

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Human Services and agencies

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2006-2007, 31 October 2006

Question: HS51

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Legal Expenditure

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written

SENATOR LUDWIG asked on 31/10/06:

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

Answer:

The following response relates to the Department, excluding expenses associated with the Child Support Agency and CRS Australia. Those agencies will provide a separate response.

The Department is required to publish a statement of legal services expenditure in accordance with paragraph 11.1 (ba) of the *Legal Services Directions 2005*. This statement is available on the Department's website, on a GST inclusive basis. The GST exclusive figures are provided below.

- (1)
 - (a) Nil.
 - (b) \$623,184 (excl GST)
- (2) \$379,467 (excl GST) includes all salary, training and travel costs for all staff employed in the Department's Legal Services Branch.
- (3) The legal expenses for the Department's Legal Services Branch are estimated at \$1.2m with an estimated additional \$2m for legal expenses associated with the access card, bringing the total legal costs to an estimated \$3.1m.

To prepare this answer it has taken approximately 2 hours at an estimated cost of \$126.