

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

**Department/ Agency:** APRA

**Question:** BET 1648

**Topic:** Legal costs

**Reference:** Written – 12 June 2014

**Senator:** Ludwig

1648. 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.

\* period 26 February to 12 June 2014.

**Answer:**

1648. a) - b) The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) spent \$1,458,883 on legal services for the period 26 February to 12 June 2014 broken down as follows:

Source of Advice	Level of counsel	Hours Retained	Cost
APRA in-house solicitors	Ranging from Junior Solicitors to General Counsel	11,693.1 hours	\$1,380,676
External solicitors	Ranging from Junior Solicitors to Partner	2.6 hours	\$1,404
Counsel	Junior Counsel	37.75 hours	\$11,023
	Senior Counsel	136.5 hours	\$65,780

APRA does not record the hours spent briefing counsel.

APRA engaged two counsel, one male and one female during the period; both were briefed directly.

- c) APRA assesses the complexity and nature of the advice sought and the availability of legal expertise best able to meet the need from the mechanisms available under the Commonwealth Procurement Rules.