

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016**

**Communications Portfolio**

**National Collecting Institutions**

**Question No: 206(k)**

**National Collecting Institutions**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 19/02/2016**

**Topic: Legal Costs**

**Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:**

National Cultural Institutions

- Australian National Maritime Museum
- National Film and Sound Archive
- National Gallery of Australia
- National Library of Australia
- National Museum of Australia
- National Portrait Gallery
- The Museum of Australian Democracy

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:**

**Australian National Maritime Museum**

- 1-2. To attempt to provide the level of detail requested would be an unreasonable diversion of resources. The total legal costs incurred by the Australian National Maritime Museum for the period 14 September 2015 – 8 February 2016 was \$32,180.
- 3-4. Under the Legal Services Directions 2005, each Commonwealth department and agency is required to provide a report on its legal expenditure for the previous financial year within 60 days of the end of that financial year. This information must be published by 30 October each year. As this information will be publicly available, to attempt to provide the level of detail requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.

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**National Film and Sound Archive**

1. The total legal costs incurred for the relevant period is \$78,495.59 (excluding GST)
- 2-4. To attempt to provide the level of detail requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.

**National Gallery of Australia**

1. Total cost for all legal costs since 14 September 2015 to 9 February 2016 is \$53,845.71.
- 2-4. To attempt to provide the level of detail requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.

**National Library of Australia**

- 1-4. Under the Legal Services Directions 2005, each Commonwealth department and agency is required to provide a report on its legal expenditure for the previous financial year within 60 days of the end of that financial year. This information must be published by 30 October each year. As this information will be publicly available, to attempt to provide the level of detail requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources

**National Museum of Australia**

1. \$66,976 (GST Excl) Employee costs for internal legal support.
2. The National Museum of Australia does not record billable hours or charge fees to internal clients.
3. Since 14 September 2015, the National Museum of Australia did not engage Counsel.
4. N/A.

**National Portrait Gallery**

1. The National Portrait Gallery has incurred a total of \$11,291 in legal costs.
2. The Gallery engaged Meyer Vandenberg three times during the reporting period 14 September 2015 to 9 February 2016. Refer to table below for additional information.

<b>Source of Legal Advice</b>	<b>Hours retained</b>	<b>Level of counsel</b>	<b>Internal or External</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Meyer Vandenberg	1.4	Solicitor	External	732
Meyer Vandenberg	24.10	Solicitor	External	9,857
Meyer Vandenberg	3.7	Solicitor	External	1,832

3. Nil
4. The National Portrait Gallery procured the services of Meyer Vandenberg each time by utilising the Whole of Government Contract for legal services. The NPG have an internal policy which guides and instructs as to whether legal services are required.

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1. Nil.

2-4. N/A.