

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 17-20 October 2011

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Arts portfolio agencies

**Outcome/Program:** various

**Topic:** Legal costs

**Senator:** Senator Ryan

**Question reference number:** 147A

**Type of Question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 2 December 2011

**Number of pages:** 5

**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:**

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\*\* 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 have been provided by agencies.

##### The Australia Council

1. Total expenditure for legal services during the 2010-11 year was \$37,129.
2. Total expenditure on the Australian Government Solicitor was \$15,638.
3. Total expenditure from private firms was \$21,491.
4. Nil
5. In the financial year to date, \$3,852 was spent on legal services within the Australia Council.
6. In the financial year to date (to 30 September 2011), the Australian Government Solicitor was paid \$3,852 by the Australia Council for legal services.
7. Nil
8. Nil

##### National Film and Sound Archive

1. Total expenditure for legal services during the 2010-11 year was \$325,175 comprising:
  - \$248,666 for internal legal services; and
  - \$76,509 for external legal services.(Reported to Office of Legal Services Coordination)
2. \$59,202
3. \$16,094
4. Nil
5. \$59,874
6. Nil
7. \$40,837 (to end October 2011)
8. Nil

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##### National Gallery of Australia

1. Total expenditure for legal services during the 2010-11 year was \$92,827.
2. Total expenditure on the Australian Government Solicitor was \$10,640.
3. Total expenditure from private firms was \$82,187.
4. Nil
5. In the financial year to date, \$33,691 was spent on staffing costs for the provision of internal legal services within the National Gallery of Australia.
6. Nil
7. \$33,691
8. Nil

##### National Library of Australia

2. Total expenditure for legal services for the 2010-11 year was \$134,798.
3. Total expenditure on the Australian Government Solicitor was \$7,165.
4. Total expenditure from private firms was \$127,633 as follows:
  - Blake Dawson \$ 73,585
  - Clayton Utz \$30,741
  - DLA Phillips Fox \$10,944
  - Minter Ellison \$12,363.
5. Nil
6. In the financial year to date, \$12,838 was spent on staffing costs for the provision of internal legal services within the National Library of Australia
7. Nil
8. Total expenditure from private firms was \$12,838 as follows:
  - Blake Dawson \$7989
  - DLA Piper Australia \$200
  - Minter Ellison \$400
  - Terri Janke & Co \$4249
9. Nil

##### National Museum of Australia

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2. In the financial year 2010-2011, \$226,454 was spent on staffing costs for the provision of internal legal services within the Museum.
3. In the financial year 2010-2011, the Australian Government Solicitor was paid \$56,173 by the Museum for legal services.
4. In the financial year 2010-2011, private firms received the following amounts from the Museum in fees for legal services:
  - Minter Ellison received \$81,250
  - Sparke Helmore received \$3,423.
5. In the financial year 2010-2011 the Museum did not spend any other amounts on legal services apart from those listed in response to questions 1 to 3 above.
6. In the financial year to date (to 30 September 2011), \$64,162 was spent on staffing costs for the provision of internal legal services within the Museum.
7. In the financial year to date (to 30 September 2011), the Australian Government Solicitor was paid \$4,715 by the Museum for legal services.
8. In the financial year to date (to 30 September 2011), private firms received the following amounts from the Museum in fees for legal services:
  - Minter Ellison received \$31,489.
9. Nil

##### Screen Australia

1. In the financial year 2010-11, \$319,269 was spent on staffing costs for the provision of internal legal services within Screen Australia.
2. In the financial year 2010-11, the Australian Government Solicitor was paid \$33,015 by Screen Australia for legal services.
3. \$286,254  
The NFSA does not have the resources to provide a full listing of services within the timeframe required.
4. Nil
5. In the financial year to date, \$109,353 was spent on staffing costs for the provision of internal legal services within Screen Australia.
6. In the financial year to date. the Australian Government Solicitor was paid \$2,587 by Screen Australia for legal services
7. In the financial year to date, private firms received \$106,766 from Screen Australia in fees for legal services:

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8. Nil