

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2015-16 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programmes      Question No: SQ16-000057**

**Topic: Legal Costs**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Joe Ludwig asked:**

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency
2. 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
3. List cost spend briefing Counsel, broken down by hours spent briefing, whether it was direct or indirect briefing, the gender ratio of Counsel, how each Counsel was engaged (departmental, ministerial)
4. How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice

**Answer:**

To answer this question would require an unreasonable diversion of resources and may reveal the content of legal advice.

In line with the *Legal Services Directions 2005* the Department reports its expenditure on all legal services at the end of each financial year. This information is reported on the Department of Social Services website at <https://www.dss.gov.au/publications-articles/corporate-publications>