

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Human Services and agencies

Budget Estimates 2005-2006, 26 May 2005

Question: HS43

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Core Department – Legal service expenditure

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written

SENATOR LUDWIG asked on 26 May 2005:

- (1) What amount did the Department spend during the financial year 2004/2005 on outsourced legal practitioners (including private firms, individuals, the Australian Government Solicitor, and any others)?
- (2) What was the budgeted amount for outsourced legal practitioners in 2004/2005?
- (3) What amount did the Department spend on internal legal services? (Provide an estimate if exact amount is unavailable.)
- (4) Does the Department have an in-house legal section? If so, what was the 2004/2005 actual cost of this section? What was the budgeted amount for this section in 2004/2005? What is the budget amount for this section in 2005/2006?
- (5) What is the total projected expenditure on legal services for 2005/2006 for the Department?
- (6) Which organisations or individuals were contracted to provide legal services to the Department in 2004/2005?
- (7) In each instance, how much was each organisation or individual paid for these services?
- (8) Does the Department use an open tendering or select tendering process (as described in the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, p 42) when procuring legal services?
- (9) If a select tendering process is used: (a) which method of select tendering is used and (b) which firms or individuals are currently eligible to tender for legal services?
- (10) If a multi-use list is used: (a) which firms or individuals are currently on that list and (b) when was the list last opened for applications?
- (11) In 2004/2005 did the Department obtain any legal services using a direct sourcing procurement process? If so, provide details including the name of the provider, the work involved and the cost?
- (12) In 2004/2005 did the Department procure any legal services under the thresholds required for 'covered procurements' (within the meaning of 8.6 of the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines)? If so, provide details including the name of the provider, the work involved and the cost.

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(13) In 2004/05 did the Department contract any legal firms to provide services other than legal services (such as consulting, conduct of policy reviews etc)? If so, provide details including the name of the firm, the project involved and the cost of the contract.

Answer:

The Department seeks legal advice on a range of issues from time to time.