

**Senate Finance & Public Administration Committee:  
Answers to written Questions on Notice Budget Estimates 2013-14  
Parliamentary Departments Portfolio**

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**Department:** Parliamentary Budget Office

**Topic:** Legal costs

**Senator:** Senator Scott Ryan

**Question reference number:** 78

**Type of question:** Written

**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) The Parliamentary Budget Office has engaged the Australian Government Solicitor and Ashurst Australia to provide legal services, as detailed in (b) and (c) below.
- b) The Parliamentary Budget Office engaged the Australian Government Solicitor to provide legal advice at a cost of \$9,643.80.
- c) The Parliamentary Budget Office engaged Ashurst Australia to provide legal advice at a cost of \$14,006.96.
- d) Nil.