

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

20 October 2011

Question No: SBT 77

Topic: Legal costs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bushby asked:

What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

Answer:

Please refer to the ATO's response to SBT 75.

The ATO has released the 'Report on Legal Services Expenditure 2010-11' which is part of the *Commissioner of Taxation Annual Report 2010-11* (page 169, available from www.ato.gov.au) and submitted to the Office of Legal Service Co-ordination (as required to be published in compliance with paragraph 11.1(ba) of the Legal Services Directions 2005).

Legal Services Panel Expenditure for the year 2010-11

Expenditure on	Total value (Goods and services tax exclusive)
Professional fees	\$10,654,480
Counsel fees	\$3,234,789
Disbursements	\$2,027,344
Total	\$15,916,613

Financial Notes:

- The ATO has three separate panels for external legal services providers offering debt recovery, tax technical and Commercial and General Law types of legal services to the ATO.
- Excludes panel expenditure to Australian Government Solicitors. Detail list of expenditure for Australian Government Solicitors is included in SBT 76.
- In 2010-11 Tax Practitioners Board did not engage private legal panel services providers.