

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2014

Communications Portfolio

Telecommunications Universal Service Management Agency

Question No: 445

Program No. Telecommunications Universal Service Management Agency (TUSMA)

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Legal costs

Senator LUDWIG asked:

List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency since 7 September 2013

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:

1. TUSMA legal costs incurred since 7 September 2013 to 31 March 2014 total \$71,628.33 (GST exclusive). The external providers sourced were Norton Rose Fulbright, Corrs Chambers Westgarth and Maddocks.
In relation to internal legal costs, TUSMA has obtained the services of one full-time Senior Lawyer from the Department of Communications for the ongoing provision of legal advice to TUSMA.
2. TUSMA has not briefed any Counsel since 7 September 2013.
3. All advice from external providers was procured through the Legal Services Multi-Use List administered by the Attorney-General's Department. The services of a full-time Senior Lawyer were procured through a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Communications.