

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance and Deregulation

Outcome/Program: General

Topic: Legal Costs

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: F103

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) 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.
- b) 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.
- c) 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.
- d) 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:

The Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance) reports annually on its legal services expenditure, as required under the *Legal Services Direction 2005*. Finance's legal expenditure for the 2010/2011 financial year is available at <http://www.finance.gov.au/publications/index.html>.

It would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources to compile data on Finance's current financial year legal spend ahead of the mandated annual reporting.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Electoral Commission

Outcome/Program: General

Topic: Legal Costs

Senator: Ryan

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- c) 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.
- d) 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:

- a) \$112,011.88. (The AEC is not able to provide a further breakdown of the actual services involved without risking legal professional privilege).
- b) \$58,183.63. (The AEC is not able to provide a further breakdown of the actual services involved without risking legal professional privilege).
- c) Nil.
- d) Nil.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: ComSuper
Outcome/Program: General
Topic: Legal costs

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: F103

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 30 March 2012

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- c) 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.
- d) 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:

FYTD is the period 1 July 2011 to 31 January 2012.

- a) \$1,432,428. (For privacy reasons a list of legal services with respect to specific disputes with members and costs is not provided).
- b) \$458,678. (For privacy reasons a list of legal services with respect to specific disputes with members and costs is not provided).
- c) – d) ComSuper declines to answer the question as to what sum it spent on legal services this financial year from private firms on the grounds that extraction of the data would require an unreasonable diversion of resources to compile data ahead of regular financial year reporting cycle.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation

Outcome/Program:

Topic: Legal costs

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: F103

Type of question: Written

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- d) 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:

It would involve a significant diversion of resources to provide financial year to date figures.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Future Fund Management Agency

Outcome/Program: General

Topic: Legal Costs

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: F103

Type of question: Written

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- c) 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.
- d) 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:

- a) – d) Please refer to http://www.futurefund.gov.au/about_the_future_fund/mandatory_reporting for disclosures in accordance with the Legal Services Directions.

Reports on legal services expenditure are provided on an annual basis as at 30 June of each year. Compiling this information separately would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.