

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government**

**Budget Estimates 25 May 2011**

**Question: 112**

**Topic: Legal Costs**

**Asked By: Senator FIFIELD**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011**

**Number of pages: 2**

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.
- d. 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:**

- a. The Department has spent approximately \$99,700 within the Department on legal services in the financial year to 31 May 2011 comprising of salary and overheads for an in-house lawyer and a temporary administrative assistant.
- b. The Department has spent \$576,476.32 on legal services from the Australian Government Solicitor in this financial year up to and including 31 May 2011. The following table lists the services and associated costs.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government

Budget Estimates 25 May 2011

Service category	Costs
Commercial (probity, contracts, property and construction, procurement, grants and funding, market testing/outsourcing, intergovernmental agreements and corporate law)	\$356,247.05
Litigation and dispute resolution (Torts, insolvency, debt recovery, employment law and enforcement)	\$93,305.94
General Advice (Statutory interpretation, constitutional, legislative drafting, employment law and financial law)	\$92,334.13
Outpost/secondment	\$34,589.20

- c. The Department has spent \$100,083.90 on legal services from private firms in the financial year up to and including 31 May 2011. The following table lists the services and associated costs.

Service category	Costs
Commercial (probity, contracts, property and construction, procurement, grants and funding, market testing/outsourcing, intergovernmental agreements and corporate law)	\$86,699.10
General Advice (Statutory interpretation, legislative drafting, employment law and financial law)	\$13,384.80

- d. As at 31 May 2011 the Department has not spent any amount on legal services from other sources.