

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY 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: 147

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 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:

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. \$78,338.69.

2. \$35,248.69.

3. \$43,090.00.
4. Nil.
5. \$79,592.73 as at 17 November 2011.
6. \$72,023.83 as at 17 November 2011.
7. \$7,568.90 as at 17 November 2011.
8. Nil.