

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Human Services and agencies

Budget Estimates 2006-2007, 25 May 2006

Question: HS 48

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Centrelink - Legal Services Expenditure

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written

SENATOR LUDWIG asked on 25/5/2006:

1. What sum did the department or agency spend during 2005-2006 on external legal services (including private firms, the Australian Government Solicitor and any others).
2. What sum did the department or agency spend on internal legal services.
3. What is the department or agency's projected expenditure on legal services for 2006-2007.

Answer:

1. For the 11 month period to 31 May 2006, \$4,173,000 excluding GST.
2. Centrelink has a number of staff who perform some administrative law functions at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and case manage monetary claims made against Centrelink. These staff members are not employed as legal officers, however perform a para-legal role. Centrelink has now also established an internal legal advisory capacity within Centrelink Legal Services Branch. The amount spent on this internal legal function during 2005-06 has been approximately \$179,000.
3. \$5.2 million.

To prepare this answer it has taken approximately 3 hours and 52 minutes at an estimated cost of \$215.