

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

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Public Service Commission
Outcome/Program: Cross Portfolio
Topic: Legal costs

Senator: Fifield

Question reference number: 147

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- 1. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services FYTD within the department and agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.**
- 2. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services FYTD 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 FYTD 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 FYTD from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.**

Answer:

1. The sum spent on internal legal services within the Commission FYTD is \$162,052 (GST inclusive). The internal legal costs are staff salaries. The relevant employees performed a variety of duties, some legal and some non-legal (such as secretariat support for the Commission's audit committee, administration of Freedom of Information requests etc). It is not possible to identify separately the time spent by these employees on legal matters. The cost above assumes they are performing legal roles at all times.
2. The sum spent on legal services from the Australian Government Solicitor FYTD is \$200,323 (GST inclusive). See comment below.
3. The sum spent on legal services from private firms FYTD is \$20,188 (GST inclusive). See comment below.
4. The sum spent on legal services from other sources is \$8137.03 (GST inclusive). See comment below.

Comment: For privacy reasons, the Commission cannot provide details of services. However legal services advice was sought on matters of contracting and tendering; employment related case work; Privacy and Freedom of Information issues; New

Employment Bargaining Framework; drafting of legislative instruments; interpretation of the Public Service Act 1999 framework and the drafting of Commissioner's Direction and Commonwealth copyright arrangements.