

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

**2006-2007 BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
29TH AND 30TH MAY 2006
EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 2: Higher productivity, higher pay workplace

Output Group 2.1: Workplace relations policy and analysis

Output 2.1.2: Workplace relations legislation development

Question Number: W091-07

Question:

Senator Campbell asked at *Hansard* page 82:

Can the department identify the total legal costs involved in developing and drafting the Workplace Relations Amendment (Work Choices) Bill 2005 and the regulations? And the costs for legal advice that the department used on the corporations power issue?

Answer:

The total legal costs involved in developing the Workplace Relations Amendment (Work Choices) Bill 2005 and the regulations was \$1,055,418.37 (GST exclusive). This figure includes the cost of secondees and advice sought from the Attorney-General's Department, the Australian Government Solicitor (as distinct from AGS secondees) and private law firms. It does not include the costs of staff in the Department who worked on the drafting of the Bill and the drafting was primarily carried out by the Office of Parliamentary Counsel.

The Department primarily sought constitutional advice from secondees from the Australian Government Solicitor throughout the development of the Work Choices legislation. There was no separate billing for this advice. It is therefore not possible to provide an amount.