

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2008-09**

Outcome/Agency 9

DEEWR Question No. EW0999_09

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

Fair Work Bill 2008 – Legal Firms

What are the names of the legal firms used to draft the Fair Work Bill and what has their engagement cost?

Answer

The Office of Parliamentary Counsel drafts all Government Bills on instruction by Government agencies. The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations instructed the Office of Parliamentary Counsel in the development of the Fair Work Bill. The Department was assisted by legal firms from the Department's Panel of Legal Service Providers in carrying out this work, including through the use of secondees who worked under supervision of Departmental staff. The legal firms were:

- Australian Government Solicitor
- Corrs Chambers Westgarth
- DLA Phillips Fox
- Freehills

The Department also engaged the law firm Piper Alderman in order to obtain advice from Professor Andrew Stewart about the drafting approach adopted in the Fair Work Bill.

The cost of these services were:

• Australian Government Solicitor	\$813,372.72
• Corrs Chambers Westgarth	\$379,358.74
• DLA Phillips Fox	\$265,601.45
• Freehills	\$312,312.03
• Piper Alderman	\$21,127.65