

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATE HEARING: 27-28 MAY 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0526) PROGRAM – Internal Product

Senator Humphries (Written) asked:

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 - Current financial year to 30 April 2013

The legal services rendered to the Department for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 April 2013 were for legal advice and litigation related services.

The following is a breakdown of the Department's internal legal expenditure, as well as expenditure on external legal services provided by Australian Government Solicitor (AGS) and other firms:

		AGS	Other firms
	\$million (GST excl)	\$million (GST excl)	\$million (GST excl)
DIAC's total legal expenditure	35.731		
<i>DIAC's total external legal services expenditure</i>			
External expenditure on solicitors ¹	17.219	5.944	11.275
External expenditure on counsel	2.867	1.239	1.628
Other disbursements on external legal services	0.672	0.186	0.486
total external	20.758	7.369	13.389

¹ As the Department has entered into 'fixed fee' arrangements 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.

<i>DIAC's total internal legal expenditure</i>			
Employees	14.341		
Overheads (for example office stores, stationery, training and travel)	0.632		
total internal	14.973		

There were no legal services rendered from "other sources" to the department during the current financial year to 30 April 2013.

Migration Review Tribunal/Refugee Review Tribunal (the Tribunals)- Current financial year to 30 April 2013

The following is a breakdown of the Tribunals' internal legal expenditure, as well as expenditure on external legal services provided by AGS and other firms:

	\$million (GST excl)	AGS \$million (GST excl)	Other firms \$million (GST excl)
Tribunal's total external legal expenditure (legal advice and representation)	0.072	0.013	0.059
Tribunal's total internal legal expenditure <i>(comprises employee costs and overheads such as travel, corporate services and IT relating to legal staff)</i>	2.742		

There were no legal services rendered from "other sources" to the Tribunals during the current financial to 30 April 2013.