

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### (AE14/570) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked:

List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency since 7 September 2013

- a. List the total cost for these items, broken down by source of legal advice, hours retained or taken to prepare the advice and the level of counsel used in preparing the advice, whether the advice was internal or external
- b. List cost spend briefing Counsel, broken down by hours spend briefing, whether it was direct or indirect briefing, the gender ratio of Counsel, how each Counsel was engaged (departmental, ministerial)
- c. How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice

*Answer:*

From 1 September 2013 to 28 February 2014 the portfolio spent approximately \$26,884,000 on legal advice.

Approximately \$13,639,000 was spent on external legal advice, including approximately \$1 331,000 briefing Counsel. Advice was sourced through the Legal Services Multi-Use List including the Australian Government Solicitor, Clayton Utz, DLA Piper and Sparke Helmore. Approximately \$13,245,000 was spent on internal legal advice.

The gender ratio information is not recorded across the portfolio's systems and to provide this level of detail would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.