

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 15-18 October 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.3 Support Services for Government Operations

Topic: Legal Costs

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 117

Type of Question: written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 November 2012

Number of pages: 2

Question:

1. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for this financial year to date within the department/agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
2. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date 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 this financial year to date 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 this financial year to date from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

Answer:

The Government does not generally disclose the legal advice received by the Government or its agencies. As such, only total figures for legal service expenditure (including disbursements) will be provided rather than a list of each service and costs. All figures are inclusive of GST.

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1. Based on the Department's internal financial management system, the total paid by the Department in the financial year to 31 October 2012 for legal services was \$133,436.
2. Based on the Department's internal financial management system, the total paid in the financial year to 31 October 2012 for legal services through the Australian Government Solicitor was \$105,531.
3. Based on the Department's internal financial management system, the total paid in the financial year to 31 October 2012 for legal services through private firms was \$17,874.
4. Based on the Department's internal financial management system, the total paid in the financial year to 31 October 2012 for legal services through other sources was \$10,031.