

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates 30 May – 1 June 2006

Question: bet 3 (ABS)

Topic: Cost of external legal services during 2005-2006

Hansard Page: Written

Senator LUDWIG asked:

- (1) What sum did the department or agency spend during 2005-2006 on external legal services (including private firms, the Australian Government Solicitor and any others).
- (2) What sum did the department or agency spend on internal legal services.
- (3) What is the department or agency's projected expenditure on legal services for 2006-2007.

Answer:

- (1) \$282,350.
- (2) Nil.
- (3) 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.