

**Finance and Public Administration Legislative Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Australian Public Service Commission**

Estimates 2006-07 – Budget Estimates, October 2006

**Question: PM 70-77**

**Topic: Legal Services**

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

- (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:**

- (1) The Australian Public Service Commission (the Commission) spent in 2005-06:
  - (a) nil on external barristers;
  - (b) \$190,736 (incl GST) on external solicitors.
- (2) In 2005-06 the APS Commission employed three people who performed a legal role. These employees performed other duties from time to time: for example providing secretariat support on corporate governance work. It is not possible to identify separately the time spent on these other roles. The Commission spent \$309,000 on these staff for the year 2005-06; this figure includes salaries, leave, superannuation and training costs but does not include corporate support costs such as computing, cleaning, and rent.
- (3) The Commission's projected expenditure on legal services (internal and external) for 2006-07 is \$448,000.