

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-22 November 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet – All Agencies

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Legal costs

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 211

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

What total amount has been expended on legal services since 18 September 2013?
What amount was expended on services from providers other than the Australian Government Solicitor?

Answer:

The Department is unable to provide the total amount expended on legal services by the Indigenous Affairs portfolio bodies since 18 September 2013 without diverting substantial resources.

Due to the complexities involved and the high level of resourcing required across the portfolio to collect the information, legal services expenditure is obtained and published once a year in the Department's Annual Report, in accordance with the *Legal Services Directions 2005* obligations.