

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee:
Answers to written Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014–15
Parliamentary Departments Portfolio
October 2014**

Department Parliamentary Budget Office
Topic Legal costs
Senator Senator Ludwig
Question reference number 121
Type of question Written

Question

- 1 Since Budget Estimates in June 2014, list all legal costs incurred by the department or agency.
 - a 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.
 - b List cost spend briefing Counsel, broken down by hours spend briefing, whether it was direct or indirect briefing, the gender ratio of Counsel, how each Counsel was engaged (departmental, ministerial).
 - c How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice.

Answer

- 1 For the period 1 June to 31 October 2014, the Parliamentary Budget Office incurred legal costs of \$6,077.19 (GST exclusive). These services, provided by Ashurst Australia, are broken down as follows:

Counsel used	Hours	Nature of advice	Procurement method
Partner	6.18	External	Prequalified tender
Lawyer	11.54		