

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Treasury Portfolio
Budget Estimates 2014
3 June to 5 June 2014

Department/ Agency: ABS

Question: BET 1150

Topic: Legal Costs

Reference: Written – 12 June 2014

Senator: Ludwig

Question:

1150. List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency since Additional Estimates in February, 2014
- 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:

1150.

- a) The total cost of all ABS legal costs from 26 February 2014 to 12 June 2014 is \$81,428.
- b) The ABS briefed no Counsel between 26 February 2014 and 12 June 2014.
- c) All legal advice was procured through Limited tender, by accessing the providers on the Legal Services Multi Use List. Each provider was assessed as providing a value for money service.