

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio  
Budget Estimates Hearing 2010-11  
31 May 2010

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

**TOPIC:** Legal Services

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Eggleston

**QUESTION No.:** BI-129

How many staff are employed in the Department as legal officers? What is the nature of the work they do? What percentage of the Department's legal work is conducted in-house, and what percentage is outsourced to external legal firms? When choosing to outsource legal work, does the Department use a panel of providers?

What were the amounts the Department spent during 2008-09 and 2009-10 on legal services provided by external firms?

**ANSWER**

11 staff are employed in the Department as legal officers.

The Department's legal officers provide legal advice and/or documentation in relation to commercial transactions to which the Department is a party and in relation to the design and delivery of the Department's funding programs. They manage the Department's litigation caseload. They also provide advice and coordination services in relation to FOI and privacy matters.

Approximately 80 per cent of the Department's legal work is conducted in-house, and approximately 20 per cent is outsourced to external legal firms.

When choosing to outsource legal work, the Department uses a panel of providers.

The amounts spent by the Department on legal services provided by external firms are:

- (a) Financial year 2008-09: This information is publicly available on the Department's website – [www.innovation.gov.au](http://www.innovation.gov.au). (note these figures are GST inclusive).
- (b) Financial year 2009-10 (to 31 May 2010): \$3,415,903.95 (GST inclusive).