

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Social Services Portfolio
2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programs

Question No: 868

Topic: Legal Costs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency since Additional Estimates in February, 2014:

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

Answer:

The Department is unable to provide portfolio expenditure on legal services from other sources since February 2014 without unreasonable diversion of resources.

DSS 2013-14 legal services expenditure will be published on the Department's website by 30 October 2014, in accordance with the *Legal Services Directions 2005* obligations.