

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

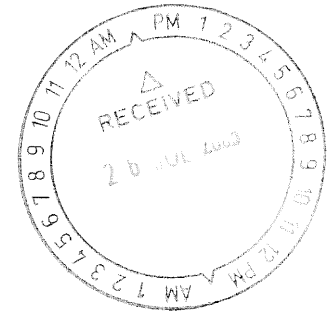
Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates, 31 May to 2 June 2005

Question: Bud 38

Topic: ABS – Legal Service Expenditure

Hansard Page: Written



Senator Ludwig asked:

1. What amount did the Agency spend during the financial year 2004/2005 on outsourced legal practitioners (including private firms, individuals, the Australian Government Solicitor, and any others)?
2. What was the budgeted amount for outsourced legal practitioners in 2004/2005?
3. What amount did the Agency spend on internal legal services? (Provide an estimate if exact amount is unavailable.)
4. Does the Agency have an in-house legal section? If so, what was the 2004/2005 actual cost of this section? What was the budgeted amount for this section in 2004/2005? What is the budget amount for this section in 2005/2006?
5. What is the total projected expenditure on legal services for 2005/2006 for the Agency?
6. Which organisations or individuals were contracted to provide legal services to the Agency in 2004/2005?
7. In each instance, how much was each organisation or individual paid for these services?
8. Does the Agency use an open tendering or select tendering process (as described in the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, p 42) when procuring legal services?
9. If a select tendering process is used: (a) which method of select tendering is used and (b) which firms or individuals are currently eligible to tender for legal services?
10. If a multi-use list is used: (a) which firms or individuals are currently on that list and (b) when was the list last opened for applications?
11. In 2004/2005 did the Agency obtain any legal services using a direct sourcing procurement process? If so, provide details including the name of the provider, the work involved and the cost?
12. In 2004/2005 did the Agency procure any legal services under the thresholds required for 'covered procurements' (within the meaning of 8.6 of the

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Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines)? If so, provide details including the name of the provider, the work involved and the cost.

13. In 2004/05 did the Agency contract any legal firms to provide services other than legal services (such as consulting, conduct of policy reviews etc)? If so, provide details including the name of the firm, the project involved and the cost of the contract.

Answer:

1. \$371,407.
2. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) does not specifically budget for legal expenses. Expenditure for legal services is generally absorbed within each individual cost centre's administrative operating budget. However, the ABS does set aside \$100,000 of corporate funds to assist cost centres should they not be able to absorb legal costs within their budget allocation.
3. Nil
4. No.
5. See response to 2. Expenditure on legal services is not specified separately in cost centres' administrative operating budgets.

6 & 7.

	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Australian Government Solicitor	\$244,544
Minter Ellison, ACT	\$57,386
Minter Ellison Lawyers, WA	\$2,193
Corrs Chambers Westgarth	\$55,075
Clayton Utz	\$12,209

8. Open tender process used to establish a legal panel.
9. No.
10. No.
11. No.
12. No.
13. No.