

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: 179

Topic: Legal Costs FYTD

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 FYTD 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 FYTD 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 FYTD 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 FYTD from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

Answer:

- a) The Department has spent \$184,294 on legal services within the Department during the 2011-12 financial year to 31 October 2011. This comprises salary and overheads for two in-house lawyers and one legal assistant.
- b) The Department has spent \$403,346.40 on legal services from the Australian Government Solicitor in the 2011-12 financial year to 31 October 2011. Services have included advice on contracts, procurement, grants and funding agreements, statutory interpretation, litigation services and general advice.

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- c) The Department has spent \$122,951.67 on legal services from private firms in the 2011-12 financial year to 31 October 2011. Services have included advice on contracts, procurement, grants and funding agreements, statutory interpretation, litigation services and general advice
- d) As at 31 October 2011, the Department has not spent any amount on legal services from other sources.