

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2014-2015

#### Agency - Workplace Gender Equality Agency

Department of Employment Question No. EM0241\_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

#### Question

#### WGEA - 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

Since Additional Estimates in February 2014, the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) has spent \$1,930 on legal services as at 31 May 2014.

1.

Total cost	Source of legal advice	Hours retained/taken to prepare the advice	Level of Counsel used in preparing the advice	Internal or external advice
\$1,930 4 hours of 1 Senior Lawyer at \$370 per hour 1 hour of 1 Senior Executive Lawyer at \$450 per hour	Australian Government Solicitor (AGS)	5 hours total.	1 Senior Lawyer and 1 Senior Executive Lawyer	External advice

2.

Cost spent briefing Counsel	Hours spent briefing Counsel	Direct or indirect briefing	Gender ratio of Counsel	How Counsel was engaged
\$460.74	1 hour	Direct briefing by EL2	1 female Senior Lawyer and 1 female Senior Executive Lawyer	Engaged directly through the WGEA

3. The WGEA procured advice direct from AGS as they are a supplier identified from the Legal Services Multi List.