

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

20 October 2011

Question No: SBT 78

Topic: Legal costs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bushby asked:

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.

Answer:

Please refer to the ATO's response to SBT 75.

The ATO has released the 'Report on Legal Services Expenditure 2010-11' which is part of the *Commissioner of Taxation Annual Report 2010-11* (page 169, available from www.ato.gov.au) and submitted to the Office of Legal Service Co-ordination (as required to be published in compliance with paragraph 11.1(ba) of the Legal Services Directions 2005).

2010-11 Total External Legal Services Expenditure from other sources

Expenditure on	Total value (Goods and services tax exclusive)
Other Professional fees	\$89,664
Counsel fees	\$4,785,926
Other Disbursements costs	\$9,276,986
Total	\$14,152,576

Financial Notes:

- Includes \$2,069 other source disbursement costs for the Tax Practitioners Board.
- Excludes legal panel expenditure on professional fees, counsel fees and disbursements.
- Other professional fees include legal professional fees payments to legal firms and professional services like forensic services and valuations.
- Other disbursements costs includes court filing fees, prosecution costs, summons fees, expert witnesses, photocopying fees, Indemnity fees (for example for liquidators in connection with ATO funded public examinations or where ATO has agreed to meet legal costs of its staff), Dispute Resolution for Mediation fees for matters handled in-house and payments of third party legal costs where a case has been settled.