

Question: 130
Topic: Legal costs
Written: 23 February 2016

Senator LUDWIG asked:

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

For the period 14 September 2015 to 29 February 2016, the Parliamentary Budget Office incurred legal costs of \$358.81 (GST exclusive). These services, provided by Ashurst Australia, are broken down as follows:

Counsel used	Hours	Nature of advice	Procurement method
Partner	0.42	External	Prequalified tender