

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Budget estimates 2011-2012; June 2011

Questions on notice from Senator Trood to Austrade

Amended

Question No. 22

Legal Costs

1. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services FYTD within the department and agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
2. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services FYTD 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 FYTD 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 FYTD from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

Answer

1. For the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, \$295,118 was spent on the legal services unit within Austrade. As this cost involves maintaining an internal legal unit, it is not defined in terms of cost per service.
2. For the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, Austrade spent the sum of \$31,669 on legal services from the Australian Government Solicitor for the services as described below:
 - Commercial advice – \$5,605
 - Litigation and dispute resolution – \$17,933
 - General advice including statutory interpretation and employment law – \$8,131.
3. For the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, Austrade spent the sum of \$1,541,706 on legal services from private firms as described below:
 - Commercial advice – \$789,729
 - Litigation and dispute resolution – \$251,083
 - General advice including statutory interpretation and employment law – \$500,894.
4. For the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, Austrade did not spend any amount on legal services from any other source than those listed at 1), 2) and 3) above.