

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

Group Civil Justice and Legal Services

Program 1.8

Question No. SBE14/171

Senator Cameron asked the following written question from the 20 November and 11 December 2014 hearings.

1. Please provide details of the remuneration paid to date to:
 - a. Commissioner The Hon John Dyson Heydon AC QC;
 - b. Counsel Assisting Jeremy Stoljar SC;
 - c. Counsel Assisting Michael Elliott;
 - d. Counsel Assisting Fiona Roughley;
 - e. The CEO of the Office of the Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption, Ms Jane Fitzgerald.
2. Please provide the amount of all payments made to date to Minter Ellison Lawyers.
3. Please provide details of legal financial assistance and witness expenses paid to date, including to which parties and witnesses legal financial assistance and/or witness expenses have been paid and the amounts paid to each party or witness.
4. Please provide details of the Royal Commission's expenditure to date on media and public relations.

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

- (1) It is general practice that the terms and conditions (including daily or hourly rates) on which the Commonwealth engages individual legal counsel, including Royal Commissioners and Counsel Assisting, are not disclosed as this information is commercial-in-confidence.
The CEO of the Commission, Ms Jane Fitzgerald, has been engaged as an A/g SES band 2 within the Attorney-General's Department and is paid accordingly.
- (2) It is general practice that the terms and conditions (including payments made) on which the Commonwealth engages lawyers assisting a Royal Commission are not disclosed as this information is commercial-in-confidence.
- (3) As at 11 December 2014, the department has paid out approximately \$545,800 in legal financial assistance and witness expenses for the Commission.

All applications to the department for legal financial assistance and the payment of witness expenses are confidential. The department does not provide information on specific applications and does not publish the details of individuals who receive legal financial assistance or a witness expense payment.

- (4) As at 31 December 2014 the Commission's total expenditure on media and public relations will have been \$114,520.