

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

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

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

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: 147

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2011

Number of pages: 2

Question:

1. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 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 for the year 2010-11 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 for the year 2010-11 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 for the year 2010-11 from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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 Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) for 2010-11 is \$224,057 (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 APSC'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 in 2010-11 is \$248,364 (GST inclusive). See comment below.
3. The sum spent on legal services from private firms in 2010-11 is \$13,934 (GST inclusive). See comment below.
4. The sum spent on legal services from other sources is \$8,137 (GST inclusive). See comment below.
5. The sum spent on internal legal services within the APSC FYTD is \$50,847 (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 APSC'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.
6. The sum spent on legal services from the Australian Government Solicitor FYTD is \$43,425 (GST inclusive). See comment below.
7. The sum spent on legal services from private firms FYTD is \$2,902 (GST inclusive). See comment below.
8. There is no legal services sought from other sources FYTD.

Comment: The Government does not generally disclose the content of legal advice received by the Government or its agencies. It is important for any government to be able to make fully informed decisions based on comprehensive and confidential legal advice. As such only total figures for legal service expenditure is provided.