

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0066) Program: Internal Product

Senator Cash asked:

What procedures do they use to determine which legal services are outsourced and which are dealt with in-house?

Answer:

All of the department's litigation matters are currently outsourced to an external Legal Services Panel. This arrangement has been in place since 2001.

The majority of requests for legal advice are dealt with in-house by the Governance and Legal Division.

When considering whether to engage an external service provider to give legal advice, a number of factors are taken into consideration, including:

- Whether the work must be outsourced to the Australian Government Solicitor under the Legal Services Directions;
- Value for money;
- Whether specialist expertise is required; and
- In-house capacity, having regard to workload.