

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/499) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked:

List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency since Additional Estimates in February, 2014

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

Answer:

From 1 February to 31 May 2014 the portfolio spent \$20 716 047.15 on legal advice.

The cost of external legal advice was \$11 902 701.85, including \$972 478.89 spent briefing counsel. Advice was sourced through the Australian Government Solicitor, the Attorney-General's Department, Ashurst, Clayton Utz, DLA Piper, Sparke Helmore, Sage Legal, or otherwise through the Legal Services Multi-Use List. The cost of internal legal advice was \$8 813 345.30.

The gender ratio information is not recorded across the portfolio's systems and to provide this level of detail would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.