

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearings 2006-2007, 22-23 May 2006



Question: PM 37

Outcome 1, All Outputs

Topic: Legal Services expenses

Direct on Notice

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. The department incurred \$1,631,159.36 in expenses on external legal services for 2005-06 up to 31 May 2006.
2. The department estimates that it incurred \$214,243 in expenses on internal legal services for 2005-06 up to 31 May 2006.

This answer has been prepared on the basis of the definition of 'internal legal services' used by the Australian National Audit Office in Audit Report No. 52 2004095, Legal Services Arrangements in the Australian Public Service, ie 'the procurement of legal services from within agencies through the employment of APS personnel with appropriate professional legal qualifications, or such persons collectively'.

Activities of the department coming within the ANAO definition of 'internal legal services' may also involve the provision of policy advice, so internal legal services are not necessarily directly comparable with, or able to be substituted by, external legal services.

3. The department's indicative budget for external legal services for 2006-07 is \$1,151,000.