

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2011**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 468**

**Program No. Legal Services Group**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Legal Costs**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

- a. What sum did the department spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 within the department and agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- b. What sum did the department spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- c. What sum did the department spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- d. What sum did the department spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

**Answer:**

The Government does not generally disclose the content of legal advice received by the Government or its agencies. It is important for any government to be able to make fully informed decisions based on comprehensive and confidential legal advice. As such only total figures for legal service expenditure will be provided.

The following information is provided in relation to the four different parts of the question:

- a. The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy total expenses on legal services provided in-house were \$4,074,860.
- b. The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy expenses on legal services provided by the Australian Government Solicitor during 2010-11 financial year were \$548,396. Data on individual contracts of \$10,000 or more is available on Austender ([www.tenders.gov.au](http://www.tenders.gov.au)).
- c. The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy expenses on legal services provided by private law firms during 2010-11 financial year were \$3,125,005. Data on individual contracts of \$10,000 or more is available on Austender ([www.tenders.gov.au](http://www.tenders.gov.au)).
- d. The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy expenses on legal services provided by other during 2010-11 financial year were \$8,037.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2011**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 469**

**Program No. Legal Services Group**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Legal Costs**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

- a. What sum did each portfolio department within the portfolio spend on legal services FYTD within the department and agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- b. What sum did each portfolio department within the portfolio on legal services FYTD from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- c. What sum did each portfolio department within the portfolio spend on legal services FYTD from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- d. What sum did each portfolio within the portfolio spend on legal services FYTD from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

**Answer:**

The Government does not generally disclose the content of legal advice received by the Government or its agencies. It is important for any government to be able to make fully informed decisions based on comprehensive and confidential legal advice. As such only total figures for legal service expenditure will be provided.

The following information is provided in relation to the four different parts of the question:

- a. The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy total expenses on legal services from 1 July 2011 provided in-house were \$828,260.
- b. The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy expenses on legal services provided by the Australian Government Solicitor from 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011 were \$117,712. Data on individual contracts of \$10,000 or more is available on Austender ([www.tenders.gov.au](http://www.tenders.gov.au)).
- c. The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy expenses on legal services provided by private law firms from 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011 were \$248,984. Data on individual contracts of \$10,000 or more is available on Austender ([www.tenders.gov.au](http://www.tenders.gov.au)).
- d. The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy expenses on legal services provided by other sources from 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011 were \$0.