

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Legal Service Expenditure
Topic: Legal Costs

Senator: Mitch Fifield

Question reference number: 147

Type of question: Written

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Number of pages: 2

Question:

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. The department's legal service expenditure for the period 1 July 2010 to 31 May 2011* is as follows:

Service Type	Total Cost including GST
Legal Advice – General Matters**	\$250,568
Commercial Advice	\$374,792
Litigation and Tribunal Proceedings**	\$167,283
Total	\$792,643

*Includes expenditure by the department from September 2010 for the Offices of Arts and Sport. These offices were listed in the department's responsibilities in the Administrative Arrangements Orders in September 2010.

**Includes expenditure on FOI requests to the Prime Minister.

2. The department's expenditure for legal services from the Australian Government Solicitor for the period 1 July 2010 to 31 May 2011* is as follows:

Service Type	Total Cost including GST
Legal Advice – General Matters	\$170,050
Commercial Advice	\$306,296
Litigation and Tribunal Proceedings	\$167,283
Total	\$643,629

*Includes expenditure by the department from September 2010 for the Offices of Arts and Sport. These offices were listed in the department's responsibilities in the Administrative Arrangements Orders in September 2010.

3. The department's expenditure for legal services from private firms for period 1 July 2010 to 31 May 2011 is as follows:

Private Firm	Service Type	Total Cost including GST
Clayton Utz	Commercial Advice	\$65,165
DLA Piper	Commercial Advice	\$3,331
Blake Dawson	Legal Advice – General Matters	\$78,229
Total		\$146,726

4. The department's total legal service expenditure from the Attorney-General's Department for period 1 July 2010 to 31 May 2011 was \$2,289 including Goods and Services Tax. This cost relates to legal advice – general matters.