

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Agency: ACARA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000553

Senator Ludwig, Joe provided in writing

ACARA: 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

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has provided the following response.

1. ACARA's total legal costs from 14 September 2015 to 31 January 2016 were 20,150.00.
2. External legal advice providers were as follows:

Provider	Legal Expenditure 14 September 2015 to 31 January 2016
Australian Government Solicitor	3,233.00
Minter Ellison	16,917.00
Total	20,150.00

The other information requested is not tracked by ACARA, obtaining it would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.

3. Refer to answer above.
4. Legal providers were sourced from the Commonwealth legal services multi-user panel.