

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous
Topic: MJD Foundation

Senator: McCarthy, Malarndirri

Question reference number: 93

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Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 13 April 2017

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator McCARTHY: I would like to put a question to the minister. Is the minister aware that the appeal to the Full Bench of the Federal Court against the MJD Foundation was dismissed today?

Senator Scullion: About 15 minutes ago. I understand it was a vote of two to one against the government's position. That is correct.

Senator McCARTHY: What does this now mean?

Senator Scullion: I am sitting here. I just have a short note that tells me that it was two to one and so obviously I have not considered the matter.

Senator McCARTHY: Given this is the second occasion that you have been unsuccessful, are you going to accept the umpire's decision and implement the court's ruling?

Senator Scullion: I have not seen the court's ruling, but I think it is useful to say that we are unlikely to appeal it, if that is what you are saying. It is unlikely that this will be appealed to the High Court.

Senator McCARTHY: What have been the legal costs to the government in pursuing this case?

Senator Scullion: Somebody may be able to assist but, if not, we can take it on notice.

Ms Hefren-Webb: We will have to take that on notice.

Answer:

As at 9 March 2017, the legal costs incurred by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for the MJD matter were \$137,126.38 (GST inclusive).