

Question: 52**Topic:** Legal costs**Written:** 22 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:

The department has spent \$38,011 on legal costs since 14 September 2015, details set out below.

Source	Hours retained	Level of Counsel	Internal or external	Procurement method	Cost
Ashurst	6.60	Partner / senior associate / lawyer	External	Prequalified tender	\$2,980
DLA Piper	53.50	Special counsel / graduate	External	Prequalified tender	\$13,827
DLA Piper	39.90	Special counsel / graduate	External	Prequalified tender	\$10,000
Ashurst *	10.12	Partner / lawyer	External	Prequalified tender	\$893
Ashurst	23.73	Partner / senior associate / lawyer	External	Prequalified tender	\$10,311

* The cost of this arrangement was shared between the parliamentary departments. This is the net cost to the department.