

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

Prime Minister and Cabinet

Department/Agency: Australian National Audit Office

Outcome/Program:

Topic: Legal Costs

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: 147

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: December 2011

Number of pages: 2

Question:

1. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 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 for the year 2010-11 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 for the year 2010-11 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 for the year 2010-11 from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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:

Q1 – The cost of legal services for the year 2010-11 was \$194,847. The professional fees paid related to general legal advice including procurement, tendering and contracting matters,

audit matters, employment matters, and advice relating to Commonwealth legislation including the *Auditor-General Amendment Bill 2011*. There were no litigation matters.

Q2 – Legal services costs for the year 2010-11 for the Australian Government Solicitor was \$48,384. The professional fees paid related to general legal advice on audit matters, employment matters, and advice relating to Commonwealth legislation, including the *Auditor-General Amendment Bill 2011*. There were no litigation matters.

Q3 – Legal services costs for private firms amounted to \$146,463 in 2010-11. The professional fees paid related to general legal advice including procurement, tendering and contracting matters, audit matters and employment matters. There were no litigation matters.

Q4 – Nil

Q5 - Nil

Q6 - Legal services costs for the FYTD for the Australian Government Solicitor was \$32,458. The professional fees paid related to general legal advice on audit matters, employment matters, and advice relating to Commonwealth legislation, including the *Auditor-General Amendment Bill 2011*. There were no litigation matters.

Q7 - Legal services costs for private firms for the FYTD amounted to \$33,025. The professional fees related to general legal advice including procurement, tendering and contracting matters. There were no litigation matters.

Q8 – Nil