

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Agency - Fair Work Building & Construction

Department of Employment Question No. EM0821_15

Senator Cameron asked on 2 June 2014 on proof Hansard page 39

Question

FWBC - cost of proceedings

Senator CAMERON: So how much will the proceedings cost? Mr Hadgkiss: They have already finished. Senator CAMERON: How much did they cost, then? Mr Hadgkiss: I would have to take that on notice. Senator CAMERON: I would like you to take on notice how many officers were engaged in this internally; how much that internal analysis to come to this point cost; how much you paid both internal and external legal advice on this issue; the costs of the proceedings; and the budget for future proceedings. Senator Abetz: By 'proceedings', do you mean simply the enforcement proceedings? Senator CAMERON: Both the enforcement proceedings and any asset seizure orders in future.

Answer

In the matter of *Director of the Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate v Benjamin Abbott & Ors*, FWBC expenditure on external legal services is \$1,141,864.11 as at 31 May 2014. This includes costs totaling \$38,970.43 associated with proceedings to enforce the payment of penalties.

FWBC does not collate information on internal legal resourcing or expenditure on a per case basis.

All litigation is undertaken within the agency's budget allocation. FWBC complies with its obligations on the procurement of legal services as per the *Legal Services Directions 2005* and Financial Management Act Regulations.