

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Agency - Workplace Gender Equality Agency

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000532

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

WGEA - Legal Costs

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. For the period 14 September 2015 to 31 January 2016, the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (Agency) has incurred \$1,662.50 in legal costs.
2. The Australian Government Solicitor provided the Agency with legal advice in respect to a contractual matter. A senior lawyer provided charged for 3 hours and 6 minutes to review and revise an agreement.
3. The costs of the services provided were within the Service Provider's list rate under the Legal services multi-use list arrangements. The senior layer providing the services was female.
4. Procurement was through the Legal services multi-use list of prequalified service providers.