

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

26 February 2014

**Question: AET 924**

**Topic: Legal Costs (ABS)**

**Written: 5 March 2014**

**Senator LUDWIG asked:**

924. List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency since 7 September 2013
- a. 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
  - b. 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)
  - c. How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice

**Answer:**

924.

- a. The total cost of all ABS legal costs from 7 September 2013 to 26 March 2014 is \$20,790. The table below contains a further breakdown of the source of legal advice, hours retained or taken to prepare the advice, the level of counsel used in preparing the advice and whether the advice was internal or external:

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Provider	Hours Retained	Level of Counsel	External/Internal	Procurement Method	Total cost
Australian Government Solicitor	12h 12min	Senior Lawyer & Senior Executive Lawyer	external	Limited Tender - Accessing the LSMUL	\$5,485.15
Australian Government Solicitor	6.5hrs	Senior Executive Lawyer	external	Limited Tender - Accessing the LSMUL	\$3,396.25
Australian Government Solicitor	1h 24m	Senior Executive Lawyer	external	Limited Tender - Accessing the LSMUL	\$673.20
Australian Government Solicitor	8h48m	Senior Lawyer & Deputy General Counsel	external	Limited Tender - Accessing the LSMUL	5,218.40
Sage Legal Services Pty Ltd	1h 54m	Solicitor	external	Limited Tender - Accessing the LSMUL	\$627.00
Tresscox Lawyers	N/A fixed fee for services	Senior Associate	external	Limited Tender - Accessing the LSMUL	\$5390.00

- b. The ABS briefed no Counsel between 7 September 2013 to 26 March 2014.
- c. All legal advice was procured through Limited tender, by accessing the providers on the Legal Services Multi Use List (LSMUL). Each provider was assessed as providing a value for money service.