

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 17-20 October 2011

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Arts portfolio agencies

Outcome/Program: Various

Topic: Legal Costs

Question: 147A

Topic: Legal Costs

Asked By: Senator RYAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 12 December 2011

Number of pages: 5

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.

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Answer:

*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 have been provided by agencies.

Screen Australia

1. In the financial year 2010-11, \$1,441,763 was spent on staffing costs for the provision of internal legal services within Screen Australia.
2. In the financial year 2010-11, the Australian Government Solicitor was paid \$33,015 by Screen Australia for legal services.
3. \$286,254
4. Nil
5. In the financial year to date, \$483,071 was spent on staffing costs for the provision of internal legal services within Screen Australia.
6. In the financial year to date, the Australian Government Solicitor was paid \$2,587 by Screen Australia for legal services
7. In the financial year to date, private firms received \$106,766 from Screen Australia in fees for legal services:
8. Nil