

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 24-28 February 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** Legal costs - Indigenous Affairs All Agency

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

**Question reference number:** 221

**Type of Question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 11 April 2014

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency since 7 September 2013

1. List the total cost for these items, broken down by source of legal advice, hours retained or taken to prepare the advice and the level of counsel used in preparing the advice, whether the advice was internal or external
2. List cost spend briefing Counsel, broken down by hours spend briefing, whether it was direct or indirect briefing, the gender ratio of Counsel, how each Counsel was engaged (departmental, ministerial)
3. How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice

**Answer:**

To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of limited agency resources.

Legal services expenditure, including the cost of briefing Counsel and the gender ratio of Counsel, is obtained and published in accordance with the *Legal Services Directions 2005* obligations. Information on the 2012-13 legal services expenditure can be accessed at [Appendix J Legal services expenditure](#) of the former Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs 2012-13 Annual Report.

External legal advice is procured from providers on the Legal Services Multi Use List.