

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0142) Program: Internal Product

Senator Humphries asked:

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.

Answer:

The legal services rendered to the department during these periods were for legal advice and litigation related services. The following is a breakdown of the department's external legal services by Professional Fees, Counsel and Disbursements.

Current financial year to 31 March 2012

<i>Agency's total AGS legal services expenditure</i>	<i>\$million</i>
External expenditure on solicitors ¹	5.014
External expenditure on counsel	1.113
Other disbursements on external legal services	0.262
total external	6.389

MRT/RRT

The Migration Review Tribunal-Refugee Review Tribunal has spent \$38,955 (including GST) on legal services from the Australian Government Solicitor in the 2011-12 financial year to 31 March 2012.

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.