

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES - 4 JUNE 2013 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Legal Costs

Question reference number: HS 68

Senator: Smith

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) 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.
- b) 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.
- c) 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.
- d) 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:

- a) The Department is required by the *Legal Services Directions 2005* to report legal services expenditure to the Office of the Legal Services Coordination annually. To prepare year to date figures at this time would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- b) See answer (a).
- c) See answer (a).
- d) See answer (a).