

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**TREASURY**

**Australian Taxation Office**

(Budget Estimates 30 May 2006)

**Question**                    **BET-141**

**Topic:**                      **COST OF EXTERNAL LEGAL SERVICES 2005-06**

**Hansard page**            **Written Question**

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)

**Answer:**

The Tax Office spent \$41.6 million for the period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 on external legal services.

- (2)     What sum did the department or agency spend on internal legal services.

**Answer:**

The Tax Office's Legal Services Branch manages tax litigation, debt litigation, commercial and general law, freedom of information requests and government law. The cost of labour and expenses associated with our internal Legal Services Branch was \$23.1 million.

- (3)     What is the department or agency's projected expenditure on legal services for 2006-2007.

**Answer:**

The projected expenditure on legal expenses for 2006-07 is expected to be comparable to the expenditure on legal services for 2005-06.