

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Budget Estimates Hearing 21-24 May 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

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

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1.4 Support Services for Government Operations

**Topic:** Legal costs

**Senator:** Senator Ryan

**Question reference number:** 99

**Type of Question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 6 July 2012

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

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.

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.

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.

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 Government does not generally disclose the legal advice received by the Government or its agencies. As such, only total figures for legal service expenditure (including disbursements) will be provided rather than a list of each service and costs. All figures are exclusive of GST.

1. Based on the Department's internal financial management system, the total paid by the Department in the financial year to 31 May 2012 for legal services was \$615,592.82.

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2. Based on the Department's internal financial management system, the total paid in the financial year to 31 May 2012 for legal services through the Australian Government Solicitor was \$438,528.86.
3. Based on the Department's internal financial management system, the total paid in the financial year to 31 May 2012 for legal services through private firms was \$177,063.96.
4. Based on the Department's internal financial management system, the total paid in the financial year to 31 May 2012 for legal services through other sources was nil.