

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government

Supplementary Budget Estimates 17-20 October 2011

Question: 178

Topic: 2010-11 Legal Costs

Asked By: Senator RYAN

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 2

- a) 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.

- b) 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.

- c) 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.

- d) 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.

Answer:

- a) The Department spent \$290,200.00 on legal services in the financial year to June 30 2011. This comprised of salary and overheads for an in-house lawyer and temporary administrative assistant.

- b) The Department spent \$890,623.66 on legal services from the Australian Government Solicitor in the 2010-11 financial year. Services included advice on contracts, procurement, grants, litigation support and provision of a lawyer on secondment.

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- c) The Department spent \$1,099,276 on legal services from private firms in the 2010-11 financial year. Services included advice on contracts, procurement, grants and funding agreements, statutory interpretation, litigation support and general advice.
- d) The Department did not procure legal services from any other sources in the 2010-11 financial year.