

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No. EW0073_13

Senator Back provided in writing.

Question

Cost of Legal Services 2011/12 FYTD

"1. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for this financial year to date within the department/agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
2. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
3. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
4. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs. "

Answer

1. For the period 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012 the spend on legal services from in-house areas for the Department and statutory agencies was:

The Department spent \$21,228,650

Fair Work Australia spent \$0

Australian Building and Construction Commissioner: expenditure amounts are not available

Fair Work Ombudsman spent \$4,870,175

Safe Work Australia spent \$0

In-house expenditure on legal services includes salaries, direct and indirect overhead costs.

The Department and its statutory agencies obtain legal services on the full range of matters within their jurisdiction.

2. For the period 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012 the spend on legal services from the Australian Government Solicitor for the Department and statutory agencies was:

The Department spent \$1,605,352
Fair Work Australia spent \$1,167,732
Australian Building and Construction Commissioner: \$578,172
Fair Work Ombudsman spent \$136,417
Safe Work Australia spent \$19,980

The Department and its statutory agencies obtain legal services on the full range of matters within their jurisdiction.

3. For the period 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012 the spend on legal services from private firms for the Department and statutory agencies was:

The Department spent \$1,171,986
Fair Work Australia spent \$377,987
Australian Building and Construction Commissioner: \$2,588,311
Fair Work Ombudsman spent \$1,534,768
Safe Work Australia spent \$135,401

The Department and its statutory agencies obtain legal services on the full range of matters within their jurisdiction.

4. For the period 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012 the spend on legal services from other sources for the Department and statutory agencies was:

The Department spent \$260,902
Fair Work Australia spent \$0
Australian Building and Construction Commissioner: \$967,442
Fair Work Ombudsman spent \$1,081,635
Safe Work Australia spent \$0

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