

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/233) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked:

List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency since Budget Estimates in May 2014:

- a. 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
- b. List cost spend briefing Counsel, broken down by hours spend briefing, whether it was direct or indirect briefing, the gender ratio of Counsel, how each Counsel was engaged (departmental, ministerial).
- c. How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice

Answer:

From 1 June to 31 October 2014 the portfolio spent \$26.711 million (excluding GST) on all legal costs, advice and litigation.

The total expenditure on external legal services was \$14.031 million which includes Counsel fees totalling \$1.394 million. External legal services were sourced through the Australian Government Solicitor, the Attorney-General's Department, Clayton Utz, DLA Piper, Mills Oakley, Minter Ellison, Sparke Helmore, or otherwise through the Legal Services Multi-Use List. All counsel were indirectly briefed. The gender ratio information and hours taken to brief and advise are not recorded across the portfolio's systems and to provide this level of detail would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

The total for internal legal expenses was \$12.680 million (excluding GST).