

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee—Budget Estimates May 2006

Parliament Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services

Answers to Questions on Notice

Topic: Legal costs

Question P7

Senator Ludwig asked:

- 1 What sum did the department or agency spend during 2005-2006 on external legal services (including private firms, the Australian Government Solicitor and any others)?
- 2 What sum did the department or agency spend on internal legal services?
- 3 What is the department or agency's projected expenditure on legal services for 2006-2007?

Answer

- 1 As at 30 June 2006 the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) expenditure on external legal services during financial year 2005-2006 was approximately \$80,000 (excluding GST). DPS also received approximately \$15,000 from the chamber departments as a contribution to the cost of legal advice obtained in the previous financial year that affected those departments.
- 2 The Department of Parliamentary Services does not have any formal internal legal services and therefore has no identifiable expenditure on internal legal services. Note, however, that preliminary views on legal matters are sometimes obtained from legally qualified members of the parliamentary services. No internal transfers are recorded in respect of this kind of advice.
- 3 The Department of Parliamentary Services is budgeting for total expenditure of approximately \$50,000 (excluding GST) on legal services during 2006-07.