

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Agency - Safe Work Australia

Department of Employment Question No. EM0240_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

SWA - 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.

Source	Costs
Internal	
Legal costs since February 2014	Costs associated with employing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• one in-house full-time principal government lawyer (EL2), and• one in-house full-time senior government lawyer (EL1). <p>We estimate only approximately 65 percent of the EL2's work is taken up with legal work, the remainder being policy-related work. A more detailed break-down of our internal legal costs will be provided to the Office of Legal Services Coordination at the commencement of the new financial year when all relevant financial information becomes available.</p>
External	
Legal costs since February 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to \$11,000 (inc GST), approx. 27 hours' legal work, Counsel and Senior General Counsel Level, Australian Government Solicitor (AGS)• Up to \$12,622.50 (inc GST), approx. 30 hours' legal work, Senior Associate Lawyer and Senior Executive Lawyer, AGS• Up to \$37 070 (inc GST), approx. 70 hours' legal work, Senior Associate Lawyer and Partner level Lawyer, Norton Rose Fulbright.

2. Not applicable.

Internal government lawyers are both female.

Four AGS lawyers are involved in providing the external legal advice referred to above: three are female and one is male.

Two Norton Rose Fulbright lawyers are involved in providing the external legal advice referred to above: one is female and one is male.

3. External legal advice is procured using the Legal Services Multi-Use List administered by the Attorney-General's Department.