

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Portfolio

Question No. 153

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2012:

- a) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for the financial year to date within the department/agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- b) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- c) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- d) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

The answer to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

Under the Legal Services Directions 2005, agencies regulated by the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* are required to make the records of their legal services expenditure for the financial year public by 30 October each year. It is the normal practice to collate these figures and determine legal services expenditure closer to the October deadline.

To identify the information sought at this early stage would require an unreasonable diversion of resources at this time.