

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2006-2007, 1 November 2006

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES AND AGENCIES
TOPIC: LEGAL SERVICES EXPENDITURE
REFERENCE: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

QUESTION No.SI-88

Senator Ludwig asked about:

What sum did the department spend during 2005-2006 on external; barristers and; solicitors (including private firms, the Australian Government Solicitor and any others)?

ANSWER

The total amount spent by the Department on external barristers and solicitors during the 2005-2006 financial year was \$4,432,068 (GST exclusive). This amount is made up of expenditure of \$3,790,161 for the Department, \$410,767 for IP Australia and \$231,140 for Geoscience Australia. This amount includes fees and disbursements. The Department does not separately record the amount spent on barristers. Barristers are generally engaged through firms of solicitors and their work is included as part of the overall invoices submitted by those firms.

QUESTION No.SI-89

Senator Ludwig asked about:

What sum did the department spend on internal legal services?

ANSWER

The Department spent \$1,431,052 on internal legal services during the 2005-06 financial year. This amount includes payments for overheads (salary and administrative expenses) related to internal legal services. This figure is GST exclusive. IP Australia and Geoscience Australia do not have their own internal legal services areas.

QUESTION No.SI-90

Senator Ludwig asked about:

What is the department's projected expenditure on legal services for 2006-07.

ANSWER

The Department's projected expenditure on external and internal legal services for the 2006-07 financial year is \$6,286,543 for the Department (this includes external and internal legal services), \$400,000 for IP Australia and \$232,092 for Geoscience Australia. All of these amounts are GST exclusive.