

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2005-2006 ADDITIONAL SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
16 FEBRUARY 2006
EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 2: Higher productivity, higher pay workplace

Output Group 2.21: Workplace relations policy and analysis

Output 2.1.2: Workplace Relations Legislation Development

Question Number: W705-06

Question:

Senator Wong asked in writing:

Further to QON response W591-06, can the department provide details of the various negotiated monthly rates for each firm on the panel of legal services providers engaged to assist the department with the development of the Work Choices legislation? Was the monthly rate for the firms engaged for specific projects that arose during the development of the policy at the same rates as above?

Answer:

Legal services providers did not assist with the development of the WorkChoices legislation but provided secondees to the department who in turn advised the Office of Parliamentary Counsel on the development of the legislation. The negotiated monthly rates (GST exclusive) for panel providers were as follows:

- Australian Government Solicitor - \$15,000; from 1 January 2006 - \$40,000
- Blake Dawson Waldron - \$13,050
- Clayton Utz - \$13,636.36; from 21 December 2005 - \$18,181.82
- Corrs Chambers Westgarth - \$13,636.36
- Freehills - \$15,000
- Harmers Workplace Lawyers - \$13,636.36; from 21 December 2005 - \$15,000
- Minter Ellison - \$13,636.36; from 21 January 2006 - \$18,181.82
- Phillips Fox - \$13,636.36

Note that the monthly rates for the end of 2005 and early 2006 were for work carried out on the development of the Workplace Relations Regulations 2006. This work ceased in March 2006.

No, for special projects the firms were working under the rates in the legal panel tender agreements.