19 November 2013.

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 17 January 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question: What has been the cost of the exercise surrounding Mr Keelty's investigation and, of course, separately, the petition with the High Court?

Answer:

As advised during the hearing (Hansard, F&PA, page 101, 19 November 2013), the contract for the engagement of Mr Keelty to undertake the Inquiry was \$2,500 per day. As at 2 December 2013 (the date on which he submitted the Report) the total costs invoiced were \$52,250.

In relation to the legal costs associated with the Petition to the Court of Disputed Returns that was filed in the High Court Registry on 15 November 2013, the total costs are not yet known. However, the Contract Notice that was published on AusTender on 11 November 2013 includes an amount of up to \$300,000 for legal costs on this matter.