

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Agency - Comcare

Department of Employment Question No. EM0236_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Comcare - Legal costs

List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency since Additional Estimates in February, 2014 1. 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 2. 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). 3. How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice.

Answer

1. *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.*

External advice expenditure: \$2,647,705
Internal advice expenditure: \$38,448

To provide a breakdown of the source of legal advice and hours taken to prepare advice would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

2. *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).*

To provide a breakdown of hours spent briefing Counsel would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

How Sourced		Gender		Level		Expenditure
Direct	Indirect	Male	Female	Senior	Junior	
25	52	52	25	15	62	\$569,435

3. *How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice.*

Each piece of advice was procured in accordance with the Commonwealth LSMUL Guidelines and the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines (CPGs) either directly or indirectly through Comcare's legal service providers. The method of identifying legal advice is per Comcare's Standing Instructions.

Note: All costs are GST inclusive.