

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group 2

Program 1.1

Question No. 61

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 30 May 2013:

Senator BRANDIS: What was the total amount of money spent by the Commonwealth on barristers—that is, private barristers—including 2011-12?

Mr Minogue: In 2011-12, the total spent on barristers was \$53.2 million.

Senator BRANDIS: And what was the total amount paid to private law firms?

Mr Minogue: The total amount paid to private firms—I might take that on notice. We will have those figures. We do know that AGS earned just under 40 per cent—that is 39 per cent of the fees earned by all law firms providing services to the Commonwealth. I might take that on notice.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The overall amount paid by the Commonwealth to private law firms in 2011-12 (including the Australian Government Solicitor) was \$279.7 million.

The total amount paid by the Commonwealth to private law firms in 2011-12 (other than the Australian Government Solicitor) was \$172.3 million.