

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013-2014

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance and Deregulation

Outcome/Program: General

Topic: Legal costs

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: F100

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 12 July 2013

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) 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.
- b) 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.
- c) 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.
- d) 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:

- a)–d) Refer to response provided to F82, February 2013 Additional Estimates.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013-2014

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Electoral Commission

Outcome/Program: General

Topic: Legal Costs

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: F100

Type of question: Written

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- c) 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.
- d) 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:

- a)–d) The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) reports annually on its legal services expenditure as required under the *Legal Services Directions 2005*. The AEC's legal expenditure will be published on its website after the financial statements are completed for the 2012-13 financial year. It would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources to compile data on the AEC's current financial year spend ahead of the mandated annual reporting publication.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013-2014

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: ComSuper
Outcome/Program:
Topic: Legal costs

Senator: Ryan
Question reference number: F100
Type of question: Written
Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 12 July 2013

Number of pages: 2

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- d) 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:

- a) ComSuper has spent \$1,380,213 on legal services within the agency, between 1 July 2012 and 30 April 2013. For privacy reasons a list of legal services with respect to specific disputes with members and costs is not provided.
- b) ComSuper has spent \$146,253 on legal services with the Australian Government Solicitor (AGS), between 1 July 2012 and 30 April 2013. There was a further \$231,913 spent on legal services from the AGS from the Administered Legal Expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF). This was for ComSuper's administration of superannuation schemes that apply to current and former Australian Government civilian employees and Australian Defence Force (ADF) members. Legal advice is sought as

required by the *Legal Services Directions 2005* and principally in relation to disputes that arise with members concerning their superannuation benefits and entitlements and appeals to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, the Superannuation Complaints Tribunal or the Federal Court. The total sum being spent on legal services from AGS was \$378,166.

- c) ComSuper has spent \$12,184 on legal services from external legal providers other than the AGS, between 1 July 2012 and 30 April 2013. There was a further \$70,323 spent on legal services from legal providers other than the AGS from the Administered Legal Expenditure from the CRF. The total sum being spent on legal services from private firms was \$82,507.
- d) Nil.

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Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation

Outcome/Program:

Topic: Legal costs

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: F100

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 12 July 2013

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Answer:

a)

For the period 1 July 2012 – 30 April 2013:

Legal Service Provider	Subject matter of service	Cost of the arrangement \$
Allens Linklaters	Audit Letter Response	350
	Investment matter	3,132
	Regulatory issue	7,000
Australian Government Solicitor	FOI & privacy advice	10,954
Henry Davis York	Regulatory issues	44,601

	Advice on contracts	69,870
King & Wood Mallesons	Advice on lease	15,625
	Investment matters	132,440
	Military Super Member Statements – legal sign off	9,081
	Advice on Consultancy Agreement	4,652
	Advice on PSSap Pension Product	50,945
McArdle Legal	Audit Response letter	138
TOTAL		348,788

b) \$10,954

c) \$337,834

d) See response to a).

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Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Future Find Management Agency

Outcome/Program:

Topic: Legal costs

Senator: Ryan

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Answer:

- a) – d) Reports on legal services expenditure are provided on an annual basis as at 30 June each year. Compiling this information separately would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.