



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Michael Manthorpe PSM
Deputy Secretary

Mr Tim Watling
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Education,
Employment and Workplace relations
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Watling

In providing a response to the recent Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing held in October 2012, it has come to my attention that there is a need to correct a response to a previous Question on Notice (EW0073_13) provided to the committee after the Budget Estimates hearing on 28 May 2012.

In Question on Notice EW0073_13, relating to the Cost of Legal Services for the financial year to date for 2011/12, Senator Back asked in writing:

- "1. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for this financial year to date within the department/agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
2. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
3. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
4. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs."

The response provided by the Australian Building and Construction Commissioner was:

1. "expenditure amounts are not available"
2. "\$578,172"
3. "\$2,588,311"
4. "\$967,442".

Correction – EW0073_13 be amended to read:

1. No change to this answer.
2. "Australian Building and Construction Commissioner: \$623,477."
3. "Australian Building and Construction Commissioner: \$2,613,157."
4. "Australian Building and Construction Commissioner: \$870,803."

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Michael Manthorpe.

Michael Manthorpe PSM

✍ December 2012

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No. EW0073_13

Senator Back provided in writing.

Question

Cost of Legal Services 2011/12 FYTD

- "1. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for this financial year to date within the department/agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
2. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
3. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
4. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs. "

Answer

1. For the period 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012 the spend on legal services from in-house areas for the Department and statutory agencies was:

The Department spent \$21,228,650

Fair Work Australia spent \$0

Australian Building and Construction Commissioner: expenditure amounts are not available

Fair Work Ombudsman spent \$4,870,175

Safe Work Australia spent \$0

In-house expenditure on legal services includes salaries, direct and indirect overhead costs.

The Department and its statutory agencies obtain legal services on the full range of matters within their jurisdiction.

2. For the period 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012 the spend on legal services from the Australian Government Solicitor for the Department and statutory agencies was:

The Department spent \$1,605,352
Fair Work Australia spent \$1,167,732
Australian Building and Construction Commissioner: \$623,477
Fair Work Ombudsman spent \$136,417
Safe Work Australia spent \$19,980

The Department and its statutory agencies obtain legal services on the full range of matters within their jurisdiction.

3. For the period 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012 the spend on legal services from private firms for the Department and statutory agencies was:

The Department spent \$1,171,986
Fair Work Australia spent \$377,987
Australian Building and Construction Commissioner: \$2,613,157
Fair Work Ombudsman spent \$1,534,768
Safe Work Australia spent \$135,401

The Department and its statutory agencies obtain legal services on the full range of matters within their jurisdiction.

4. For the period 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012 the spend on legal services from other sources for the Department and statutory agencies was:

The Department spent \$260,902
Fair Work Australia spent \$0
Australian Building and Construction Commissioner: \$870,803
Fair Work Ombudsman spent \$1,081,635
Safe Work Australia spent \$0

The Department and its statutory agencies obtain legal services on the full range of matters within their jurisdiction.