

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: HS44

Outcome 1, Output 2

Topic: Child Support Agency – Legal services expenditure

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written

SENATOR LUDWIG asked the Minister representing the Minister for Human Services, upon notice, on 26 May 2005:

Legal services expenditure

1. What amount did the Agency 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 Agency spend on internal legal services? (Provide an estimate if exact amount is unavailable.)
4. Does the Agency 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 Agency?
6. Which organisations or individuals were contracted to provide legal services to the Agency in 2004/2005?
7. In each instance, how much was each organisation or individual paid for these services?
8. Does the Agency 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 Agency 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?

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12. In 2004/2005 did the Agency 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.
13. In 2004/05 did the Agency 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:

1. As at 31 May 2005, CSA has spent a total of \$2,345,802.60 on outsourced legal services.
2. For the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005, CSA has budgeted \$2,277,310.00 on outsourced legal practitioners.
3. CSA does not provide internal legal services.
4. CSA does not have an in-house legal section. CSA has two internal teams dedicated to providing administrative interpretation and quality assurance functions.
5. CSA's total projected expenditure on legal services for 2005/2006 is \$2,455,058.00.
6. Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Phillips Fox
Minter Ellison
Clayton Utz
Australian Government Solicitor
Sparke Helmore
Franklin Athanasellis
7. As at 31 May 2005, CSA has paid the following amounts to these contracted organisations:

Corrs Chambers Westgarth	\$13,957.90
Phillips Fox	\$27,976.17
Minter Ellison	\$816.75
Clayton Utz	\$109,493.62
Sparke Helmore	\$0.00
Australian Government Solicitors	\$1,982,109.63
Franklin Athanasellis	\$167,865.47

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8. For general legal services, CSA generally procures services under panel arrangements that have been established by an open tender process. Direct sourcing may be used where particular expertise is required.
9. N/A
10. N/A
11. Yes.

As at 31 May 2005, CSA has paid the following amounts to these contracted organisations for corresponding services:

Franklin Athanasellis	Employee Dismissal & related	\$167,865.47
Deacons	Unfair Dismissal Claims	\$25,948.60
Ferrier Hodgson	Legal fees for court hearings	\$13,930.84
Insolvency & Trustee Service Aust	Debt Collection	\$2,015.12
Geoffrey Edwards & Company	Legal Costs	\$1,688.50
12. No.		
13. Yes.		
Corrs Chambers Westgarth	Consultancy services: IT sourcing strategy	\$49,062.29
Clayton Utz	Consultancy services: Voice Authentication Report	\$84,000.00