

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group: Written

Program: Whole-of-Portfolio

Question: BE14/128

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 26-29 May 2014:

List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency since 7 September 2013

1. 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
2. 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)
3. How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

1-3: Under the *Legal Services Directions 2005*, each Commonwealth department and agency is required to provide a report on its legal expenditure for the previous financial year within 60 days of the end of that financial year. This information must be published by 30 October each year. As this information will shortly be publicly available, to attempt to provide the level of detail requested for the portfolio would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.