

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0476) PROGRAM – Internal Product

Senator Humphries (Written) asked:

Portfolio wide - 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:

DIAC

External Legal Services (legal advice and litigation related services) for the period 1 July 2012 to 31 December 2012.

<i>Agency's total AGS legal services expenditure</i>	<i>\$million</i>
External expenditure on solicitors ¹	3.519
External expenditure on counsel	0.909
Other disbursements on external legal services	0.117
Total AGS external	4.545

<i>Agency's total private firms legal services expenditure</i>	<i>\$million</i>
External expenditure on solicitors ¹	6.883
External expenditure on counsel	1.047
Other disbursements on external legal services	0.336
Total private firms external	8.266

¹ As the Department has entered into a 'fixed fee' arrangement for the payment of some of its litigation matters, this figure will also include some expenditure on counsel and disbursements that cannot be separately identified.

Internal Legal Services for the period 1 July 2012 to 31 December 2012.

<i>Agency's total internal legal expenditure</i>	<i>\$million</i>
Employees	8.516
Overheads (for eg, office stores, stationery, training and travel)	0.379
Total internal	8.895

All of the department's legal services were provided either internally or by external legal service providers. The department's total legal expenditure is therefore accounted for in the tables above.

MRT/RRT

The Migration Review Tribunal-Refugee Review Tribunal spent \$2,346 on external legal services (legal advice and representation) provided by AGS for the period 1 July 2012 to 31 December 2012.

The Migration Review Tribunal-Refugee Review Tribunal spent \$24,230 on legal services (legal advice and representation) provided by other firms for the period 1 July 2012 to 31 December 2012.

The Migration Review Tribunal-Refugee Review Tribunal has spent \$1,730,867 on internal legal services, which comprises employee costs and overheads (such as travel, corporate services and information communication technology) relating to legal staff for the period 1 July 2012 to 31 December 2012.