

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

Agency - Fair Work Commission

Department of Employment Question No. EM0477_14

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

FWC - Legal Costs

List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency since 7 September 2013

1. List the total cost for these items, broken down by source of legal advice, hours retained or taken to prepare the advice and the level of counsel used in preparing the advice, whether the advice was internal or external
2. List cost spend briefing Counsel, broken down by hours spend briefing, whether it was direct or indirect briefing, the gender ratio of Counsel, how each Counsel was engaged (departmental, ministerial)
3. How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice

Answer

The Fair Work Commission does not have the resources to provide details of legal expenditure for the period requested. The Fair Work Commission is required to publish legal services expenditure annually in accordance with the Legal Services Directions. The Legal Services Expenditure Report 2012–13 is at Attachment A and is available on the Commission's website:

<http://www.fwc.gov.au/index.cfm?pagename=adminbudgets>

The next report is due to be published within 30 days after the end of the financial year 2013–14.