

## Senate Standing Committee on Economics

### ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

19 – 20 October 2011

Question No: SBT 763 - 770

Topic: Legal Costs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bushy asked:

763. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 within the department and agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

764. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

765. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

766. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

767. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services FYTD within the department and agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

768. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services FYTD from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

769. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services FYTD from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

770. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services FYTD from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

Answer:

763. Information on legal expenditure is available at <http://www.treasury.gov.au/contentitem.asp?NavId=030&ContentID=2187>.

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.

- 764. Treasury spent \$1,750,616 on external legal services from Australian Government Solicitor.
- 765. Treasury spent \$97,363 on services from private firms.
- 766. Information on legal expenditure is available at <http://www.treasury.gov.au/contentitem.asp?NavId=030&ContentID=2187>.
- 767. \$244,745 has been spent as at 30 September 2011.
- 768. \$55,742 has been spent with Australian Government Solicitor as at 30 September 2011.
- 769. \$49,435 has been spent with private firms as at 30 September 2011.
- 770. \$139,568 has been spent on internal legal services as at 30 September 2011.