

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Cross Portfolio - Corporate

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000255

Senator Ludwig, Joe provided in writing

Legal Costs

Question

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

1. The following tables detail the legal costs incurred by the department from 1 September 2015 to 31 January 2016. The Department of Education and Training records legal expenditure on a monthly basis and figures from 14 September 2015 are not available.
2. All costs related to Solicitor's advice

Department	Internal Hours	Internal Costs	External Hours	External Costs
Department of Education of Training	# 10,148	## \$2,734,351.18	1274	\$528,856.69

The total hours does not include SES legal and administration staff.

##The cost of internal legal services includes all direct and indirect overheads.

The cost per level of lawyer is not available.

3. There were no counsel services used during the reporting period.
4. The legal services provided to the Department of Education and Training by the external solicitors were procured using the Attorney-General's Department Legal Services Multi-Use List (LSMUL) arrangements.