

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

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman

Outcome/Program: Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman

Topic: Legal costs

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 99

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 6 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

1. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for this financial year to date within the department/agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
2. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date 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 this financial year to date 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 this financial year to date from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

Answer:

The Government does not generally disclose the content of legal advice received by the Government or its agencies. It is important for any government to be able to make fully informed decisions based on comprehensive and confidential legal advice. As such only total figures for legal service expenditure are provided.

1. \$112,874 as at 30 April 2012.
2. \$85,874 as at 30 April 2012.
3. \$18,090 as at 30 April 2012.
4. \$8,909 as at 30 April 2012.